

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 19 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sacred Heart Mission Site

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number ~~off SH 39 six miles east of Asher~~ ^{off OK-39} not for publication

city, town Asher *vic.* vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 040 county Pottawatomie code 125

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Unused

4. Owner of Property

name Benedictine Fathers of Sacred Heart Mission, Inc.

street & number St. Gregory's Abbey

city, town Shawnee vicinity of state Oklahoma 74801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Gregory's Abbey

street & number 1900 W. MacArthur Drive

city, town Shawnee state Oklahoma 74801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sacred Heart Mission site is a section of rural land located approximately thirty miles south of Shawnee. It is about one half mile north of State highway 39. Its east boundary is the county line road NS 348. The South Canadian River is about four miles to the south. Two creeks provided a steady supply of water. The property was heavily timbered and includes a hill locally known as Bald Hill. The original mission site was in a valley about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Bald Hill. The orchards and vineyards were located directly west of the half-section road. Farming operations were on the northern and western portions of the property. A pond located close to and east of the second monastery foundation is contemporary. The original entry road ran where the pond is now. Vegetation from the period between 1877 and 1945 is still in evidence.

The remaining buildings are the bakery, a two story log house, a one-story log house, a silo, a maintenance building. Also on the site are foundations of the second monastery, the second church, second convent, and second boys school. Cellar remains are visible. There are two cemeteries; the Sisters cemetery and the Abbey cemetery. On Bald Hill are located the parish cemetery, the 1914 Church, the priests home and the parish hall. (See maps for placement and dating).

Buildings Contributing to Site

Bakery 1883

The Bakery, constructed in 1883, is approximately 20' by 45'. It is constructed with sandstone quarried on the property and resembles the type of architecture seen in rural southern France. It is a two story structure with a dirt storage cellar underneath. There are arched windows on the east and west sides of the first story, and south sides of the second story. The window on the north side of the second story is rectangular. The door on the south side is accented by a round arch. The entrance has a double door constructed with angled planks. The structure has two stone chimney stacks that extend from the ovens, which are still partially intact. The entrance to the storage cellar is an extension on the back of the building. The extension is one story and is constructed with stone and has weatherboarding in the gable. The roof is constructed with wood shingles. The roof is probably not the original, but was restored during the early 1950s.

Two Story Log House ca. 1878

The bunk house is a two story log cabin, and is approximately 20' by 30'. Restoration work was done on the structure by the Potawatomie County Historical Society during the early 1960s. The house has a stone rubble foundation. It is constructed with half-dovetail notching and the chinking has been reenforced with concrete. There are single windows on both stories on both the north and south sides of the cabin. The house has two doors on the east side, one on the first floor, which serves as the entrance, and one on the second floor, which goes out onto a balcony made of wooden planks. The balcony is supported by two wood planks, and serves as a covered area in front of the main entry. The front door is constructed of planking. There is weatherboarding in the gables and the roof is constructed with wood shingles. The wood shingle roof is probably not the original, and was probably constructed in the early 1960s when the building was restored.

See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

Single Story Log House 1890s

This one room house has the entry on the long side, away from the gable end. The gable roof is shingled with wood. The corners are half-dovetail notched. A frame shed roofed addition to the rear of the structure was probably added at a later date.

Abbey Cemetery

The Abbey Cemetery is approximately 105' by 125', and is enclosed with a wire fence. The gate is constructed with tree branches, and is accented by a wrought iron arch above it. Most of the graves are marked with simple stone crosses with bronze name plates. Some of the graves considered to be important are marked by a concrete tombstone with a cross on top and a bronze plaque. The oldest grave in the cemetery is 1881, and the most recent grave is @ 1930. The cemetery has a number of shrubs and evergreen trees to shade it.

Sisters' Cemetery

The Sisters' Cemetery is approximately 65' by 65', and is enclosed with a wire fence with a wrought iron rail. The wrought iron rail is decorated with small crosses linked together. The west side of the cemetery is lined with large crepe myrtle bushes that were planted when Sacred Heart was first established. In the center of the crepe myrtle bushes is a large bronze crucifix on a stone pedestal. The grave markers are small, about 12" x 12", and are made from white marble.

New Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, built in 1914, is approximately 50' by 110'. It was built on the top of Bald Hill, which is said to be the highest point in Potawatomi County. The church has a steeple with a tile roof and a cross on the top. The steeple is decorated with a gothic stained glass window and two small rosette windows, one on the north side and one on the south side. The main door is accented with a gothic arch. The main rectangular part of the church is the sanctuary. The rear addition of the church contains priests' rooms. The north and south sides of the church are decorated with buttresses and gothic stained glass windows. The door to the priests' rooms is also decorated with a gothic arch. The priests' rooms have a single double-hung window on the south side. The roof is constructed with red tile.

Buildings Not Contributing To Site

Priests Home

The priests house is a single story structure of painted concrete block. It was erected in the 1950s and does not detract from the site but does not contribute substantially to the architectural or historic integrity.

Parish Hall

The parish hall is a pre-fabricated metal building directly south of the parish church. It is an intrusive structure on the site.

The Maintenance Bldg.

This is a rectangular molded concrete block structure with gabled tin roof. The inside is partially floored with three foot square concrete pads.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The site also has the foundations and cellars of both the original buildings that burned in 1901 and the foundations and cellars and privies of the second group of buildings erected between 1901 and 1915. These buildings were either demolished or destroyed by fire after 1945. See map for placement and dating.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1877-1945 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Sacred Heart Indian Mission is significant because it was the first Catholic Mission, monastery, Potawatamie Indian School and convent and girls school, in Indian Territory and continued to function in at least one of these capacities into the 1940s. The site is significant because it is the forerunner of St. Gregory's College in Shawnee, Oklahoma. It is also significant for its historic archeological potential and architecturally significant because of the design and construction of the remaining two log houses and the sandstone bakery.

In 1867, 1868 the U.S. Government concluded a treaty with the Citizen Band of Potawatomi Indians, at that time located in the vicinity of Topeka, Kansas. Earlier they had migrated from the Great Lakes area. This segment of the tribe was very highly acculturated but failed in an allotment experiment, arranged in 1861 in Kansas. The new treaty gave them a tract in Indian Territory bordered on the north by the north fork of the Canadian, on the east by the Seminole country, and on the west by the Indian Meridian. But meanwhile by executive order the Absentee Shawnee Indians were given a home in this same tract. This theoretically resulted from some technical difficulties which the government had with the 1867 treaty. Shawnee Indians arrived first on the tract. By 1872 some transplanted Potawatomi took allotments there, and many more of them before the opening to white settlement in 1891.

In 1873, the Right Reverend Dom Isidore Robot came to North America from France as a missionary. He and another monk came to New Orleans and worked in Louisiana as missionaries. The Potawatomies were primarily Catholic, however, there were no Catholic clergy or churches in the new area of settlement in Indian Territory. Father Robot learned of this and set out to establish a mission in Indian Territory. He was accompanied by Dominic Lambert, a lay brother. The two men began their journey in 1875. During their tour of Indian Territory, they said the first Mass ever said on the Potawatomie reservation, in the Bourbonnais cabin. The Bourbonnais cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They stayed in the cabin a few days and baptized many of the Indian children. The priests were received warmly by the Potawatomies. Father Robot sought financial assistance from Rome and France. During July of 1876, Father Robot received a document from Rome designating him prefect apostolic of the entire Indian Territory. Father Robot decided to locate the center of his activities among the Potawatomies, and immediately sent to France for assistance. The Potawatomies offered Father Robot a section of land of his choice, on the condition that he would build a mission and a school for their use. The proposition was accepted, and a contract was signed with the tribal chief, Peter the Great. The land chosen was approximately four miles north of the South Canadian River, and included the high eminence known as Bald Hill. Father Robot intended to construct the mission at the top of Bald Hill. However, the hill was exposed to the elements, so Robot built the mission about 100 yards to the west of Bald Hill, in a valley. Indians went to work during the fall of 1876 to construct buildings for the mission. The first building was begun late in 1876. It was a two story log house measuring 22 ft. by 100 ft. The second building begun concurrently was a 15 x 15 log house used at first as a dining hall for the Indians constructing the first building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Murphy, Father Joseph. Interview, Shawnee, OK. September 25, 1981
 Murphy, Joseph. Tenacious Monks.
 Murphy, Joseph. "The Monastic Centers of the Order of St. Benedict in Oklahoma."
 University of Oklahoma Thesis, 1942. Shawnee, OK: Benedictine Color Press, 1968.
 Sons, Claude. Interview, Sacred Heart, OK March 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 640 acres
 Quadrangle name Kanawa Quadrangle scale 7.5 min.

UTM References

A	14	699390	3875850	B	14	699960	3874260
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	14	698920	3874220	D	14	698340	3875810
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Wright and Mary Ann Anders
 organization Oklahoma State University date April 1983
 street & number History Dept/502 Math Sciences telephone (405) 624-5678
 city or town Stillwater state OK 74078

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 *C. Emetally* date 8/10/83
 title _____ date _____

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
J. Beth Giverson date 9/15/83
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The second large building was a two story frame structure used as a school and visitors quarters, 20 x 300, with a 100' wing. A small frame chapel was completed in Dec. of 1879. In 1880 construction began for the convent and girls school with 2 wings—one 96 ft. and one 120 ft. These buildings were also frame construction with lap siding. In 1883 the stone bakery was built and in 1892 an impressive frame church 60' x 114' was dedicated. By 1900 the site included at least seven substantial buildings.

1877 was an important year for the mission. The new recruits came from France, the school was opened, the financial situation greatly improved, and a canonical novitiate was erected. At the end of 1879, there were at the Mission the abbot, two priests, five clerics, three lay brothers, and the students. Farm production began and orchards were started, which still exist. In 1878 Joseph Moulaupt had arrived at Sacred Heart from Missouri. He had agricultural experience and became the Missions farmer-in-chief. The Mission farming operations made the mission self-sustaining and provided a model for area farmers. Orchards, vineyards, produce gardens, grain and animal husbandry were an integral part of Mission life.

Sacred Heart became an important stop for travelers such as army officers, traders, and cattlemen. In the year 1880, one of the more significant developments was the procurement of Catholic Sisters by Father Robot to found a small convent at Sacred Heart and to begin the work of educating Indian girls. St Mary's Academy was constructed and was ready for occupancy on June 13, 1880. Seven nuns arrived from New Orleans and the girls' school opened in September of 1880. Also in 1880 a boarding school for Indian boys was opened at the mission. It was called Sacred Heart Institute. There were fifteen boarders that year, and an increased enrollment of day students. After four years, the Sisters from New Orleans left Sacred Heart to return to Louisiana. They felt that life in Indian Territory was too difficult. Five Sisters of Mercy from Illinois took their place at Sacred Heart. Prior to the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy, many new buildings had been erected at Sacred Heart. The Sisters of Mercy maintained St. Mary's Academy as an active boarding school at Sacred Heart until about 1946. During the early 1880s, a number of clergy came to Sacred Heart from France. Many of them remained at Sacred Heart for the duration of their lives. Not only did Sacred Heart serve as a school, convent, and a monastery, it also served as the center for missionaries for all of Indian Territory.

In 1884 Sacred Heart College was established. The three schools continued to grow until 1901, when most of the buildings were completely destroyed by fire. The only buildings left standing after the fire were the stone bakery and five small out-buildings.

The fire had devastated the Mission on January 15, 1901 but on August 21, 1901 the cornerstone for a new brick monastery was laid and a frame building for the Sisters of Mercy School was built southeast of the original school, and a frame school for boys also was built.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

In 1902 two two-story brick wings were added to the monastery. And in 1905 the foundation for a massive new church were laid. The walls were raised only about four feet when construction halted. The decision had been made to relocate the church a few hundred yards east, close to the section line road and the small community of Sacred Heart Mission that had been established in 1879. The church could better serve the growing white population as well as the Mission. It was also decided that the college would be moved from the remote Sacred Heart Mission location to Shawnee a fast growing town thirty miles north of the Mission. It would be renamed St. Gregory's College. The first building at the new site was begun in 1913. However the monastery, the school for young boys and the convent school would remain in operation at Sacred Heart. The boys school continued to operate until 1929 and the school for girls did not close until 1946. The Rank of Abbey that the monastery had enjoyed was changed in 1929 to a dependent priory. The church, completed in 1914 still serves as parish church for area Catholics. The cemetery, adjacent to the church, that had been established in 1909 to replace an earlier cemetery off Mission property is still in use. The only buildings now remaining on the original mission site are the stone bakery, a two story log house built in 1877 and a single story log house built in the late 1890s and a maintenance building constructed in the early 1900s. Also on the original site are the Sisters cemetery, the Abbey cemetery, foundations for barns, school buildings, convent buildings, the Monastery and the second church. Parts of stone paths are visible, and remnants of the orchards, vineyards, wind-breaks and other landscaping are visible. Location of at least one cellar is known. A new priests residence and parish hall have been built next to the parish church. Also remaining are the foundations and cellar sites of both the first and second groups of buildings. See historical archaeological assessment for these significances.

A
Archeologically, the site possesses a great deal of integrity. While the Benedictines salvaged some materials from Sacred Heart for construction elsewhere, much of the original fabric remains. There is no evidence that treasure hunters or others have disturbed the site. Because the Benedictine's new facility, St. Gregory's, was located away from Sacred Heart, the research potential is enhanced.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

The Sacred Heart square mile, grant made by the Pottawatomie Indians

Land Patent Number 66424, dated June 10, 1909, Signed personally by Wm H. Taftt (Pres. of U.S.), by M.W. Young (signed as Secretary), and by H.W. Sanford (signed as Recorder of the General Land Office of the United States). Patent for 640 acres to BENEDICTINE FATHERS OF SACRED HEART ABBEY.

Filed with Pottawatomie County Clerk - Register of Deeds, Court House, Shawnee, Okla.-- mailing address, P.O. Box 576, Shawnee, Oklahoma, 74801.

South $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 7 and North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 18, Township 6N (North), Range 5 East (of the Indian Meridian - 97°).

From a point on county road NS 348 exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North of SH 39 go due north 5280 feet; turn 90° and go west 5,280 feet turn 90° and go 5,280 feet south; turn 90° and go east 5,280 feet.