**1. NAME**

- **COMMON:** William Allen White House
- **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Red Rocks

**2. LOCATION**

- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 927 Exchange St.
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Emporia
- **STATE:** Kansas
- **CODE:** 66801
- **COUNTY:** Lyon
- **CODE:** 20

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

- **CATEGORY (Check One):**
  - District
  - Building
  - Site
  - Structure
  - Object
- **OWNERSHIP:**
  - Public
  - Private
  - Both
- **STATUS:**
  - Occupied
  - Unoccupied
  - Preservation work in progress
- **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**
  - Yes
    - Restricted
    - Unrestricted
  - No

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

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

- **OWNER'S NAME:** William L. White
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 927 Exchange St.
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Emporia
- **STATE:** Kansas
- **CODE:** 66801

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
  - Register of Deeds
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** Lyon County Courthouse
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Emporia
- **STATE:** Kansas
- **CODE:** 66801

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:** Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration
- **DATE OF SURVEY:** 1939
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
The William Allen White House (Red Rocks) is a three-story masonry and frame building surrounded by stately elms and shrubbery. The first story is of red rough-hewn Colorado sandstone while the second story is built of matching red brick. The third floor is of wood frame and half timber construction. The building is rectangular with a hexagonal bay on the northeast corner where the living room is situated. The house has a steep intersecting gable roof covered with slate shingles. There are three dormers on the south side and one on the north to break the roof line. The two chimneys are ornately capped with corbeled brick detail. The north front entrance is sheltered by a small gabled porch, not so steeply pitched as the roof of the house. All windows of the house are rectangular; the third floor windows and those on the second floor above the north entrance are casement, while the remainder are double hung. A colonnade, garden, and courtyard are located south of the house.

After a fire in the early 1920's, the first floor was restored from a new design by Frank Lloyd Wright. The exterior was also modified and the colonnade and sunken courtyard were added.
The house now known as the William Allen White House was built in the 1880's for Judge Almerin Gillette, a wealthy Emporia lawyer and cattleman. It was built partly of brick and partly of stone from the Garden of the Gods in Colorado. Because of Gillette's financial reverses, the house came into the possession of a mortgage company from whom White purchased it in 1900 for $6,000. In the early 1920's it was damaged by fire, and the restoration was based on plans drawn for White by Frank Lloyd Wright. The rear courtyard with its colonnade and the living room are said to show best the Wright influence.

William Allen White (1868-1944) was born in Emporia and grew up in Eldorado, where he first worked in a newspaper office. After attending the College of Emporia and Kansas University, he worked on newspapers in Eldorado and Kansas City.

In 1895 he bought the Emporia Gazette. He first gained national prominence with his editorial "What's the Matter with Kansas," which was widely circulated by the Republicans in the election campaign of 1896 as an anti-Populist, anti-Bryan tract. Besides writing for the Gazette, he wrote short stories, novels, magazine articles, and political literature, as well as his autobiography. He received the Pulitzer prize for the best editorial article written in 1923.

In 1899 White called himself "an uncompromising Republican." But when the national Republican party split in the 1912 convention, he joined Theodore Roosevelt's Progressives, and in 1924 he ran for governor as an independent to fight the Ku Klux Klan influence in Kansas.

William Allen White was a many-sided person: a friend and confidant of Presidents, a power to be reckoned with in Kansas Republican politics, a crusader and reformer, a local editor boosting his community and his state, and a spokesman for middle class, small town America.

His influence far transcended that of any other small town newspaperman. Publisher of the Gazette for over 40 years, his writings on national and international issues received attention in all parts of the country.

Because of the importance of William Allen White to journalism and politics, his house is considered worthy of nomination to the National Register. The fact that Frank Lloyd Wright's plans were used in the restoration of the home would bring added significance since Wright designed very few Kansas buildings.
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 [X]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

Name

Myle H. Miller

Title

Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date

December 30, 1970

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

[Signature]

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

MAY 14 1971

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Keeper of the National Register

Date

APR 8 1971
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
801 19th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas (state)
1957
Kansas State Historical Society
120 West Tenth St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612 Code: 20

dated June 5, 1899, in the Kansas State Historical Society
library.
Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES - ATTACH TO OR ENCLOSE WITH MAP)

1. NAME
   COMMON: William Allen White House
   RED ROCKS

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 927 Exchange St.
   CITY OR TOWN: Emporia
   STATE: Kansas 66801
   CODE COUNTY: Lyon

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle, Emporia
   SCALE: 1: 24,000
   DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.