



NEWS RELEASE

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORIC SITES BOARD OF REVIEW ANNOUNCES NOMINATIONS

Includes Eight National Register Nominations and Three Kansas Register Additions

TOPEKA, KS—At its regular quarterly meeting held at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, the Historic Sites Board of Review voted to add three properties to the Register of Historic Kansas Places and to forward eight nominations to the office of the keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C., to be evaluated by professional staff. If they concur with the board's findings, the properties will be included in the National Register.

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 following four evaluation criteria:

- Criterion A – property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Criterion B - property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
- Criterion C - property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D – property has 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 nominated properties:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Houston & Pierre Streets Residential Historic District – Manhattan, Riley County

Located south and west of Manhattan's historic downtown commercial center, the 26-acre Houston and Pierre Streets Residential Historic District is characterized by tree-lined streets and late 19th- and early 20th-century residences. Representing approximately 75 years of new construction, the homes within the district reflect a wide variety of architectural styles including Italianate, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Tudor, and Craftsman in addition to

vernacular folk house forms. The district also includes a brick street and sidewalks and several historic garages accessed from the alleys. The majority of the buildings in the district are of wood frame construction, although some prominent residences feature native stone or brick construction. The district is locally significant for its reflection of the community's residential building patterns associated with the economic growth when the town flourished as a rural railroad market center, county seat, and college town during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The district is nominated as part of the *Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Residential Resources in Manhattan Multiple Property Submission*.

Wilson Pratt Truss Bridge – 2.9 miles west of Rain Road on 3200 Avenue, Chapman, Dickinson County

Built in 1904 by the Canton Bridge Company of Ohio, the Wilson Pratt Truss Bridge is the oldest bridge in Dickinson County. With its pin-connected structure, timber deck and abutments, and concrete-filled sheet metal piers, this structure represents a common bridge solution applied to a relatively long span. By the early 20th century, the range of choices for bridge designs and companies was vast. Many of the larger bridge companies, such as the Canton Bridge Company, sold metal truss bridges through mail order catalogues. County commissioners – who often carried the burden of selecting bridge locations – could simply specify the span and clearance needs and then choose the lowest bidder from the numerous competing companies. The structure is nominated as part of the *Metal Truss Bridges of Kansas Multiple Property Submission* as an example of a Pratt truss bridge and for its association with early 20th century transportation.

J. A. Shoemaker House – 1434 SW Plass Avenue, Topeka, Shawnee County

The Shoemaker House was designed by well-known Topeka architect Walter E. Glover and erected in 1925 in the College Hill neighborhood north of Washburn University. Glover designed the house in the popular Tudor Revival style, which includes such characteristics as a stucco-finished exterior with decorative half-timbering, a steeply pitched roof, brick chimneys, and groups of multi-paned windows. He designed residential, commercial, civic, and educational buildings throughout Topeka and northeast Kansas. This property is nominated as good local example of an architect-designed Tudor Revival-style residence.

Clyde School – 620 Broadway, Clyde, Cloud County

The Clyde School was built beginning in 1917-1918 and completed in 1923-1924 from the plans of Wichita-based architect Lorentz Schmidt, who was widely known for his designs of public schools. Schmidt was born and raised in Clyde and his design of this school came early in his career, which spanned 1915-1952. The need for a new school building in Clyde came about as a result of a fire in 1916 that destroyed the previous building. Cost constraints and economic uncertainties brought about by the country's entry into World War I led the town's school board to take a cautious approach to the building project. As a result, the building was erected in two phases. Current plans call for the building to be rehabilitated for use as low-income housing. The building is an example of the Town Graded School subtype designed in the Collegiate Gothic Revival style. It is nominated as part of the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas Multiple Property Submission* for its architectural significance.

Lone Star School – 1.25 miles west of Bison on Avenue “M”, Bison vicinity, Rush County

Built in 1879, the Lone Star School building is located on a one-acre plot west of Bison in rural Rush County. With help from the community, contractor Henry Mertz and carpenter Henry Rogers built the dual-purpose building for school activities during the week and church services on Sundays. Typical of early one-room schoolhouses, this limestone building features a simple rectangular form with a gable roof with little architectural ornamentation. Early schoolhouses like this are often classified as vernacular in style. Grades one through eight attended school here until 1947 when area school districts consolidated. The property, which includes a coal shed and outhouse, is nominated for its associations with early public education in Kansas and for its architectural significance as a good example of an early vernacular one-room schoolhouse. It is nominated as part of the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas Multiple Property Submission*.

J. A. Mermis House – 1401 Ash Street, Hays, Ellis County

The Mermis House, built in 1907 by well-known Hays-area craftsman Justus Bissing, Jr., is located near downtown Hays and across the street from the recently register-listed St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Russian immigrant John Ruder and his family occupied the house for about ten years before selling it to successful local banker J. A. Mermis. During the middle 20th century, the house served as a boarding house for nuns and later for nursing students at St. Anthony's hospital. The house is nominated to the National Register as a good local example of the transitional Free Classic Queen Anne style, which was popular during the early 1900s.

Fowler Swimming Pool and Bathhouse – Fowler City Park, Fowler, Meade County

The Fowler Swimming Pool was one of 40 Kansas pools improved or constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) between 1935 and 1939. Designed by Garden City engineer Charles W. Suit, the Fowler pool is a reinforced concrete oval structure measuring 90 feet north to south and 120 feet east to west. It features a shallow ring that encircles the deeper diving area, which is marked by a reinforced concrete diving platform rising above the water from the pool floor. The one-story bathhouse is a simple reinforced concrete building with a central office flanked by dressing rooms on each side. There is a non-historic restroom building on the property. The property is nominated as part of the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas Multiple Property Submission* for its associations with the WPA.

Eli Hopkins House – 6033 SE Highway 40, Tecumseh, Shawnee County

The Hopkins House is located east of Tecumseh along Highway 40, which follows the route of the Oregon Trail. Eli Hopkins acquired this property circa 1855 when his family moved to Shawnee County from Missouri and erected this impressive two-story Greek Revival-style residence in 1858. First established in 1852, two years before the Kansas Territory was opened to white settlement, Tecumseh was one of the territory's first communities and an early center of pro-slavery activity. Unlike many early proslavery residents who chose to leave Kansas in the late 1850s, Eli Hopkins and his Tecumseh neighbors stayed in Kansas and pledged their loyalty to the Union. The Hopkins family lived in this house until 1897. The property is significant for its association with early Shawnee County leader Eli Hopkins, Kansas Territorial history, and as a rare example of Greek Revival architecture in Kansas.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES

Hotel Broadview – 110 W 6th Avenue, Emporia, Lyon County

Emporia's Hotel Broadview is a seven-story Commercial-style building that was built in 1923 after a fire devastated the city's oldest and largest hotel in 1921. Eager to replace the old Hotel Whitely, community leaders quickly formed the Emporia Hotel Corporation, which sold shares of stock to Emporia citizens. The corporation contracted with Wichita developer George Siedhoff to construct the Broadview. Through the 1920s, the hotel hosted many conventions, including the statewide Ku Klux Klan convention in 1924, which drew the ire of many influential locals, including William Allen White. The building served as a hotel until 1964 when it was remodeled into a men's dormitory for the College of Emporia. It was again remodeled for senior housing in 1974. Current plans call for rehabilitating the property for continued use as senior housing. The property is nominated for its association with local commercial history.

E. H. S. Bailey House – 1101 Ohio Street, Lawrence, Douglas County

The E. H. S. Bailey House is located on the eastern slope of Lawrence's Mount Oread just blocks from the University of Kansas campus. As the university expanded in the early 1900s, this neighborhood became a popular place for faculty and staff to build residences. Artist and architect William Alexander Griffith designed the house, which was erected in 1908 as the residence of E. H. S. Bailey, head of KU's Chemistry Department from 1883-1933. Bailey Hall on the KU campus was built in 1905 to house the Chemistry department, and is listed in the National Register in part for its associations with Bailey as a reflection of his successful career. His residence, which blends several popular styles of the early 1900s including Richardsonian Romanesque, Dutch Colonial Revival, and Craftsman, is nominated for its architectural significance.

Dorrance State Bank – 512 Main Street, Dorrance, Russell County

The Dorrance State Bank building is located on Main Street two blocks south of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and across the street from the National Register-listed A. C. Reiff Building. This one-story, freestanding commercial building was erected in 1905 to house the Citizens State Bank, which was later renamed to the Dorrance State Bank. The local bank was a common lending institution for area farmers and merchants during the early 1900s when Dorrance thrived as a small farming community. The bank did not survive the Great Depression and the building was sold in 1936. The building is nominated for its association with the early commercial history of Dorrance and as a single-story commercial building typical of the early 20th century.

Visit kshs.org/resource/buildings.htm for more information on the Kansas Historical Society's historic preservation efforts and resources.

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