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# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Ellsworth
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	FEB 24 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Larkin, Arthur, House

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: One-fourth mile south of Ellsworth NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 29,  
T 15 S, R 8 W

CITY OR TOWN: Ellsworth <sup>v-68 KS 45</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 1, Keith Sebelius

STATE: Kansas 67439 CODE: 20 COUNTY: Ellsworth CODE: 053

### 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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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)

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Loren Dees

STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route

CITY OR TOWN: Ellsworth STATE: Kansas 67439 CODE: 20

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Ellsworth County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ellsworth STATE: Kansas 67439 CODE: 20

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites Survey

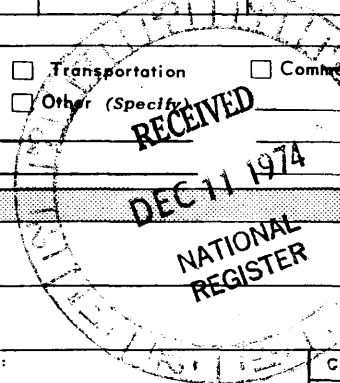
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

*Interlocute  
Lebanon 12-74*

The Arthur Larkin house is located in a rural environment about one-fourth mile south of Ellsworth. It is a large basically rectangular two-story structure with a full basement and an attic. The Renaissance-style house faces north and measures approximately 65 feet long, 50 feet wide and 35 feet from grade to the roof peak. A cupola originally located at the north entry of the building rose an additional story.

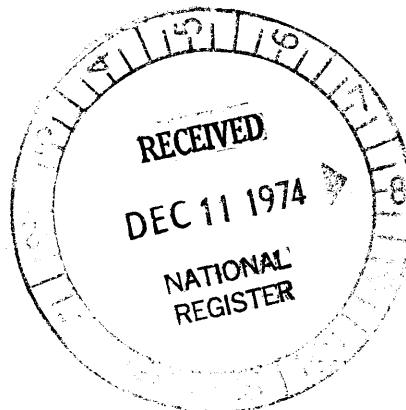
The exterior walls are of native limestone cut into large rectangular blocks. These blocks are dressed and laid in uniform horizontal courses. Projecting stone quoins accent each corner and provide a decorative touch to the facades. A horizontal belt course at the first floor line with a patent hammer finish and chiseled margins separates the upper stone work from the less sophisticated masonry of the foundation walls.

The roof form is essentially a hip with gable ends over wall offsets on the east, north and west sides. The roof is covered with wood shingles and overhangs the walls. The cornice is a broad curvilinear design rising gracefully above the stone. The gables are constructed of stone to match the walls and each contains a decorative window treatment, each unique in design. The north gable window has a rounded stone arch and decorative trim at the sides. The east gable contains two windows of the same design. The west gable window is in the palladian motif. The arched center window is flanked by two windows with flat lintels. Except for the basement half windows, the rest of the windows are long rectangles with pediment lintels, each carved with an intricate design. Carved stone roping and anchors flank each window on the first and second floors. Basement and attic windows are flanked by carved stone arrows or harpoons. These ornamental details give an elegant quality to the otherwise straightforward design.

Two large bay windows of frame construction on the east and north facades relieve the rectangularity of the building. Decorative cornices and articulated columns on the bays further accent their importance.

The present exterior appearance is nearly the same as the original. The cupola and the front porch have been removed, and an addition has been tacked on to the rear.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. 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) 1884-1885

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		<u>Western Settlement</u>
<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/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arthur Larkin house, located just south of Ellsworth, was built in 1884-1885 for one of the area's pioneer businessmen.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1832, Larkin came to New York in 1848. After serving in the Texas Rangers and the regular army, he was discharged at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for medical reasons around 1861. He then opened a restaurant in Leavenworth and also operated a freighting line between that point and Denver. In 1866 he moved to Junction City where he operated the same type of businesses. In the spring of 1867 he moved to the town of Ellsworth, which had just been established. The Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division, was at that time just a short distance from Ellsworth, and by mid-year the town had railroad service.

Larkin built and opened the town's first hotel in the fall of 1867, and in 1868 he opened a mercantile business. His first hotel burned in 1869 and he built the White House in 1872 and operated it until 1905. He constructed another hotel known as the American House in 1878.

In addition to his hotels and thriving business, he was a partner in the erection of Ellsworth's first flour mill and first elevator. He also owned a number of farms and raised horses and Hereford cattle. In the 1870's he was probably the wealthiest man in the community. Although primarily a businessman, he did participate in local politics, serving one term as county commissioner and another as county treasurer.

One of his farms consisted of 200 acres south of the Smoky Hill river, just south of the Ellsworth city limits. On May 1, 1884, the Ellsworth Reporter told its readers that "A. Larkin is completing his residence on the south side of the river. When finished it will be the most handsome residence in the vicinity." In April, 1885, he went East to obtain furnishings for the house, and by May, 1885, the family had moved into their new home.

The decorative stonework around the doors and windows was said to have been imported from England at a cost of \$12,000.

Larkin's house contained some features which were ahead of their time, at least for that part of the country. Natural gas wells on the property provided heat and light for the house. Larkin placed a gas burner in the cupola of the house, and the huge reflector behind the flame provided a glow which could be seen for miles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Biographical History of Central Kansas, Vol. II (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1902), pp. 791, 792.  
 Connelley, W. E., A History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), pp. 99, 100.  
 Dykstra, Robert, "Ellsworth, 1869-1875: The Rise and Fall of a Kansas Cowtown," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 27, no. 2 (Summer, 1969), pp. 161-192.  
Ellsworth News, May 7, 1884.

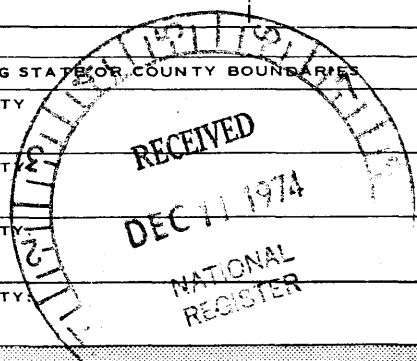
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		38	43	20
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



14/56634  
4226020  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: May 3, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth

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 November 25, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*AR Wooten*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/24/75

ATTEST:  
*Atty. Gen. Henry*  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Date Feb 21, 1975

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

8.

The house was for many years a focal point of the community's social activities, and the Larkins were noted for their elegant parties.

Arthur Larkin was one of the leading figures of Ellsworth for more than 30 years and one of those responsible for the town's early economic growth and continuing prosperity. Because of his contributions to his community, his house merits National Register listing. Architecturally, the house is significant for the wealth of stone detailing it possesses.

9.

Ellsworth Reporter, May 1, 1884; May 7, 1885; April 9, 1885;  
July 10, 1947; September 14, 1972.-  
Salina Journal, February 17, 1974.

