PH 0001

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:	Franklin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 21 1974

RECEIVED AUG 8 1974 NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Ransom, James H., House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 318 South Locust

CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 3, Larry Winn

STATE: Kansas — CODE: 20

COUNTY: Franklin — CODE: 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

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

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: D. L. and Betty Salsbury

STREET AND NUMBER: 318 South Locust

CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa — STATE: Kansas 66067 — CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Franklin County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa — STATE: Kansas 66067 — CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ 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

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Franklin

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)		
	☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed		
	(Check One)	(Check One)	
	☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved ☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Ransom house is a large irregularly shaped two-story frame residence with a full basement and a full attic designed as a third floor. The house faces east and on the east facade features a circular porch with a conical roof. There is a carriage porch to the north and a handsome carriage house at the rear.

This white frame Victorian house has an unusual array of ornamental millwork, and patterned shingles are used for siding on the exterior above the first floor. The house rests on a raised base of rough hewn limestone laid in uniform horizontal courses and has distinctive belt lines at the floor lines.

The roof form is basically intersecting gables with the front gable having a mock hip shape. The roof form at the front also leads directly into the conical roof of the second floor circular balcony above the main entry. The first floor circular porch roof, which is designed to accent the entry, includes a large pediment displaying the house number directly over the front steps. The circular porch wraps around the north side of the house, leading to the hipped roof carriage porch. The second floor balcony, which helps accent the curved porch, is reminiscent in character of English country houses. The roof shingles are wood.

The windows are simple rectangles of varied sizes, and the trim is basic and simple. The attic windows are trimmed with brackets which meet the roof overhang and have the characteristics of cornice brackets. Both the porch and balcony roofs are supported by turned frame columns with brackets.

The two-story stable at the rear measures 30 by 50 feet and, like the house has shingle siding above the first floor. The roof is basically a gable roof, however the ends form a mock hip similar to the front gable of the house. The east side has twin windowless dormers.

Accenting the roof is a cupola with a curved hip roof form.

The exteriors of both the house and carriage house are believed to be basically unaltered. The present owners are now in the process of restoring them and have started with the carriage house, which has been painted its original gold and rust colors.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1889-1890

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [x] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James H. Ransom house was built around 1889-1890 for one of Franklin county's most active and successful businessmen and investors.

Ransom was a native New Yorker who taught school in Illinois and worked in the Pennsylvania oil fields before moving to Kansas in 1868. He was not a man who remained long in one place and the history of his business activities in Kansas shows a wide-ranging career.

Upon his arrival in the state he operated a dairy farm for one year at Burlington (Coffey county) and then moved to the Clinton area (Douglas county) where he had a flour and saw mill and also farmed. After six years he moved to nearby Lawrence and opened a wholesale and retail coal business. Earlier he had purchased two coal mines at Carbondale (Osage county). In 1878 he moved to Williamsburg in Franklin county and that county was to remain his permanent home. He bought and operated the mines of the Williamsburg Coal Company. One year later he opened new mines three miles east of Williamsburg and established the town of Ransomville at the site. In addition to his mining operations, he started a general store in the town and his daughter Myra was the town's first postmaster. In 1886 he moved to Ottawa and started a coal business and later an ice company.

In the 1890's Ransom's business interests were concentrated more on construction and less on coal mining. He recognized that the thin vein of coal in eastern Kansas could not be profitably mined in competition with the deeper veins of southeastern Kansas. The contracting firm of Ransom and Cook was well-known for its construction activities, particularly for building railroads. His farming and associated interests, such as dairying, a creamery, and livestock breeding, continued throughout his life.

In spite of his many business involvements, Ransom was able to serve two terms in the Kansas House of Representatives, from 1905 to 1909, and earlier he was on the Ottawa city council.

Around 1889-1890 he built a large Victorian house in Ottawa. One of the showplaces of the community at the time, the house was his residence until 1901, when his first wife died. In that same year he sold (or gave) the house to his daughter Myra and her husband B. D. Bennett. His Ottawa business interests were also disposed of to Bennett and he returned to Ransomville. The Bennetts occupied the house

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Connelley, W. E., History of Kansas and Kansans, Part II (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912), pp. 1046, 1047.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 621.

Leavenworth Appeal and Tribune, February 10, 1880.

Legislative Handbook, 1905 (Topeka: Crane and Company, 1905), p. 188.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Leavenworth, Douglas and Franklin Counties (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1899), pp. 310, 311.

HM 15 / 302240 / 426140

10. 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					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	36	49	95	16	17
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society

DATE: May 7, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas

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: August 1, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/21/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.13.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147/1442 3-1

Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
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(Number all entries)

8.
for many years and were active in Ottawa's business and civic affairs. The house apparently remained in the Bennett family until 1949.

James Ransom was a prominent and successful businessman. His many and varied business pursuits and his frequent changes of location make him a typical entrepreneur of an era when Kansas was a young, developing state. He was set apart perhaps by the degree of success which he attained.

The Ransom house has been termed the best example of Victorian residential architecture in Ottawa. The large house together with its carriage house presents a cohesive unit significant for its distinctive 1890's architectural features and significant for its first occupant, James Ransom, and his contributions to the economic development of the area.

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9.

Reflections of Franklin County and Chautauqua Days (Ottawa, Kansas, n.p., 1961), p. 32.
Topeka Daily Capital, May, 1906.

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