

February 5, 1936

Mrs. J. H. Wehr
Friend, Nebraska

Dear Mrs. Wehr:

We have tried to find the information for which you wrote under date of January 24th. We are unable to advise you where you may secure pictures and descriptions of the various structures that have served as capitols of the state. We have a "History of the State of Kansas" compiled by A. T. Andreas, Chicago, 1883. In this history there are small pictures of the five territorial capitals.

The First Territorial Capital was a two-story stone building 40 ft. by 80 ft. "well provided with seats and writing tables" and was located at Pawnee. The first Territorial Legislature met there July 2, 1855, but adjourned to meet at Shawnee Mission on July 6, 1855 for the balance of the session.

The second Territorial Capital was the Shawnee Manual Labor School located in Shawnee, Kansas. The first territorial legislature continued in session there until August 30, 1855.

The Third Territorial Capitol building was located in Leecompton. This is where the Second Territorial Legislature met January 12, 1857.

The third territorial legislature met at Leecompton, Jan. 4, 1858 and organized but because of rooming difficulties the Legislature was adjourned on January 6 to meet at Lawrence. The Fourth Territorial Capital was located somewhere in Lawrence, possibly one door south of the present site of the Hotel Eldridge, but we have been unable to verify this. The third territorial legislature reconvened here because free hotel accommodations had been promised to the members of the legislature.

The Fifth Territorial Capital was a building located in the 600 block on Massachusetts Street, Lawrence. The Fourth Territorial Legislature met at Leecompton on Jan. 3, 1859 but adjourned to Lawrence where the session continued until Feb. 11, 1859.