

PH0067200

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Douglas
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 6 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
"The Castle"

AND/OR HISTORIC:
John N. Roberts House (preferred name) *us. the*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1307 Massachusetts St

CITY OR TOWN:
Lawrence

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
No. 3, Cong. Larry Winn

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20 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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Libuse Kriz

STREET AND NUMBER:
1307 Massachusetts

CITY OR TOWN:
Lawrence

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

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: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: _____ CODE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

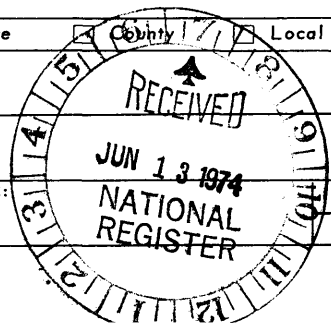
STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Douglas

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. 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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Douglas	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 6 1974

(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.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 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 | losophy | _____ |
| <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 | 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.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank, editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedic 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.)

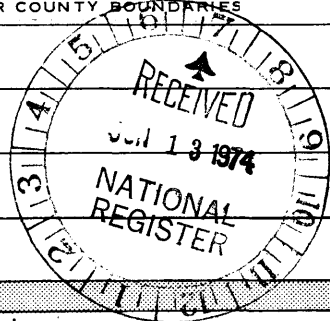
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	57	36
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	95	14	09

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

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

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

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

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 June 6, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

R. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/6/74

ATTEST:
Charles A. Henry
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9.6.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS