



# NEWS RELEASE

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**REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 20, 2008

## HISTORIC SITES BOARD OF REVIEW ANNOUNCES NOMINATIONS

*Includes Nineteen National Register Nominations and Two 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 two properties to the Register of Historic Kansas Places and to forward 19 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 board also approved the relocation of a National Register-listed bridge.

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

**Northeast Junior High School** – 400 Troup Avenue, Kansas City, Wyandotte County  
The Northeast Junior High School is a four-story masonry structure constructed in 1923 as the first intermediate school to serve Kansas City's African-American population. It would be the city's only junior high school specifically built to serve local African-Americans. Rose and Peterson Architects designed the building, which had the same floor plan as Northwest Junior

High, built in 1922 to serve the area's white students. These twin schools were indicative of Kansas City's citywide educational segregation that extended from the first grade through junior college- the only example in the state and made possible by legislation unique to the city. The Progressive-era building is four stories and features a commercial style with Beaux Arts stylistic influences. The property is nominated for its educational history and architectural significance.

**Persons Barn & Granary** - 2103 Highway 18 (Zeandale Road), Manhattan vicinity, Riley County  
The Persons Farm, known today as the Lazy T Ranch, is nestled in the Flint Hills of the Kansas River valley in southeast Riley County. Lifelong farmer Enoch Persons obtained the property in the late 1850s, and his family farmed and improved the land for the next five generations. The property includes a grouping of related farm buildings that illustrates the evolution of the farmstead over nearly a half-century. The features include a gable-roof barn made of native limestone and board-and-batten siding that was likely built in the 1860s, a wood-frame granary, with multiple interior grain bins, a corral partially enclosed with six-foot tall limestone walls that date to 1939, and a 1919 clay tile silo with a concrete foundation. The property is nominated for its agricultural and architectural history.

**Teske Farmstead** – 20795 Major Jenkins Road, Onaga vicinity, Pottawatomie County  
The Teske Farmstead is located in northeast Pottawatomie County near Onaga and includes a stone farmhouse, wood-frame barn, stone springhouse, a wood-frame chicken house, and a windmill. German immigrant Ferdinand Teske homesteaded the land in 1869 and lived there until his death in 1913. The farmhouse and springhouse are the oldest remaining buildings on the property and date to about 1870. The current barn replaced an earlier one that was destroyed by a tornado in 1907. The farm is nominated for its agricultural and architectural history.

**Eliason Barn** – 147 Highway 4, Gypsum vicinity, Dickinson County  
Enoch and Helen Eliason purchased this Dickinson County farmstead in the 1890s and built the Midwest Prairie-style barn in 1915, which was struck by lightning and rebuilt in 1917. The barn is rectangular in form with a tall gambrel roof and original shed bays on each side that create a wide, sweeping roof form characteristic of the style. The gabled hay hood features doors that slide down the exterior along the slope of the roof. They operate on a pulley system with two original concrete weights on the barn's interior that are stamped "1915." The interior reflects its original multiple uses of storing hay and housing livestock. The barn is nominated for its agricultural and architectural history.

**Thornburg Barn** – County Road A ½ mile west of D Road, Utica vicinity, Ness County  
Located northwest of Utica in Ness County, the 1929 Thornburg Barn is distinguished not only by its roof form but also by the techniques used in its construction. The barn was built from a Sears, Roebuck & Co. mail order kit upon a hand-formed concrete block foundation. The blocks have a rusticated stone face and were created using a block machine that has remained on site. A reprint of the 1919 Sears, Roebuck & Co. *Book of Barns* includes models similar to the Thornburg Barn, namely the "Country Gentleman Modern Barn" that shows a rusticated concrete block foundation that may have influenced the Thornburg's choice of foundation. The catalog even provided the recipe for concrete foundations and floors. Wallie O. Thornburg built the barn on

the farm he had purchased in 1898, which is now owned by his grandson. It is nominated for its agricultural and architectural history.

**Shafer Barn** - ¼ mile north of CR 80E & 50S, Hoxie vicinity, Sheridan County

The Shafer Barn is nestled in the Solomon River valley in east-central Sheridan County, south of Tasco. The barn was constructed in 1920 and retains its original form as a two-and-one-half story frame building with a poured concrete foundation and steep gambrel roof. With its distinguishing hay hood and hay door, this barn was designed with a center aisle to accommodate both horses and dairy cattle. A unique aspect of the barn is that it appears to have been designed to accommodate barn dances. The original design included a ladies' toilet and smoking room on the first floor and a raised platform or stage in the haymow. The barn is nominated for its agricultural and architectural history.

**Brown Barn** – 5879 CR4300, Independence vicinity, Montgomery County

Located approximately 10 miles north of Independence in Montgomery County, the Brown Barn is part of a farmstead that dates to 1880. The two-and-one-half story sandstone and wood barn was built in 1885 and is nestled into a bluff out of which the stone for the barn was quarried. The barn is an example of the Bank Barn property type, which is characterized by its on-grade access to two levels, either through the use of a natural or soil bank or by a constructed ramp. The barn is named after farmer and property owner James B. Brown who financed the construction of the building. It is nominated for its agricultural and architectural history.

**Shimanek Barn** – 1806 220 Road, Munden, Republic County

The Shimanek Barn is located a mile south of Munden in Republic County. Farmer Wesley Shimanek built the barn around 1900 to house horses, hay, and a wagon. The barn was once a part of a larger working farm, but most of the farmstead buildings were destroyed by a tornado in 2004. The wood-frame barn features a two-story gable section with a one-and-one-half story shed bay on the west that appears to be original. The plan configuration is oriented to the broad side of the barn with a center aisle and horse stalls on each side. The barn does not feature the more common gable-end haymow, but rather a broad-side haymow. The barn is nominated for its agricultural and architectural history.

**St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School** – 210 & 217 West 13th Street, Hays, Ellis County

The St. Joseph's Catholic Parish traces its roots to the mid-1870s when German Catholics arrived in Ellis County. The current church was built in 1904 and designed by Topeka architect Joseph Marshall, who earned a reputation for designing religious, educational, and institutional buildings. He served as assistant state architect between 1897 and 1898. The two-and-one-half story church features a gabled nave defined by a tiered tower that rises from the center of the front elevation and corner buttresses with massive spires. Round-arch openings, typical of the Romanesque Revival style, frame stained-glass windows with ornate tracery. The nomination also includes the Romanesque Revival parochial school erected in 1907. The church and school are nominated for their architectural significance.

**Ranson Hotel** – 4918 East Main, Medora, Reno County

In October 1905, William and Mary Ranson filed a plat for Medora Junction, a new town to be located west of the junction of two rail lines through northeast Reno County. They actively developed the new town, building its first hotel and grocery store. The Ransons placed their hotel at the prime junction of Main Street and the Rock Island Rail Line, across the street from the depot. The later expansion of Kansas Highway 61 was a mixed blessing for Medora Junction. Although it provided important highway access, it required the demolition of an entire block of Medora. This left the Ranson Hotel as the only of the original Medora Junction buildings to remain. This building was previously listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places, and is nominated to the National Register for its associations with local settlement patterns and transportation history.

**Farmers State Bank** – 101 South Main, Lindsborg, McPherson County

Having survived three late 19th and early 20th century financial panics, the Farmers State Bank is Lindsborg's longest operating bank. Organized in 1886, the bank's early stockholders represented a "Who's Who" of Lindsborg pioneers. Most retained their association with the bank for decades. The bank quickly outgrew its small one-story frame building and built this brick Italianate-style commercial block at the southeast corner of Lincoln and Main in 1887. In 1923, the bank entered a new era in its history under the leadership of Ebba Fornberg. Fornberg joined the staff of the bank in 1906, when she was hired as bookkeeper. When J. T. S. Reed resigned in 1923, she took the reigns, becoming "one of the few women of Kansas to hold the position of managing officer of a bank ..." The bank operated out of this building for 68 years until it was sold to the City of Lindsborg in 1955. The building is nominated for its association with local commerce and agriculture in the Swedish American community of Lindsborg.

**Elizabeth McLean Residence** - 2359 North McLean, Wichita, Sedgwick County

Built in 1956, the Elizabeth McLean Residence is situated on 1.3 acres in the Benjamin Hills Estates, which was once part of a farm purchased by Benjamin F. McLean in 1908. In 1953, the city incorporated part of the original McLean farmstead into the city limit. Benjamin's daughter-in-law Elizabeth served as executor of his estate and elected to plat the area and sell the lots for development. Elizabeth commissioned architect Glenn E. Benedick to design her split-level Ranch house. She worked closely with Benedick to add her personal touches to the final design of the property including the selection of exterior and interior materials and the fleur-de-lis sunken garden. The home's exterior is faced with Etowah pink marble quarried from the Georgia Marble Company in Tate, Georgia. The property is nominated for its significance as an architect-designed, split-level Ranch house.

**St. John AME Church** – 701 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Shawnee County

St. John African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is located in downtown Topeka within site of the Kansas Statehouse. The congregation traces its roots in Topeka to 1868, when African Americans and many ex-slaves were migrating to Kansas after the Civil War. In 1877, Pastor John M. Wilkerson, the Missouri Conference's presiding elder at the time, became the church's first minister. Wilkerson chartered the 11 year-old organization as St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, which became the first AME church in Topeka. The thriving congregation purchased the land at Seventh and Topeka in 1882. The existing stone church was constructed

over a period of years from 1908 to 1926 and is significant for its association with Topeka's African American history. Throughout the congregation's 139-year history, various activities have extended St. John AME Church beyond the religious realm and into the political, civic, charitable, and business spheres. As a result, church leaders and congregants have played a major role in the activities of Topeka's black community – including the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* – since 1868.

**Graham, Seward, House** – 115 Miami Street, Hiawatha, Brown County

Hiawatha merchant Seward Graham built this transitional Queen Anne-style residence between 1895 and 1900. Graham operated a successful clothing business in Hiawatha with his brother Dilbert. Their former place of business is now part of the Hiawatha Courthouse Square Historic District. The two-story house is located seven blocks east of downtown and features an asymmetrical form with a dominant front-facing gable with decorative wood shingles and clapboard siding, a one-story porch with classical columns, a second-story covered balcony, bay windows, and original double-hung wood windows. With elements of both the Free Classic and Eastlake styles, this house is nominated for its architectural significance.

**Lion Block** – 216 West Main, Ness City, Ness County

Built in 1887, the Lion Block is a two-story Victorian-era commercial block in downtown Ness City across the street from the Ness County Courthouse. Area stonemason Henry Tilley contributed his artistic talents to the construction of the building, which is known for its highly decorative and unique stone motifs and carved stone lion that sits atop the parapet wall. The building's first floor commercial spaces have been home to many businesses including a late 19th-century photographic and art studio operated by Stephen A. Shepard. An IOOF lodge met on the second floor for much of the 20th century. The Lion Block is nominated for its architectural significance as a highly decorative and unique Italianate-style commercial building.

**Hanway, Judge James, House** – Lane vicinity, Franklin County

This small limestone residence located one-half mile south of Lane in Franklin County is nominated for its association with early abolitionist leader Judge James Hanway. Upon his arrival in the Kansas Territory in 1856, he joined the struggle to make the territory a free state and became a member of the Pottawatomie Rifles, an armed abolitionist militia led by John Brown, Jr. Hanway also served as the first superintendent of public instruction in Franklin County, as a member of the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention, and as a member of both the state senate and house of representatives. Built in about 1858, Hanway's stone house features a front-facing gable with simple architectural detailing. A limestone smokehouse is also included in the nomination.

**First Congregational Church** – 700 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Riley County

Manhattan's First Congregational Church is located west of downtown in a mixed commercial and residential area. Although the church was originally constructed in 1859 as a simple, gable-roof rectangular block, it has grown considerably since then. There are three additions dating to 1879, 1904, and 1989. The Gothic Revival church is constructed of limestone and includes pointed arch windows, stained glass, and typical Gothic Revival window tracery. The congregation formed in 1856 with ties to the American Home Missionary Society and the

Manhattan Town Company, both integral to the founding and development of the area. The building is nominated for its associations with early settlement and its architecture.

**Beckett, Charles K., House** – 210 West Main Street, Sterling, Rice County

Early town booster and banker Charles Beckett built this Italianate-style house near Sterling's downtown in 1884. Although he owned the home for only a short time, it was featured as "the residence of C.K. Beckett" in a community promotional guide published by a private land and investment company in 1885. Subsequent owner Henry Swatz moved the house 100 feet to the west in about 1912 and divided the property into eight smaller lots to make room for additional residential development. The two-story, wood-frame Italianate house features the characteristic low-pitch mansard roof, decorative brackets, and wood windows. The house is nominated for its architectural significance.

**S. D. Robinett Building** – 148 South Main, Greensburg, Kiowa County

The S. D. Robinett Building is an early 20th century commercial building located on Main Street in downtown Greensburg. It stands as the business district's lone survivor of the devastating May 2007 tornado. This two-story brick building with concrete trim was built in 1915 on the site of the former courthouse that had been destroyed by fire. It has been home to many businesses including a bank, clothing store, jewelry store, and offices. The second story has been used as both an office and a residence. The Robinett Building is nominated for its association with the early growth and commercial development of Greensburg.

**REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES**

**Paola Free Library** - 101 East Peoria, Paola, Miami County

The Paola Free Library was designed by Ottawa-based architect George Washburn and completed in 1906. In a community with many Washburn-designed properties, this building's Richardsonian Romanesque style reflects his typical architectural preferences. The masonry building is situated on a prominent corner lot across the street from Paola City Hall. The primary entrance is accentuated by a massive Romanesque round-arch opening with Corinthian columns. Other defining features include a rounded tower with a conical roof, quoining at the building's corners, and original wood windows. The secondary east elevation includes a one-story flat roof addition built in 1985. The building is nominated for its architectural significance.

**Paola City Hall** - 19 East Peoria, Paola, Miami County

Completed in 1909, the Paola City Hall was designed by Ottawa-based architect George Washburn later in his career. Unlike Washburn's many Romanesque-style courthouses, this building reflects a more subdued early 20th-century Classical Revival style. Defining features include a brick façade with subtle quoining at the corners, stone accents at the doors and windows, and an octagonal cupola supported by Classical columns. This building was designed to house the city's governmental offices, police headquarters, and the city's fire trucks – all of which still operate out of the building. The property is nominated for its association with local government history and its architecture.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Sand Creek Truss Leg Bedstead Bridge** – Road Y, .5 miles west of intersection with Route 283, Lenora vicinity, Norton County

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review approved Norton County's request to relocate the National Register-listed Sand Creek Truss Leg Bedstead Bridge. The county's proposal calls for the bridge to be moved from its original location north of Lenora and situated over Elk Creek in Lenora's Larrick Park where it will serve as the centerpiece of a proposed walking trail.

Constructed in 1906, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 for its architectural and engineering significance. With National Park Service approval, the bridge will remain listed in the National Register at its new location.

Visit [ksks.org/resource/buildings.htm](http://ksks.org/resource/buildings.htm) for more information on the Kansas Historical Society's historic preservation efforts and resources.

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