**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**

*Type all entries complete applicable sections*

### 1. NAME

**COMMON:**
"The Castle"

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**
John N. Roberts House (preferred name)

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
1307 Massachusetts

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Lawrence

**STATE:**
Kansas

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**
No. 3, Cong. Larry Winn

**CODE:**
66044

**COUNTY:**
Douglas

**CODE:**
045

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Agricultural
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Educational
- [ ] Entertaining
- [ ] Government
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Museum
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Scientific
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Comments

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**OWNER'S NAME:**
Libuse Kriz

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
1307 Massachusetts

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Lawrence

**STATE:**
Kansas

**CODE:**
66044

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

- Register of Deeds

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
Douglas County Courthouse

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Lawrence

**STATE:**
Kansas

**CODE:**
66044

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**
none

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

- [ ] Federal
- [ ] State
- [ ] County
- [ ] Local

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

- [ ] Federal
- [ ] State
- [ ] County
- [ ] Local

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

- [ ] Street
- [ ] Number

**CITY OR TOWN:**

- [ ] City
- [ ] Town
"The Castle" is a three-story irregularly shaped Romanesque style residence with a full basement. The 15 room house has two main entrances, one on the north and the other on the east side. At the northeast corner is a massive tower extending above the roof line.

The exterior walls are primarily of ashlar limestone quarried at Cottonwood Falls, 100 miles to the southwest in Chase county. (Another version says the stone was believed to have been locally quarried.) The stone sizes vary. On the east half of the building there are both vertical and horizontal bands that divide the facade. The west half is simpler in detail with only the windows acting as a general indication of floor levels. The two major entrances are more ornate, a result of incorporating Corinthian capitals, scroll work, and dentil bands. The porch at the southwest corner differs greatly from the others as it is of wood construction.

The roof form is hipped and covered with slate and lead shingles. There are several simple dormers with windows to allow light to the third floor. Each dormer is hip roofed also. Several stone chimneys extend well above the roof line, adding to the towering verticality of the building. The tower was once shaded by awnings to allow use during the summer months. On a few of the corners, ornately trimmed smooth cut stone breaks the relationship between the walls and roof line. For the rest of the building, a plain simple cornice separates the walls from the roof line.

Windows throughout the house vary in design. Some are plain and rectangular. Some are singly arched, and others have integrated double arched heads.

The interior carries out the varied design of the exterior. The vestibule is a small, wood-paneled room with double doors, each containing intricately-etched glass panels. There are five fireplaces on the first floor and four on the second floor. The fireplaces are similar, with wood mantels and of brick and multi-colored marble construction. Each of the rooms is finished in a different wood, including birch, cherry, oak, pine, sycamore and walnut.

The first floor is now used as a restaurant. The upper two floors are the owner's living quarters. The third floor ballroom is enhanced by the many angles developed by the contours of the roof, and its dormers, the accompanying bench/sill combination and stained glass windows. What was once a secret staircase leads to the ballroom from the first floor. There are also two ornately carved staircases, one in front and one in back, leading to the upper levels.

(see continuation sheet)
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian
☐ 15th Century
☐ 16th Century
☐ 17th Century
☒ 19th Century
☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATES: (If Applicable and Known) 1893-1894

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal
☐ Prehistoric
☐ Historic
☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture
☐ Art
☐ Commerce
☐ Communications
☐ Conservation
☐ Education
☐ Engineering
☐ Industry
☐ Invention
☐ Landscape
☐ Architecture
☐ Literature
☐ Military
☐ Music
☐ Political
☐ Religion Phil.
☐ Science
☐ Sculpture
☐ Social Human.
☐ Philosophy
☐ Theater
☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The castle-like stone house at Thirteenth and Massachusetts streets was built for Lawrence manufacturer John N. Roberts during the financial panic of 1893-1894. Roberts, who served as an officer in the Civil War, moved to Lawrence in 1869. He was a Republican member of the Kansas legislature in 1885 and 1886. In 1889 he was appointed adjutant general of Kansas and served one four-year term. Much of his wealth was accumulated from patents on wooden containers for the retailing of butter and lard.

Sidney Endacott, who later gained fame as an artist and sculptor in his native England, was visiting relatives in Lawrence while the house was under construction. Roberts heard about the seventeen-year-old's artistic abilities and engaged him to make ornamental wood carvings in the interior of his new home. Endacott spent three months carving mantels, fireplaces, newel posts, and other woodwork. At the time of his death during World War I, he was regarded as one of the best sculptors and water color artists in England.

Following its completion in the fall of 1894 the Roberts family resided in the house until 1919 when it was sold for a reported $20,000 and they moved to California.

Acquiring the house in 1919 was J. J. Simmons, who had the property until 1929 or 1933. A local church congregation owned the property from 1937 to 1947, acquiring it from a federal mortgage agency. The present owner purchased the property in 1947 and has used the house as her home and a restaurant.

The Roberts house is an excellent example of an opulent late nineteenth century mansion. The fine craftsmanship and attention to detail evident in both the exterior stonework and interior woodwork make the Roberts house one of the most outstanding in Lawrence, a city noted for its heritage of nineteenth century architecture.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:


Lawrence Daily Journal, January 1, 1894; August 14, 1894.

"Lawrence, Kansas, A Good Place to Live" (J. S. Boughton, Lawrence, n.d.)

Lawrence Weekly Gazette, April 26, 1894; August 30, 1894.

Nineteenth Century Houses in Lawrence, Kansas (University of Kansas Museum of Art, Lawrence, 1968.)

---

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mer</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 0 00</td>
<td>0 0 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 57 36</td>
<td>95 14 09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 (one)

ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY:

Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant
Richard Pankratz, Planner

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: April 17, 1974

120 West Tenth Street

Topeka

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

a
b

Site Liaison Officer Certification

The designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-655). 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 □

Nyle H. Miller

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

June 6, 1974
7. The east facade is the most elaborately treated; eye-catching carved stonework accents the porch, entry, windows and the roof line.

The present exterior of "The Castle" as compared with an 1898 photograph appears to be unaltered.

**Kansas Historic Resources Inventory**

1a. Property name, historic (050)
   
   **John N. Roberts House**

b. Property name, common
   
   **Castle Tea Room**

2. Property address/descriptive location (062)
   
   1307 Massachusetts Street
   Lawrence, KS

3. Legal description (070)
   
   Massachusetts Street Lots 165, 167, 169

4. Original use
   
   **residential**

5. Present use (208)

   **residential/restaurant**

6. Other uses

   N/A

7. Original owner or occupant

   **John N. Roberts**

8. Date of construction (301)

   ☑ documented 1894

9. Changes dates

   ☑ moved

   ☑ major alterations

10. Architect (300)

    **John G. Haskell**

11. Builder/contractor

12. Identify any outbuildings and/or other structures associated with this building or structure. (Attach an additional inventory form for each one that has particular architectural or historical interest.)

   Two car garage southwest of building; probably built shortly after the construction of house

---

**Additional Information**

13. KSHS Inventory Code (054)

    045-3010-0007

14. County (064)

    **Douglas**

15. Survey sequence no.

    **MA01**

16. Accessibility

   ☑ open to public

   ☑ accessible by permission only

17. Visibility from public road or street

   ☑ good

   ☑ poor

18. Condition (084)

   ☑ excellent

   ☑ good

   ☑ fair

   ☑ deteriorated

19. USGS quadrangle map if required (see instructions)

20. UTM reference if required (see instructions)

21. Current owner's name and address (096, 097)

    **Libuse Kriz Forte**

    1307 Massachusetts

    Lawrence, Kansas 66044

22. Tenant's name, and address if different from property address (see instructions)

    N/A

23. Principal materia(s) (216)

    **stone**

24. Style and/or form type (210)

    **Romanesque; irregular; hipped**

---

**Category (060)**

**Residential House**

**Functional type (022)**

**Residential**

27. Registration status and dates (078)

   ☑ NHL

   ☑ listed NR

   ☑ approved for NR

   ☑ federal DOE

   ☑ listed SR

   ☑ local landmark

   ☑ HABS/HAER

28. Is this property included in a historic district?

   ☑ yes

   ☑ no

   ☑ proposed

   ☑ local district

   Name of district (080)

   __________________________

   ☑ contributing

   ☑ noncontributing
J.N. Roberts, a landowner of wealth in Lawrence, had the building constructed in 1893 and 1894. Sidney Endacott, an English sculptor, worked on the dwelling, doing interior woodwork. The Roberts family decided to move to California in 1919 and sold the large structure to J.J. Simmons. In 1934, a church acquired the house. Libuse Kriz Florito acquired the house in 1947. She uses the dwelling as her residence and as an occasional restaurant.

The building is a three story, three unit, stone Romanesque dwelling which has a hipped roof of slate and lead shingles. The foundation is of stone. Rectangular window openings contain double hung units; some have slightly arched lintels. Several dormers with hipped roofs sit atop the roof. A massive tower flanks the northeast corner of the structure. There are two entrances to the structure. The main doorway is on the east side; the other is on the north facade. The entrances are supported by Corinthian capitals, and have a dentil course and scrollwork.

Register of deeds
tax records
site
City directories

Clela Hixon

9: 32, 33

June 2, 1987

Barbara Allison Gray
Lawrence Preservation Alliance

Heart of Oread Survey

July 5, 1987

THIRTEENTH ST.

ALLEY

MASSACHUSETTS ST.