



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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Ennis, Mary Seaman, House  
Other name/site number 181-2110-0017

### 2. Location

Street & number 202 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street  not for publication  
City or town Goodland  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Sherman Code 181 Zip code 67735

### 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.)

Patrick Zolner DSHPD 5/24/06  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Kansas State Historical Society

State or 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:)

Edson M. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 7-12-08

Ennis House  
Name of property

Sherman County, Kansas  
County and State

**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	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	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  
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling  
FUNERARY: mortuary

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD  
roof ASPHALT  
other

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

Name of Property Ennis House

County and State Sherman County, Kansas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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 likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1907

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fred Hunt

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): Primary location of additional data:

- 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

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

Name of repository:

Record #

Name of Property Ennis House

County and State Sherman County, Kansas

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   4	2   6   6   2   0   0	4   3   5   8   5   1   0	3							
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing					
2				4							

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 Melissa Fisher Isaacs

Organization Kansas State Historical Society

Date 2 April 2004

Street & number 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Telephone 785-272-8681

City or town Topeka

State Kansas

Zip code 66615-1099

**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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

name Sherman County Historical Society

street & number P.O. Box 684

telephone 785-899-5448

city or town Goodland

state Kansas

zip code 67735

**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

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Ennis House  
Sherman Co., Kansas

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**Description**

**Summary**

The Ennis House (c. 1907) is located on the southeast corner of Block 72 in Goodland's Original Township (the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets). The house faces south and east with the southern view overlooking Chamber's Park, the city's oldest park. Plans for this classic Late Victorian Queen Anne style house began in December 1905. Mary Seaman Ennis purchased three city lots and contracted Fred Hunt to build the 1,768 square foot three bedroom, one bath home.

**Elaboration**

In the Friday, March 1, 1907, issue of the *Goodland Republic*, the house was described as a two-story composite Gothic structure with four gables, two porches, one one-story and two two-story bay windows, and a balcony. The home was built on a three-foot brick foundation with a brick basement under half of the structure. The plans included a covered back porch on the northeast corner of the house, along with a one-car garage. The garage was replaced with a larger two-car and covered breezeway (when this change took place has not been determined). An additional out-building first served as a chicken coop and today is a storage building.

Other exterior features included exquisite gingerbread trim around the balcony and the generous wraparound porch, which faces both south and east. Although much of this decorative porch and gable end ornamentation was lost over the years, it was recently replicated and restored by the current owner, the Sherman County Historical Society. Surrounding the house was an iron post fence. Today six iron posts from the original fence remain on the northeast corner of the property running east to west.

The home was wired for electricity with a porch light and electric lights in the halls and rooms. Along with an elegant fireplace, the home had hot water radiators throughout. The original radiators warm the house to this day. It was also equipped for running water to a basement washroom, the kitchen, and a large bathroom on the second floor. The home was also one of the first in Sherman County to be wired for telephone service. A stairway was built in the northwest corner of the house with a door to the kitchen. The stairway extended from the kitchen to the second floor without the necessity of entering the main house.

The interior woodwork is of beautifully finished oak. Two flights of stairs rise to the second level. The entry hall and stairway are elaborately decorated with Corinthian style columns, railings, and banisters. The floors, two sets of pocket doors located in the parlor, and all doors and window and

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door frames were built from the same fine oak. These interior features survive in excellent condition today.

The first floor has a large entry hall and foyer, parlor, dining room, sitting room, and kitchen. On the second floor landing is a sitting area with access to the balcony. The three bedrooms and original bath are located on the second level. Each room has its own closet and the south and east bedrooms have the benefit of large bay windows. Today there is a second bath and a partially finished attic space, which was used as a guest room by later owners.

The integrity of the Ennis House has been maintained throughout the years by its seven owners. The home was used as a boarding house (1927-1930) and as a funeral home (1939-1944); most of the changes to the home were made during this latter period. Although these changes did not markedly alter the historic integrity, they did deviate from the original floor plan. During the Bower mortuary years, the kitchen door was closed off to create an exclusive entrance to their second floor residence by a new entry door from the back yard. A first level bath was also added in the early 1940s. An additional bathroom was created on the second floor.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Mary Seaman Ennis House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an outstanding example of Queen Anne-style architecture and for its association with prominent local builder, Fred Hunt.

**History**

In 1906, Mary Seaman Ennis contracted local builder Fred Hunt to construct a two-story Queen Anne residence overlooking Chamber's Park in Goodland. Mary Seaman Ennis was the widow of William Ennis, a prominent local businessman who had operated one of Goodland's first drug stores, and had been a successful entrepreneur in her own right. As a young woman, she and her sisters Lyda and Margaret managed the Montezuma Hotel in Burlington, Colorado. In 1894, the sisters came to Goodland to operate the prestigious Palace Hotel. After the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1896, the enterprising Seaman sisters opened a millinery shop that quickly became known for the elegance and intricacy of its designs.

A trailblazer in business, Mary Seaman Ennis also built a home that was at the forefront of style and technology for the fledgling Goodland community. The home, completed in 1907, was one of the first in Sherman County to be wired for electricity as well as for telephone service. The kitchen, basement washroom, and a large bathroom on the second floor were plumbed for running water.

The steeply pitched, irregularly shaped roof, the cutaway bay windows, and the textured shingles ornamenting the gables of the Ennis House are trademarks of the Queen Anne style. The Queen Anne style, which dominated residential building in America from 1880 until 1900, was an adaptation of the late medieval architecture of the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods in England. The widespread popularity of the style was made possible by the establishment of the railroad, which allowed pre-made architectural details to be readily available across the nation. Likewise, the innovation of balloon framing, which allowed builders to easily incorporate elements such as bay windows, towers, and other wall insets and projections into their designs, added to the popularity of the style.

Examples of the Queen Anne style continued to be built through the first decade of the twentieth century; however, the popularity of the style had greatly diminished by 1910. Although the Ennis House is a late example of the Queen Anne style as a whole, its construction in this style is significant in Goodland, where few homes of this type were built. The growth of the Goodland community, which had surged forward with the arrival of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad on July 3, 1888, had been suspended by the economic depression, drought, and crop failures of the mid-1890s. By 1905, the town was recovering from these setbacks, and the Rock Island line had invested an estimated \$200,000 in its facilities in Goodland. Additionally, these improvements

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allowed the Goodland community to boast its possession of the largest stockyards between Topeka and Denver. This new prosperity was reinforced by the construction of fine homes such as that of Mary Seaman Ennis. The March 1, 1907 issue of the *Goodland Republic* reported that

Our growing city will soon have as fine residences as can be found in the average up-to-date and progressive city of the Sunflower State. The Coon residence in the west part of town, the Mrs. Ennis and the Swarts residences just being completed are costly and elegant homes. This is an evidence of permanence, thrift and good taste. It means that Goodland is a good place to live in, and a thriving metropolis where quite large investment is perfectly safe.

Builder Fred Hunt had moved west from his native New York to work on the railroad. After working in Goodland as a conductor for the Rock Island Line, Hunt left this job to become a master carpenter in Sherman County. In this capacity, he was responsible for the construction of numerous residences, businesses, hospitals, churches, and schools in Goodland and Sherman County. These include the 1905 bungalow which now serves as the administrative offices for USD #352, the 1908 American Foursquare home which is currently the Four Sisters Bed and Breakfast, the 1908 Sherman County High School which was demolished in 1950, the 1911 Methodist Episcopal Church, the 1913 Carnegie Library, and the 1927 Grandstand and Agricultural Hall at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. When he died in 1937, his obituary was proof of the regard in which his work was held by the Goodland community:

Mr. Hunt was known as a very conscientious man in his work, and to say that a building was constructed by Fred Hunt meant to everyone who knew him that it was well built. He was a builder of the "old school," who chose only the best materials, whether they would show on the outside or might be concealed in the finished building, and provided the best workmanship of which he was capable. In the general acceptance of the fact that a man's character is revealed by the quality of his work, Mr. Hunt was known to be a man of sound, sterling worth (*Goodland Republic*, 8 September 1937).

Soon after the house's completion, Fred Hunt and Mary Seaman Ennis's sister Lyda were married. Mary Seaman Ennis and the couple lived in the house until 1917, when Mary sold the home to James P. Cullen. Mr. Cullen rented furnished rooms in the house to gentlemen or married couples. In July 1927, Mr. Cullen sold the Ennis House to Emily A. Stewart, who in turn sold the house in 1930 to Roy Heston. Roy Heston, who was the Sherman County Treasurer, lived in the house with his wife and two daughters until 1939 when the family moved two blocks north to care for Mr. Heston's father-in-law. From 1939 to 1944, the Bower Funeral Home rented the house from Roy Heston and operated a funeral parlor in the home. In 1944, the Bower family purchased the house. In 1956, Hope (Bower) Littlejohn sold the house to Calvin T. Handy. From the fall of 1956 until the death of Edythe



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Handy in August 2000, the house was home to members of the Handy family. The Ennis House is currently under the stewardship of the Sherman County Historical Society.

The Mary Seaman Ennis House was listed in the Kansas Register of Historic Places on May 12, 2004. At that time, the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review decided against nominating the property to the National Register due to the loss of the extensive spindlework that once decorated the front porch and balcony, as well as the scrolled gingerbread ornamentation that originally graced the gables. In the summer of 2004, the Sherman County Historical Society replicated the missing porch and gable end features, and the exterior of the house now closely approximates its original 1907 appearance.

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Boyd, Ramona. Draft nomination.

"Building still going on..." *Goodland Republic*, 17 November 1905.

"Conductor Walter Hunt is building a residence," *Goodland Republic*, 9 June 1905.

"Eternal City gets builder," *Goodland Republic*, 8 September 1937.

"Fred Hunt is starting...new brick dwelling," *Goodland Republic*, 24 March 1911.

*Goodland News Republic*, 10 May 1907.

"Ground was broken...Dr. Smith new residence," *Goodland Republic*, 28 July 1905.

*Historic Tour of Goodland, Kansas*. The High Plains Museum, et al.

*History of the Carnegie Library*. Goodland, Kansas: Sherman County Heritage Preservation Alliance, 2003.

"Mrs. Ennis house is about ready for occupancy," *Sherman County Record*, 27 December 1906.

"R.P. Moon is building new cottage," *Goodland Republic*, 20 October 1911.

"Seaman Sisters, the popular dressmakers..." *Goodland Republic*, 1 April 1898.

*Sherman County and Family History: They Came to Stay, Vol. I*. Goodland, Kansas: Sherman County Historical Society, 1980.

*Sherman County and Family History: They Came to Stay, Vol. II*. Goodland, Kansas: Sherman County Historical Society, 1981.

*Sherman County and Family History: They Came to Stay, Vol. III*. Goodland, Kansas: Sherman County Historical Society, 1981.

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*Sherman County Historical Bulletins*, Vols. 1-3.

Sherman County Register of Deeds.

“Stewart house sold, Roy Heston purchases fine property,” *Goodland News Republic*, 14 May 1930.

“Very fine residence, new home of Mrs. Ennis almost completed,” *Goodland Republic*, 1 March 1907.

*W.J. Bowers & Sons Account Book*, 1906-1907.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is located on Lots 22 through 24 in Block 72 in the City of Goodland. The property is bounded on the east by Center Street, on the south by West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, on the north by an alley, on the west by adjacent property lines.

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary contains all the land historically associated with the nominated property.