Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 4
Garner Shriver

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Kansas	
COUNTY:	
Harvey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Bethel College Administration Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Bethel College Campus

CITY OR TOWN: North Newton

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Kansas 67117	20	Harvey	079

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Bethel College of the Mennonite Church of North America

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
North Newton	Kansas 67117	20

STATE: Kansas

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Harvey County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Newton	Kansas 67114	20

COUNTY: Harvey

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Federal Writers' Project of the Works Project Administration

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Records destroyed.
A guidebook, Kansas, was published in 1939.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

TOO-0404-079

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bethel College Administration Building in North Newton, Kansas, is an irregular T-shaped structure, three stories in height and with a full basement. The building faces south with the stem of the "T" in a northerly direction. The main portion of the building is approximately 116 feet long and 54 feet wide with an overall height of 50 feet. The north wing is 30 feet by 40 feet. Exterior walls are constructed of rough faced native stone laid in uniform horizontal courses, which alternate vertically between wide and narrow. Stone lengths are random. The first floor is raised several feet above the ground and is marked around the perimeter of the building by a smooth stone belt line.

The roof form is a moderately steep hip covered with wood shingles. An ornamental cornice separates the roof from the stone walls. Dual semicircular towers are placed at the corners of the north wing and extend the full building height to the roof line. Cone-shaped roofs crown both towers. Two towers flank the main entrance on the south facade. The west tower is semicircular in form and is detailed similar to the north towers. The east tower, which is octagonal, extends above the main roof line and terminates in a pointed octagonal roof.

The basement windows are located directly below the smooth stone belt line which serves as the lintel. These windows are simple rectangles with stone sills and no special decoration. Windows on the first floor are paired in openings with large semicircular arches. Second floor and tower windows are simple rectangles with stone sills and lintels. The third floor, which is located behind the hip roof, has rectangular dormer windows plus small windows in the octagonal tower and in a gable over the main entrance. The main entrance is located behind an enormous stone arched opening and is reached by a monumental stairway. The building is in excellent condition and is a fine example of the Romanesque style executed in stone. Aluminum doors and frames have been installed at the front entrance; otherwise the exterior is basically original.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1887-1893

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [x] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethel College in North Newton was organized in 1887 when the Mennonite church expanded its seminary at Halstead into an academy. Newton was chosen as the site for the college when the city offered 120 acres of land, valued at $85,000, and $15,000 in cash for erection of the administration building. In April, 1887, the general conference of the Mennonite church consented to a private organization building and maintaining a college in accordance with the Newton offer. The private corporation, The Bethel College of the Mennonite Church of North America, was granted a charter by the Kansas secretary of state on May 23, 1887.

Immediately after the charter was granted, the building committee opened correspondence with several architects and visited five other Kansas colleges to gather information concerning the best plans for a modern college building. On October 20, 1887, the board approved the plans submitted by Willis T. Proudfoot of Wichita.

Construction of the foundation began in December, 1887, and the cornerstone was laid October 12, 1888. Shortly thereafter financial difficulties brought a cessation of construction for 21 months. Building operations were resumed in 1890 and by December, 1890, the walls were completed to the window sills of the second story. Contracts for the carpentry and the tin work in the building were let January, 1892, and the masonry work was completed in May, 1892. Although the administration building was not quite completed by the fall of 1893, dedicatory services were held as planned and classes began on September 20, 1893, with an enrollment of 60 students. The building was completed soon afterward at a total cost of $37,000. The school continued as an academy and Bible school until 1912 when the first Bachelor of Arts degrees were granted.

The Bethel College Administration Building is the oldest Mennonite institution of higher learning in the United States. In addition to its historic significance, the Administration Building is an attractive, well-preserved and well executed example of the Romanesque style in Kansas stone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Harvey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. The Newton Republican, October 28, 1887.
"Saga of Bethel," Trails, v. 1, no. 6 (April-May, 1936).
Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Department of Public Instruction for 1901 and 1902 (Topeka, W. Y. Morgan, 1902), p. 105.
Wedel, Peter J., The Story of Bethel College (North Newton, Kan., The Mennonite Press, 1954), pp. 55-57, 61, 62, 76-78, 84, 85, 88, 89.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Bethel Expands to Meet Growth," Topeka Daily Capital, December 23, 1923.

First Annual Report of the Board of Directors of Bethel College, 1887-88 (St. Louis, Mo., A. Wiebusch and Son Printing Co., 1888), pp. 8,20,21.

Hartzler, John Ellsworth, Education Among the Mennonites of America (Danvers, Ill., The Central Mennonite Publishing Board, 1925), p. 138.

Haury, G. A., "Bethel College--Historical Sketch--Realization of Vision of Service," The Newton Kansan, v. 51, no. 1 (August 22, 1922).

Kaufman, Ed G., "Crises in Bethel's History," Mennonite Life, v. 18, no. 2 (April, 1963), p. 53-56.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	04	29	97	20	32
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One-two acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Planner
Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: July 5, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas 66612

CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Nyle H. Miller
Nyle H. Miller

Title: Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: December 2, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date