

Kansas Historical Society

Testimony to

House Federal and State Affairs

March 17, 2021



The Iowa, Sac & Fox Mission

In 1836 Superintendent of Indian Affairs William Clark negotiated a treaty at Fort Leavenworth with the Iowa and Sac & Fox. The agreement stipulated that both tribes would give up all claim to lands lying between the state of Missouri and the Missouri River. A Presbyterian Mission set up on southern edge of the Iowa reservation in present-day Doniphan County, Kansas was built in 1845 to educate the children of the Iowa and Sac & Fox. The building grew from a one-room log structure to a large three-story building. After the reservations of the tribes were once again moved, the mission closed in 1863. The Kansas Historical Society became the caretaker of the mission in 1941 under K.S.A. 76-2014 through 2016. KSHS operated the building for many years as a State Historic Site but was forced to close the building due to reduced resources in 2008. The grounds surrounding the building remained open to visitors and KSHS continued to maintain the building.

H.B. 2408

In recent years, KSHS began discussions with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska about their interest in operating the site as a museum and educational center. H.B. 2408 is the result of those discussions. The Kansas Historical Society supports H.B. 2408 as long as it meets with the Kansas Attorney General's approval as stated in the bill.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee. Please feel free to contact either myself or Matthew if at any time you have questions.

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