NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 Vinland Presbyterian Church

Other name/site number 045-0000-0021

2. Location

Street & number 697 E. 1725 Road ☐ not for publication

City or town Baldwin ☒ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 045 Zip code 66006

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. Pankratz June 16, 2003

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society

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 herby 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:)

Vinland Presbyterian Church
Name of property

Douglas County, KS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone
walls Wood: Weatherboard
Walls Brick with limestone trim

roof Asphalt, Wood: Shingle

other

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ 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.

☒ 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 it 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

Period of Significance

1879

Significant Dates

1879

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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):
☐ preliminary determination of individual lising (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 #

Primary location of additional data:
☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository:

Name of Property Vinland Presbyterian Church County and State Douglas County, KS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	310660	4301120
2			
3			
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 Stan Lawson

Organization Vinland Preservation LLC Date October 2002

Street & number 118 N. 2nd Street Telephone

City or town Atchison State KS Zip code 66002

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 Vinland Preservation, LLC

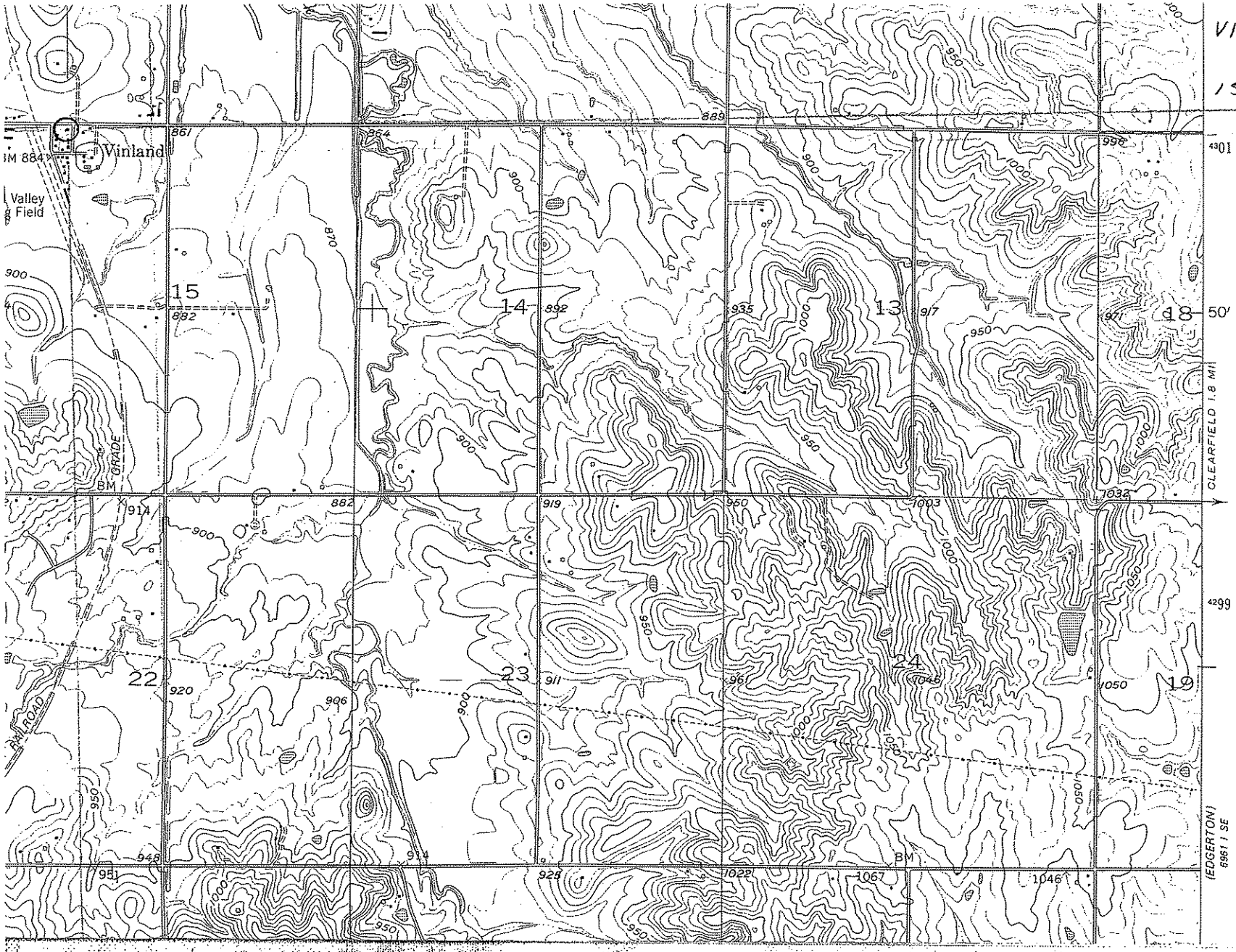
street & number 502 E. 1600 Road telephone

city or town Baldwin state KS zip code 66006

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

VINLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
15 310660
4301120
UTM Coordinates



Narrative Description:

The Vinland Presbyterian Church is located on slightly less than one acre that comprises lot 3 in Vinland, once a thriving farm community in northern Palmyra Township in southeastern Douglas County, Kansas. It has a western façade orientation with a large, open yard in the front. Beyond the yard, trains of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad passed by daily during most of the church's years of active use. The church's northern property line is Douglas County Highway 460. Across the highway, a hillside pasture is surmounted by a large Victorian home built by nurseryman William E. Barnes in the late 1800s. Barnes is often called the "father of Vinland" because he donated land for many of the town's buildings, including the Presbyterian Church.

The church building is a one-story wood frame structure built in the Gothic Revival style. It consists of a sanctuary, which was completed in 1879, and a Sunday School classroom added in 1910. The classroom was converted to a 1 1/2-story residence with two small additions in the 1980s. Aside from these additions, the original structure is largely intact.

The sanctuary is of a simple rectangular floor plan with a front-gabled roof. Its most distinctive feature is a decorative steeple that reaches a height of 50 feet.

The sanctuary is entered through a vestibule, which is centered on the building's west elevation. The vestibule has a sloping, shed roof and paired front doors that are lancet-shaped and made of diagonal beaded tongue and groove. Pointed-arch windows are on the north and south walls of the vestibule. On the west wall of the sanctuary, to each side of the vestibule, are four-over-four windows that originally were shuttered. Immediately above the vestibule roofline is a pointed-arch window.

Above the vestibule – at the gable's peak – is an exposed, timber-framed belfry surmounted with a four-sided, steep-pitched roof that is crowned with a decorative metal finial. The steeple's lower, enclosed portion is wood-sided on four sides and, on the western face, contains a decorative, diamond-shaped wood medallion. Brackets support the overhanging box-like base of the steeple.

The north elevation of the sanctuary contains three Gothic pointed-arch windows that retain the wood louvers in their pointed arches.

The east elevation contains a pair of Gothic pointed-arch windows that flank the interior pulpit area. The windows originally held stained-glass windows given by an anonymous donor. After the church's abandonment, the stained-glass windows were stolen. One window was located later and reinstalled in the south opening.

The south elevation originally was symmetrical to the north elevation, with three Gothic pointed-arch windows. A one-story Sunday School classroom addition was built on this side in 1910 and a 1 1/2-story residential addition was constructed in 1980 covering one of the window openings.

The gable roof, originally wood-shingled, now has been replaced with asphalt shingles on the north slope. The south slope, which has a brick chimney, remains covered with wood shingles. Metal-lined gutters are built into the eaves on the north. The south slopes contain wood gutters.

On the interior, much of the wood flooring in the center of the sanctuary remains intact. The plaster walls have been removed and partially replaced with drywall. Wainscotting remains on the north, east and west walls. The ceiling has been removed, exposing wood trusses and the underside of the roof. The elevated pulpit and stage area remains intact.

HABS drawings (c. 1955) document exterior and interior construction as well as the finish details of the church pews.

The 1910 classroom addition was modernized when it was converted into a residence in the 1980s. This most recent addition contains architectural features styled after the original Sunday School room. Doors that connected the sanctuary and the classroom annex were removed and replaced with a wall and contemporary door.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Vinland Presbyterian Church, built in 1879, is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its embodiment of the architectural characteristics of a Gothic Revival-style church. Gothic Revival features that can be seen in this property include its steeply-pitched roof, the pointed-arch entry door made of diagonal beaded tongue and groove, the pointed-arch (lancet) windows and the tower with exposed belfry.

Gothic Revival architecture emerged in the early 19th century in reaction to the Greek Revival style, which flourished from 1825-1860. Greek Revival architecture was viewed by many as a pagan form not appropriate for Christian worship. Those of this mindset helped promote a return to the intensely religious Middle Ages through the Gothic Revival style. One advocate, New York lawyer and literary critic George Templeton Strong, wrote, "The study of medieval art must tend, at least, to revive some of the medieval habits, thoughts, feelings and principles which this age sadly wants."

Gothic Revival architecture was largely initiated by the Cambridge Camden Society, founded in England for the advancement of medieval art and architecture. The society promoted the Early English parish church as the model for new houses of worship. Identifying themselves as "Ecclesiologists," members of the society published a periodical devoted to church building, restoration, ritual and symbolism. They felt a revival of the building arts of the Middle Ages would improve standards of architectural quality and taste, and remind the beholder of the verities of Christian religion.

In America, backed by Episcopalian doctrine and led by architects Richard Upjohn and James Renwick, the Gothic Revival style had tentative beginnings in the 1830s and 1840s, was firmly established in the 1850s, and continued even after the Civil War. Upjohn (1802-78) designed this country's first important example of Gothic Revival – New York's Trinity Church, built in 1846. This church helped establish Upjohn as the dominant church architect of his time and also helped in establishing a long-time tradition of Gothic Revival as the predominant style for churches.

The renown of Trinity Church brought Upjohn commissions for Gothic churches across the country. But, Upjohn did not limit his practice to impressive masonry churches in metropolitan areas. He felt strongly that good design should be available to congregations that could not afford the services of an architect. He is credited with the transformation of Gothic churches from stone to wood construction. He accepted commissions without fee for rural wooden churches. He received so many requests for plans that he published "Rural Architecture" in 1852. It

contained designs for board-and-batten churches, parsonages and schoolhouses that could be built at minimum expense.

Local contractors and country carpenters, often freely combining elements from pattern books, created spirited church buildings, plain or fancy, according to demand. The design of the Vinland Presbyterian Church possibly could have originated from such a pattern book. Even after Gothic Revival waned in popularity for residences, it continued to be favored for churches. Its identification with historic religiosity was a factor in maintaining its vigor. Many people admired the mystical, ornamental and soaring aspects of the style.

Another Gothic architect, Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-52), was influential in forming mid-19th century taste with his books, such as "Cottage Residences," first published in 1842. He wrote, "There is nothing built by man's hands, which, if properly designed, and properly kept, confers so much of dignity, poetry, and interest on a rural landscape, as a beautiful country church, -- of sober, quiet color – embosomed in trees, and speaking volumes at a glance, of the religious feelings, the peaceful and refined habits of the inhabitants around it."

The Presbyterian Church in Vinland reflects the peaceful and refined habits of its neighbors perhaps even better now that Vinland is a sleepy country hamlet than it did a century ago, when the town bustled with rural commerce.

The Vinland Presbyterian Church was built in the early years of Kansas statehood, at the time when Palmyra Township's population peaked (2,478 in 1880). Settlers first came to the area 25 years earlier, in 1854, when it was known as Coal Creek. A post office was established in 1868 and named Vinland after the vineyards planted on a nearby hillside by nurseryman William E. Barnes. The infant town gained a railroad station when the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston Railroad (later the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad) came the next year. A store and other businesses followed and the town was platted and dedicated in June 1884.

When the town was little more than a few houses and buildings, a group of like-minded people met in the Vinland schoolhouse to establish a church. Under the leadership of Rev. V.M. King, a home missionary, they organized the Vinland Presbyterian Church on May 2, 1869. As more settlers came, church membership grew. The congregation remained without a church building for about ten years.

The congregation undoubtedly devoted years to raising funds to construct a permanent place of worship. A charter for the church was obtained on April 9, 1878 and the next year the building was erected. It was built on land donated by William E. Barnes.

During its first twenty years, church membership grew until more space was needed. In 1910, money was donated to construct a rectangular addition to the south. This was a large room to be used as a meeting place for the Sunday School and other groups.

Many of the pastors who served the church were students or part-time ministers. The most notable was Dr. James Naismith. In her 1973 book, "The Basketball Man: James Naismith," author Bernice Larson Webb writes: "Naismith went to Vinland on alternate weekends for almost two years during 1919 and 1920, at a time when the church did not have a regular minister, receiving five dollars a visit to pay for his sermon and his travel expenses. When the weather was unreliable he went over from Lawrence on the train Saturday evening, usually staying overnight and eating Sunday breakfast and noon dinner with the Fred Woods family or the Rumseys or someone else who lived within walking distance in town or country from the church. When the weather was good, he drove in his surrey on Sunday morning along the twelve miles of dirt road that wound over and around the gently rolling, wooded hills." The Vinland Church is one of the last (and perhaps only) remaining church building in Kansas in which Dr. James Naismith served as a minister.

The building served the community in more than purely religious ways. Twice it was used for educational purposes. In 1916, when construction of the Vinland Rural High School was beginning, the first semester of the school year was held in the church. When the high school was destroyed by fire in 1923, classes were held again in the church.

The church also provided social outlets for its congregation. The Ladies Aid Society met on a regular basis. In the 1930s, congregation members – particularly the youth – participated in biblical drama contests. A cast from the Vinland Presbyterian Church won the first place trophy in the Kansas Biblical Drama Contest three times in the 1930s.

In the early 1900s, Palmyra Township and Vinland experienced economic hardship and population loss. Around that time, the Presbyterians and the neighboring Methodist Church cooperated on activities, including occasional services. The smaller population base and scarcity of ministerial leadership no doubt led to this development, which endured for many years. In the late 1920s, the two churches formed a Union Sunday School. In the 1940s, the churches combined for potluck dinners one Sunday each month following their respective services.

In the 1930s, after decades of shared services and activities, the Presbyterians decided to operate autonomously. This reduced the membership considerably, although the church continued into the mid-1940s. One of its last

membership rolls shows 60 active members and 31 reserve members. Many of the names are descendants of the church's founders and early members. Plagued by declining membership, the congregation of the Presbyterian Church disbanded on Apr. 20, 1954.

The property sat vacant until it was sold a year later to George and Florence Hoskinson, who used it for farm storage. In May 1972, Florence Hoskinson sold the property to Walter S. and Anne Morgan Grether, who intended to use the building as a law office. The Grethers sold the property to James Holmes and Barbara Brackman in December 1980. The property was again sold in January 1982 to John L. Holmes and Karen L. Weber, who converted the 1910 addition into a residence with further additions and owned the property for 20 years. The current owners, Vinland Preservation, LLC, purchased the property from John L. Holmes in 2001.

Since the passing of its days as a religious facility, the Vinland Presbyterian Church has remained a venerated landmark and a popular subject of painters and photographers. Its graceful design and quintessential setting contribute to the collective appeal of the historic buildings that comprise the village of Vinland. It is the oldest surviving structure in the village and is the oldest of three community churches. Other nearby buildings include the

Vinland Grange Hall, which was added to the National Register in 2000; a mercantile building that dates to the 1890s; the Coal Creek Library, which was built in 1900 to house the collection of "the oldest subscription library in the state;" and several residences from the late 1800s and early 1900s.

In the many decades that the building has sat vacant, its architectural merits have been recognized frequently. In the 1950s, the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, included drawings of the church in its "Historic American Buildings Survey."

In 1989, when Dale E. Nimz prepared his "Historic Preservation Survey and Research Report for Baldwin City and Palmyra Township," he commented that "Vinland is an excellent example of a small rural village with stores, churches, and residences." Nimz recommended that the entire village of Vinland be considered a historic district with some contributing properties and numerous significant landmarks, including the Presbyterian Church.

In "Vinland, Kansas: Survival of a Vernacular Settlement," a 1994 thesis for a Master of Architecture degree at the University of Kansas, author Elizabeth Dale Wilson wrote of the Presbyterian Church: "The picturesque structure now stands as the oldest surviving building in Vinland. It is often photographed, and has assumed the role of an icon or landmark for the village. The removal of its distinctive silhouette would alter the profile of Vinland markedly."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9 Page 5, 1

By pursuing National Historic Register status, it is the intention of the building's owners for the architectural significance of the Vinland Presbyterian Church to be recognized so that its distinctive silhouette does not disappear.

Bibliography

Books:

Stanton, Phoebe B., The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968

Webb, Bernice Larson, The Basketball Man: James Naismith, 1973

Loth, Calder and Sadler, Julius Trousdale, Jr., The Only Proper Style: Gothic Architecture in America, Boston: New York Graphic Society, 1975

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Packard, Robert and Korab, Balthazar, Encyclopedia of American Architecture, 2nd edition, McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1980

Rifkind, Carole, A Field Guide to American Architecture, New York: The Penguin Group, 1980

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised edition, Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1992

Documents:

Historic American Buildings Survey, (HABS, KS-47), Library of Congress

Wilson, Elizabeth Dale, Vinland, Kansas: Survival of a Vernacular Settlement, M.S. Thesis, School of Architecture and Urban Design of The University of Kansas, 1994, typed, 145 p.

Map of Historic Douglas County, Kansas, (features over 160 buildings, markers, and sites in rural Douglas County), ca. 1987, Adam Waits, Lawrence, Douglas County Historical Society.

Nimz, Dale E., Historic Preservation Survey and Research Report: Baldwin City and Palmyra Township, Douglas County, Kansas, prepared for the Kansas Historic Preservation Department, 1989, 35 p.

Deed on record at Register of Deeds, Douglas County, Kansas.

Manuscripts:

Will, Amy Walton, "History of the Presbyterian Church of Vinland, Kansas," ca. 1936, typed

Hemphill, Anne E., "History of Vinland Area and Methodist Episcopal Church of Vinland, Kansas," A Santa Fe Trail Historical Society publication, Vol. 4, Nov. 1, 1982, mimeographed, 127 p.

erbal Boundary Description

ommencing 40 feet West of the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section fteen (15), Township Fourteen (14) South of Range Twenty (20) East; thence South 125 feet; thence West 250 et; thence North 125 feet; thence East 250 feet, to place of beginning, otherwise known as Lot Three (3) in the own of Vinland, in Douglas County, Kansas.

oundary Justification

his boundary is the legal description of the property from the date of the church's construction to the present day.