Hale Ritchie House Report  
by Bill Wagnon, Landmark Preservation Committee

At Christmastime last year the Hale Ritchie House looked like a giant blue-wrapped present. By Christmastime this year the Trustees expect to open the present as a community gift promoting a culture of heritage awareness and engagement.

The blue wrapping concealed structural integrity work conducted by Schnacker Construction as a necessary precondition to the preservation of the house. Since then roof replacement has been completed by Guilfoyle Roofing; electrical wiring replacement has been undertaken by Schmidtlein Electrical; and plumbing, heating and air conditioning replacement begun by Blue Dot. Macfee Refinishing removed old paint on salvageable interior and exterior trim materials. Schnacker Construction will begin replacement of exterior siding, windows, doors, trim and porches directly. When completed, the exterior will be ready for painting in the house’s original colors, identified during the paint removal process.

Daryl Nickel of Nickelodeon Restoration, Inc., is completing bid specifications for interior finishing, under the supervision of Peter Gierer of Tevis Architects, the pro bono general contractor. All preservation work should be finished in time to host the Society’s annual meeting on December 5.

The Hale Ritchie House will house the Society’s Cox Communications Heritage Education Center and offices and archives. It becomes a model of historic preservation and adaptive reuse of a Topeka Landmark in the Downtown area. It concludes development of the Historic Ritchie House site as an anchor on the city’s Freedom Trail, connecting the Free State Capitol with the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site.
Sunday, May 2, 2010, the Shawnee County Historical Society presented their Preservation Awards at “The Woodward” Bed and Breakfast, 1272 SW Fillmore St., at 2:00 p.m. This event was again held in conjunction with preservation recognitions by the Topeka Landmarks Commission, Christy Davis, chair. Kansas Revennue Secretary Joan Wagnon and the Shawnee County legislative delegation received recognition for their efforts in restoring state tax credits for historic preservation. Preservation awards were given to owners of the properties listed to the left, while certificates of recognition were awarded to Matt Porubsky for the “Porubsky’s—Transcendent Deli” documentary, the Kansas Arts Commission, and The Topeka Capital-Journal’s “At Home” section.

Our thanks goes to Hi Stockwell for these building photos.

1—Sandi Wilber & Barry Busch, the Clifton Farm, 5343 SE 49th Street Berryton, KS
2—Alan & Sabra Shirrell, the Eli Hopkins House, Coal Shed & Barn, Tecumseh, KS
3—Steven L. Adams, the Wakarusa Hotel, Wakarusa, KS
4—John Pinegar & Doug Smith, the offices in the Ross Row Houses, 513 SW Van Buren, Topeka, KS
5—Chester & Colleen Curtright home, 1281 SW Buchanan, Topeka, KS
6—Jim & Charlene Robuck, adaptive use, the Shawnee State Bank, 845 N Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS, as a jewelry retail store
Legendary Architect

Thomas Williamson and His World-Class Topeka Landmarks

Walt Hillmer delivered this presentation at SCHS’s 2010 Preservation Awards.

Walt and Joyce Hillmer

Walt and his wife, Joyce, are retired owners of Hillmer’s Luggage, Leather & Gifts; having sold the business in 2008 to two of Hillmer’s long-time customers.

Walt graduated from Washburn University, served in the Peace Corps in La Dorada, Caldas, Colombia; then joined the family business in the 1970’s. Hillmer’s had started as a harness shop in 1896, founded by Walt’s great-grandfather and Topeka’s premier harness maker, George Klein.

Walt, a fifth-generation Topekan, has served as a Trustee of the Shawnee County Historical Society and received the Society’s 2009 Historic Preservation Achievement Award.

Walt and Joyce are active in various community service organizations and value time spent visiting their seven grandchildren (three to thirteen years old).

If you do not know Thomas Williamson by name, you will know him by the world-class Topeka landmarks he inspired, designed and built. Every Topekan has seen and admired his work. Buildings standing proudly around the city, each the first of its kind in the state or region. Several buildings have gained national preeminence because of their beauty, function and/or what they represent.

Thomas Williamson showcased—for the city, the state, and the nation—the best of Topeka’s buildings for education, art, hospitality, health and business through his state-of-the-art architectural designs of its schools, churches, hospitals, art gallery and other buildings he planned.

Williamson was born in Hiawatha, Kansas in 1887, the son of a Presbyterian Minister, Leamon Williamson, and his wife, Rebecca McCulloch Williamson. The family later moved to Topeka where the son graduated from Topeka High in 1907.

He then studied and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School Of Architecture. Returning to Topeka in 1911 to work in the Office of the State Architect, Williamson became well-acquainted and very interested in Institutional Design.

In 1912 he opened his own one-room architectural office in downtown Topeka. By the 1920’s Williamson had his hands full, designing some of his best known Topeka landmarks.

In 1922 he was commissioned to draw the plans for one of the region’s premier churches: First Methodist Church at 6th & Har-
gallery so suitable, and only the Grand Central in New York City can be compared to it. The Mulvane Museum represents the latest features in museum galleries.”

In 1926 Williamson was commissioned to design Kansas’s largest steel-framed structure, a commercial building and Topeka’s finest hotel: The Jayhawk Hotel.

The project showed Williamson’s leading-edge structural design ability. The Topeka Daily Capital wrote on November 19, 1982, “The (original) Jayhawk’s plans were prepared in three months by 26 designers, engineers and draftsmen.

“Capitol Iron Works had the contract to fabricate the steel frame, including three trusses that span the main dining room on the second floor, eliminating pillars. Those trusses carry the weight of 10 stories of the southeast wing of the hotel.”

In 1929 Williamson was commissioned to design the building for which he is best remembered (and for which he received national acclaim): Topeka High School. In designing he considered English Gothic Revival. (Gothic architecture was created from the period of 1450 to 1550 and experienced a renewed interest, starting in England during the Victorian era.)

Already praised for his extreme savvy in functional interior design and configuration as well as innovative structural design and exterior significance, Williamson created the complex ’so that numerous major activities could occur simultaneously in the school building, with minimal congestion or intermingling of participants.’

“Key public spaces, including the gymnasium, auditorium, art gallery and the library, were located each with separate entrances. Additionally, classrooms were clustered by use with attention to specialized needs such as outdoor access for manual training shops, sound isolation for music and typing classroom and small stages for English classrooms. The configuration of interior spaces was the predominant factor in the building form.” (National Park Service Form 10-900-1, 8-86 Sec 7, Pg 8 Topeka High School)

Not only was Williamson respected for his ability to blend a functional interior configuration with an aesthetically pleasing facade in his building designs, but also for his skill to create entire school systems.

Williamson told The Topeka Daily Capital on September 21, 1952, “School system designing is not concerned solely with drawing plans for buildings and supervising their construction. (First, you have to do) an exhaustive study of the entire community life. Population and commercial trends are studied, the direction of growth is determined, transportation facilities are charted, sewer and water systems are studied and the educational requirements of the community are analyzed.”

Some of Williamson’s buildings went up, served their intended purpose over several decades, and then come down (Roosevelt and Boswell Junior High Schools).

Other of his buildings served their purpose for decades; then through restoration, renovation and adaptive reuse they began serving commercial and professional interests far different from the interests for which they originally were designed. (Crane Junior High School now KBI headquarters and 719 SW Van Buren Fire Station is now Kansas Trial Lawyers Association.)

Thomas Williamson’s significant contributions to his profession of architecture earned him respect throughout the Midwest. His design of two public schools in Topeka, however, positively impacted the entire history of the American Public School in a way he never dreamed of and in a way no other American architect has ever done.
Thomas Williamson was commissioned by the Topeka Board of Education to design both Sumner Elementary School (attended by white children) and Monroe Elementary School (attended by black children). Each was designed and built to Williamson’s same high standards for interior configuration, structural engineering and aesthetic appeal.

Five key civil rights cases influencing the desegregation of public schools had been or would be fought in Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, District of Colombia and Kansas.

The issue which still had to be resolved nationally was: Why is separate-but-equal not equal?

In four of the above cases the consideration of Equal Schools did not even exist because the quality of the schools which many black children attended was disparagingly inferior (leaking ceilings, dirt floors, etc. etc.) to the quality of the schools which white children attended. Only in Topeka, Kansas, was the quality of the facilities for the black children equal to the facilities for the white children (each designed to the same high standards by the same architect).

Only in Kansas did the focus not have to be on whether or not school facilities were equal. The focus could be and was on the separation of black children and white children through separate schools.

A Menninger social worker wrote that separate was not equal because of the ‘psychological harm’ children suffered when black children did not have the ability to interact with white children that white children had to interact with each other (and vice versa). Now the rest is history!!

Today Monroe School is the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka National Park Site and the Centerpiece of the Desegregation of the American Public School. History has provided a truly a fitting monument to Topeka’s legendary architect Thomas W. Williamson--truly a World-Class Landmark for Topeka, Kansas! 😎
Proposing Historic Preservation Funding

by Joan Wagnon, SCHS Treasurer

The Society is making a presentation to the Shawnee County Commission on June 14th to request creating permanent funding for historic properties. President Schultz and others will be presenting a plan which has been crafted over the past year and asking the Commission to include funding in the 2011 budget. Funds would be available to applicants for the following uses:

- Preservation of historic properties and sites
- Operating funds for museums and other historic attractions serving the public,
- Heritage education for area school children
- Matching funds for preservation planning, Grant leveraging, bricks and mortar, asset inventories
- Advertising
- Operating funds for utilities, staffing
- Displays and exhibits
- Educational outreach
- Technology

On January 29, the Society sent out a needs assessment survey to approximately 200 people in Shawnee County. The list included township officials, neighborhood leaders, as well as property owners who were interested in historic preservation. Many of these people owned or knew about property in Shawnee County that was on the state historic register or had been designated a landmark in Shawnee County. The goal was to develop a comprehensive inventory of heritage assets and identify needs to maintain and develop them. Data was gathered from these surveys as well as the Planning Commission and individuals knowledgeable about historical assets in the county. The following is a brief summary of the information gathered.

There were 127 properties identified in the survey.

- On state historic register or designated as a landmark: 101
- Located in the Downtown area: 43
- Outside the City, in the county: 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uses of Property</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic district</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum/Attraction</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>State-use building</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
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<td>Vacant</td>
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<td>Cemetery</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Historical Society</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Church</td>
<td>8</td>
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Why is this important?
The County has a distinctive heritage. Shawnee County has a public interest in promoting awareness of that heritage and supporting agencies and programs that foster identity with that heritage. The state history curriculum emphasizes knowledge of this heritage in schools. The Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage area will bring heritage tourists to the area to view our county’s heritage attractions. This funding will help provide a quality experience not only for the tourists, but our residents and our children.

Historic Preservation is also great economic development for a community. Preservation and reuse of old structures prevents deterioration and blight. Public interest is served when citizens identify with their heritage.

Who would be eligible?
- Non-profit organizations, 501(c) 3 engaged in historic preservation
- Partners in Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area
- Private organizations if the facility receiving the funds is open to the public

How would the fund be administered?
- Create an advisory group to aid the County Commission in allocating funds annually.
- County Commission adopts rules governing the use of the funds and an allocation process. Establishes timetables for applications.
- Commission sets a maximum annual award for any project to ensure that the money gets distributed fairly and evenly among many organizations.

(continued on p. 7)
Funding — cont.

- Funding categories should include the following: operating funds for museums and sites
- Capital funds for renovation and reconstruction
- Educational programs
- Others?

What will it take to get it passed? **We need a coordinated effort with all stakeholders making contact with the county commission after June 14**, either by letter or phone to support the proposal. Remember, the Commission will decide the final structure and administer the program. Feel free to make suggestions, but above all, support the need for such a fund. It is important to speak with “one voice” to make a convincing argument.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Joan or Bill Wagnon at **286-3254** or **wwagnon@cox.net**

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**Educational Initiative**

by **Robin Shrimplin**, Education Consultant

The Education Committee has been busy this year. We have distributed well over 500 of our Underground Railroad reading cards and activity sheets to teachers and students, given several presentations and tours, held an open house every Saturday in April and shared our traveling trunk with area educators. We have completed the “History after School” curriculum book and have five ready to go for the 2010-2011 school year. We partnered with Washburn University to provide an internship for their student, Christopher Hayes, who researched the Exodusters and the settlement of Tennessee Town here in Topeka. Chris gave a presentation on his research May 1st at Washburn.

Niashia Baker and Anne Hawkins gave their Underground Railroad performance to over 75 students at Capital City while Bill Wagnon and Karen Ray and I shared the history of the Ritchie family, the Underground Railroad, and why that story is important today. Anne also performed as Mary Jane Ritchie for the Sampler Festival in Leavenworth.

I have given numerous tours of the historic Ritchie house and the Ritchie cemetery this year, two of which were especially notable. The first tour was for 35 fifth grade students from Corinth Enhanced Learning Ctr., who traveled from Prairie Village, Kansas. The students met me at (continued on p. 8)
the house where we discussed the history of territorial Kansas and the operation of the Underground Railroad here. We moved on to visit Washburn University’s campus for lunch and then finished at the Ritchie Cemetery. The second notable tour was given for the Reconnection IV conference this April, this one included several Topeka High students and we were able to share the story of the Exodusters and black settlement here in Shawnee County with them.

April’s open house began with tours of the house that first Saturday morning followed by an Easter egg hunt and “egg” games for the kids. An engaging historical performance on the Underground Railroad was given on the 10th by Anne Hawkins as Mary Jane Ritchie. Other attractions at the open house included a “Kid’s Story Time” where kids could hear stories of the Underground Railroad, pioneer life and biographies of individuals associated with the Underground Railroad, Women’s Suffrage and the Civil Rights Movement. Melinda Abitz and I concluded this spring’s open house with a presentation, “The Trial of John Ritchie upon the Death of U.S. Deputy Marshal Leonard Arms.” Our audience members (the jurors) were given a brief background of the events leading up to the homicide and then the testimony of the witness’s was given. The audience was then asked to deliberate and decide the fate of John Ritchie. As in 1860, the good people of Topeka determined John Ritchie to be not guilty by reason of justifiable homicide.

We have great plans in the works for the 2010-2011 school year—gearing up to launch our History after School program at area elementary schools, making preparations for the opening of the education center, and several internships with history majors at Washburn University. We are actively seeking interested members to join us in these endeavors, so if this sounds fun to you, COME JOIN US! If you haven’t visited the Ritchie house yet I am giving tours by appointment give me a call at 670-2060 for more information.

Seventh grade Kansas History students at Royal Valley Middle School have recently completed their school year, in a most unusual manner, with the passage of a bill renaming a portion of Highway 75, the “Lane Freedom Trail.” No one would have guessed that at the beginning of this school year, sixty-five middle school students would have accomplished the researching, writing, testifying, and passage of legislation to preserve an important piece of Kansas Territorial and State History.

It all started as discussion of Territorial History, James Lane, and the Lane Trail was introduced in Nathan McAlister’s Kansas History class. As the lesson progressed a few students asked, “Where is the trail today?” The answer, though not perfect, is Highway 75. And this led to the question, “Why don’t we rename Highway 75; and, thus, a project was born.

Through a roller coaster of emotions, legislative changes, and with the end of the legislative session looming around the corner, the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate passed Senate Bill 293, Saturday May 8, 2010. And last, but not least, on Monday May 24, 2010 Governor Mark Parkinson signed SB 293 into law ending a fabulous civics lesson.

So what is the next step? Well, now it is time to raise the $3,330 to finish the job and erect the two 4’ x 5’ signs designating a portion of Highway 75 as the “Lane Freedom Trail.”

Although not as old as the famous locust tree still standing at the SE corner on Huntoon and Clay in Topeka (used for shade and rest by travelers moving from Ft. Leavenworth toward the Santa Fe Trail), this cottonwood was much LARGER.

The tree was judged by Topeka Forestry officials to be unstable, rotting from the inside. Property owners decided the tree should be removed from the southeast corner of 18th Street and Collins Avenue.

Work began early on Friday morning by Brown’s Tree Service. Crews secured each limb with rope and pulley, lifting a crew member, armed with a chain saw to cut parts loose. Limbs were lowered to the street where they were cut into pieces and disposed of in one of two large dump trucks.

Much of the day was spent working in toward the main tree trunk, lopping off limbs from the outside in, top to bottom. By late afternoon the trunk was lopped off at ground level. Massive cross sections of the trunk showed that the heart of the tree was gone. White mushrooms grew in the inner recesses of the deteriorating central trunk.

By dusk the heavy work was done and the trucks, full of tree parts, left the area.

On Monday, the property was cleaned of debris. The fine, old cottonwood tree is now a memory in the mind’s eye of its once-admirers.

Hillmer’s Luggage, Leather & Gifts, 115 SE 6th St., Topeka, is closing its doors. A downtown fixture, the business opened in 1896 and became Topeka’s oldest retail store. Founded by George Klein as a harness stop at 718 S. Kansas Ave., Hillmer’s remained family owned until 2008 when Walt Hillmer, fourth-generation owner, sold Hiller’s to local businessman Greg Mathena. Doors closed to the public at the end of the business day on June 6, 2010, the end of the line for this long-term downtown Topeka asset. (See also: http://cjonline.com/news/local/2010-06-01/topeka Fixture_hillmers_to_close)
April 18, 1861

Shortly before 9 P.M., Senator Jim Lane of Kansas and about fifty men arrived at the White House where they were given arms and ammunition. Lane received a gleaming saber. These men were the Frontier Guards, organized by Lane on the day that Virginia seceded from the Union. When rumors flew that the nation’s capital might be attacked, Lane advised the War Department that the Frontier Guards were available.

Shortly afterward, a mob of Southern sympathizers in Baltimore attacked the Sixth Massachusetts Infantry in that city some thirty miles from Washington and the War Department received a message that President Abraham Lincoln was about to be kidnapped. Lane was ordered to muster his men this evening to protect the president. For the next eight days, the Frontier Guards served on guard duty around the Executive Mansion in daylight hours; at night they bivouacked in the East Room of the White House. Washington was not attacked, however, so on April 25 Lane’s Frontier Guards were thanked and officially disbanded by Lincoln himself. (From Roy Bird, Kansas Day by Day, 1996, pp. 76-77).

July 4, 1856

Colonel E.V. Sumner - later a general in the Union Army of the Potomac - ordered the Free-State legislators in Topeka to break up and return to their homes. The Free-State legislature had been elected the previous autumn in response to the pro-slave territorial legislature meeting in Lecompton. Because the U.S. Congress had recognized the pro-slave legislature as the official governing body of the territory, the Topeka Free-State legislature was considered illegal. A full slate of officers had been elected and a Free-State constitution ratified in January 1856. In March a memorial requesting admission to the Union was prepared before the body recessed until July.

Although the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill for the admission of Kansas under the Topeka constitution by two votes, the issue went down to defeat in the Senate. On the re-convening of the Free-State legislature at Topeka, Colonel Sumner, under orders of acting-governor Daniel Woodson and U.S. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, rode into the town at the head of five companies of dragoons and two field pieces. He entered the small, two-story stone building where the legislature met (ever since called Constitution Hall) and ordered them to disperse. They obeyed. (Bird, pp.132-3)

In the early directories of Topeka, Fred Fensky was listed as a “forest wine manufacturer.” Wild grapes grew in profusion in the timber along the Kaw and it is presumed that Mr. Fensky found them suitable for wines as well as jelly and grape butter. [He and other Fenskys in the 1870 directories were also listed as saloon-keepers and liquor dealers, as well as boarding house operators and blacksmiths, all in North Topeka].
Characteristics of Neighborhoods:

- Architecture (Potwin, Westboro)
- Unique History (Elmhurst, Kenwood)
- Socio-Economic (Shop District, N. of Santa Fe yards, E. of Santa Fe shops)
- Ethnicity (Shop District, Ward-Meade)
- Geography (N. Topeka, Oakland)

Library Resources (TSCPL/Topeka Room):

- Polk City Directories, & SW Bell Telephone Books
- Maps & Atlases: City, County, Sanborn, Carson, Parr
- Published neighborhood histories and biographies
- SCHS Bulletins
- Photographs & Postcards
- Local government reports
- Reminiscences of longtime residents
- Local newspapers on microfilm

Other helpful resources (These lists are not exhaustive, but they are a starting point):

- Neighborhood Association Newsletters & Websites
- KSHS resources (www.kshs.org)
- Local historians, architecture buffs, longtime residents
- Register of Deeds; Shawnee County Appraiser
- www.google.com

Caveats & Cautions:

- Topeka street numbers changed from lot numbers to block numbers in 1887; eg., Crosby Bros. Store pre-1887, 173 Kansas Ave.; after 1887, 533 Kansas Ave.
- Many street names were changed in 1938; eg. Euclid became 17th St.
- Neighborhood boundaries have changed over time
- House numbers may vary from one directory to the next, and even street addresses, if a house is on a corner
- Disasters, natural or man-made, such as floods and tornadoes, fires, and urban renewal have changed the look of many neighborhoods

Kansas will mark 150 years of statehood on January 29, 2011. The Kansas 150 Advisory Committee has partnered with Kansas.gov, a service of the Information Network of Kansas, Inc., to provide a website (www.ks150.org) where communities across Kansas can connect with agencies and resources and participate in events and programs that commemorate the anniversary of statehood. Visit the site to get involved to commemorate the anniversary of statehood:

1. View and contribute to a Calendar of Events
2. Register and search for programs/services such as storyteller, music, arts & crafts, and food.
3. Access the marketing toolkit for the KS150 logo, sample news releases & 150+ event ideas

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association announces its 35th Annual MVPA Convention, July 8-10, Expocentre, Topeka. The convention is hosted by the MVPA’s Rolling Thunder affiliate. Because Topeka is located in the heart of the country this convention promises to be a very well attended—with thousands of participants expected. For convention details visit www.mvpa.org and choose “MV Events & Convention” among the buttons on the left side of the web page.
Mama was on my mind yesterday. I went out to run errands and stopped first at the Topeka State Hospital grounds. They are tearing down the Old Center building. I’d heard about these plans just last Tuesday on TV news. Topeka Unified School District owns the property. The building is being razed with no specific plans for use of the space.

Mama was a “guest” there for the first time in the summer of 1950. I believe she was admitted just one or two days after her 29th birthday. (She would have been 89 years old today, her birthday, if she were still living.) I threw out her letters from that time, but I’ve typed them all into a computer file, and would still like to give her firsthand accounts of her stay to the Kansas State Historical Society.

Of course, I don’t remember the earliest visits. Mama wrote about Dad bringing me to see her on my first birthday, in the middle of July. She was not yet allowed out on the grounds, so she had to touch me through some wire fencing. Her letter to her parents was full of the pain of separation.

What I remember is the visits when I was older. Age two? Three? Dad had moved us from Alma to tract housing at the dead end of Randolph Street. He and I would make the trip north along Randolph from the 2500 block to 6th Street. One tiny jog, and we’d go through the hospital entrance gates and down the long drive to that huge, tan brick building with turrets and levels of curved porches. Dad would check Mama out for an afternoon drive and she’d come down a long hallway from “somewhere” inside, then ride with us in the Plymouth. We’d often drive around in Gage Park and visit the zoo or the rose garden. Sometimes we’d eat lunch out. I remember when Mama stayed in various buildings of the complex, but we’d still go straight up Randolph and through those gates! I always enjoyed the fountain in front of Old Center.

Yesterday I felt I had to take photos before the site becomes a pile of rubble and disappears. Such an impressive place! It represents so much heartbreak, so much history--my history. It’s about to be gone.
MEMBERSHIP FORM  
(Please print)

Yes! I wish to join the Society that preserves the past and celebrates our heritage.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________
State ______ Zip ______ Email ______

Check type of membership: ______ Regular—$35.00 ______ Patron—$50.00
______ Renovator—$100.00

GIFT MEMBERSHIP  
(Please print)

______ Gift Membership for someone I know who will benefit from membership. (Photocopy this form for more than one. Use rates listed above.)

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________
State ______ Zip ______ Email ______

I Wish to join the following committee:

[ ] Nominations   [ ] Membership   [ ] Publications
[ ] Annual Meeting/Socials  [ ] Preservation  [ ] Public Relations
[ ] Historic Preservation Committee  [ ] Education/Communications

Name __________________________

(Make checks to "Shawnee County Historical Society")
Please send form(s) with your check to:
Shawnee County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601-2201
2010 National Underground Railroad Conference
June 2010

Battleground for Freedom: Historical Highlights

Join with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program and its partners for a national conference on the Underground Railroad with keynote speakers, sessions by leading historians, panels, unique tours, and exhibits. This conference will explore Underground Railroad heritage in the American West, a time when these two national factions fought to win Kansas as either a free or slave state.

Details: www.ugrconference.org

Mark Your Calendar:
2010 National Underground Railroad Conference
The Underground Railroad on the Western Frontier
July 28-31, 2010, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS