

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

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

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		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 3, Cong. Larry Winn	
STATE Kansas	CODE 66044	COUNTY: Douglas	CODE 045

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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: 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: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Douglas
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"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 north-east 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)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **1893-1894**

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 'Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

FOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Blackmar, Frank, editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Standard Pub. Co., Chicago, 1912), v. 3, pp. 343, 344.
 "Carved Designs in J. N. Roberts Home," Lawrence Journal World, June 14, 1941.
 "Early Kansas Home Sold," Topeka Capital, March 11, 1919.
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.)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
NER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
W	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
E	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	57	36
E	°	'	"	°	'	"	95	14	09
N	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 (one)**

ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant**
Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **April 17, 1974**

ADDRESS AND NUMBER: **120 West Tenth Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas 66612** CODE: **20**

STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

I, the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 94-665), 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
 TITLE: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: June 6, 1974

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Douglas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

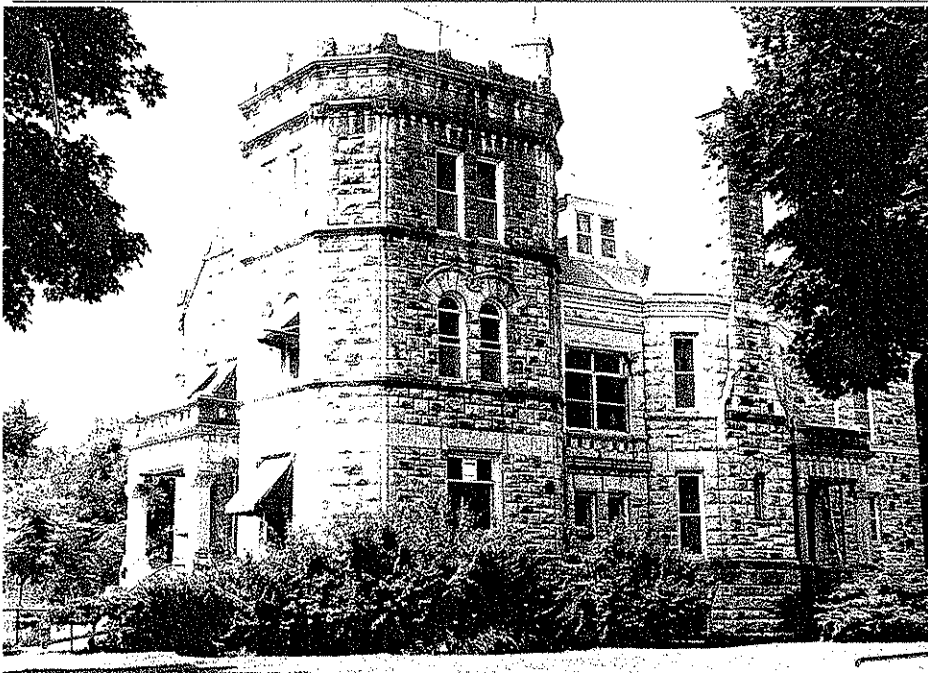
7. The east facade is the most elaborately treated; eye-catching carved stonework accents the porch, entry, windows and the roof line.

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

9. Portrait and Biographical Record of Leavenworth, Douglas and Franklin Counties, Kansas (Chapman Pub. Co., Chicago, 1899), pp. 138, 139.
University Daily Kansan, Lawrence, Kansas, July 3, 1973.

KANSAS HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

1a. Property name, historic (050) John N. Roberts House b. Property name, common Castle Tea Room		13. KSHS Inventory Code (054) 045-3010-0007
2. Property address/descriptive location (062) 1307 Massachusetts Street Lawrence, KS		14. County (064) Douglas 15. Survey sequence no. MA01
3. Legal description (070) Massachusetts Street Lots 165, 167, 169		16. Accessibility <input type="checkbox"/> open to public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> accessible by permission only <input type="checkbox"/> inaccessible 17. Visibility from public road or street <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/> not visible
4. Original use residential		18. Condition (084) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> no visible remains <input type="checkbox"/> incorporated into later structure
5. Present use (208) residential/restaurant	6. Other uses N/A	19. USGS quadrangle map if required (see instructions) 20. UTM reference if required (see instructions)
7. Original owner or occupant John N. Roberts	8. Date of construction (301) <input type="checkbox"/> estimated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> documented 1894	21. Current owner's name and address (096, 097) Libuse Kriz Fiorito 1307 Massachusetts Lawrence, Kansas 66044
9. Changes _____ dates _____ <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> major alterations	10. Architect (300) John G. Haskell	22. Tenant's name, and address if different from property address (see instructions) N/A
11. Builder/contractor		23. Principal material(s) (216) stone
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		24. Style and/or form type (210) Romanesque; irregular; hipped



THIS SECTION FOR KSHS USE ONLY	
25. Category (060) Building	
26. Functional type (202) Residential House	
27. Registration status and dates (078) <input type="checkbox"/> NHL _____ <input type="checkbox"/> listed NR _____ <input type="checkbox"/> approved for NR _____ <input type="checkbox"/> federal DOE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> listed SR _____ <input type="checkbox"/> local landmark _____ <input type="checkbox"/> HABS/HAER _____	
28. Is this property included in a historic district? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> NR district <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> SR district <input type="checkbox"/> proposed <input type="checkbox"/> local district Name of district (080) _____ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> contributing <input type="checkbox"/> noncontributing	

29. Brief statement of the property's history

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 Fiorito acquired the house in 1947. She uses the dwelling as her residence and as an occasional restaurant.

30. Brief description. If a thorough description has been prepared separately, disregard this section and check here .

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,

31. Additional remarks or continuation of other sections

30. and have a dentil course and scrollwork.

32. Sources of information

Register of deeds
tax records
site
City directories

34. Photographer or photo source

Clea Hixon

35. Photo roll and frame number(s)

9; 32, 33

36. Photo date

June 2, 1987

37. Inventory form completed by
(name and organization)

Barbara Allison Gray
Lawrence Preservation Alliance

33. Sketch of site plan. (Include north arrow. Show outline of building shape, locations of outbuildings, and locations of roads or streets.)

38. Survey project name

Heart of Oread Survey

39. Date form compiled

July 5, 1987

THIS SECTION FOR KSHS USE ONLY

40. Attached supplementary materials

41. Date logged, HPD

8/25/87

42. Logged by

BA

