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**LEADING HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
EXPERTS AGREE**

*“All three historic buildings are under-used, which also puts them at risk.”*

Letter from National Trust for Historic Preservation, September 13, 2022

*“The West Building...reportedly the oldest residential building in the state...is uninhabitable and in need of extensive repair.”*

Report of Architectural Resources Group, December 6, 2021

*“...we were concerned to observe that the historic buildings have significant preservation needs and that critical action such as roof and window repair should be undertaken in the very near future.”*

Letter from National Trust for Historic Preservation, September 13, 2022

**SEE THE FULL SITE  
ASSESSMENT REPORT AT**  
[SAVESHAWNEEINDIANMISSION.COM](http://SAVESHAWNEEINDIANMISSION.COM)



Shawnee Tribe  
P.O. Box 189  
Miami, OK 74355

**THE SHAWNEE INDIAN  
MISSION SCHOOL IS IN**

**DISTRESS!**



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**“TWO OF THE NATION’S FOREMOST  
PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS  
SAY THE MISSION IS ENDANGERED.  
WE MUST ACT SWIFTLY TO  
SAVE THIS SITE.”**

**-Shawnee Chief  
Ben Barnes**

**LOOK INSIDE TO SEE  
OUR PLAN TO SAVE THE  
SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION.**

# PHASED RESTORATION PLAN FOR THE SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION



## SITE IN DISTRESS

The Shawnee Indian Mission is an essential national landmark that has recorded some of the most significant moments in Kansas' history and is a monument to the perseverance of all Indigenous peoples affected by this place. Due to inadequate funding and mismanagement over the years, this public treasure has fallen into deep physical distress. The Shawnee Tribe has designated the Mission as a sacred site and is committed to ensuring the site is properly preserved and protected.

## A TEAM OF EXPERTS

The Tribe contracted a nationally renowned historic architecture firm to perform a site condition assessment and develop a plan to restore the Shawnee Indian Mission. The Tribe has extensive experience and meaningful partnerships in historic preservation, exhibition development, interpretation, and site management. The Nation maintains a fully staffed Cultural & Historic Preservation department, including a roster of archaeologists, historians, Shawnee language experts and museum experts.

## COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION

All restoration and maintenance will be performed in partnership with the other tribes with ties to this site, the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, city officials, and Architectural Resources Group, which has extensive experience restoring significant landmarks across the nation.

## IMPROVED OPERATION

The Shawnee Tribe is committed to keeping the Shawnee Indian Mission open to the public and operational exclusively as a historic site. The Tribe will replace the current one-person staff with a Kansas-based team and provide adequate resources so that the site can offer rich programs and activities, all while managing the grounds & facilities and ensuring the site is restored correctly.

## MULTI-YEAR RESTORATION PLAN

### PHASE 1: CONVEYANCE, HISTORICAL STRUCTURE REPORT & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT (YEARS 1 & 2)

**Conveyance:** The Shawnee Tribe Business Council has budgeted at least \$15 million dollars to fund their commitment to fully fund the costs of repairs, maintenance and continued operation of this site, contingent upon restoration of ownership to the Tribe.

**Historic Structure Report:** Industry standards for stewardship of historic buildings begin with preparing an authoritative HSR documenting the history and physical characteristics of the site and its various historical uses.

**Cultural Landscape Report:** The site warrants careful consideration of the full range of archaeological remains—including architectural remnants, agricultural features, and the potential for burials of Indigenous children and enslaved people/workers—that may be present.

### PHASE 2: SITE STABILIZATION (YEAR 2)

The ARG Conditions Assessment Report recorded a range of deteriorating conditions at the site for which repair and treatment actions were developed, calling out “high,” “medium” and “low priority” repair and maintenance treatments. “High priority” recommendations indicate that deterioration is active, and treatment within 1-2 years is needed to prevent or slow the rate of deterioration and material loss. The large-scale exterior maintenance projects classified as “high priority” for the site will be the main focus of this phase.

### PHASE 3: MASTER PLAN, INTERPRETIVE PLAN, NEW INTERPRETIVE INSTALLATION & CONTINUED SITE STABILIZATION (YEARS 3-7)

**Master Plan:** The Master Plan study would outline the goals for the use of the cultural resource based on the input of the various stakeholders, then define an overall spatial layout of plans for the site.

**Interpretive Plan:** The Shawnee Tribe is committed to telling the full story of the site's importance to Kansas history as well as the significant role it played in the history of all the tribes that had children attend the school. Our interpretive plan will preserve the architectural significance of the structures, while curating the site's historical importance.

**New Interpretive Installation:** The Tribe anticipates reimagining approximately 14,000 square feet for the new installation, including two floors in the North and East buildings and the ground floor in the West to use for educational exhibits.

**Continued Site Stabilization:** Repair and maintenance treatments deemed “medium-” and “low priority” will be addressed in this Phase, along with the implementation of regular Maintenance and Inspection protocols.

“BUT I’VE HEARD THAT...”

## CLAIM:

“...the site will become tribal land.”

## FACT:

“...the long and short of it is that if the Shawnee Tribe purchases that land, they're just another land owner.” Gary Pitchlynn, Adjunct Law Professor, Oklahoma University, an expert in tribal sovereignty and tribal gaming law.”

Shawnee Mission Post, January 25, 2023



## CLAIM:

“...the site will become a casino.”

## FACT:

“...(conveyance of the property to the tribe) certainly doesn't mean the tribe can develop that property any way it wants, certainly not for gaming.” Gary Pitchlynn, Adjunct Law Professor, Oklahoma University, an expert in tribal sovereignty and tribal gaming law.”

Shawnee Mission Post, January 25, 2023



“It would seem to be in the best interest of the property and of preservation of this structure's past to place it in the hands of the Shawnee Tribe”

Bishop David Wilson, Kansas City Star, January 11, 2023

