

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name CLARK-ROBIDOUX HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 4TH STREET not for publication

city or town WALLACE vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county WALLACE code 199 zip code 67761

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkratz D-SHPO 3/1/01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: GOTHIC

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: LIMESTONE

walls WOOD: WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT; METAL: COPPER

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Blank lines for entering Areas of Significance.

Period of Significance

1880 - 1927

Significant Dates

1880; 1909

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

HARDING ALLEN CLARK; PETER ROBIDOUX

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

HARDING ALLEN CLARK - BUILDER

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Blank line for repository name.

CLARK-ROBIDOUX HOUSE
Name of Property

WALLACE COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN 10 ACRES

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4
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2	7	5	1	0	0
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4	3	1	0	3	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title MARTHA HAGEDORN-KRASS, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY date FEBRUARY 2001

street & number 6425 SW 6TH STREET telephone 785-272-8681 EXT. 213

city or town TOPEKA state KS zip code 66615

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

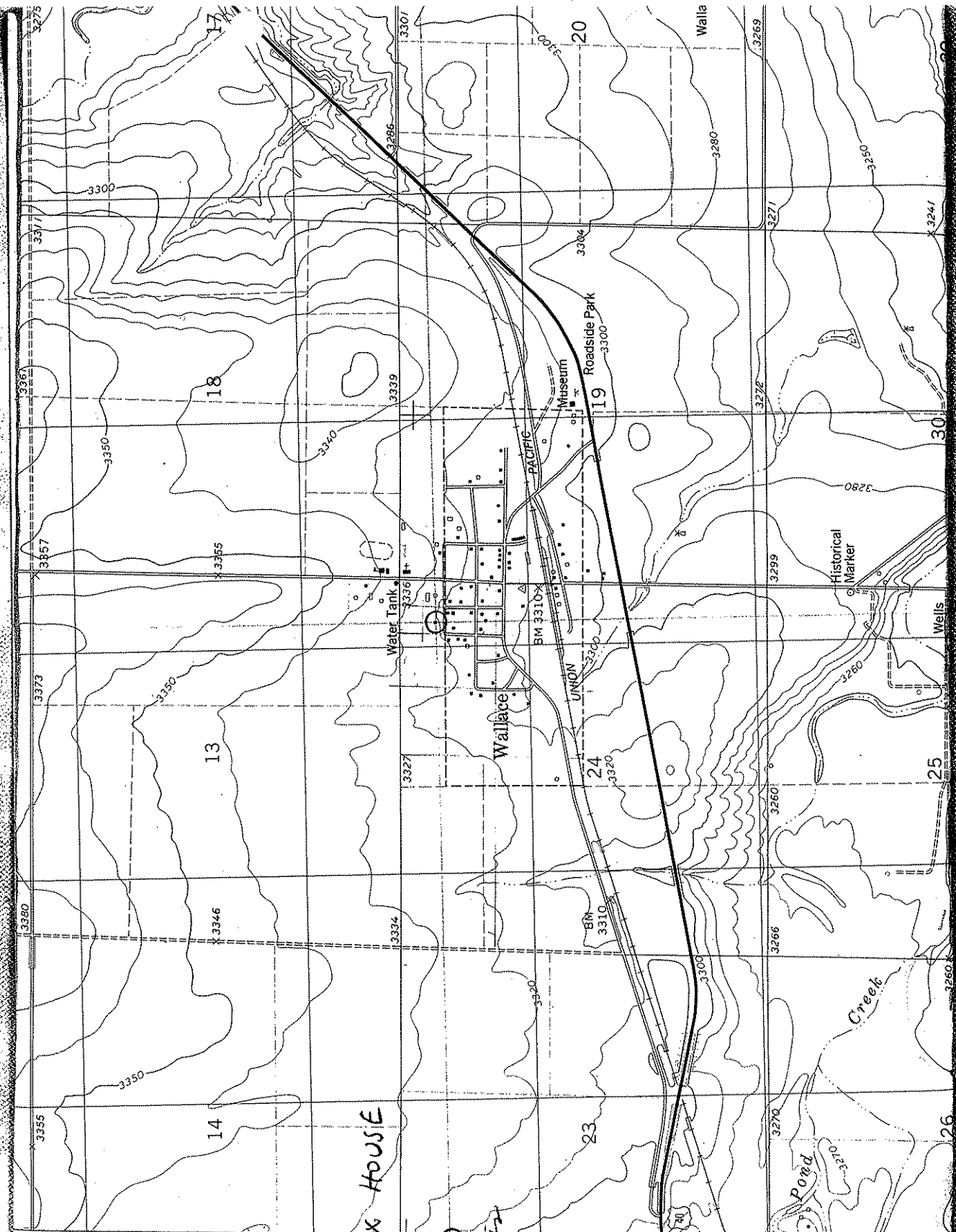
name GLEND A & TOOLEY ALLAMAN

street & number HCI BOX 52 telephone 785-891-3789

city or town WALLACE state KS zip code 67761

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



CLARK-ROBIDOUX HOUSE

WALLACE, KS

WALLACE QUAD

UTM Coordinates

14 275 100

4310390

WESKAN 19 MI.
SHARON SPRINGS 7 MI.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Clark-Robidoux House (c. 1880) is an example of a centered gable Gothic Revival house, the center gable is flanked by symmetrical gables. A truncated hipped roof covers the main portion of the house. An ell projects from the northwest section of the house and is covered with a gable roof. Gables punctuate the roofline on all four elevations, each gable contains a double hung 2/2 arched window. When constructed, a balustraded widow's walk surmounted the truncated roof plane. Most of the balustrade has deteriorated. A weathered, inter-locking, asphalt shingled roof covers the original wooden roof shingles.

The house is constructed of wood and stands on a stone foundation. Tongue and groove siding clads the house. The overall dimensions of the house are 43' from east to west and 44' from north to south. The house faces south. Two one story pent roof additions project from the rear of house. These additions extend the length of the house on the north west side by 17' and on the northeast side by 14'. They are also clad in tongue and groove siding.

A one story porch topped with a balustrade marks the center bay of the southern facade. A gently sloping copper roof with two ridges surmounts the porch. The porch posts are square and capped with simple classical molding. Curved wooden decorative features are inserted between the posts to form the arches. The posts support a simple classical entablature. The entablature continues on across the window bays. A wooden balustrade made of classically turned balusters still stands between the porch posts. The balusters mirror those used on the balustrade above the porch. The front door stands sheltered by the porch. It is a four paneled wooden door with the original spindlework screendoor. A transom surmounts the door.

Two one story window bays project from either side of the porch. A low sloped, double ridged cooper roof covers each bay. Each bay contains four 2/2 double hung, segmentally arched windows. A grouping of two windows faces directly south in line with the building's facade plane, each bay also contains two side windows at a forty-five degree angle. The windows are flanked by simple pilasters that stand on simple classical bases and are surmounted with simple classical capitals. A recessed panel stands beneath each window in the bay. The classical pilaster treatment used on the bays is more closely linked to the Italianate tradition, as are the round and segmentally arched windows employed throughout the house.

The facade reaches a climax with the three fenestrated gables that pierce the southern slope of the roof. The outer gables are fenestrated with round arched 2/2 double hung windows, the center gable, which is larger, contains an arched triple hung window.

The remaining elevations are not adorned with any special features or decoration beyond the round arch and segmentally arched 2/2 double hung windows that are employed to fenestrate the house. A rear porch with lathe turned supports projects from the east side of the northeast addition. Two of the windows on the east side maintain their original louvered shutters. A brick chimney rises from the roof peak of the northern ell.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The interior of the house reveals a centerhall floorplan with a massive cherry staircase defining the front hall. Wallpaper covers most of the plaster walls. The interior woodwork is intact. The doorways contain four paneled doors and hinged transoms. Wide baseboard molding defines all of the rooms. Original wooden window and door surrounds remain intact.

The nomination also contains a wooden outhouse. The structure is clad in tongue and groove siding and stands on a stone base. A cross gabled, hipped roof covers the small structure. A deteriorated asphalt roof exposes wooden sheathing. Gables pierce each roof slope. Louvered windows mark the structure's sides. A vent pipe rises from the center of the structure's roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

The Clark-Robidoux House (c. 1880) is located at 4th Street in Wallace, Wallace County, Kansas (pop. 86). The property is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its historical associations with the growth and development of Wallace and Wallace County, under criterion B for its historical associations with Harding Allen Clark (1852-1923) and Peter Robidoux (1850-1927,) and under criterion C for its architectural significance as a Gothic Revival house.

Wallace County was established in 1868, the year that the Kansas Pacific line reached Wallace. Personnel from Fort Wallace, established in 1866, protected the railroad's workers as they lay the rails through Wallace County. The fort was abandoned in 1882. The town of Wallace was two miles west of Fort Wallace, originally it was called Wallace Station. Wallace became the Wallace County seat in 1875.

Between 1870 and 1890 Wallace was a division point between Kansas City and Denver for the Kansas Pacific line. Wallace had railway yards, a roundhouse, offices, a hotel, and a restaurant. In 1890 the Kansas Pacific moved this division point to Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. This move decimated Wallace and it never recovered. The division point was moved back east to Sharon Springs, Kansas in 1909 and remained there until the late 1940s. Sharon Springs had become the Wallace County seat in 1889 and is located nine miles west of Wallace.

The arrival of the Kansas Pacific line and the increased stature that Wallace accrued when it became a division point resulted in a town boom. By the 1880s Wallace had become a thriving town of three thousand. Wallace was the only outfitting and shipping point between the main line of the Union Pacific along the Platte in Nebraska and the Gulf of Mexico during its reign as the railroad's most western division point. When the division point was moved from Wallace the population dwindled and the economy disintegrated, by 1910 there were only 20 houses in the town.

The rampant speculation of the 1870s attracted both Harding Allen Clark and Peter Robidoux to Wallace. The two men shared similar experiences, both men had established stores upon coming to Wallace, and both men were ranchers. They were friends and their children grew up together. Interestingly, Clark had taught French speaking Canadians before coming to Wallace, and was fluent in French, linking him further with Robidoux, whose first language was French. The final link was established when Robidoux purchased the Clark residence.

Clark was born and raised in Montgomery, Vermont and came to Wallace in 1871 to work on his cousin Homer Wheeler's cattle ranch as the foreman, Wheeler had a government contract to supply Fort Wallace with beef. Wheeler had come to Wallace in 1868 and quickly acquired land and established the cattle ranch. Clark purchased Wheeler's ranch in 1875, and added to it over the years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Clark established a lumber and implement business in Wallace in 1871. He owned a substantial amount of real estate in Wallace and also participated in the development of Goodland, Kansas. Clark served as the Wallace County representative to the 1895 State Legislature.

In 1879, Clark married Lilla Carpenter of West Charleston, Vermont. Carpenter had attended Mt. Holyoke College and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

The Clarks' Gothic Revival house was constructed in 1880, it is likely that Clark's lumber and implement business supplied the necessary material for the wooden house. The house may be seen as an eastern transplant, reflecting the residential architecture of New England. This reflection is most apparent in the "widow's walk" that is formed by the truncated hipped roof. Bearing the facts that both Clark and his wife Lilla Carpenter were born and bred in Vermont, it is quite likely that their Wallace residence reflected a house they had both known in Vermont. The Gothic Revival style was rarely used for residential architecture in Kansas, and an example of such on the western frontier is exceptionally rare.

The 1887 Evert's Atlas of Kansas includes a line drawing of the H. C. Clark residence, a large carriage house, a shed, and an outhouse stand behind the house, a white picket fence surrounds the complex. Period photographs support this arrangement.

The Clarks raised their family in the house and sold the house in 1905. After several property transfers, Robidoux purchased the Clark home in 1909.

Robidoux was born and raised in St. Remi Province, Quebec, Canada and came to Wallace County in 1868 as a laborer for the Kansas Pacific line. He moved to Ellis, Kansas in 1870 but returned to Wallace in 1872, establishing a drug store and post office. Robidoux expanded his merchandise substantially over the next fifteen years.

In 1887, "P. Robidoux-Dealer in Everything" offered general merchandise, dry goods, notions, ready made clothing and gentlemen's furnishing goods; hats, caps, and gloves; a full line of groceries and provisions; boots, shoes and rubbers; flour, feed and baled hay; stockmen's and rancher's supplies; hardware, tinware, braved wire, and nails; crockery, glassware, lamps; farming implements and wagons; oils, paints, and brushes; harnesses, saddles, and blankets.

Robidoux closed his store in 1893 and moved to the family ranch on Lake Creek, twelve miles north of Wallace. Since his marriage to Alice Barry in 1885, the family had lived above the store. The Robidoux family took some of the remaining merchandise with them when they moved to the ranch, but the rest of the \$20,000 contents were left to rot. The store building remained standing until 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Robidoux homesteaded the first 160 acres of his 32,000 acre cattle ranch in 1878. He lost a large number of cattle to harsh winters between 1880 and 1883, and lost 4,000 head of cattle in the blizzard of 1886. He operated one of the largest ranches in Kansas, his holdings included land in Wallace, Greeley, and Sherman counties from the 1890s through the 1910s. In 1918, he suffered the devastating loss of 2,500 head of cattle in a blizzard, this loss culminated in the sale of the ranch in 1919.

Robidoux retained an economic interest in Wallace, in 1907 he helped to found the Wallace County State Bank, which later consolidated with the Peoples State Bank in Sharon Springs. In 1909 he purchased the Clark house and lived there off and on until the late 1910s, when he and his wife moved there permanently.

The Clark-Robidoux House was constructed in 1880 and is an example of the Gothic Revival style. Gothic Revival houses occur most commonly in the northeast between 1840 and 1880, but also appear in most areas of the country settled before 1880. The Gothic Revival style was rarely used for residential architecture in Kansas, and an example of such on the western frontier is exceptionally rare.

The Gothic Revival style was popularized by Alexander Jackson Downing through the publication of Cottage Residences in 1842 and The Architecture of Country Houses in 1850. Downing expanded upon the ideas of his teacher and friend, Alexander Jackson Davis, who was the first American architect to promote the use of the Gothic Revival in residential architecture through the 1837 publication of Rural Residences.

The Gothic Revival is rooted in the Picturesque movement, beginning in England with Sir Horace Walpole's remodeling of his country house Strawberry Hill in 1749. William Pierson writes that, "Strawberry Hill is a Gothic building precisely because it seeks to recreate the romantic visions of the era....and is therefore the epitome of the picturesque." (Pierson, William J., American Buildings and Their Architects, V. 2, pp. 106-107, 1978) The Gothic Revival style was employed primarily for rural residences, and sought compatibility with the natural landscape.

"The English ideas of the picturesque, which Davis and Downing espoused, revolutionized the American house, relating it to its setting, giving irregularity to its shape, plan, and surface and freeing it from the austere rigidity of the traditional box pattern. Many of the forms and features were imitated so much that they passed into the vernacular, and some, such as asymmetrical massing, bay windows, board and batten siding, wide decorated eaves and expansive verandas, became lasting contributions to American domestic architecture." (Davies, Jane B., Master Builders, p. 57, 1985)

Gothic Revival residential architecture is characterized by a steeply pitched roof with steep cross gables. Fanciful, scrolled wooden ornamentation decorating windows, roof-wall junctions, porches, and doors is a dominant feature in most Gothic Revival houses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

The Clark-Robidoux House is an example of a centered gable Gothic Revival house, the center gable is flanked by symmetrical gables. McAlester writes that centered gable type comprises over one-third of the Gothic Revival houses. (McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A field Guide to American Houses, p. 197, 1984)

A truncated hipped roof covers the house; hipped roofs occur less frequently in the Gothic Revival than gable roofs. The house is constructed of wood, which was the most common material employed for the Gothic Revival.

The Clark-Robidoux House lacks the fanciful scrolled wooden ornamentation that is characteristic of Gothic Revival houses. It is a simple and plain example of the type. The house derives its applied decoration from the porch and railings, and the window surrounds are slightly arched, but not pointed. Two full-scale bay windows flank the one story porch, this is a common treatment.

The interior of the house reveals a symmetrical floorplan. Late-nineteenth century door and window surround, windows, doors, and hardware are employed, with very little decoration in the house to indicate its Gothic Revival roots. The Clark-Robidoux House is derivative and clearly based in the vernacular tradition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Brock, Stephanie. Clark-Robidoux House National Register nomination. 1992.

Connelley, William Elsey. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1926-1928. V. XVII. (Topeka, KS., Kansas State Printing Plant, 1928).

Everts, L. H. L. H. Everts and Company Atlas- 1887 Official State Atlas. (Philadelphia, PA: L. H. Everts, 1887).

Fitzgerald, Daniel. Ghost Towns of Kansas. V. II. (Holton, KS: Gossip Printers, 1979).

Fort Wallace Bugle, V. XVII, No. 1. June 1978.

Kansas City Star, June 14, 1953.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1984).

Wallace County Historians. Wallace County History- A Story of Grass, Grit and Chips. (Sharon Springs, KS: Wallace County Historians, 1979).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property stands on the SW4, NE4, NE4, NE4 of S. 24, T. 13S, R. 39W of the Sixth Principal Meridian. The property is bounded to the south by Fourth Street and to the north, east and west by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is part of a larger parcel historically associated with the house. The nominated parcel contains the house and the outhouse.