

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Atchison
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Brown, J. P., house

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
805 North Fourth St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Atchison

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
No. 2, Bill Roy (Martha Keys after Jan.)

STATE: Kansas 66002 CODE: 20 COUNTY: Atchison CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dr. and Mrs. Newton Jones

STREET AND NUMBER:
805 North Fourth St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Atchison

STATE: Kansas 66002 CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Atchison County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Atchison

STATE: Kansas 66002 CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

605-0260-0507-0508

C 79/80

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1880**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J. P. "Paddy" Brown house was built in 1879-1880 for one of Atchison's wealthiest citizens, John P. Brown, a successful railroad contractor.

Born in Ireland in 1829, Brown came to the United States before he was 20 and secured his first job working on construction of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. After acquiring some knowledge of engineering and mathematics, both through practical experience and study at night, he went into business as a contractor for grading and constructing railroads. Moving west with the railroads, he came to Atchison in March, 1859, after hearing of the possible construction of the Central Branch Union Pacific. He liked what he saw in Atchison, decided to make it his home and sent for his family to join him. Brown successfully obtained grading and construction contracts for many of the early railroads in northeastern Kansas and also did work in Colorado and Missouri. Reportedly he made money on every contract he ever took.

Brown had built a house for his family in 1859 on North 2nd street, but as both his family and his wealth increased, a larger and more impressive residence was desired. The lots for the new home were acquired on September 18, 1878. The Atchison Weekly Champion of March 22, 1879, noted that "Designs are out for a new residence for J. P. Brown, on the corner of 4th and Riley." The Daily Champion of September 25, 1879, reported that the city street department had made 4th and Riley streets in the neighborhood of J. P. Brown's new residence "all that the most fastidious property owner could desire." Apparently the house was ready for occupancy in 1880. Brown and his wife held title to the property until it was transferred to a daughter in August, 1904. The house remained in the family until 1935.

J. P. Brown was for more than 40 years a respected Atchison businessman. By some accounts he was the wealthiest man in the town; at the turn of the century his worth was said to be a million dollars. When he had come to America in 1847, he was literally penniless. His involvements in Atchison extended beyond his contracting business; he was one of the largest stockholders in the Exchange National Bank, the First National Bank and the Atchison Street Railway Light and Power Co. Much of the profits from his railroad contracting had been invested in farm land, and he became one of the largest landholders in northeastern Kansas. Brown had a reputation for very liberal treatment of his farm tenants, some of whom stayed with him for more than 20 years. From all indications he was a generous man with his wealth,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
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(Number all entries)

8.
both to his family and to others. His reputation was one of hard work, honesty and fairness.

(The J. P. Brown house appeared on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post in the 1950's as the background of a John Falter painting of a croquet game on the front lawn. Falter, who had been a resident of Atchison in his younger years, did more than 180 Post covers, a good many of them based on his Atchison years.)

J. P. Brown was an important figure in the history and development of Atchison; through his contracting business he had a vital role in the railroad expansion in Kansas.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, George L., "Atchison and the Central Branch Country, 1865-1874," Kansas Historical Quarterly, vol. 45 (1962), p. 12.
 Atchison Daily Champion, Sept. 25, 1879.
 Atchison Daily Globe, March 26, 1907; Aug. 23, 1909.
 Atchison Weekly Champion, March 22, 1879.
History of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 385.
Topeka Mail and Breeze, April 1, 1898.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39	34	11
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Richard D. Pankratz, Administrative Officer I

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: Jan. 2, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas 66612

CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller

Title: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: January 8, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

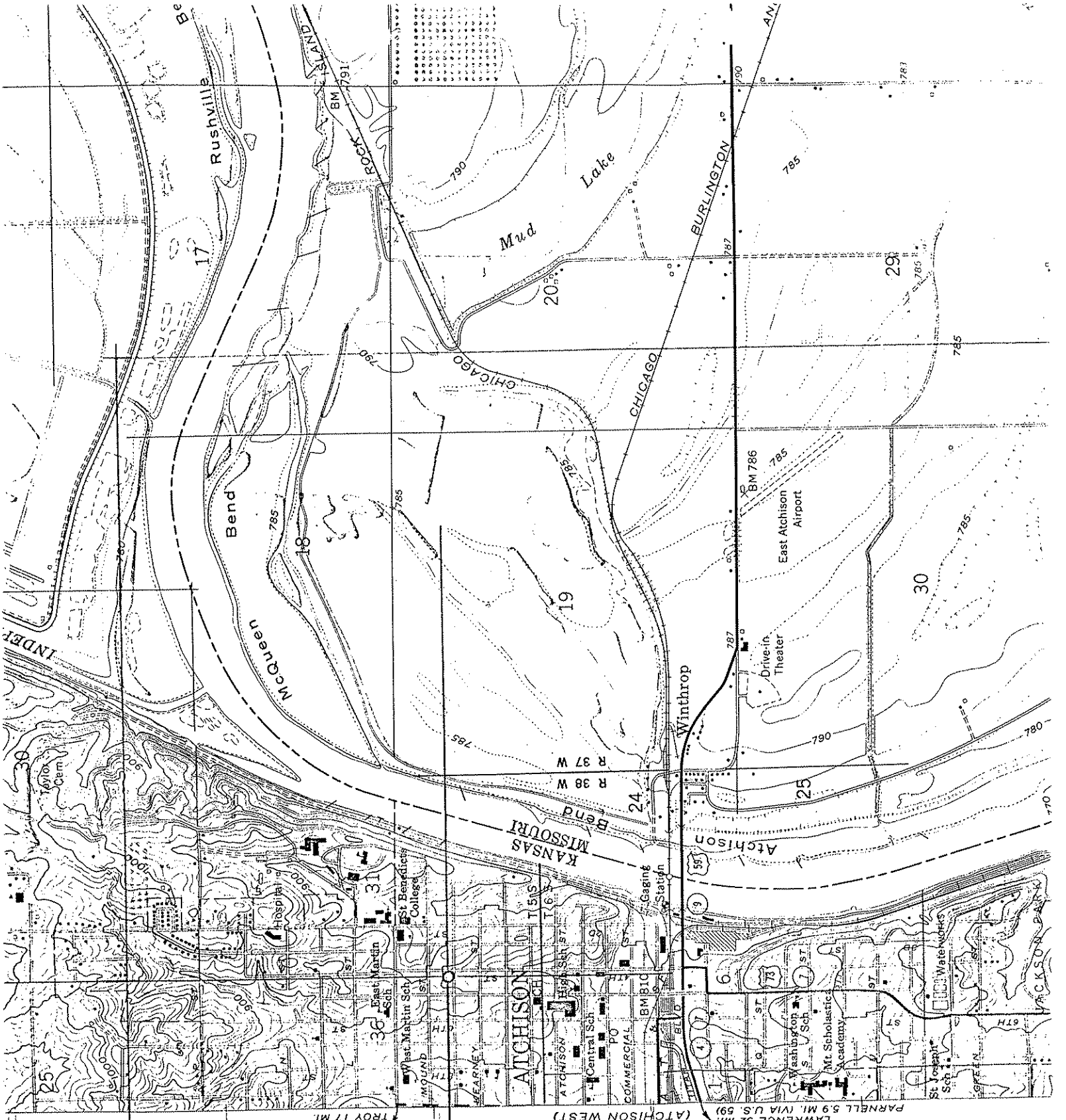
Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



LAWRENCE 52 MI (ATCHISON WEST) TROY 17 MI

59 73

39°34'11" ①