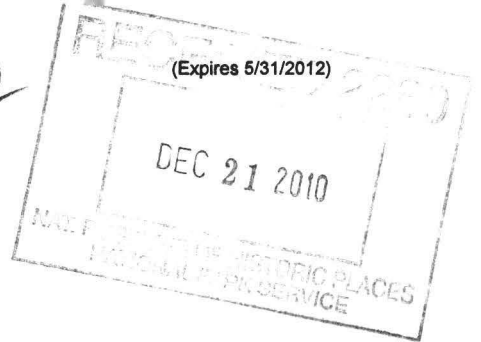


1207



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Robertson House
other names/site number 073-397

2. Location

street & number 403 N. Plum not for publication
city or town Eureka vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Greenwood code 073 zip code 67045

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Patrick Zolner
Signature of certifying official

12/20/10
Date

DSHPO
Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Rare Eshau H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2.7.11
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
		district
		site
		structure
		object
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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Prairie School;
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival.

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick
walls: Stucco
roof: Asphalt
other: Wood (Rafter tails, eaves)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Robertson House (1923) is located at 403 N. Plum in Eureka (pop. 2821), Greenwood County, Kansas, a Flint Hills community known for oil, ranching and horse racing. The property is located in the northeast quarter of Eureka, between downtown and the horse track Eureka Downs. The two-story Prairie Style home has a principal central mass with multiple roof planes and projections, including a porte-cochere and front porch/outdoor living space. Building materials include a brick foundation, dappled stucco exterior and asphalt roof. Among the home's Prairie Style features are its horizontal massing, stucco exterior, outdoor living space, recessed/hidden entrances, wide overhanging eaves with eave brackets, massive square porch supports, multi-pane wood windows, multiple roof and wall planes, and built-in woodwork. The pent roofs, supported by eave brackets, are features more common in Mission Style architecture, a contemporary of Prairie Style. The roofs, wall planes and fenestration follow the patterns established by interior spaces and maximize natural light. Among the home's notable interior features is an Ernest Batchelder fireplace. The nominated property includes two contributing buildings, the house and an original free-standing garage, and a contributing feature, an original retaining wall.

Narrative Description

House Exterior

First Floor, East (Front) Elevation

The house faces east toward Plum Street. The most prominent feature on the east elevation is an outdoor living area that stretches the full width of the house. The outdoor living space, which includes an exposed landing and covered porch area, is accessible via a set of steps that gradually rise from driveway on the south to a shared landing with steps that rise from the east/west walk that extends west from the Plum Street sidewalk. A massive pier rises from the junction of these two stairs. The porch is defined by massive square supports on its northeast and southeast corners. These pierce through a pent roof supported by three-tiered paired Mission Style eave brackets and extend past a simple parapet. A solid porch railing bumps outward (east) from the plane of the porch supports. This enclosed railing provides the necessary enclosure to define the space as more than a porch but an outdoor living area. The space is also defined by a floor of tan 1" X 2" tiles laid in a basket weave field pattern accentuated by a black, squash and sage tile border. The porch has a tongue-and-groove ceiling.

The large porch area serves to conceal the home's main entrance – a technique used in Prairie Style design. There are two wall planes on the home's front elevation. A bumpout on the southeast corner, with its Chicago-Style windows and separate pent roof, articulates a sunroom. The main first-floor wall plane houses a multi-pane glazed door with multi-pane sidelights, flanked on each side by a set of three four-light windows with four-light transoms.

First Floor, North (Side) Elevation

Two small four-pane windows on the east end of the north elevation reveal the location of the fireplace. West of these is a wide Chicago-Style window on the north wall of the formal dining room. A north-projecting bay, with a pair of multi-pane windows with multi-pane transoms, delineates a breakfast nook north of the kitchen.

First Floor, West (Rear) Elevation

A wood clapboard mudroom addition extends west from the kitchen in the home's northwest corner. A projecting bay encloses the bedroom on the home's southwest corner. This bay has four 4/1 windows on its rear elevation.

First Floor, South (Side) Elevation

A porte-cochere, supported by massive square supports that pierce a pent roof, projects south from the main wall plane. There are two wall planes on the south elevation, a south projecting bay with its own pent roof, houses the bedroom on the home's southwest corner. On the south elevation of this bay is a series of four 4/1 windows. A pair of 4/1 windows on the main wall plane east of the southwest bedroom light the restroom. East of these, under the south-projecting porte-cochere, is a set of three 4/1 windows that light the second first-floor bedroom. East of this is the home's second entrance, accessible from stairs that rise from grade at the porte-cochere. Beyond this door, on the east end of the south elevation, is the sunroom's second Chicago-Style window.

Second Floor

The second level, a rear-facing L-plan, pops up from the center of the main mass. The full width of the east side houses

the two upstairs bedrooms and the rear-facing L houses the second-floor bathroom. The east (front) elevation has four evenly spaced window openings, each with two multi-pane windows topped with multi-pane transoms. The north two windows light the northernmost bedroom. The south two windows light the southernmost bedroom. The south-projecting bay, the south wall of the southernmost bedroom, has a ribbon of four multi-pane windows with multi-pane transoms. This bay also has a window on its west elevation, the west wall of the southernmost bedroom. A small window, on the south elevation of the space in the L, lights the stair to the second floor. The east end of the north elevation has a ribbon of four multi-pane windows with multi-pane transoms. The west end of the north elevation has a small window that lights the bathroom in the northwest corner of the second floor.

Retaining Wall

A low stuccoed brick retaining wall encircles the property at the sidewalk plane on the east and south. It is deepest on the south side, in the direction of a slightly sloping grade. The deep retaining wall on the south meets a shallower curb-type retaining wall along the east at the southeast corner of the property. This junction is marked by a squat stuccoed pier topped with a capstone and concrete urn. On the east side, the curb returns at the driveway and east/west sidewalk.

Garage

The garage, which sits at the back (west end) of the property, faces east toward Plum Street. It is accessible via a long driveway that stretches east to west from Plum Street through a porte-cochere. The square one-story garage's architectural details coordinate with the house. Among these are a parapet roof, pent roof supported by Mission Style tiered pairs of eave brackets, stucco finish, and multi-pane windows. The east (front) elevation houses a wide garage door. There are two window openings on the south elevation, each with a single 4/1 wood window. There is a single door opening, with a new aluminum door, and single window opening, with 4/1 wood window, on the north elevation. The west elevation, which has no window openings, backs up against the neighboring property to the west and is not accessible from the subject property.

Interior

Overall

Like the exterior, the interior retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Among the building's original features are smooth plaster walls, wood baseboards, window trim, hardwood floors, and doors. The public spaces – living room, dining room, sunroom, and entry hall – have multi-light French-type doors, found in both pairs and singles with sidelights. The doors and sidelights have a unique muntin pattern that denotes the building's Prairie Style design - with four, six or eight square lights over two, three or four elongated rectangular lights. Doors in private spaces are 2-panel wood doors, with solid wood rails and stiles and historic plywood panels. They have glass knobs on the first floor and bronze knobs on the second floor. The floors are exposed hardwood, except in the kitchen, which has linoleum, and in the back bedroom on the first floor, which has carpet. All woodwork is exposed, except in the kitchen and back bedroom, where it is painted.

First Floor

There are eight rooms on the first floor – a living room, sunroom, dining room, kitchen, entry hall, back hall, two bedrooms, and a bathroom. The entrance on the east (front) elevation opens to a large living room. The east wall of the living room has the multi-pane glazed entry door with multi-pane sidelights flanked on each side by a set of three windows. The north wall of the living room features an Ernest Batchelder fireplace flanked by bookcases with multi-pane glazed doors. Above each of these bookcases is a small square 4-pane window. The south wall of the living room has two large cased openings. The first houses a pair of multi-pane glazed doors with multi-pane sidelights that opens to the sunroom. The second houses two multi-pane doors that open to the south entry hall. The west wall of the living room houses a large cased opening with four multi-pane glazed doors that open to the dining room. The plaster ceiling in the living room has been removed temporarily to accommodate the installation of a new structural beam.

The principal feature in the dining room is a Chicago-Style window that spans the full width of the north wall, under which is a cased window seat/radiator cover. The south wall of the dining room has a small door that opens to the back hall. There are two openings on the west wall, one that opens to the south side of the kitchen and a second that opens to the breakfast area on the north side of the kitchen. The kitchen, which occupies the home's northwest corner, has finishes dating from various time periods, including modified original cabinets on the east wall and enameled steel cabinets on the south and west walls. The steel cabinets likely date to ca. 1950 when Hugh S. Dennis bought the property. A door on the south wall opens to the back hall.

The back hall provides circulation to the home's private spaces. Two doors on the north wall of the back hall open to the kitchen and dining room. These doors flank a built-in telephone cabinet. The stair to the second floor occupies the north end of the east wall. A door on the east wall opens to a bedroom. A door on the west end of the south wall opens to a

bathroom. East of this door is a built-in linen closet. There are two doors on the west wall of the back hall. The one on the south opens to the back bedroom. The one on the north opens to the basement stairs.

The first-floor bathroom features an original enameled cast-iron pedestal sink and bathtub, original hex tiles on the floor and original subway tiles on the walls. The front bedroom has doors that open to both the back hall and entry hall. The back bedroom is accessible from the back hall. It has two walls of windows. Unlike that in the home's other bedrooms, the woodwork in this space is painted. The entry hall between the sunroom and front bedroom has a multi-pane entry door with sidelights, a door on the west that opens to the front bedroom, and multi-pane French doors that open to the living room.

Second Floor

A small landing opens to the second-floor's three rooms: two bedrooms on the east end and a bathroom that occupies the west-projecting leg of the L. The wall between the two bedrooms houses a set of French doors. Each bedroom has two walls of windows and a small closet. The bathroom has its original enameled cast-iron tub.

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)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1923-1936

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Undetermined

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The property's period of significance stretches from its original construction in 1923 until 1936, when it was sold at Sheriff's sale for back taxes. The period of significance stretches from the peak of the Greenwood County oil boom to a completion of a shift in the oil industry marked by flooded supply, reduced demand, and increased regulation of the oil and gas industry.

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Robertson House in Eureka, Kansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture and under Criterion A in the area of Industry. The home is an excellent example of Prairie and Mission architecture and is associated with the state's early twentieth-century oil boom, which greatly affected the development of Greenwood County.

Narrative Statement of Significance

A Brief History of Eureka

According to local lore, Eureka was named after the exclamation of a pioneer when he found a clear spring at the Fall River. White settlers first came to the area in 1857, just three years after Kansas became a territory. During the Civil War, area residents constructed a garrison called Fort Montgomery, which provided a headquarters for wartime home guards and a place of protection during the "Indian scares" in the late 1860s.¹ In 1866, the fledgling community was little more than a collection of cabins and a single store.

But new settlers arrived in the westward-expanding years following the Civil War. In 1872, Eureka was named county seat of Greenwood County, which by then boasted a population of 3484.² By 1880, the county's population had tripled to 10,554.³ New settlers were attracted by the Fall River – and by new rail lines, which included the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and Missouri Pacific Railroads. Rail access attracted the attention of investors and speculators who supplied the appurtenances of modern city life, such as Eureka's Greenwood Hotel, completed in 1884.

The population of Greenwood County had reached 16,288 by 1900.⁴ By 1910, Eureka, whose population had reached 2333, boasted a "wagon factory, broom factory, flour mill, 4 banks, good hotels and two weekly newspapers."⁵ Although promotional literature for Eureka promoted industrial pursuits, the region's major enterprise was ranching. The oil industry, which reached Greenwood County during World War I, complemented ranching in that, like wind turbines today, they could easily coexist on the same property.

By the time the Robertsons left Eureka, the oil business was past its prime. The population of Greenwood County increased dramatically between 1920 and 1930, rising from 14,715 to 19,235. By 1950, it had declined to 13,574. Both ranching and oil continue to be the region's major industries. Eureka, whose current population numbers 2821, is also known as the "Racing Capital of Kansas." The Eureka Downs racetrack has hosted horse races since 1872.

The Oil Boom

The Kansas oil industry dates to the late nineteenth century, after independent drillers tapped into a Neodesha well that became known as Norman Number One. The discovery attracted the attention of Standard Oil, which began to buy out local producers in 1895.⁶ The events of the 1890s set off a frenzy of gas exploration in southeast Kansas. The Eureka-area oil and gas industry dates to 1900, when drillers struck natural gas used to supply the town with gas lights.⁷

Oil fever struck Kansas during World War I, when low supply and high demand spurred a quest for black gold. The Eureka area was infected in 1915 with the discovery of an El Dorado well called Stapleton Number One, just 30 miles to the west. By the end of 1916, the open plains surrounding El Dorado were littered with 600 oil rigs.⁸ Kansas supplied nearly 13% of the nation's oil output in 1918.⁹

¹ Marvin H. Garfield, "The Military Post as a Factor in the Frontier Defense of Kansas, 1865-1869," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, v. 1, no. 1 (Nov. 1931), 50-62.

² 1870 U. S. Census.

³ 1880 U. S. Census.

⁴ 1900 U. S. Census.

⁵ Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: a Cyclopedia of State History, Embracing Events, Institutions, Industries, Counties, Cities, Towns, Prominent Persons, etc.* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912).

⁶ Robert Richmond W., *Kansas: A Land of Contrasts* (Wheeling: Forum Press Inc., 1989), 215.

⁷ Craig Miner, *Discovery! Cycles of Change in the Kansas Oil and Gas Industries, 1860-1987* (Wichita: KIOGA, 1987), 153.

⁸ James R. Shortridge, *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2004), 192-93 (includes photo).

⁹ *Discovery!*, 149.

There were rumblings about oil in Greenwood County as early as the nineteenth century. But oil exploration did not begin in earnest until 1916, the year after the El Dorado discovery. On July 6, 1916, wildcats struck oil at the Greenwood County property of Granville Lewis. It was rumored that he was offered \$48,000 in cash for the quarter section of land.¹⁰ The first commercial oil strike, just ¼ mile east of town, came in November 1916.¹¹ Greenwood County oil came in “golden lanes,” along ancient river beds.¹²

Easy oil and a supportive cadre of local ranchers drew investors, including world heavy weight champion Jess “The Great White Hope” Willard and industrialist and oil mogul Jean Paul Getty.¹³ A journalist reported that “Eureka [was] chock full of men, from the big fellow to the piker who is ever watching for an opportunity to edge into the game on his nerve.”¹⁴ Those not directly involved in the oil industry came to profit indirectly by providing them goods and services.

Tapping a well required the expertise of both a drilling contractor and tool dresser, who together could drill a new well in thirty days working twelve-hour shifts.¹⁵ By 1926, Greenwood County was the oil capital of Kansas, producing a million barrels per month from about 2900 wells. Between 1921 and 1929, the county produced 72 million barrels of oil.¹⁶

Despite production increases, Kansas’s piece of the oil pie was on the decline through the 1920s, plunging from 12.8% in 1918 to 4.3% in 1929.¹⁷ As the nation’s oil supply increased, and demand leveled out, the market became glutted with oil and prices plunged. In 1915, oil prices were as high as \$3.50 per barrel.¹⁸ By 1929, the price per barrel had dropped to \$1.46.¹⁹ It dropped to just 66 cents in 1933.²⁰

A History of the Robertson House

The earliest occupants of the Robertson House came to the area to work in the newly discovered oil fields. The home was commissioned by Russell Roy Robertson. Robertson was born in Richmond, Missouri on February 14, 1890. By 1917, the year after oil was first discovered in the area, he was employed as a tool dresser at an oil well in the Reece, Greenwood County, Kansas owned by the firm Miller and Tyrrell. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Robertson did not serve in World War I. On his draft registration form, he reported that he was responsible for supporting his mother. In 1920, Robertson was listed as a widower living in Spring Creek, Greenwood County, where he was working as an oil drilling contractor. He lived with his brother, a tool dresser, and his mother.

In the early 1920s, Robertson married a woman named Mary. By 1930, Mary (39) had three daughters, Oree (18), Ella (16) and Russell (8). Given that Robertson identified himself as unmarried in 1920, it is likely that Mary’s first two daughters were from a prior marriage. The construction of the home at 403 N. Plum coincides with Robertson’s marriage to Mary; it would have been completed shortly after the birth of their daughter Russell. The family did not stay in Greenwood County long. By 1930, with oil prices on the decline, the Robertsons were living in Oklahoma City, where Russell Robertson was employed as a yardmaster for the railroad.

Roy Clair Patton purchased the Robertson House in 1931. Patton was born in Middleton, Ohio on March 29, 1891. By 1917, Patton, who identified himself as single, was working as an oil well driller in Billings, Oklahoma. He left the oil fields to serve in World War I. Records related to Patton’s marital status are contradictory. A Missouri marriage license record indicates that a Roy Patton married Nettie Foster on May 3, 1910, when Roy would have been only nineteen years old. But Roy identified himself as single in 1917, and reported in the 1930 Census that he was twenty-four at the time of his first marriage. This seems to correspond with the ages of his children. In 1930, Roy Patton (36) was living in Eureka’s first ward with his wife Nettie (32) and three children Harry (10), Mary (8) and Robert (5). Patton, who was employed as a drilling contractor, was well off by small-town standards, with a home valued at \$7000 and a radio set.

Despite the family’s good fortune, the Pattons could not escape the Great Depression and simultaneous falling oil prices. Their home was sold at sheriff’s sale in 1936. Amy Goldsmith, a teacher married to teacher William Goldsmith, acquired

¹⁰ *Emporia Gazette*, 6 July 1916.

¹¹ *Discovery!*, 155.

¹² *Ibid.*, 152-54.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 158.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 158.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 160.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 164.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 149.

¹⁸ Shortridge, 192.

¹⁹ *Discovery!*, 150-51.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 188.

the property in July 1936. She sold the property in October 1936 to David H. Morgan. After the bank foreclosed on Morgan in 1939, the property remained vacant until 1941 until Abner H. Ferguson purchased it. Hugh S. Dennis bought the property in 1950. During the 1960s, the property was owned by C. A. and Barbara Long.

Architectural Style

Like many early twentieth-century homes, the Robertson House features a unique mix of architectural influences, the most prominent of which are Prairie and Mission. Although the home does not have a low-pitched roof, the most distinguishing feature of most Prairie Style homes, it possesses a number of other Prairie Style features, like horizontal massing, wide overhanging eaves, outdoor living space, and a recessed hidden entrance. Unlike most Mission Style homes, the Robertson House lacks a bell-shaped parapet. However, like many Mission Style homes, it has projecting pent roofs, stucco finish, massive porch supports, and angular roof brackets. Flat roofs, paired roof brackets and cornices, like those found on the Robertson House, are also common among Italian Renaissance designs. However, the home lacks the rigid symmetry of most Italian Renaissance homes.

The term "Prairie Style" was first coined in 1912 in H. H. Von Holst's book *Modern American Homes* to describe the unique residential designs of Chicago architects including Holst's well-known colleague Frank Lloyd Wright. The name referred to the style's low-lying horizontality, inspired by the Midwestern prairie landscape. Although it was used for commercial and institutional buildings, such as Prairie/Sullivan-esque Woodbury County Courthouse (1916-1918) in Sioux City, Iowa, the style was generally reserved for residential architecture. Frank Lloyd Wright perfected the Prairie Style residence in the first fifteen years of the twentieth century, when he designed many homes throughout the country. He completed the last of the Prairie Style homes, Wichita's Allen-Lambe House, in 1915.

The majority of the nation's Prairie Style homes are found in the most common vernacular form, simple foursquares identified by their two-story cubed massing, shallow hipped roofs and hipped dormers. These homes fall into the vernacular classification of suburban house styles known as "The Comfortable House," as documented by Alan Gowans.²¹ High-style examples combine a variety of character-defining features to create complex forms that emphasize horizontality. Among the distinguishing features found on Prairie Style homes are outdoor living spaces, recessed/hidden entrances, wide overhanging eaves, multiple wall and roof planes, massive square porch supports, and multi-pane windows. High-style examples were generally built with brick, sometimes Roman Brick, sometimes accented with stucco. The horizontal emphasis generally translates into interiors, where low ceiling heights were used to create intimacy. Although high-style examples might feature elaborate interior treatments, including custom furniture, the interior finishes of vernacular examples - quarter-sawn oak, beamed ceilings, multi-pane glazed doors - are generally similar to those found in Mission and Craftsman Style contemporaries.

There are very few high-style examples of Prairie architecture in Kansas. In fact, only forty-nine of the fifty thousand properties in the state's inventory database are designated as Prairie Style; and most of these are foursquares or other derivatives. There is one other known example of high-style Prairie in Eureka. The Shambaugh House, at 403 N. Maple, just four blocks from the Robertson House, has a very similar design.

During the post-war years, Prairie Style gave way to Tudor and Colonial Revival. By then, however, the Prairie Style aesthetic had spread throughout the United States through pattern books and well-distributed publications, such as *Ladies Home Journal*. Decades later, post-World-War II ranch homes took cues from Prairie Style designs.

Mission architecture was popular in the United States from 1905 to 1920. The style was first employed in the late nineteenth century in California where designers borrowed references from the Spanish missions that dotted the landscape. The style was adopted by the Santa Fe and other railroad companies for stations in the American Southwest. One of the early Kansas examples was the Rock Island depot in Liberal. Although found in 1920s suburbs throughout Kansas, the style is most prominent in the southwest region of the state. There are fifty-seven Mission style properties in the state's inventory database; none of them are single-family residences. Character-defining features of Mission architecture include shaped dormers, pent roofs, massive porch supports, and wide overhanging eaves. Mission architecture was often comingled with the contemporary Prairie Style.

Summary

The history of the Robertson House parallels the rise and fall of the Kansas oil industry. The Prairie and Mission design, unique in Kansas, interpreted the owner's financial success. When he built the home in 1923, oil drill contractor Russell Roy Robertson likely believed that oil would flow eternal – and that prices would remain steady. For the first time, oil workers, who had lived in temporary company towns, began to take permanent residence in oil towns like Eureka. In the

²¹ Alan Gowans, *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930* (Boston: MIT Press, 1986).

words of historian Craig Miner, "Oil had become respectable during the 1920s." The Robertson House likely seemed affordable to oil contractor Roy Clair Patton, who bought the property at the dawn of the Great Depression. But when drillers flooded the market, oil prices plunged and yields fell, those who made their living drilling oil wells could no longer afford it. By 1933, the price of oil had tanked to just 66 cents. The Pattons could not pay the mortgage and it was sold at sheriff's sale. The property is significant for its association with the oil industry and as an example of Prairie Style, a style whose attention to detail represented the unmatched wealth and optimism of the period in which it was constructed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bradford, Helen. *Short History of Greenwood County*. Eureka, KS: Author, 1979. (K978.1/-G85/Pam.v.1/no. 6).

Eureka Herald. *History of Greenwood County as Published in the Centennial Issue of the Eureka Herald, July 4, 1968*. N.p.: n.d. (K978.1/-G85/Pam.v.1/no. 11).

Eureka City Directories. Greenwood County Historical Society.

Eureka Herald.

Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930*. Boston: MIT Press, 1986.

Greenwood County Deed Records. Greenwood County Historical Society.

Greenwood County Historical Society. *The History of Greenwood County, Kansas*. (2 vols.). Wichita, KS: Kelly Wright, Josten's Publications, 1986 & 1990. (K978.1/-G85/G85).

Kansas State Historical Society. *Greenwood County Clippings, 1874-1986*. (2 vols.). Topeka, KS: KSHS, n.d. (K978.1/-G85/Clipp.).

U. S. Census.

Miner, Craig, *Discovery! Cycles of Change in the Kansas Oil & Gas Industry, 1860-1987*. Wichita: KIOGA, 1987.

Richmond, Robert W. *Kansas: A Land of Contrasts*. Wheeling: Forum Press Inc., 1989.

Shortridge, James R. *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2004.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: **Kansas Historical Society**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

Robertson House
Name of Property

Greenwood County, KS
County and State

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>739101</u> Easting	<u>4189591</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The property sits on Block 17 of Bittler's 2nd Addition, Section 2, Township 26, Range 10, South 140' of East 150'.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The above is the legal description for the property whose address is 403 N. Plum, Eureka.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christy Davis
organization Davis Preservation date August 31, 2010
street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 telephone 785-234-5053
city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612
e-mail cdavis@davispreservation.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Robertson House
City or Vicinity: Eureka
County/State: Greenwood, Kansas
Photographer: Christy Davis

All photos were taken on August 16, 2010.

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 11 Exterior, overall view of east (front) elevation, looking west.
- 2 of 11 Exterior, overall view of east (front) and south elevations, looking northwest.
- 3 of 11 Exterior, overall view of south (side) elevation, looking north.
- 4 of 11 Exterior, overall view of west (rear) elevation, looking southeast.
- 5 of 11 Exterior, overall view of north (side) elevation, looking south.
- 6 of 11 Exterior, outdoor living area on east side, looking northwest toward main entrance.
- 7 of 11 Exterior, overall view of garage, looking northwest.
- 8 of 11 Interior, overall view of living room, looking southeast toward sun room.
- 9 of 11 Interior, close-up of Ernest Batchelder fireplace on north wall of living room.
- 10 of 11 Interior, back hallway, looking south toward bathroom, linen closet and laundry chute.
- 11 of 11 Interior, south second-floor bedroom, looking west toward door.

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Matthew and Cammie Wilson
street & number 403 N. Plum telephone 620-583-8630
city or town Eureka state Kansas zip code 67045

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Robertson House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Greenwood

DATE RECEIVED: 12/21/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/20/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/04/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001207

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2.7.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





4
0
3













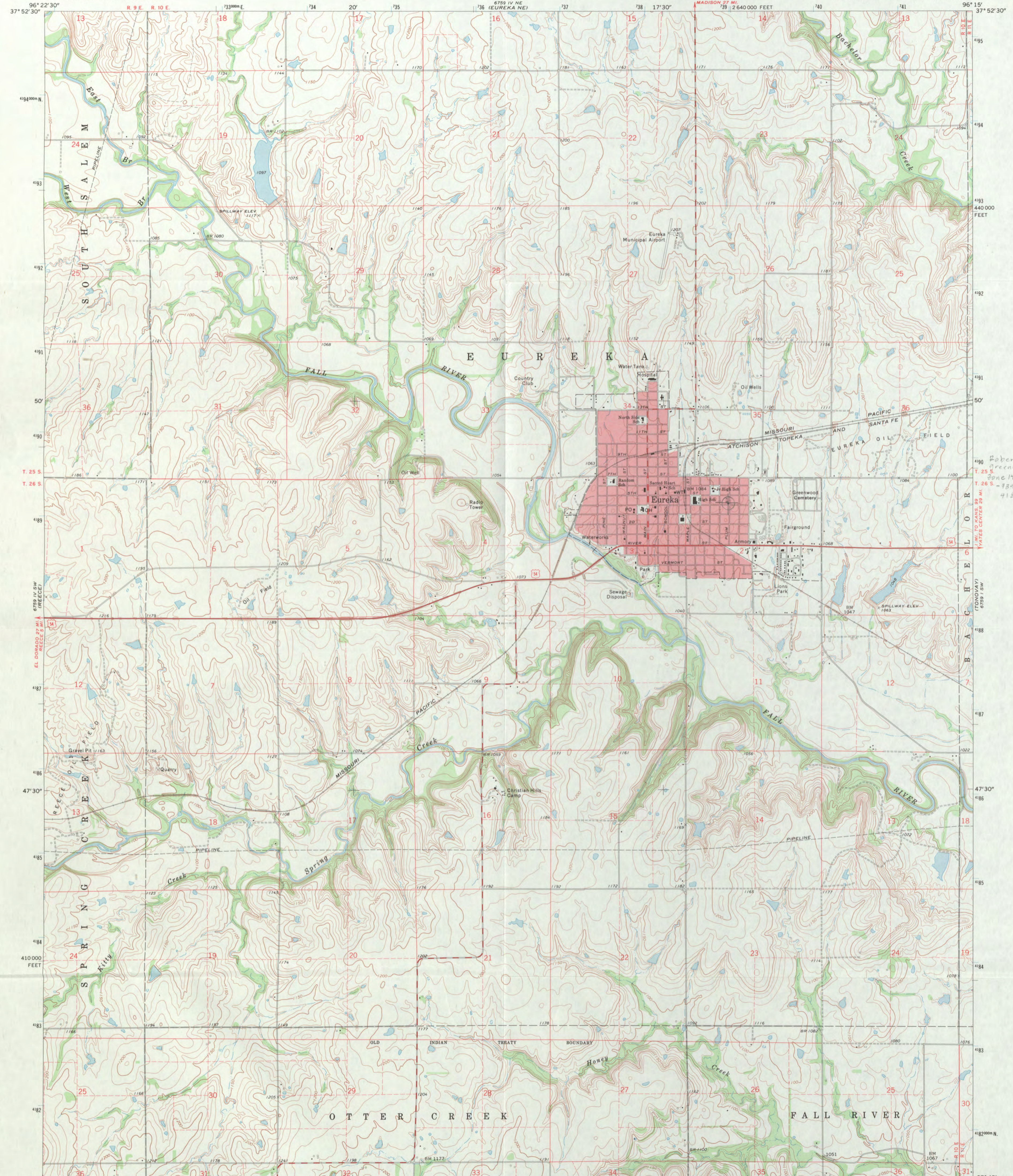






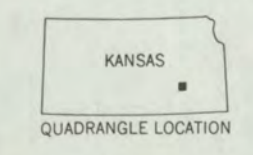
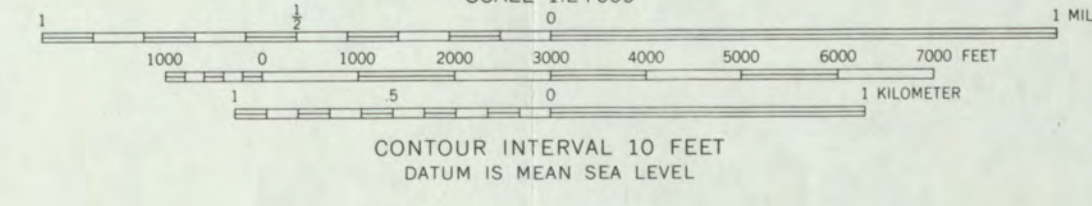
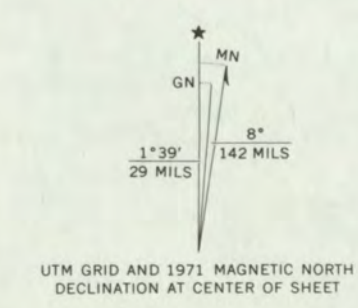
UREKA

One Hundred Dollars



Robertson House Greenwood Co. Kansas T. 25 S. R. 10 E. 31st 4189571 N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242 AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

EUREKA, KANS. N3745-W9615/7.5 1971



KANSAS

DEC 21 2010

Kansas Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division

December 20, 2010

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, N. W.
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the following National Register nominations:

- Broadmoor Ranch House Historic District – Overland Park, Johnson
- Ritchie House – Topeka, Shawnee Co., Kansas (new submission)
- Robertson House – Eureka, Greenwood Co., Kansas (new submission)
- Ball House – Coffeyville, Montgomery, Co., Kansas (new submission)

Also enclosed is an amendment to the South Rhode Island & New Hampshire Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I may be reached at smartin@kshs.org.

Sincerely yours,



Sarah J. Martin
National Register Coordinator