



# NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society  
6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka KS 66615-1099  
785-272-8681

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.**

Contacts:

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org  
Teresa Jenkins • 785-272-8681, ext. 263 • tjenkins@kshs.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## HISTORIC SITES BOARD OF REVIEW ANNOUNCES NOMINATIONS

*Includes Twelve National Register Nominations and Three Kansas Register Additions*

TOPEKA, KS— At its regular quarterly meeting held at November 7 the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, the Historic Sites Board of Review voted to list three properties in the Register of Historic Kansas Places and to forward twelve nominations to the office of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., to be evaluated by their professional staff. If they concur with the board's findings, the properties will be included in the National Register. In other action, the board approved the *Roadside Kansas* National Register multiple property documentation form, which is designed to streamline the method of organizing information collected in historic resource surveys and research for future National Register listing and preservation planning purposes. The board also approved the removal of one property from the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historically significant properties. Properties must be significant for one or more of the four criteria for evaluation. Properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. They can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Distinctive construction can qualify properties for the National Register if they embody the characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Lastly, properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. The National Register recognizes properties of local, statewide, and national significance.

Below are summaries of the documents and nominations:

### NOMINATIONS - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

#### ***Roadside Kansas* multiple property documentation form – Statewide**

The *Roadside Kansas* Multiple Property Documentation Form is based on information resulting from a statewide field survey of 307 roadside-related resources initiated by the Kansas SHPO and extensive archival research. The document is intended to facilitate the evaluation of individual properties by comparing them with resources that share similar physical characteristics and historical associations. Information common to a group of related historic properties is presented in the historic context, while information specific to each individual building, site, district, structure, or object is placed on an individual National Register nomination form. This document simply provides historic context and no

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properties have yet been nominated as part of this project. The document includes two associated historic contexts: (1) The Influence of the Automobile on Commercial Development in Kansas, 1900-1970, and (2) The Architecture of Roadside Commerce in Kansas, 1900-1970. This comprehensive history of auto-related commercial development in Kansas reveals patterns in architectural styles, building techniques, and trends. The document also includes a list of associated property types, which include gas stations, automobile service stations, and car dealerships; restaurants, diners, and drive-in restaurants; tourist cabins and motels; drive-in movie theaters; roadside attractions; signage associated with these resources; and other businesses that served the motoring public.

**Independence Junior High School** – 300 W Locust, Independence, Montgomery County

The Independence Junior High School was built in 1923 in the popular Collegiate Gothic architectural style. Character-defining architectural features of this three-story brick building include a crenellated parapet, pointed-arch door openings and quoins on every elevation. Like other Progressive-Era school buildings, it occupies a full city block, is located near the center of town, and its large auditorium was designed to accommodate public gatherings as well as school-related functions. The school district contracted with the Chicago-based architectural firm N. S. Spencer and Sons to design the building. Prominent Kansas school architect Thomas W. Williamson of Topeka designed the gymnasium addition in 1939 as a Public Works Administration project. Changes to the building include replacement windows and exterior doors and the alteration of some interior spaces. The building continues to function as a public school. The building was nominated as part of the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* multiple property listing for its association with local educational history and its architecture.

**Fairview Apartments** – 206 E 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Wichita, Sedgwick County

Built in 1924, the Fairview Apartment building is located a few blocks south of Wichita's North End commercial and industrial district. Through the start of World War I, industrial development in the North End spurred residential and commercial growth. A dramatic rise in population during the booming 1920s, coupled with a desire for safe, sanitary housing and a shortage of building materials and skilled labor, triggered an increase in multi-family apartment construction in Wichita. This conventional low-rise apartment building has sixteen residential units on each of the first and second floors. The design of the Fairview Apartments reflects popular architectural trends in multi-family housing seen in Wichita and nationwide during this period. Apartment buildings typically had brick veneer walls with limestone or cast stone trim applied to fireproof, concrete or even steel structures. This building has a U-shaped plan and features buff brick walls with patterned brickwork at the cornice and a flat roof with a shaped parapet. The bracketed door hoods with exposed rafter tails and multi-light upper window sashes express vernacular elements of Craftsman architecture applied to a multi-family building. The building was nominated as part of the *Residential Resources of Wichita – 1870-1957* multiple property listing for its architecture.

**Fairmount Apartments** – 1702 N Fairmount, Wichita, Sedgwick County

Constructed in 1930, the Fairmount Apartment building was designed to provide multi-family housing in the Fairmount neighborhood immediately south of Wichita State University. A trolley line connected the university neighborhood to the rest of the city. Population growth during the booming 1920s triggered an increase in multi-family apartment construction in Wichita. By 1927, there were 91 apartment buildings listed in the Wichita City Directory, a number that increased nearly three-fold by 1947. Wichita contractor John I. Graham, who is known to have built three Wichita apartment buildings between 1928 and 1930, applied for a building permit to construct this building for an estimated cost of \$35,000. This conventional, low-rise apartment building exhibits the characteristics of the popular early twentieth-century Spanish Colonial Revival style. The building was nominated as part of the *Residential Resources of Wichita – 1870-1957* multiple property listing for its architecture.

**Guldner House** – 1919 W Douglas, Wichita, Sedgwick County

Benjamin Guldner built this transitional Free Classic Queen Anne residence for his family in 1910 using architectural drawings produced by G. W. Ashby of the Radford Architectural Company of Chicago. The Radford Company produced catalogues and trade publications in the early twentieth century, and was significant in the shift away from popular Victorian-era residential architectural styles, such as Eastlake and Queen Anne, to more simplified Free Classic, Craftsman, and Classical Revival styles. This house exhibits that transition with its Queen Anne form and classical details. A primary feature of the Guldner House is its one-story wrap-around porch supported by Ionic fluted square pillars. This property is the only documented Radford Company-designed residence in Kansas at this time. The property was nominated as part of the *Residential Resources of Wichita – 1870-1957* multiple property listing for its architecture.

**Blaser House** – 136 N Crestway, Wichita, Sedgwick County

This Spanish Colonial Revival-style residence is located in Wichita's College Hill neighborhood and was built by longtime Wichita contractor Frank E. Blaser in 1929. He lived in the house with his family until 1934. Although this area had been platted since 1884, most development took place between 1910 and 1930. The Blaser House exhibits elements that typify Spanish Revivalism – so much so that authors Virginia and Lee McAlester included a photograph of the home in their book *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Characteristics of the style found on the Blaser House include an asymmetrical and stucco-finished exterior, a multi-level side-gable roof topped with clay tiles, iron grillwork framing some windows, arched doorways, and metal casement windows. The house features an attached garage at the north end that opens to the rear of the property. The property was nominated as part of the *Residential Resources of Wichita – 1870-1957* multiple property listing for its architecture.

**East and Southeast Stone Arch Bridges at Lake Wabaunsee** – East Flint Hills Drive, Wabaunsee County

The idea for a recreational lake in Wabaunsee County was conceived in the 1920s and – with the help of Federal New Deal programs – finally became a reality in the late 1930s. Lake Wabaunsee's grand opening was held on August 26, 1939. A single paved roadway encircles the New Deal-era lake and includes two historic stone arch bridges. The construction of both three-arch stone bridges took place in 1937 and 1938 and was funded by the Works Progress Administration. These bridges are nominated individually to the National Register as part of the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* and *New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas* multiple property listings. Today, lakefront houses dating from the middle and late 20th century dot the perimeter. New Deal-era camp buildings are no longer extant and modern development prevents listing the entire lake site in the National Register. Both the East Bridge and Southeast Bridge remain an integral part of the historic road system encircling Lake Wabaunsee.

**Barton, Welborn 'Doc', House** – 202 South Edwards Street, Ingalls, Gray County

Built in about 1880, the Barton House is a unique combination of common late nineteenth century house forms and styles. The National Folk form is expressed in the house's symmetry and in the multiple exterior doors, while the Victorian form is expressed in the chamfered exterior walls. The Victorian style is expressed in the interior and exterior wood trim and the original front porch details. One of the most unique features of the Barton House is the presence of eight exterior doorways within the original configuration – a five-room, 850 square-foot plan. Each room has at least one door to the outside. It was common for some types of Folk buildings to feature two front doors, including the double-pen, the dogtrot, and the I-house, although the reasons for the multiple doors varies with the region and type of house. In addition to its unique architecture, the house was home to early western Kansas cattleman Welborn 'Doc' Barton, who built the home in Cimarron and moved to its current location in Ingalls in 1896. Barton lived in the house until his death in 1946. It was nominated for its association with Barton and as a unique example of Folk Victorian architecture.

**Cossaart Barn** – 3040 Birch Road, Narka, Republic County

Built in about 1916, the Cossaart Barn is located 1.2 miles west of Mahaska on a uniquely designated parcel of land – Section 1, Range 1, Township 1 – in Albion Township of Republic County. Albion Township is in the extreme northeast corner of the county and includes only a few hundred residents. The Cossart farm is situated on the north side of a gravel road in a shallow valley. The rural surroundings feature rolling hills of grassland used for ranching and farming. The farmstead includes buildings and structures of various periods, but the barn and adjacent windmill are the oldest and best-intact features. The barn features the distinguishing characteristic of a Midwest Prairie Barn: a large sweeping gable roof that gives it a strong horizontal emphasis. It also includes a hay hood with an outward swinging door on the north elevation. Its interior is made up of a large, open central section that is flanked by stall bays. The interior is somewhat unusual in that the central section used for hay storage extends from ground level to the roof with no haymow. The 1937 Fairbury windmill originally pumped water to the house and to a tank adjacent to the barn for many years. By the mid-twentieth century the windmill was outfitted with an electric motor and pumpjack. It was restored to original working condition in 1993. This property has been in the Cossaart family for five generations, and continues to function as a working farmstead. The barn was nominated as part of the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* multiple property listing for its association with local agricultural history and its architecture.

**Transue Brothers Blacksmith & Wagon Shop** – 309 Main Street, Summerfield, Marshall County  
Located at the north end of Main Street in Summerfield is the Transue Brothers Blacksmith & Wagon Shop, which traces its roots to 1889 when blacksmith Thomas Hutton first opened a shop at that location. He sold the business in 1893 to brothers James and George Transue, who erected this fireproof limestone and brick building in 1898. The Transue brothers provided a variety of services to the community that included horseshoeing, building and repairing wagons and sleighs, and iron fabrication. Their business and the buildings out of which they operated adapted to changes in technology and to meet consumers' needs. The early twentieth-century shift away from horse-drawn wagons toward automobiles is evident within the farrier's shop where the brothers converted the shop into an auto repair garage by digging a pit in the floor over which cars could be parked for repair to the undercarriage. The nominated property includes three functionally related buildings that were erected between 1898 and 1911: the blacksmith and wagon shop, the farrier's shop, and the coal shed. They were nominated for their association with local commercial history and their architecture.

**Topeka Council of Colored Women's Clubs Building** – 1149 SW Lincoln, Topeka, Shawnee County  
The Topeka Council of Colored Women's Clubs purchased the single-family residence at 1149 SW Lincoln in 1931 to use as a place to hold meetings and club functions. African-American women began organizing in the 1880s and 1890s, during a time of escalating discrimination and segregation. The Kansas Association of Colored Women's Clubs was founded in 1896 and chartered in 1906. In addition to taking interest in popular Victorian ideals of self-expression and morality, African-American women fought for basic Civil Rights for their entire race. Black clubwomen worked to help other black women who worked outside the home – the vast majority of whom were employed as domestics. The women's clubs worked to establish childcare and kindergartens to help working women. Located in the heart of Tennessee Town, one of Topeka's traditional African-American neighborhoods, the building is a vernacular one-and-a-half-story T-plan house with applied Queen Anne details. Having been settled by Exodusters who fled the Jim Crow-South in the late 1870s, the neighborhood was traditionally occupied by a concentration of single-family homes on small lots. Unfortunately, many of these homes have been demolished. The property was nominated for its social history.

**Collyer Downtown Historic District** – Collyer, Trego County  
Like many Kansas farm communities, Collyer thrived during the first decades of the twentieth century. Developments in agricultural technology, including the adoption of gasoline-powered tractors, and record-high crop prices during World War I left Kansas farmers with unprecedented sums of disposable income.

Small-town businesses scrambled to accommodate the new consumer class. Whereas Collyer's residents at this time included laborers and agents working for the Union Pacific Railroad, most were carpenters, horse traders, merchants, butchers, and barbers who provided goods and services to the surrounding farm and ranch community. In 1917, Collyer was incorporated – for the first time – as a third-class city. It was during the post-World War I years that Collyer took on much of its present character. The district includes twelve historic buildings and structures all constructed between 1926 and 1935. Most buildings have been vacant for many years. The district was nominated for its association with the development of the community.

### NOMINATIONS - REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES

#### **Henry and Elenora Strong House – 1916 Beck Street, Manhattan, Riley County**

Henry and Elenora Strong were born in Bolton, Connecticut, and were active in the local Congregational Church. They married in 1859 and moved to the Kansas territory where Henry had previously worked hauling freight between Leavenworth and Denver. They became members of Manhattan's newly established First Congregational Church and were active in early efforts to establish a school for area children. Henry drafted and constructed the house in 1867, with his New England heritage evident in his craftsmanship. They built the two-story vernacular stone house on the outskirts of town in a style similar to the earlier Federal style found in New England. The original house is a simple two-story box with a side-gabled roof, a center entrance, and doors and windows organized in strict symmetry. It was built of limestone from his own quarry at the foot of nearby Bluemont Hill. The farmstead outbuildings are no longer extant, and the house features two 1950s additions. A mid-twentieth neighborhood has developed around the former farmstead. The property was nominated for its association with the early settlement of Manhattan and as an example of a mid-nineteenth century vernacular stone house.

#### **Sundstrom Building – 102-106 North Main Street, Lindsborg, McPherson County**

Among those who contributed to the early settlement of Lindsborg were John G. Bergsten and Jacob O. Sundstrom, who together established what came to be known as the Sundstrom Department Store. Both men were born in Sweden, immigrated to Chicago in the 1860s, and were part of the First Swedish Agricultural Company, the land company that colonized Lindsborg in the 1870s. Bergsten, a stonecutter and farmer, partnered with Sundstrom, who had worked as a "moulder" in an iron foundry and operated a grocery business in Chicago, to open a department store in Lindsborg's downtown. Their two-story Italianate-style building at the northeast corner of Main and Eighth streets was completed in 1879. In 1884, Bergsten sold his interest in the business to Sundstrom, who continued to operate the business for another three decades until his death in 1926. Various businesses have since occupied the main floor, including a dry goods business, hardware store, and dance studio. Today, the building remains a dominant fixture in the downtown. Its Italianate architecture is reflected in the narrow window openings with prominent sills and lintels, the prominent cornice, and narrow supports and columns. The building was nominated for its architecture and its association with the growth and development of Lindsborg.

#### **Building T-9 (former site of POW Camp Concordia)– 1541 Ute Road, Cloud County**

Building T-9 is the only remaining warehouse at the site of the former World War II-era Prisoner of War Camp Concordia. Construction on Building T-9 began during or immediately after February 1943. All new construction at the camp was given a "T" designation for "temporary." T-9 is 48' x 160', consists of 7680 square feet of floor space, and was the largest among five warehouses built near the southern boundary of the camp. Like the other camp warehouses, T-9 was a one-story, wood-frame building, with a concrete foundation and floor. The cost of the building was \$7,648. Construction was officially complete May 1, 1943 when the camp was turned over to the U. S. Army. T-9 functioned as an engineering shop and warehouse until the camp closed on November 5, 1945. T-9 was subsequently used as a skating rink, hog farm, canoe factory, and during the 1960s, a horse racetrack, Thundercloud Park, and for hay storage. In

2009, the building was purchased by the POW Camp Concordia Preservation Society, which plans to open a museum in the building. The building was nominated for its mid-twentieth century military history.

**APPROVED FOR REMOVAL - REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES**

**Kincaid & Crocker Opera House** – SE Corner of Main & Eighth Streets, Pleasanton, Linn County

The Kincaid and Crocker Opera House was listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places in 1986 for its architectural significance. The 23-year-old nomination paperwork notes the building had structural problems and needed rehabilitation at the time of listing. These concerns were never addressed. The building was torn down in June 2009. The City of Pleasanton now owns the empty parcel.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

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