

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Scarritt, Reverend Nathan, Residence

AND/OR COMMON

Byers 3 Interiors

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

4038 Central Street (305 Lawrence Street)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

#5 Hon. Richard W. Bolling

STATE

Missouri 64111

CODE

29

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

095

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

\_DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_STRUCTURE

\_SITE

\_OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

\_PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_IN PROCESS

\_BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

\_UNOCCUPIED

\_WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_NO

## PRESENT USE

\_AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

\_EDUCATIONAL

\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_GOVERNMENT

\_INDUSTRIAL

\_MILITARY

\_MUSEUM

\_PARK

\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_RELIGIOUS

\_SCIENTIFIC

\_TRANSPORTATION

\_OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Byers Construction Company

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5616 N. Antioch Road

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Missouri 64119

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of Recorder of Deeds  
Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex

STREET &amp; NUMBER

415 East 12th Street

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

\_FEDERAL ☒ STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

2. The Need for the Preservation of Kansas City's Architectural Heritage  
1969  
American Institute of Architects, Kansas City Chapter  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111 local
3. Landmarks Catalogue: Buildings & Spaces of Metropolitan Kansas City  
1971  
Kansas City Chapter, American Institute of Architects  
917 West 43rd Street and  
Missouri Valley Chapter,  
Society of Architectural Historians  
5100 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, Missouri local
4. Westport Planning Area  
1972  
City Development Department  
City Hall, 15th Floor S.E.  
414 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106 local
5. Historic Preservation in Kansas City: Preliminary Draft  
1973  
City Development Department  
City Hall, 414 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106 local
6. Preliminary Inventory of Architecture & Historical Sites  
of Kansas City, Missouri  
1974  
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106 local
7. Historic Kansas City Architecture  
1975  
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106 local

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Reverend Nathan Scarritt Residence is located at 4038 Central Street, in the Westport area of Kansas City, Missouri. An L-shaped building which faces northwest onto Lawrence Street, it consists of a two-story front (northeast-southwest) section and a one-story rear (northwest-southeast) section, joined to the front at its western end. Erected approximately 1847-1853, the Scarritt Residence is austere and boxy, typical of a kind of simple, utilitarian dwelling built by early settlers in a border area. The original building was probably three bays wide and two stories high, presently the western part of the front section of the house; a kitchen dependency would have been located in the rear.

## EXTERIOR

### Overall Dimensions

The anterior section of the Scarritt Residence is rectangular, approximately 40' long and 14' wide, not including a front 15' x 6' porch on the northwest facade, and a 7' x 12' porch-stairway, on the southeast side of this part of the building. A 4' x 6' two-story bay window, projecting from the northeast facade, is included within the overall measurements. The front facade has four bays. The rear section, also rectangular, measures approximately 26' x 6', and also has a small 12' x 7 1/2' porch, on its northeast facade. The total area of living space is approximately 2,000 square feet.

### Construction Materials and Colors

The foundation of the Scarritt Residence is made of native limestone rubble, roughly dressed, and mortared into courses. Walnut clapboard, painted an olive-tan, is the exterior wall covering and weathered cedar shake shingles are the roofing material.

### Openings

There is no interior stairway in the Scarritt house; the only access to the second floor is provided by a combination porch-exposed two run stairway on the southeast facade of the anterior section of the building. There are entrance doors at the bottom and top of the stairway, another doorway in the northeast facade of the rear portion of the building, and a storm basement entrance in the rear of the southwest facade. The front entrance door, on the northwest, slightly to the east of center in the facade, consists of a single leaf. Small lights in vivid colors surround a clear center light. This ornamentation is flanked with turned posts in low relief. A sill and a lintel with small pediment project below and above the glass panes. The lower third of the door contains a recessed panel decorated with paterae; this panel is flanked with similar turned posts in low relief. The entrance door at the bottom of the rear stairway also contains an insert of both colored and clear lights.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

The majority of windows are long and narrow, measuring 7' x 3', and are one-over-one light, double hung sash, many topped by a simple molded cornice. The window glass appears to be of an early date. The bay on the northeast contains windows on every face, both first and second story, while some vertical tongue-and-groove sheathing, above, below, and between the fenestration provides the only textural contrast of any facade.

Porches

The single story, northwest veranda is supported across the front by four slim turned columns, above which is a spindle frieze. This porch has a pent roof, the other two porches have pent roofs.

Roofs

Both the front and rear sections of the building have ridge roofs underneath which there is an eight inch box cornice; the entablature returns slightly on the gable end facades on the northeast and southwest of the front part of the building.

Chimneys

The Scarritt Residence has only two chimneys, both rising above the front section of the house, straddling the ridge. Both are short stacks of brick. One emerges just above the gable end wall on the southwest, while the other protrudes midway, between the third and fourth bays.

INTERIOR

Major Interior Features

The two-story anterior section of the Scarritt Residence contains a narrow center hall, on both first and second floors, flanked by east and west rooms; on the second floor a partition subdivides the west room into two areas. In the west room, the brick chimney is located on the outside (southwest) wall, protruding into the rooms; in the east rooms, the chimney is situated on the interior (southwest) wall. There are no fireplace openings, but each chimney breast contains a hole, now patched with brick, to which a stove flue pipe was once connected. One wall in the west room of the first floor has been left unplastered, exposing the braced post-and-lintel framing. Original oak flooring, of varying widths, is still in place.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

## ALTERATIONS

It can be speculated from the asymmetrical design of the front facade, that the northeast end of this portion of the residence could be a later addition. The position of the chimneys also supports such a theory. The veranda, in the center of the facade, must have been built at the time of the addition. The Eastlake features of the veranda posts and frieze and of the protruded bay of the northeast facade indicate that the construction might have taken place around the 1880s. A porch on the rear of the anterior section of the house, now removed, but visible in a 1937 newspaper photograph, was possibly built at the same time.<sup>1</sup>

Between 1937 and 1969, the rear wing was extended approximately eight feet, replacing an enclosed porch which formerly terminated the wing. Before the extension there was a chimney at the end of the wing; the chimney, too, has been removed. The northeast porch of this wing was also added and, in the front section<sup>2</sup> of the house, a window was cut at the second story of the southwest facade.

During the 1950s, the Scarritt Residence was subdivided into three apartments. When purchased by the present owners, in 1969, it was necessary to remove some interior partitions which had been installed to convert the house to a multifamily dwelling. Other interior work in 1969 included new heating and air conditioning equipment and new plumbing fixtures. On the exterior, new roofing was applied and a single-run staircase on the southeast side of the front section of the building was replaced by the present combination stairway-porch. A balustrade was also added to the northeast porch attached to the rear portion of the building.<sup>3</sup> These latter alterations were made with an eye to the period when the Scarritt Residence was originally constructed; they could easily be removed without affecting the structural integrity of the exterior.

## SITE

Located three blocks south and two blocks west of the present primary intersection of the Westport area, the Scarritt Residence is zoned for commercial use, but is still surrounded primarily by residences, some now occupied by multiple families. The neighborhood is transitional, with much commercial activity nearby. The Scarritt Residence sits back from Lawrence Street approximately fifteen feet, on a slight rise. A small diffident wooden sign stands atop a turned post, announcing the present purpose of the building. Its northeast yard, facing Central Street, is at grade level. A graveled parking lot, 48' x 92', also at grade level, occupies the southeast end of the property, which measures 160' along

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Central and 120' along Lawrence. Brick walks lead from the parking lot to the building. There is modest foundation planting, primarily on the south and east, and bushes screen the parking area. Wood stockade fencing encloses the rear of the west yard, abutting against the southwest facade.

## PRESENT CONDITION AND STATUS

The Scarritt Residence is now owned and occupied by a gift shop, Byers 3 Interiors, which also sells some antiques and offers an interior decorating service. The building is being maintained in excellent condition. There is not presently any threat of demolition, nor are there any known plans for redevelopment in the area.

## FOOTNOTES

1. "An Old Map Throws New Light on the Westport of 1855," Kansas City Star, 26 December 1937, p. C.
2. Ibid.
3. "Old Scarritt House Preserved," Kansas City Star, 28 December 1969, p. 24A; interviews with Harriet Byers (Mrs. Reed Byers), Byers 3 Interiors, Kansas City, Missouri, 22 April 1977, 1 July 1977.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) prominent owner
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1847-1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Reverend Nathan Scarritt Residence, constructed circa 1847 to 1853, is significant as the oldest surviving residence within the Westport area of Kansas City, Missouri. At the time the Scarritt Residence was built, Westport was an independent community, a vigorous, flourishing trail town at the edge of the American frontier. The Scarritt Residence typifies the domestic construction of its era and is a rare survivor within Kansas City of an antebellum house of frame construction. From 1853 until 1862, it was the home of the Reverend Nathan Scarritt and his family. Scarritt (1821-1890), a very significant figure in the history of Westport and Kansas City, was a pioneer preacher, teacher, missionary to the Indians, banker, real estate developer, and, by the end of his life, one of the early millionaires in Kansas City.

### HISTORICAL DATA

The town of Westport, established in 1834, was reaching its zenith in the late 1840s and early 1850s, the period when the Scarritt Residence was erected. Built on trade -- Indian trade, fur trade, Santa Fe trade -- Westport flourished as a point of outfit and departure for wagon trains to the West. It was one mile from the Missouri-Kansas border and the last outpost on the frontier, until Kansas Territory was officially opened for white settlement in 1854. Until that date the present state of Kansas (along with Nebraska and Oklahoma) was Indian Territory, and the area west of the Missouri state line was neatly divided by the United States Government into a solid block of reservations for various Indian tribes, most of them forcibly relocated (some for the second or third time) from farther east. Just across the state line from Westport lay the Shawnee reservation, established under a treaty of 1825; the Shawnees were removed over a ten year period from Ohio, Indiana, and eastern Missouri to this newly allocated territory. Ranged around the Shawnee reservation were reservations for the Kickapoo, Delaware, Pawnee, Kansa, Ottawa, Osage, and later the Wyandotte tribes.

Converting the American Indian to Christianity had been among the strongest motives entwined through all the centuries of European exploration, discovery, and settlement, and this drive continued unabated through much of the nineteenth century. For many missionaries, educating the Indians was a prerequisite to Christianizing them; Protestantism, especially, was predicated on reading and acceptance of the gospel by each individual. The Missouri Methodist Episcopal Church, meeting in conference in St. Louis in 1830, sent the Reverend Thomas Johnson to establish a mission among the Shawnee Indians and, in 1838, authorized him to found a manual labor school.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The Shawnees consented to having this school on their lands and allotted 2240 acres, located approximately a mile west of the Missouri-Kansas border, for the purpose.<sup>2</sup> By 1847, the school had 125 students, slightly more than half Shawnees and Delawares, the rest being drawn from other nearby tribes.<sup>3</sup> The school was surrounded by a flourishing farm, for which the Indian students supplied unpaid labor.

In 1848, the Reverend Johnson decided to enlarge his school, opening a department "of high order," presumably comparable to a high school, which would offer instruction in "all branches of a complete English education together with the Latin and Greek languages."<sup>4</sup> Johnson advertised for pupils among the white residents of Missouri border communities, inasmuch as Latin and Greek had little relevance for his Indian students. As principal instructor he hired the Reverend Nathan Scarritt, who, according to Johnson's advertisement, "has few equals, and no superior in the state [of Missouri]."<sup>5</sup>

Scarritt was born in Illinois, across the river from St. Louis, in 1821, a few months after his parents had migrated west from New Hampshire. In spite of family crises, requiring him to return and assist his parents on their farm, Scarritt persisted in his desire of obtaining an education and, in 1842, was graduated from McKendree College, a Methodist institution in Lebanon, Illinois, approximately thirty miles from his birthplace near Edwardsville; in 1878, his Alma Mater conferred on him an honorary doctor of divinity degree (which title he always used after it was granted).<sup>6</sup>

For a few years Scarritt taught school in nearby Waterloo, Illinois,<sup>7</sup> but, in 1845, he moved west to Fayette, in central Missouri, to join one of his brothers-in-law in establishing Howard High School, under the auspices of the Missouri Conference of Methodists.<sup>8</sup> The next year Scarritt was ordained a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a separate division of Methodism which organized independently in 1845, following a sectional controversy over the slavery issue.

Scarritt left Fayette to take up his position as teacher at the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor School. Among the acquaintances he made in neighboring Westport was a young lady named Martha Matilda Chick, who married Scarritt in the spring of 1850. The bride was the daughter of William Miles Chick, a Virginian who had resettled in central Missouri in 1822 and on the Missouri border in 1836. At first a merchant in Westport, Chick later expanded his operations to include a warehouse on the levee of the Missouri River, the geographic area which became the nucleus of the Town of Kansas (Kansas City); in fact, Chick was one of the shareholders in the original Town Company of Kansas, organized in 1838.<sup>9</sup> It seems probable that the wide ranging commercial, mercantile, and financial interests of his wife's large family must have stimulated a similar interest in Scarritt. In 1855, Scarritt made his first real property investment; he paid the Reverend Thomas Johnson \$1900 for a tract of land near the Missouri River levee, within the village of Kansas City.<sup>10</sup>



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The newlywed Scarritts set up housekeeping in quarters at the Indian school and, in 1851, the first of their nine children (six of whom lived to maturity) was born there. In addition to his teaching duties, Scarritt assisted with Missionary activities among the adjacent tribes. In 1855, he wrote:

I look back upon the three years spent in that school as among the happiest and most useful years of my life.... [Seeing] the effects of Divine Grace upon the minds and hearts of those uncultivated heathen were to me a marvel.... I became so interested in this missionary work among the Indians, that, at the close of my third year, I asked to be released from my charge in the school, in order that I might devote myself exclusively to the regular missionary work in that interesting field.<sup>11</sup>

There is no record indicating whether or not Scarritt was disturbed by a decline in the number of pupils attending the school or by a growing controversy over the actions of the superintendent, Thomas Johnson, who, in violation of law, kept slaves at the school and, in addition, was being charged with improperly enriching himself, at the expense of the Indians, from the proceeds of the school's farm.<sup>12</sup>

Scarritt's first assignment as a missionary was among the Shawnee, Delaware, and Wyandotte Indians. It seems reasonable to assume, according to Paul M. Jones, Scarritt's grandson, that Scarritt moved his wife and child into the town of Westport in the summer of 1851, and it is also a possible assumption that he installed them in the house at Central and Lawrence Streets, renting at first, and, in October, 1853, when it appeared he might be working near Westport for a while, purchasing the property for \$2150, including a 120 foot lot west of the house.<sup>13</sup> The seller was Joseph Boggs, M.D., brother of a former governor of Missouri, who, in 1859, served a term as mayor of Westport. Scarritt's house was located in a small addition to Westport which had been platted by Boggs.

Scarritt had been engaged in his evangelical work among the Indians for only a year when his bishop recalled him to fill a vacant pastorate in Lexington, Missouri, approximately thirty miles east of present day Kansas City. There is no evidence that Scarritt moved his family to Lexington; in fact, there is some indication that his pastoral duties there were concurrent with his mission to the Indians.<sup>14</sup> In the fall of 1852, he was assigned, apparently simultaneously, to the Fifth Street Church in Kansas City and the Westport Methodist Church, both congregations in the process of being organized and erecting buildings.<sup>15</sup> The Westport group planned to use its premises for educational as well as religious purposes and established the first public high school in Westport, utilizing part of the church building. Scarritt was instrumental in this endeavor and was both teacher and first principal of the Westport High School.<sup>16</sup> In early 1855, Scarritt's bishop appointed him

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

presiding elder of the Kickapoo Indian district and returned him to proselytizing among the Indians, the work which, Scarritt said in later years, he considered his true calling. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 had opened Kansas Territory to white settlement and, effectively nullifying the Missouri Compromise, set in motion the ensuing conflicts between pro- and anti-slavery groups. Scarritt described his activities during the next years as follows:

I travelled through Kansas extensively wherever settlements were planted, preaching to the people, visiting pastorally, and organizing churches. The Indian tribes still occupied their reservations and all the white settlements were in their most primitive and inchoate state. This condition of society with the extent of the country over which I had to travel, and the total want of roads, bridges, etc. between settlements rendered my labors, during these years, of the most arduous character.... ~~But~~ the welcome hospitalities I received in the cabins of the frontier settler and even in the Indian's wigwam, however rude and meagre may have been the accommodations, were always enjoyed by me....

I pursued these ministerial labors in Kansas -- and I think these labors were not without good fruits -- until the close of the year 1861. By that time, Kansas, and indeed the whole western border, had become so distracted by the troubles of the war, that I thought it best to desist from my itinerant work.<sup>17</sup>

Scarritt did not, however, spend the year 1857-58 among the Indians, but rather in Fayette, Missouri. In 1853, the Methodist Conferences of Missouri determined the state needed a Methodist college, subsequently erected on the site formerly occupied by Howard High School, which had burned in 1854. Scarritt participated in the convention which laid the plans for Central College, as it was to be called, and served as president pro tempore and professor of ancient languages during its first year.<sup>18</sup> (This institution is still in existence, known today as Central Methodist College.) Writing in later years, one of the Scarritt sons, Edward L. Scarritt, a baby at the time, indicated that the family moved to Fayette, where they continued to live until 1859, at which time they returned to Westport;<sup>19</sup> this, however, contradicts the memoirs of his father, quoted above.

Early in 1862, Scarritt purchased a tract of forty acres overlooking the Missouri River, a few miles beyond the then eastern limits of Kansas City. Scarritt himself erected a log cabin on the site and moved his family into the cabin from their Westport house.<sup>20</sup> As Scarritt indicated in his recollections, the war was in large measure responsible for his decision to leave Westport since the border area in both Missouri and Kansas was being harassed by guerrilla raiding parties.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

4

However, the depredations were felt more heavily in the rural hinterland farther south than in a populous place such as Westport. Maybe Scarritt felt a special peril, for in 1860 or 1861 he wrote, in a letter to the St. Louis Christian Advocate:

Our preachers...have been peaceable, law-abiding citizens, leaving politics alone and devoting themselves exclusively to the peaceable work of preaching the peace-making gospel of the Prince of Peace.

Yet, though this has been their known and acknowledged character, it has not been sufficient to protect them from the rage of fanaticism and outlawed violence. Several of them have had their horses stolen from them by "Jayhawkers." Repeated threats of hanging, shooting, etc., have been made against them; though no attempt, so far as we know, has been made in the form of any overt act.<sup>21</sup>

Possibly Scarritt himself was one of the ministers so threatened.<sup>22</sup> In addition, there was evidently considerable rancor, strife, and, in some cases, open conflict between Missouri Methodists themselves, according to their political sympathies, and, in 1862, at least one Southern Methodist church in Kansas City was seized and occupied for a time by Northern Methodists.<sup>23</sup>

After leaving Westport, the Scarritts remained for only a year in their new location when, again fearful of those whom Scarritt called "robbers and desperados" roaming the area, they moved into Kansas City proper for the duration of the war.<sup>24</sup> During those two years Scarritt taught school. His only military activity consisted of his joining a volunteer militia company which stood watch over public buildings. Scarritt indicated that he tried to remain apolitical, which he believed the proper role for a minister; while his sympathies were southern, he did not support either slavery or secession, he said in later years.<sup>25</sup> Apparently, however, he never publicly opposed either one.

With the end of the Civil War, the Scarritt family returned to its farm overlooking the Missouri River; the log cabin was later replaced with a Victorian mansion which, by the end of Scarritt's life, was surrounded by large ornate homes occupied by his children and their families.<sup>26</sup> Although Nathan Scarritt never again lived in Westport, he continued to own the house at Central and Lawrence Streets until 1881, presumably as rental property.<sup>27</sup>

Scarritt states in memoirs written toward the end of his life that, following the Civil War, he withdrew from active participation in the Methodist church, except for one year, "on account of personal affiliations, and press of those duties which I thought I owed to my family."<sup>28</sup> Other sources speak of his

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

disabilities and a rheumatic condition,<sup>29</sup> although an obituary indicates he was a man of "vigorous constitution," except toward the end of his life.<sup>30</sup> It seems evident that business, not religion, was Scarritt's primary concern during the latter part of his career. At his death in 1890, he left an estate with a valuation estimated between \$1,500,000 and \$3,000,000 accumulated by "judicious speculation and conservative investment" in prime real estate and commercial properties in the heart of the Kansas City business district and in the northeast area of the city around his quondam farm and little log cabin.<sup>31</sup> He "was reputed to be the largest individual property owner in the city" and reportedly "had an income of tens of thousands of dollars annually from his rents and leases."<sup>32</sup> For two years, 1876 and 1877, he was president of the Bank of Kansas City, successor to the firm of Northrup and Chick, the first bank in the community, established by one of Mrs. Scarritt's brothers.<sup>33</sup>

However, Scarritt also served his church during the postwar period by acting as occasional consultant to and/or temporary pastor for half a dozen Kansas City congregations during their formative periods;<sup>34</sup> it was a time of expansive growth for the community and many new churches were being organized. Two years before his death, Scarritt donated some property in the neighborhood of his home and contributed \$27,000, the total cost of the building erected thereon, known as the Melrose Methodist Episcopal Church (South); Scarritt himself supervised much of the construction.<sup>35</sup> In addition, he was an active participant in various conferences of Missouri Methodism. In 1881, he proposed a progressive plan to reunite the several divisions into which the Methodists had separated before the Civil War; passions were still too high, however, for the plan to gain general acceptance.<sup>36</sup>

Besides the Melrose Church, Scarritt was the benefactor of a number of Methodist institutions in Kansas City and the state of Missouri, as well as a contributor to other local charities. Among his major interests was the founding of an institute to train missionaries, nurses, and teachers for both domestic and foreign duty. This was not accomplished until a few years after Scarritt's death when his bequests of a site and operating funds were used to establish the Scarritt Bible and Training School, located in the northeast area of Kansas City.<sup>37</sup> (Thirty years later the school was transferred to Nashville, adjacent to other Methodist facilities.<sup>38</sup>)

Nathan Scarritt died in Kansas City on May 22, 1890. Within the last few years of his life the city honored him by naming both a street and a public elementary school for him.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Reverend Nathan Scarritt Residence is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Economics," "Education," "Exploration and Settlement," "Society," and "Urban Planning."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

FOOTNOTES

1. Robert E. Riegel and Robert G. Athearn, America Moves West, 5th ed. (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971), pp. 199, 281.
2. Martha B. Caldwell, comp., Annals of the Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1939), pp. 25-27; Edith Connelley Ross, The Old Shawnee Mission (Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1928), p. 10.
3. Caldwell, p. 61.
4. Nathan Scarritt, "Reminiscences of the Methodist Shawnee Mission," Missouri Valley Historical Society Publication: Annals of Kansas City, 1, no. 4 (Kansas City: Missouri Valley Historical Society: 1924), p. 445; Caldwell, p. 61.
5. Caldwell, p. 62.
6. Nathan Scarritt, Autobiographical Data to Editor of United States Biographical Dictionary ([Kansas City: 1878]), files of Paul M. Jones, Kansas City, Missouri, pp. 1-2, 6. (Typewritten.)
7. Union Historical Company, Kansas City, Missouri ([Kansas City]: Birdsall, Williams and Co., 1881; reprint ed., The History of Jackson County, Missouri, Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Ramfre Press, 1966), p. 838.
8. W. S. Woodward, Annals of Methodism in Missouri (Columbia, Mo.: E. W. Stephens, 1893), p. 336.
9. A. Theodore Brown, Frontier Community: Kansas City to 1870 (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1963), pp. 31-43, 49, 56.
10. "Quaintly Worded Indenture of 1855 Recalls the Days of the Pioneers," Kansas City Star, 29 July 1945, p. 16C.
11. Scarritt, "Reminiscences," pp. 436-437.
12. Caldwell, pp. 48, 60-61, 78.
13. Paul M. Jones, Jones and Company Realtors, Kansas City, Missouri, letter to Elaine B. Ryder, 18 April 1977; warranty deed, Joseph O. Boggs to Nathan Scarritt, 15 October 1853, files of Chicago Title Company, Kansas City, Missouri.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 7

14. Carrie Westlake Whitney, Kansas City, Missouri: Its History and Its People, 1808-1908, 3 vols. (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908), 2: 29.
15. Woodward, p. 281; Phyllis Edwards Kite, Golden Threads of Memories: History of the Westport Methodist Church ([Kansas City]: n.p., 1964), p. 26; Olive L. Hoggins, "A History of Churches in Kansas City," Kansas City Journal-Post, "Westport Methodist Episcopal Church, South," 21 July 1928, "Walnut Street Methodist Church, South," 23 June, 1928.
16. Kite, p. 26; Scarritt, Autobiographical Data, p. 3.
17. Scarritt, Autobiographical Data, p. 4.
18. W. H. Lewis, The History of Methodism in Missouri: 1860-1870, 3 vols. (Nashville: Publishing House of the M. E. Church, South, 1890), 3: 448-449.
19. Union Historical Company, pp. 838-839.
20. Scarritt, Autobiographical Data, p. 4.
21. Lewis, 3: 38.
22. The Reverend Thomas Johnson of the Shawnee Indian School, living in Kansas City during the war, was assassinated at his home in January, 1865, by persons whom Ross called (pp. 23-24) a "remnant of Quantrill's band."
23. Lewis, 3: 100-104.
24. Scarritt, Autobiographical Data, pp. 4,5.
25. Ibid., p. 6.
26. "Pleasant Life for Community of Kin," Kansas City Times, 17 September 1971, p. 30.
27. "Old Scarritt House Preserved," Kansas City Star, 28 December 1969, p. 24A; warranty deed, Nathan Scarritt to Isaac Stiers, 8 August 1881, files of Chicago Title Company, Kansas City, Missouri.
28. Scarritt, Autobiographical Data, p. 5.
29. Rev. Nathan Scarritt, D.D. ([Kansas City]: n.p., [1890]), p. 5; Whitney, 2: 29.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 8

30. "Dr. Nathan Scarritt Dead," Kansas City Times, 23 May 1890, p. 2.
31. Ibid.; "Nathan Scarritt Dead," Kansas City Star, 22 May 1890, p. 1.
32. "Nathan Scarritt Dead," Kansas City Star, 22 May 1890, p. 1.
33. Pioneer Trust Co., Pioneer Bankers of Kansas City (Kansas City: Pioneer Trust Co., 1928), p. 12; United States Biographical Dictionary: Missouri Volume (New York: United States Biographical Publishing Company, 1878), p. 775; J. H. Ballenger and W. C. Hoyer, Sixth Annual City Directory of the City of Kansas City, Missouri (Kansas City: Journal Co., 1876), pp. 41, 269; J. H. Ballenger and W. C. Hoyer, Seventh Annual City Directory of the City of Kansas City, Missouri (Kansas City: Journal Co., 1877), pp. 41, 295.
34. United States Biographical Dictionary: Missouri Volume, p. 776.
35. Hoggins, "Melrose Methodist Episcopal Church (South)," 30 June 1928.
36. Frank C. Tucker, The Methodist Church in Missouri: 1798-1939 (Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1966), p. 199.
37. Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City, Missouri, Mounted Clipping Files, "Kansas City: Scarritt Bible and Training School," "School Was Founded by Pioneer Clergyman," Kansas City Post, 16 November 1915.
38. "To Move A Bible School," Kansas City Times, 6 April 1923, p. 3.
39. Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City, Missouri, Mounted Clipping Files, "Kansas City: Schools, Public, Scarritt," Kansas City Journal-Post, 3 March 1929.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Ballenger, J. H. and Hoyer, W. C. Seventh Annual City Directory of the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Kansas City: Journal Co., 1877.
2. Sixth Annual City Directory of the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Kansas City: Journal Co., 1876.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .440 acres

## UTM REFERENCES

A 15 3625610 4323570  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 120 FT LOT F ALSO  $\frac{1}{2}$  VAC ALLEY S OF & ADJ SUB OF LOT 1 BOGGS ADD  
 TO WESTPORT

## 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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

## NAME / TITLE

Elaine B. Ryder - Researcher

## ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri

## DATE

August 5, 1977

## STREET &amp; NUMBER

City Hall, 26th Floor, E., 414 East 12th Street

## TELEPHONE

(816) 274-2555

## CITY OR TOWN

Kansas City

## STATE

Missouri 64106

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   STATE   LOCAL X

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

*Robert L. Zinner*

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources  
 and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 8, 1978

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Brown, A. Theodore. Frontier Community: Kansas City to 1870. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1963.
4. Byers, Harriet (Mrs. Reed Byers). Byers 3 Interiors, Kansas City, Missouri. Interviews, 22 April 1977, 1 July 1977.
5. Caldwell, Martha B., comp. Annals of the Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1939.
6. Chicago Title Company, Kansas City, Missouri. Title records and abstracts.
7. Hoggins, Olive L. "A History of Churches in Kansas City," Kansas City Journal-Post, April, 1927 - March, 1930.
8. Jones, Paul M. Jones and Company Realtors, Kansas City, Missouri. Letter to Elaine B. Ryder, 18 April 1977.
9. Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City, Missouri. Mounted Clipping Files, "Kansas City: Scarritt Bible and Training School; Schools, Public: Scarritt."
10. Kansas City Star, 22 May 1890; 26 December 1937; 29 July 1945; 28 December 1969.
11. Kansas City Times, 23 May 1890; 6 April 1923; 21 May 1936; 17 September 1971.
12. Kite, Phyllis Edwards. Golden Threads of Memories: History of the Westport Methodist Church. [Kansas City]: n.p., 1964.
13. Lewis, W. H. The History of Methodism in Missouri: 1860-1970. 3 vols. Nashville: Publishing House of the M. E. Church, South, 1890. Vol. 3.
14. Pioneer Trust Co. Pioneer Bankers of Kansas City. Kansas City: Pioneer Trust Co., 1928.
15. Rev. Nathan Scarritt, D.D. [Kansas City]: n.p., [1890?].
16. Riegel, Robert E. and Athearn, Robert G. America Moves West. 5th ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971.
17. Ross, Edith Connelley. The Old Shawnee Mission. Topeka: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1928.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

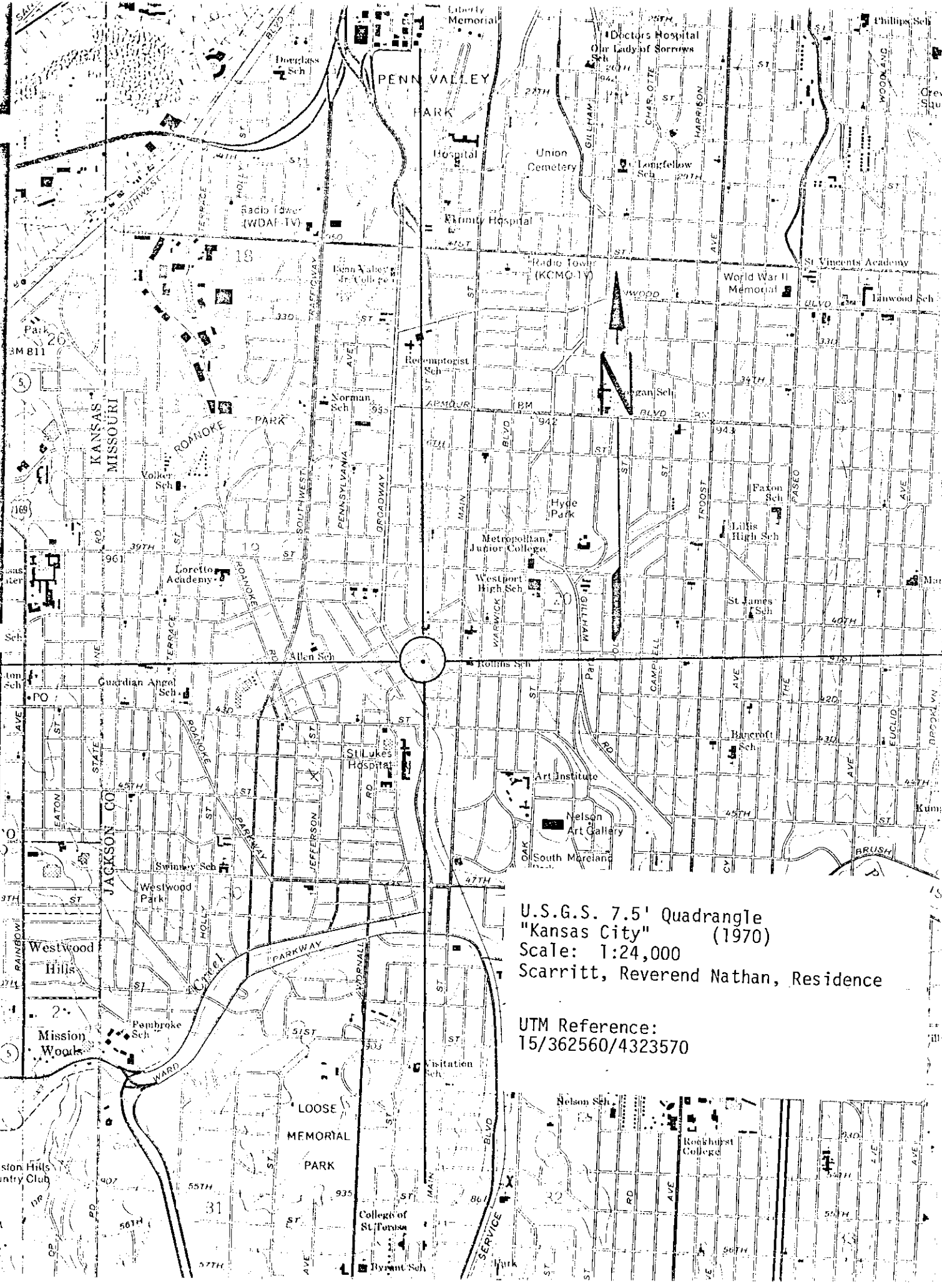
DATE ENTERED

SCARRITT, REVEREND NATHAN, RESIDENCE

CONTINUATION SHEET

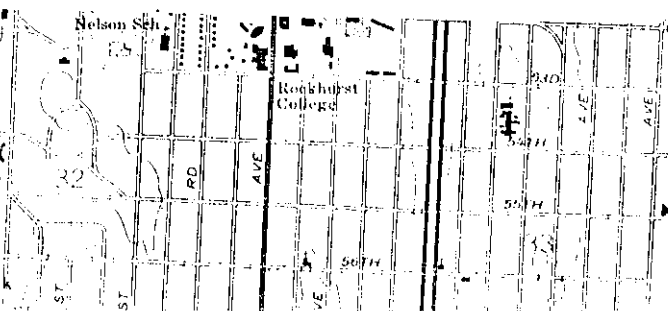
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

18. Scarritt, Nathan. Autobiographical Data to Editor of United States Biographical Dictionary, [Kansas City: 1878], Files of Paul M. Jones, Kansas City, Missouri. (Typewritten.)
19. Scarritt, Nathan. "Reminiscences of the Methodist Shawnee Mission," Missouri Valley Historical Society Publication: Annals of Kansas City, 1, no. 4. Kansas City: Missouri Valley Historical Society: 1924.
20. Tucker, Frank C. The Methodist Church in Missouri: 1798-1939. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1966.
21. Union Historical Company. Kansas City, Missouri. [Kansas City]: Birdsell, Williams and Co., 1881; reprint ed., The History of Jackson County, Missouri. Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Ramfre Press, 1966.
22. United States Biographical Dictionary: Missouri Volume. New York: United States Biographical Publishing Company, 1878.
23. Whitney, Carrie Westlake. Kansas City, Missouri: Its History and Its People, 1808-1908. 3 vols. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908, Vols. 1, 2.
24. Woodward, W. S. Annals of Methodism in Missouri. Columbia, Mo.: E. W. Stephens, 1893.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Kansas City" (1970)  
Scale: 1:24,000  
Scarritt, Reverend Nathan, Residence

UTM Reference:  
15/362560/4323570



**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Scarritt, Reverend Nathan, Residence**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Sherry Piland**

Date

Photographed: **Jul., 1977**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 6. SE and NE facades of the anterior section on the right and NE and SE facades of rear section on the left, view looking NW.

2 of 6. The NE façade of anterior section, view looking W.

3 of 6. The primary (NW) façade, view looking SW.

4 of 6. Detail of primary (NW) façade showing the front veranda, view looking S.

5 of 6. The SW façade, view looking SE.

6 of 6. W corner, view looking SE showing primary (NW) façade on the left and SW façade on the right.















