



Topeka Landmarks Registry

**Topeka Landmarks Commission
January, 2014**

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Landmark Name: Anton Woodring House

Address: 1011 SW Cambridge Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1925-1926

Architecture: Italian Renaissance Style with Prairie School influences

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: May, 2002

Known History: Frederick A. Anton is a significant person in Topeka history that was an inventor and entrepreneur. Anton was founder of the Topeka Tent and Awning Company that had a large national and international wholesale and retail business. In 1928, the company employed one hundred people and had a payroll of \$110,650. The company's success can be attributed to the numerous patents that Anton received for various improvements to awnings and awning arms.

The primary building materials of the home include blond brick, clay tile roof, wooden window frames, and a terra cotta balustraded porch.

The Anton-Woodring House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 23, 1991.



Landmark Name: Union Pacific Station

Address: 200 NW Railroad St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1926

Architecture: Classically detailed free eclectic

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: June, 2002

Known History: The above referenced property was built in approximately 1926 and served as a freight and passenger station for Union Pacific until the last regularly scheduled passenger run in 1971. After 1971, the property was adapted for other uses by the railroad. Union Pacific deeded the property to Topeka Railroad Days in 1998. The architectural style of the building is “classically detailed free eclectic”. The primary building materials are steel, brick, terra cotta and a tile roof.

Topeka Railroad Days began raising money for the restoration of the station in 1992. 1996 saw the actual restoration of the building begin. The station was listed in the Kansas Register of Historic Places in 1982 and is now an educational museum on the people of the railroads.



Landmark Name: Fire Station #2

Address: 719 SW Van Buren St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1917

Architecture: Mediterranean Revival

Architect: Thomas W. Williamson

Landmark Designation Date: June, 2002

Known History: The above referenced property was built in 1917 and served as a fire station for the City of Topeka until 1979. After 1979, the property served to house various City of Topeka services. The architectural style of the building is late 19th and 20th Century Revival with distinctive influences of the Mediterranean Revival style. The primary building materials are brick and cut Ashlar stone.

Thomas W. Williamson, a prominent Topeka architect, designed Fire Station #2. Williamson practiced in Topeka for nearly 60 years and his firm designed numerous public and commercial buildings in and around Topeka. In addition to Fire Station #2, other outstanding works of Williamson include the First National Bank Building, the Jayhawk Hotel and Theatre, and the First Methodist Church. Williamson is perhaps best known for his design of Topeka High School. Five buildings designed by Williamson are listed on the National Register.



Landmark Name: Hopkins & Holland Building

Address: 929 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1888

Architecture: Victorian

Architect: James C. Holland

Landmark Designation Date: July, 2002

Known History: 929 S. Kansas Avenue was built in 1888 and is representative of the Late Victorian style of architecture. The primary building materials of the building include brick, stone and wood. The design is believed to be from the local architectural firm of Hopkins & Holland. Please see the attached bibliography of J.C. Holland for additional information on this prominent Kansas architect.

A Mr. Kirkpatrick and Dr. John Minney took out a building permit in August, 1888 for a two-story house. The estimated cost of the building was \$5,000. A fruit market was located at 929 S. Kansas Avenue in 1889. Other early tenants include a pharmacy and barber shop. In 1929, Martha Addis, believed to be the first woman jeweler in Topeka and Kansas, opened a business at 929 S. Kansas Avenue. Ms. Addis is the first woman jeweler to be recognized by the American National Retail Jeweler's Association.



Landmark Name: Historic Jayhawk Theatre

Address: 720 SW Jackson St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1926

Architecture: Movie Palace unique

Architect: Thomas W. Williamson

Landmark Designation Date: October, 2002

Known History: The Jayhawk Theatre was completed in 1926 and is built in a Movie Palace unique architectural style. The Jayhawk is associated with a number of significant events including Alf Landon using the Jayhawk to announce to the Kansas Republican Party his plans to run for President and Gypsy Rose Lee's first stage performance. The consulting architects for the design of the Jayhawk were the Boller Brothers of Kansas City. The Boller Brothers worked on hundreds of movie palaces around the country and the Jayhawk is one of the few spaces remaining.

Thomas W. Williamson, a prominent Topeka architect, was the residential project architect for the Jayhawk Theatre. Williamson practiced in Topeka for nearly 60 years and his firm designed numerous public and commercial buildings in and around Topeka. In addition to the Jayhawk Theatre, other outstanding works of Williamson include the First National Bank Building, Fire Station #2, and the First Methodist Church. Williamson is perhaps best known for his design of Topeka High School. Five buildings designed by Williamson are listed on the National Register.

The Jayhawk Theatre is on the Kansas and National Registers of Historic Places.



Landmark Name: Tinkham Veale Building

Address: 909-911 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1902- 1908

Architecture: Early 20th century commercial block with Colonial Revival details

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: October, 2004

Known History: This property consists of two structures (909 and 911) built at different times. 909 S. Kansas Avenue, which was built in 1908, consists of two stories. The primary building materials of the building include brick, stone and terra cotta trim. 911 S. Kansas Avenue was built in 1902 and was a single story structure. In 1923, architect W.E. Glover united the two buildings into a single structure for Tinkham Veale. The work done by W.E. Glover essentially matched the original work at 909.

Tinkham Veale (1884-1966) was a native Topekan best remembered as the developer of the Westboro Subdivision in the mid-1920's. In addition to housing Tinkham Veale's Westboro Homes Co., the building also at one time housed Topeka's famed Chocolate Shop restaurant. As with many of the buildings in the 900 block of Kansas Avenue, the Veale Building represents a unique part of "main street U.S.A."



Landmark Name: The Devon Apartments

Address: 800 SW 12th St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1887

Architecture: Prairie-style

Architect: Henry Bennett

Landmark Designation Date: November, 2002

Known History: The Devon Apartments are located on 12th Street, filling the block between Western and Taylor. The Devon was constructed in 1887. The building is constructed of brick and stone and was built by Henry Bennett, a well-known Topekan who also built the Crawford and Columbian buildings. The architectural style of the building is Prairie-style.

The Devon is unique in that throughout its history it has functioned as sort of a self-contained community. Residents of the upper floor apartments have at various times been able to shop at the grocery stores, drug stores, meat market, and bakery that occupied the street level retail spaces. The Devon is also unique in that it is a prairie-style building in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

The Devon is listed on the State Historic Register and the National Register of Historic Places.



Landmark Name: The Segar Place

Address: 1132 NW Harrison St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1888

Architecture: Eastlake Victorian

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: December 2002

Known History: The structure is a 19th Century two-story brick home. The architectural style of the structure is Eastlake Victorian, which refers to the style of woodwork; furniture-like, lathe-turned posts, balusters and railings; named for English furniture designer Charles Eastlake. A 10-pillared veranda sweeps around the front and north side of the house. The home's foundation is native limestone and the exterior is red brick. The home's original standing seam tin roof remains intact.

The home, built in 1888, has weathered two devastating floods and more than 114 years of use. Recent owner had to shovel 4 ½ feet of mud from the cellar as part of a restoration process. The structure is an architectural landmark in North Topeka.



Landmark Name: Ross Row Houses

Address: 513 -523 SW Van Buren St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1878 - 1882

Architecture: Late Victorian: Italianate

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: January 14, 2003

Known History: Originally built between 1878 and 1882, the architectural style of the Ross Row Houses is Late Victorian: Italianate. 513 and 515 SW Van Buren were built in 1878 and were constructed with rusticated limestone block and sit on a limestone block foundation. The remaining row houses were constructed primarily of brick. Additional building materials include wood and tin. A projecting rectangular bay marks each of the six units of the Ross Row Houses

The row houses were developed by William Wallace Ross, a Topeka politician and entrepreneur. Ross invested in a number of real estate ventures in Topeka in the late 1780's and early 1880's. The Ross Row Houses stand as unique examples of nineteenth century row house architecture in Topeka. It is known that Ross traveled extensively and lived in Washington D.C. It is assumed that Ross was influenced by the row house architecture that pre-dominated the District of Columbia and wanted to build similar structures in Topeka. The Washington Row House is a distinct type identified as being unique to the nation's capital. The distinguishing feature of this type is the square bay that projects into the public space.

The Ross Row Houses was entered onto the National Register of Historic Places on November 5, 1998.



Landmark Name: Kathryn and Michael Hosfelt Residence

Address: 921 SW Buchanan St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1907

Architecture: Queen Anne Victorian

Architect: James C. Holland

Landmark Designation Date: April, 2003

Known History: The architectural style of the house at 921 Buchanan is Queen Anne. The home was built in 1907 and typifies the late Queen Anne Style, devoid of excessive ornamentation found in earlier examples but retains the hip roof and lower, cross-gables. The exterior of the house is clad in wood and has changed little since its construction.

921 Buchanan is located at the south end of a range of large, turn-of-the-century residences known as Governor's Row (the northern-most of this group was the former governor's mansion that was razed in the 1960's). All six surviving houses on the west side of Buchanan were built between 1900 and 1910 and presumably designed by prominent early Topeka architect James C. Holland.



Landmark Name: The Wiley-Gutting Residence

Address: 2844 SE Maryland Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1934

Architecture: sub-type Tudor-Stucco Wall Cladding

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: February, 2003

Known History: The Wiley-Gutting Residence was built in 1934 and the exterior is clad in stucco with some stone and wood siding. The house stands as a good example of the modest, suburban Tudor style homes built for the professional and business classes during the interwar period, 1920-40.

The home is located in the Highland Park neighborhood. The neighborhood was established in 1887 outside the Topeka city limits by Major Joseph K. Hudson. Hudson was a civil war veteran who had started the Topeka Daily Capital in 1879. Highland Park's streets reflect a gradual development with a wide mix of architectural styles and sizes found intermingled throughout the district. Several blocks have architectural styles ranging from late Victorian vernacular style houses and cottages from the 1890's through the turn-of-the-century, to Craftsman style bungalows and cottages built from the late teens through the 20's, to a number of English Cottage and Colonial Revival Style cottages, including post-war cottages and ranch-style homes.



Landmark Name: Hathaway House

Address: 821 SW Western Ave.

Property Legal Description: Lots 271, 273, and 275 on Western Avenue in Young's Addition in the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas.

Date of Construction: 1910

Architecture: Colonial Revival with Prairie Style features

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: February, 2003

Known History: The home was built in 1910 and features the finest quality woodwork, hardware, and glass. Curved glass windows are located in the dining room, living room and bedroom. The exterior of the house is clad in wood and has changed little since its construction.

Only three families have lived at 821 Western since it was built. Prominent local businessman Daniel Jarrett Hathaway built the home in 1910 at a cost of \$8,500. Mr. Hathaway was in the lumber business in Topeka for a number of years. Charles Wolff Jr. and his wife Jessica lived at 821 Western from the early 1920's until the mid-1950's. Charles Wolff was also a prominent businessman in Topeka and was responsible for a charitable trust that, as of 1989, had distributed in excess of \$1.5 million to the Stormont-Vail Regional Medical Center. Wellington Jones Jr. and Nancy began living at the home in 1956. The home is currently owned by Doug Jones, son to Wellington Jones, Jr., and his wife, Barbara Quaney.



Landmark Name: Frank Squires Residence

Address: 400 SW Greenwood Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1918

Architecture: Prairie style

Architect: Frank Squires

Landmark Designation Date: September, 2003

Known History: Frank Squires, a prominent Topeka architect who has a number of projects listed on the National Register, built the home in 1918. The house is representative of Prairie style architecture, first popularized by Frank Lloyd Wright. The structure is arguably the finest example of Prairie style architecture in the city. The primary building materials of the home include brick, frame construction, and a clay tile roof. The home also contains stained glass windows on three sides.

The home is located in the Potwin Place National Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The Potwin Place National Historic District is significant for its tremendous architectural worth and also for the design of the subdivision, including its use of small round-a-bouts.



Landmark Name: Dr. Daniel Esterly House

Address: 807 Western Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1908

Architecture: Colonial Revival with Prairie Style features

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: July, 2006

Known History: The architectural style of the house at 807 Western is Colonial Revival with Prairie Style features. The home was built in 1908 and features the finest quality woodwork, hardware, and glass. The exterior of the house is clad in wood and has changed little since its construction. The home is a contemporary to the Daniel Hathaway Residence located nearby at 821 Western, which is listed on the local register.

Dr. Daniel Esterly was the original owner of the home. Dr. Esterly was a leading eye, ear, and throat specialist throughout Kansas and adjoining states. The Esterly family lived in the home until the early 1950's. For a time, the home was used for non-residential purposes by Topeka Halfway House and Cornerstone until 2000. The current owners have returned it to a single-family home.



Landmark Name: Ramada Inn

Address: 420 SE 6th St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1965

Architecture: Modern Colonial Revival

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: December, 2003

Known History: The *Downtown Ramada* was built by Gage Builders in 1965. The architectural style of the original four-story building is Modern Colonial Revival and is constructed primarily of brick. A major alteration to the original structure was completed in 1968 with the construction of the hotel ballroom and parking structure. The hotel tower was completed in 1980. This application also includes the service station located at 7th and Madison. This building is in the style of the original building and was completed in 1968.

The Downtown Ramada is less than 50 years old, meaning that the property must demonstrate “extreme historical significance”. The Downtown Ramada has hosted a number of prominent political dignitaries over the years, including President Ronald Reagan in 1982. The hotel has also served as the location for Senator Bob Dole’s 1980 and 1996 presidential campaign announcements. For decades, Kansas Republicans have hosted their annual Kansas Day celebration at the Ramada and in 1990 the hotel became the permanent location for the Kansas Democratic Party “Washington Day” celebration.



Landmark Name: George D. Lytle House

Address: 1020 SW 8th Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1908

Architecture: Colonial Revival with Prairie Style features

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: February, 2004

Known History: The home was built in 1908 by George D. Lytle and features the finest quality woodwork, hardware, and glass. The exterior of the house is clad in wood and has changed little since its construction. The home was a “program” house whose design could be found compiled with others in a book for prospective builders. Each book had order forms for the details of the house from doorframes to window to chandeliers, so the home planner could specify every detail.

The home fronts 8th Street, which at one time had a trolley line running down the middle of the street. Much of the street is lined with stately older homes and large mature trees. The home is also located in the Old Town Neighborhood, which has two properties listed on the State Register and three properties listed on the local register. Much of the neighborhood around this house has potential for historic district listing.



Landmark Name: Santa Fe Place, Memorial Building

Address: 600 SE Madison St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1930

Architecture: 20th Century Empire

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: September, 2002

Known History: The Santa Fe Railroad has played a prominent role in the history of Shawnee County. The A.T. & S.F. Hospital Association, which was formed in 1891, had its headquarters in Topeka. The Association was known for its quality health care service and was recognized as one of the finest such organizations in the United States. The Santa Fe Hospital, which was known as Memorial Hospital after 1972, served Topeka and Shawnee County until the late 1980's. The building has since been converted into senior housing apartments.

Landmark designation is for the north and west wings of the original hospital. The original building (north wing) in this large former hospital complex was built in 1930 and fronts East 6th Street. According to a Topeka Journal article dated Jan. 23, 1931: "the exterior is finished in buff brick and stone with elaborate and decorative scroll work in the stone". The center half of the west wing, which fronts Jefferson Street, was built in 1949. The south end of the west wing was built in 1973.



Landmark Name: White Lakes Golf Club

Address: 3400 SW Topeka Blvd.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1920s

Architecture: English Tudor

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: September, 2004

Known History: The architectural style of the building is English Tudor. The building is constructed primarily of stone. A July 15, 1933 Topeka Capital article states: "Imposing and artistic as it is, it represents a type of construction and skilled labor that is rapidly becoming obscure. The firm of Casson and Son, who originally specialized as stone contractors, is one of the few of its kind that is still able to muster a full crew of stone masons. They are all well along in years."

Long before Topeka crept its way southward and this section of Topeka Boulevard turned into a commercial strip, this property was a farm and later the White Lakes Golf Club. The structure originally served as a barn for the farm. It was remodeled in 1933 into the White Lakes Golf Clubhouse. The property stands in stark contrast to its commercial neighbors that line the Boulevard now.



Landmark Name: Calvin M. Hill House

Address: 817 SW Lincoln St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1907

Architecture: Late Victorian/American Four-Square

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: October, 2004

Known History: The three-story house at 817 SW Lincoln Street was built in a Late Victorian/American Four-Square style. The home was built in 1907 by Calvin M. Hill and was part of the Westlawn development. The home was built with a limestone foundation, is framed with wood and has a plaster interior. With the exception of an addition to the home in 1933, the home has changed little since its construction. The early addition to the home was done with great attention to detail, matching and re-using existing materials from the home. Another unique feature of the property is the carriage house located in the rear of the site. The carriage house is a two-story barn with a hayloft, and is in excellent condition.

The home is located in the Old Town Neighborhood, which currently has three Local Landmarks listed. In addition, the home is located in a district known as Governor's Square. The district takes its name from the Governor's Mansion, which was located nearby until it was torn down in 1965.



Landmark Name: Charles Curtis House

Address: 1101 SW Topeka Blvd.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1878

Architecture: Romanesque/Renaissance

Architect: Seamore Davis

Landmark Designation Date: September, 2004

Known History: The Charles Curtis House is a unique piece of residential architecture. The design incorporates bulbous domes, Romanesque arches and Renaissance massing. The structure is an early example of eclecticism in Kansas building that still gathers the attention of those that see it. The building was constructed in 1878 and was designed by Seamore Davis, the State Architect at the time. The primary building materials are brick and stone.

The Charles Curtis House was the Kansas home of Charles Curtis, United States Senator and Vice-President from 1907 until 1936. Curtis was born in North Topeka on January 25, 1860. Curtis political career began in 1884 when he was elected county attorney for Shawnee County. Curtis served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1893 until 1907. He was elected a U.S. Senator in 1906 and served until 1929, except for a two year period from 1913-1915. In 1929 he became the first vice-president of Indian ancestry.

The Charles Curtis House is on the Kansas and National Registers of Historic Places.



Landmark Name: Damron Building

Address: 919 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: early 1900s

Architecture: Victorian row shops

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: May, 2006

Known History: The Shawnee County Appraiser's Office lists the date of construction for this building as approximately 1930, although the actual construction date is more likely near the turn of the 20th Century. The building is constructed of brick and stone in a style traditional of central business district Victorian row shops. The 900-block of S. Kansas Avenue is typical of turn-of-the-century development in Topeka, and as such, this building contributes significant value to this architectural history. Two additional buildings in this block have recently been designated as Historic Landmarks (911-913 S. Kansas Ave., and 929 S. Kansas Ave.).

The present owner of the building undertook a complete remodeling of the structure in 2004, replacing the lower façade (1960s) with an appearance more in keeping with the building's original appearance. Interior plaster walls were removed, exposing the original stone and brick. Original tin ceilings were also discovered and utilized wherever possible. The building's present use is for offices.



Landmark Name: S.H. Downs Building

Address: 301 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1860s

Architecture

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: July, 2006

Known History: The construction of 301 S. Kansas Ave. dates to the 1860s. A lithograph of the downtown area at the time depicts the present structure at this location with a gabled roof suggesting that this portion of the structure was built first, with the back portion of the building added at a later time (date unknown). The older front portion of the building is constructed of a soft red brick mixed with limestone rubble. The rear portion is constructed of a harder red brick. The ceiling exposure on the second floor reveals the older sloped roof as depicted in the 1869 lithograph.

The first known business at this address (then known as 73 Kansas Avenue) dates to 1880, and was an agricultural implements store known as S.H. Downs. In the ensuing years, a number of different businesses occupied the ground floor while the second floor was converted for into residential quarters. During the 1950s, this portion of downtown Topeka became known as "Smokey Row," typified by liquor joints, gambling dens, and brothels, usually located above more respectable ground floor businesses. 301 S. Kansas Avenue is believed to have been used as a brothel dating from this period.

The front façade of this building was removed in the 1950s and replaced with a solid brick face, not reminiscent of its earlier appearance.

The owner is actively engaged in a wholesale remodeling of the building. The upper floor is being converted into loft apartments, while the outer facade is being restored to an appearance more closely approximating the original.



Landmark Name: Constitution Hall

Address: 427-429 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1855

Architecture

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: August, 2006

Known History: Constitution Hall dates to 1855 and is the oldest stone building in Topeka. The exterior façade is not original to the structure, being modified in 1911 and 1925 to reflect two separate storefronts in keeping with the row of buildings that stretched north and south along Kansas Avenue. Constitution Hall was first intended for commercial use, but was leased and adapted to accommodate the Free State Legislature, with the House of Representatives meeting downstairs, and the Senate meeting upstairs. It is within this building that the Kansas “free state” constitution was drafted, based largely upon the Ohio and New York state constitutions. A cast iron tablet was placed in front of 429 S. Kansas in 1903 (since removed) commemorating the buildings’ designation as Constitution Hall. In 1863, the entire west side of Kansas Avenue in the 400 block was rented to the state for use as the State Capitol while the permanent capitol building was being constructed. This row of buildings then became known as “State Row.”



Landmark Name: St. John AME Church

Address: 701 SW Topeka Blvd.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1918

Architecture Early English Gothic

Architect: M.L. Wood

Landmark Designation Date: January, 2004

Known History: St. John AME Church was designed by M.L. Wood and built in 1918. M.L. Wood practiced in Topeka in the late 1800's and early 1900's. He is also responsible for the design of the east wing of the Kansas State House. The architectural style of the building is Early English Gothic. The major building materials are local limestone quarried from Deer Creek, brick and wood. The original church building at this site was constructed in 1886, but was torn down due to structural deficiencies.

St. John AME Church was organized in Topeka in 1868. The first church services were held in a log cabin at the corner of 2nd and Madison Streets. St. John's provided a place of worship for ex-slaves migrating to Kansas in search of better lives. St. John's was chartered as the first AME church in Kansas in 1878.



Landmark Name: Miss Helen Henry House

Address: 228 SW Harrison St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1890's

Architecture: Victorian

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: May, 2005

Known History: The two-story house at 228 SW Harrison Street was built in a Victorian style. The home was built in the 1890's. The home has a concrete foundation and is framed with wood. The home retains much of its original detail and character since its construction. The 1st and 2nd levels are divided on the exterior with a band of fish scale shingles. North of the porch is a large leaded glass window.

The home was used as the rectory for the St. Joseph church from 1903 until 1934. The home was originally built for Miss Helen Henry, sister and housekeeper for her brother, Father Francis Henry, who founded the parish and served it for 46 years.



Landmark Name: John Ritchie House

Address: 1116 SE Madison St.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1855

Architecture: National Folk (stone vernacular with hip roof)

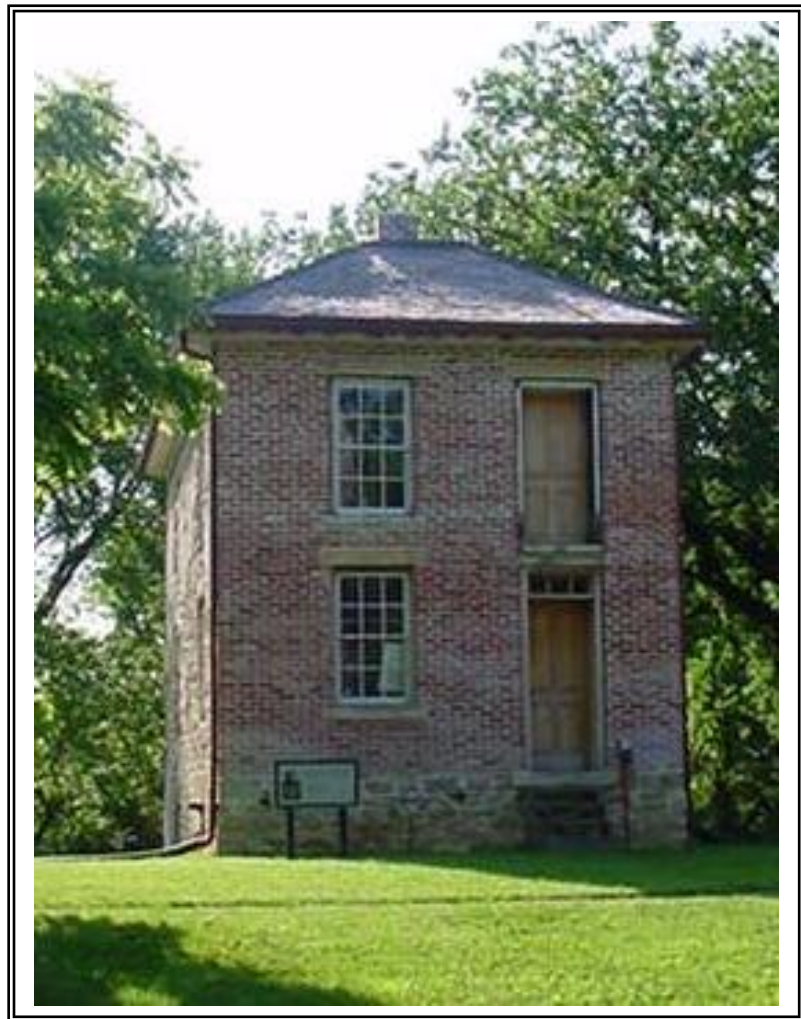
Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: August, 2006

Known History: The home at 1116 SE Madison St. was built in 1856 by John Ritchie and is representative of the National Folk (stone vernacular with hip roof) style of architecture. The primary building materials of the structure are brick, stone and wood. The stone used in the construction of this house was quarried from a ravine located on the eastern slope of the property. This home is believed to be Topeka's oldest standing residence.

John Ritchie was one of the 1st settlers to the city of Topeka and was one of the leading figures of the era to assert Kansas as a "Free State," as opposed to a "slave state." He worked closely with John Brown in operating the "underground railroad" as a secret passage for escaped slaves seeking freedom, and gave substantial acreage of land to both African American and white settlers in the immediate vicinity.

The property is currently being restored, along with the adjacent property to the south, to be used as a heritage tourism destination to commemorate the legacy of John Ritchie in the establishment of Topeka and the Free State of Kansas.



Landmark Name: Miller Farmstead

Address: 6620 SE Ward Rd.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1862

Architecture: national folk

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: July, 2004

Known History: The original house was built in 1862 in the mid-19th century architectural style of “national folk” and configured in the shape of an asymmetrical “I”. The home is constructed of native limestone that was quarried on-site which demonstrates the resourcefulness of earlier Kansas settlers. Distinctive quoins characterize the stone laying technique as well as the pentagonal arches over the windows. The work is attributable to the family of Italian stonemasons, Magliario, whose work includes the Topeka Capitol building. Work by this team of masons also includes Constitution Hall and Lane University in LeCompton. A “bungalow” style addition was added to the primary structure in 1910.

The *Miller Farmstead* is attached to the opening of the Kansas Territory to settlement in 1854. European-Americans desiring to turn prairie into farmland built a variety of houses and farm buildings. The Miller Farmstead underscores this period in Kansas history and the diversity of farming practice. The Miller Farmstead also lies in proximity to both the Santa Fe and Oregon-California Trails which ties it to westward continental expansion and early Kansas settlement. The *Miller House* should be preserved and protected based upon its association with broad patterns of history and its distinctive characteristics of a type of architecture.



Landmark Name: Kenneth Alexander House

Address: 1215 SW College Ave.

Property Legal Description: Lots 487, 489, & 491 on College Ave. in Elmhurst Addition

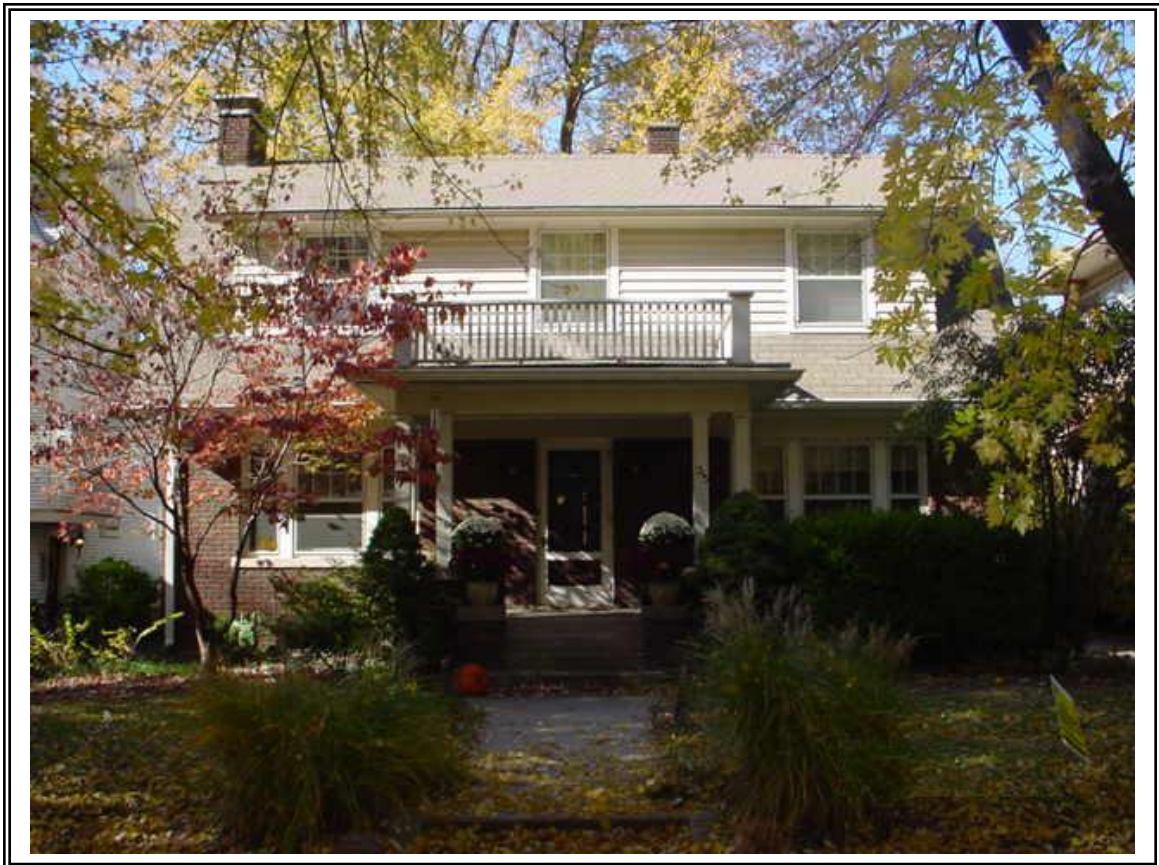
Date of Construction: 1921

Architecture: Dutch Colonial Revival

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: January, 2007

Known History: The home on the property was constructed in 1921 by Mose Alexander for his son, Ken. Mose Alexander was a prominent Topeka businessman who owned and operated the Alexander Brothers Baking Company, better known in Topeka history as the Butter Krust Bakery located in downtown Topeka. The home is constructed of a brick first floor, with wood siding 2nd floor, and a stone foundation. The architecture of the home is in the Dutch Colonial Revival style. The present owner of the home has completed a partial remodeling of the home, replacing the brick mantel in the living room with one made of walnut wood. The home retains its original wood floors throughout, original windows, and all-plaster walls and ceilings.



Landmark Name: Kansas Power & Light Substation

Address: 1201 SW Oakley St.

Property Legal Description: Part of Block 12, Parke Place Addition

Date of Construction: 1930

Architecture: Mission Revival

Architect: Tinkham Veal

Landmark Designation Date: January, 2007

Known History: The building was constructed in 1930 by Kansas Power & Light, Co. as an electric substation to serve the newly developed Westboro Subdivision. This particular substation was highly unique for its time in that it was constructed to resemble a house similar to those in the Westboro neighborhood. The Westboro neighborhood and the adjacent shopping center were modeled after the Country Club Plaza and surrounding neighborhoods in Kansas City, Mo. and built by the J.C. Nichols Company. This substation was one of the nation's first "drive-thru" payment facilities in the nation, ahead of its time in recognizing the growing importance and influence of the automobile in American culture. Designed by Topeka architect and builder Tinkham Veal, the building was constructed in keeping with the Spanish-colonial architectural style of the Westboro Shopping Center located one block to the south. The building has a wood-frame construction with a stucco exterior, and a red clay-tile roof. The building has since been converted to general office uses.



Landmark Name: D. Holmes Drugstore

Address: 731 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description: Lot 247 on Kansas Avenue, Original Town

Date of Construction: Circa 1900

Architecture: Traditional Victorian Row Shops

Architect: Unknown

Landmark Designation Date: March, 2007

Known History: The Shawnee County Appraiser's Office lists the date of construction for this building as approximately 1910, although the actual construction date is more likely nearer the turn of the 20th Century. The building is constructed of brick and stone in a style traditional of central business district Victorian row shops. The 700-block of S. Kansas Avenue is typical of turn-of-the-century development in Topeka, and as such, this building contributes significant value to this architectural history.

The present owner of the building undertook a complete remodeling of the structure in 2006, replacing the lower façade (1960s) with an appearance more in keeping with the building's original appearance. Interior plaster walls were removed, exposing the original stone and brick. The renovated building received the Shawnee County Historical Society's Historic Preservation Award in May of 2006. The building's present use is for offices.



Landmark Name: Sells Building

Address: 303-305 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description:

Date of Construction: 1883

Architecture: Victorian

Architect:

Landmark Designation Date: July, 2006

Known History: 303-305 S. Kansas Avenue, known as the Sells Building, dates to 1883 and is one of the last significant examples of 19th Century Victorian buildings in downtown Topeka. The Sells brothers were remembered as circus owners who wintered over in Topeka in the late 1870s. However, the Sells also invested heavily in the early development of downtown Topeka, constructing several office buildings, most since demolished. The building permit for 303-305 S. Kansas Avenue is for a two-story brick and stone structure featuring an iron cornice, six flues, and two 6'x10' skylights for an estimated cost of \$2,500. The building was remodeled in the 1950s, creating a mezzanine between the first and second floors. The first floor façade was substantially altered and partially bricked over. The 2nd floor windows have been filled with brick, although the original iron cornice remains, hinting at the buildings original appearance.

The owner is actively engaged in a wholesale remodeling of the building. The upper floor is being converted into loft apartments, while the outer facade is being restored to an appearance more closely approximating the original.



Landmark Name: J. Fred and Cora Gaylord House

Address: 1625 SW Central Park Ave.

Property Legal Description: Lot 93 on Central Park Ave, Edwards Tract

Date of Construction: 1915

Architecture: Two-Story Craftsman Bungalow

Architect: Garlinghouse

Landmark Designation Date: May, 2007

Known History: The home on the property was constructed in 1915 by Albert G. Clark, a piano tuner and salesman for the Emanhizen-Spielman Furniture Company, located near the corner of SW 5th St. and S. Kansas Avenue. Upon completion of the home, he sold it to J. Fred and Cora Gaylord, the home's first residents. Mr. Gaylord was a prosperous real estate agent in Topeka. The home is a two-story craftsman bungalow, constructed of yellow pine, quarter-sawn oak and cedar, with a limestone foundation.

The present owners of the home are presently undertaking an extensive restoration of the home, repairing the chimney, windows, electrical wiring, exterior painting, and mortar pointing. The home is in well-preserved condition, without significant changes in floor plan or structural damage.



Landmark Name: Veale-Freeburg Building

Address: 915-917 S. Kansas Ave.

Property Legal Description: The South 9' of Lot 301 and all of Lots 303 and 305 on Kansas Avenue, Original Town

Date of Construction: 1927

Architecture: Spanish Mediterranean

Architect: Tinkham Veale

Landmark Designation Date: July, 2007

Known History: This building is located at 915-917 S. Kansas Avenue and is known as the Veale-Freeburg Building. Total cost for the building was estimated at \$50,000. Built in 1927, the first floor of the building was first used as a Piggly Wiggly grocery store, while the second floor was first occupied by the Pennant Cafeteria. The basement of the building was to house a barber shop and "Turkish bath." The Topeka Daily Capital, from August 19, 1927, indicates that work on the building was to be completed within 72 days, which, according to the article, would have been a speed record for a construction project of this size in Topeka. The architect and owner of the building was Tinkham Veale.

The building is made primarily of stone and concrete, and is representative of a Spanish Mediterranean style of architecture. The owner is presently undertaking a complete renovation of the structure, and recently replaced the lower glass storefront.



Landmark Name: Gem Building

Address: 506-510 SW 10th Ave.

Property Legal Description: The South 9' of Lot 301 and all of Lots 303 and 305 on Kansas Avenue, Original Town

Date of Construction: 1928

Architecture: Commercial Craftsman

Architect: Unknown

Landmark Designation Date: July, 2007

Known History: This building is located at 506-510 SW 10th St. and is known as the Gem Building. The Building was built in 1928 by Fritz Leuenberger, Fritz "Bud" Leuenberger, Jr., and H/L/ Klopher. The east ground floor of the building was first occupied by the Gem Grocery Company, while the west ground floor was occupied by Maxey's Restaurant. The second floor and third floors consist of 12 apartments. The ground floor is presently used for office purposes.

The building is made primarily of brick and reinforced concrete, and is representative of early 20th century Commercial Craftsman architecture.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places in November of 2006.



Landmark Name: Commonwealth Building

Address: 716-722. SW Jackson St.

Property Legal Description: Lots 34-42 on Jackson Street, Original Town

Date of Construction: 1873

Architecture: Commercial Victorian

Architect: Unknown

Landmark Designation Date: December, 2007

Known History: This building is commonly known as The Commonwealth Building, to commemorate the building's original use as the publication offices of the *Kansas Daily Commonwealth* newspaper. Construction on the building began in 1873 after a fire had destroyed the original *Commonwealth* building. Shortly after the 2nd *Commonwealth* building was completed, it shared occupancy with the Brush Electric Company, which tested electric lighting. Beginning in 1913, and for most of the building's history, however, it was home to the Crosby Brothers Department Store, which remained its principle use until 1975, when it closed.

The present owner of the building undertook a complete remodeling of the structure in 1998, replacing the upper façade with an appearance more in keeping with the building's original appearance as a 19th Century Victorian storefront. Bronze Jayhawk gargoyles were added under the cornice of 716-718 SW Jackson Street to commemorate the building's relationship to the Historic Jayhawk Theatre, which is adjacent to the building to the north.



Landmark Name: Hale Ritchie House

Address: 1118 SE Madison St.

Property Legal Description: Lots 78 and 80 on Madison Street, Ritchie's Addition

Date of Construction: 1887

Architecture: Italianate

Architect: Unknown

Landmark Designation Date: January, 2008

Known History: The home at 1118 SE Madison St., commonly known as the Hale Ritchie House, was built in 1887 by John Ritchie and his son, Hale Ritchie. The home was originally occupied by Hale Ritchie, and is representative of the Italianate style of architecture. The primary building material of the structure is wood. The home of John Ritchie is located immediately to the north and is believed to be Topeka's oldest standing residence. The John Ritchie House is listed on the Registry of Historic Kansas Places and is designated as a Local Historic Landmark.

John Ritchie was one of the 1st settlers to the city of Topeka and was one of the leading figures of the era to assert Kansas as a "Free State," as opposed to a "slave state." He worked closely with John Brown in operating the "underground railroad" as a secret passage for escaped slaves seeking freedom, and gave substantial acreage of land to both African American and white settlers in the immediate vicinity.

The property is currently being restored, along with the adjacent property to the north, to be used as a heritage tourism destination to commemorate the legacy of John Ritchie in the establishment of Topeka and the Free State of Kansas. The Hale Ritchie House will be used to accommodate office and classroom space in support of the John Ritchie House.



Landmark Name: Senate Suites Luxury Hotel

Address: 900 SW Tyler St.

Property Legal Description: Lots 290 through 312, even numbers on Tyler Street, Original Town, City of Topeka, Kansas.

Date of Construction: 1928-1930

Architecture: English Tudor Revival

Architect: Nelle E. Peters

Landmark Designation Date: March, 2008

Known History: The buildings were constructed in 1928 and 1930 in the English Tudor style of architecture. Primary building materials were stucco, wood, stone, and brick. Originally constructed as luxury apartments, these buildings were known at the time as the Senate and Curtis Apartments. A third apartment building also constructed at this time as a companion to the Senate and Curtis buildings was dubbed the Capper Apartments. This building was demolished in the late 1980s.

Three women were responsible for the construction and operation of the apartments. Nelle E. Peters, who designed many of the buildings in the Kansas City Country Club Plaza area, as well as several other apartment buildings in Topeka, was the architect for the project. Mrs. Z. L. Peterson was the developer, and Mrs. W. L. Hinson was the apartment manager.

The two remaining buildings underwent a comprehensive restoration during the 1980s, and emerged as the Senate Luxury Suites Hotel in 1991. Most of the building's original interiors remain intact, although some modifications were made to convert the buildings from apartments to a hotel.



Landmark Name: Dibble Building

Address: 123 SE 6th Ave.

Property Legal Description: Sixth Avenue East, Lots 117-119, Original Town, City of Topeka, Kansas.

Date of Construction: 1917

Architecture: Early 20th Century commercial

Architect: Unknown

Landmark Designation Date: November, 2008

Known History: 123 SE 6th Street dates to 1917 and was built as the home of the Dibble Grocery Store. The Dibble Grocery business was founded in 1885 by Daniel W. Dibble, and did business in a variety of locations prior to the move to 123 SE 6th Street. D. W. Dibble died in 1912 and passed the business on to his two sons, who opened up the store's new home at this location. The new grocery store provided them an expanded storeroom, offices, full basement for an expanded inventory, and a soda fountain. By 1926, the Dibble Grocery business was the largest non-department store retailer in Topeka. The business continued in this location until 1951, when they relocated into other Topeka locations. Since this time, the building has been home to several local businesses and offices.

The lower façade facing SE 6th Street was replaced at some point after the closure of the Dibble Grocery store in this location. However, the current owner is actively engaged in a wholesale remodeling of the building. The lower façade has been replaced to a more traditional appearance, and the interior has been converted from retail uses to office space. The structure was built primarily of brick and stone, and is typical of early 20th Century commercial storefront architecture.



Landmark Name: Curtis Cemetery

Address: 1638 NW Harrison St.

Property Legal Description: Commencing at a point on the North line of Reserve No. 4, Kaw Half Breed Lands in the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, that is 21.60 chains east of the Northwest corner of said Reserve; thence south 3.00 chains; thence east 2.45 chins to top of West bank of Soldier Creek and continuing east to the Center of said creek; thence up the Center line of said Soldier Creek to a point where the North line of Reserve No. 4 intersects said last line; thence west along the said North line to the place of beginning. Containing 9/10 of an acre, more or less.

Date of Construction: Circa 1873

Architecture: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Landmark Designation Date: December, 2008

Known History: The subject property is located at the northern terminus of NW Harrison Street and is the cemetery containing the graves of several family members of Charles Curtis. Born in Topeka on January 25, 1860, Charles Curtis was a great-grandson of a Kanza Indian Chief. His mother, Ellen Pappan was the daughter of one of the Pappan Brothers who established the earliest ferry crossing across the Kansas River at Topeka. She died when Charles was three years of age. Following his mother's death, Charles was raised by his maternal grandparents on the Kaw Indian Reservation near Council Grove, Kansas.

Charles Curtis served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1893 to 1907. He was elected Senator in 1906 and served from 1907-1913, and again from 1915 to 1929. In 1928, Charles Curtis was selected by Herbert Hoover to serve as his Vice Presidential running mate, and in 1929, became the first Native American to hold the office, the first Vice President from west of the Mississippi River, and the first Vice President from the state of Kansas. He served one term as Vice President, from 1929 until 1933. Charles Curtis died, February 8, 1936 in Washington D.C. and was buried in the Topeka Cemetery.

While Charles Curtis is not buried in this family cemetery in North Topeka, several of his family members are, the earliest being William Curtis and his son, Ira dating to 1873. Recent damage to the grave markers and headstones has rendered most of the family names unreadable.



Curtis Family Cemetery

Landmark Name: John Nelson House

Address: 419 SW Taylor St.

Property Legal Description: Lot 127 and the North one-half of Lot 129, on Taylor Street in the City of Topeka, Kansas.

Date of Construction: Circa 1889

Architecture: Queen Anne Victorian

Architect: Unknown

Landmark Designation Date: March 22, 2011

Known History: The home at 419 SW Taylor Street was built in 1889 by John Nelson, a Swedish immigrant who came to Topeka in 1869. Mr. Nelson and his business partner Samuel Johanson, were prominent developers in Topeka during the latter quarter of the 19th Century, building many significant structures, including many of the buildings of the Sisters of Bethany Place College, the Throop and Copeland Hotels, The Storemont Board of Trade Building, and several ornate Victorian homes throughout much of Topeka. This home was constructed in the Queen Anne style of architecture, and is constructed with a full brick exterior, and adorned oak woodwork on the interior. The home has been maintained in near original condition throughout its history.

In addition to the significance of this property based on its builders and original occupants, this home was also the residence of a young Langston Hughes, who lived in an upstairs apartment with his mother during the early 1900s. Langston Hughes is greatly recognized for his significant contributions to American literature as a poet, novelist, playwright, and essayist.



Landmark Name: William Crosby House

Address: 1109 S. Topeka Blvd.

Property Legal Description: Lots 367, 369, and 371 on Topeka Boulevard in the City of Topeka, Kansas.

Date of Construction: 1910

Architecture: Beaux Arts/Italian Renaissance

Architect: David P Scott/Frank Squires

Landmark Designation Date: December 13, 2011

Known History: The home at 1109 S. Topeka Blvd was built in 1910, and was first occupied by William T. Crosby, a pioneer Topeka merchant who co-founded the Crosby Brothers Department Store, which stood in downtown Topeka from 1880 until 1975. This home was constructed in the Queen Anne style of architecture, and is constructed with a full brick exterior, and adorned oak woodwork on the interior. The home has been maintained in near original condition throughout its history.

In addition, this property has recently been added to the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Accompanying this report is information from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, possessing further details of William Crosby, the home, and the historical setting of this property with respect to its location adjacent to our current downtown area.



Landmark Name: Central Congregational Church

Address: 1248 SW Buchanan St.

Property Legal Description: Lots 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 202, 504, 506, 508, and 510 on Buchanan Street, Throop's Addition, in the City of Topeka, Kansas.

Date of Construction: 1897

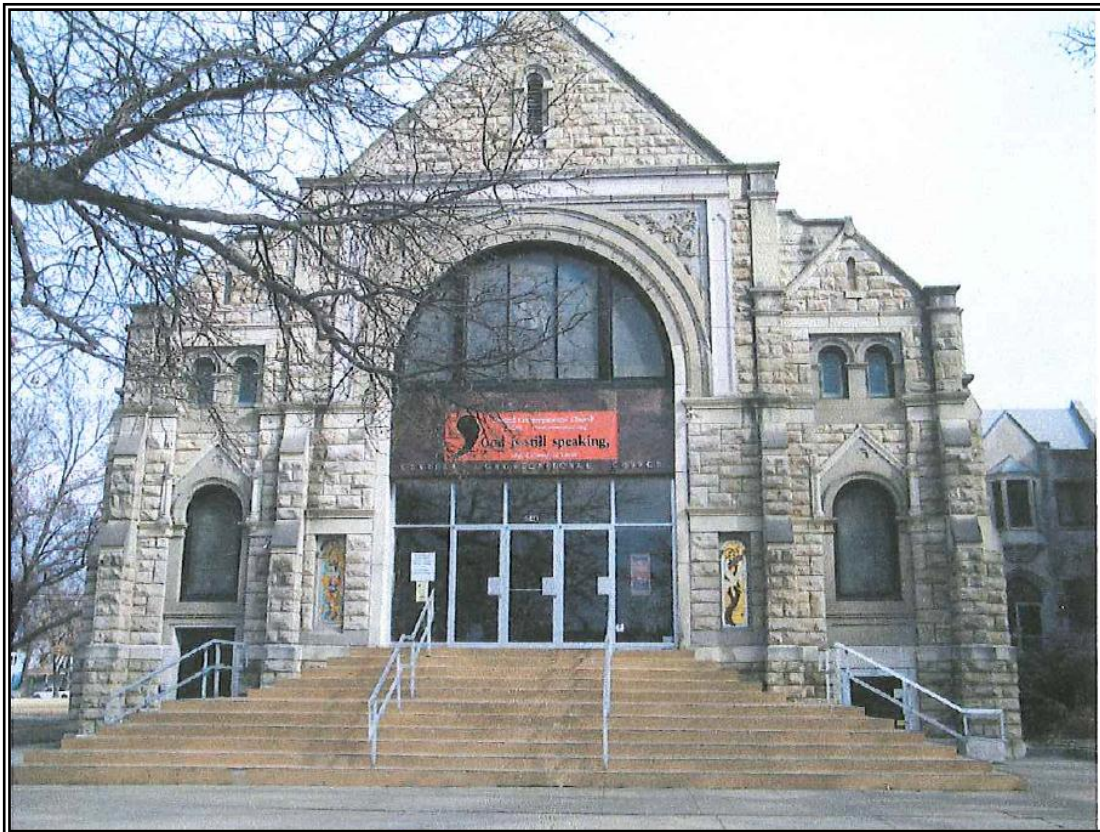
Architecture: Gothic Revival

Architect: James C. Holland

Landmark Designation Date: June 24, 2009

Known History: Construction on the Central Congregational Church was begun in 1889. The Church was designed by James C. Holland in the stone gothic style of architecture. The chapel, or present-day sanctuary, was the earliest portion of the completed church, with later additions added in 1897, 1909, and 1926. The sanctuary underwent a complete renovation in 1957, led by architect Oscar Eckdahl. All portions of the church were constructed entirely of limestone or brick.

The church is perhaps most known for its association with Charles Sheldon, author of "In His Steps." Charles Sheldon was born in 1857 in Wellsville, New York, and moved to Topeka in 1888. In 1889, upon completion of the chapel, Charles Sheldon became the pastor of Central Congregational Church.



Landmark Name: Walnut Grove Methodist Episcopal Church

Address: 1600 SW Harrison St.

Property Legal Description: Lot 84, 86, and 88 on Harrison Street, Orchard Place Addition

Date of Construction: 1919

Architecture: Gothic Revival

Architect: Unknown

REMOVED DECEMBER, 2013

Landmark Designation Date: June, 2007

Known History: The subject location at the southeast corner of SW 16th Street and SW Harrison Street was originally built as the Walnut Grove Methodist Church in 1903. This structure replaced a nearby church of the same congregation, originally named for the neighborhood which lies east of the Kansas Expocenter (Fair Grounds) and north of the Shunganunga Creek. The original church building, built at the corner of SW 18th Street and SW Harrison Street was abandoned after a flood of the creek in 1903.

The present building was constructed in 1919 to replace the Walnut Grove Methodist Episcopal Church. The building is made of a steel and wood frame, with walls of brick and limestone, and is constructed in the Gothic Revival style of architecture. The structure stood in continuous use until the mid 1990s, when the occupants sold the stained glass windows and abandoned the building. The windows were sold to McPherson Wrecking Company, which has restored several of the individual windows, and is still in possession of the complete set. It is the intention of the present owner to re-acquire and re-install the windows and restore the exterior of the building to its original appearance.

