

I am writing to express my opinion that ownership of the Shawnee Indian Mission should NOT be conveyed to one of the Shawnee tribes in Oklahoma.

As a resident of Roeland Park, the Indian Mission is my neighbor. In addition to the educational value that the museum provides, it is welcoming, well kept, full of native flowers and a host to numerous community events throughout the year. It is an asset to our community. With its multi-faceted historical significance, keeping it under the control of the Kansas Historical Society as a public, historical landmark, makes the most sense.

If the Shawnee tribe wants to make sure their part of history is remembered, it makes sense for them to partner, but not unilaterally control the future of the land, free from over-sight. Sadly, we've seen what has happened to other sites under the control of Chief Barnes and I do not want that for the Mission or our neighborhood. Verbal, non-binding promises about what will or will not happen to the site are not good enough.

The Shawnee Indian Mission is not just historically significant to the Shawnee, it is significant for the Kaw, the pioneers, the beginning of our state, the Civil War and many more. Please keep it under the ownership and control of the state Historical Society where it can continue to be a preserved, educational National and Kansas State Historic Site for generations to come.

Thank you for your time.