

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

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✓ Kerfoot House

(2)
(S H M T R)

✓ Location: 740 N. Beard^{st.} Shawnee, Oklahoma

Owner of Property: Janice Sparkman, Shawnee, Oklahoma

Location of Legal Description: Pottawatomie County Court House

Description: Excellent, unaltered, original site

The Kerfoot House was built in 1903 to resemble a Mississippi River steamboat. It is a three story house with a basement. It has 18 rooms and is over 8,500 square feet. The east side of the house is rounded to resemble the bow of a steamship. Round windows on the north and south sides of the house resemble porthole windows on a ship. The top floor has a number of gable dormer windows with arched windows that have a gothic pattern design. There is also a Palladian style window on the north end and one on the south side of the third floor. The second floor is decorated with windows in sets of three. Most of the second floor windows have a lattice-like design. A sun room extends from the second floor on the south side, over the driveway. The sun room has double-hung windows on all three sides. The east side of the first floor is surrounded by a porch, decorated with paired tuscan columns and an open railing. Some of the doors and windows on the first floor also have lattice-like patterns. The house has two chimney stacks with corbelled chimney caps. The chimney stacks were built with red brick. The house has clapboard siding on the ground floor, shingle siding on the second floor, and a composition shingle roof. The driveway goes under the second floor sun room, which is supported by tuscan columns that match those on the porch.

Significance: 1900 to present; Builder/Architect - Unknown

The Kerfoot House is significant because of its unique architectural characteristics. It was built in 1903 by E. O. Nelson. Nelson and his wife had gone on a Mississippi River steamboat cruise. His wife enjoyed the trip so much, she insisted that the house they were building be constructed to resemble a Mississippi steamboat. The house has a large rounded front to resemble the bow of a steam ship, and round windows on the north and south sides to resemble porthole windows. George Kerfoot bought the Nelson home in the early 1910s. George Kerfoot owned the Mamouth Department Store, a large store in downtown Shawnee. The Kerfoot family, George, his wife Netta, and three daughters, lived in the home for a number of years. The house is large enough that each of the daughters continued to live in the house with their husbands after they were married. The house became known as the Kerfoot House because the Kerfoot family lived there for so many years. Many people in Shawnee just refer to the house as the "steamboat house." The architecture of the house is so unique, everyone knows which house is being referred to.

Bibliographical References:

Washichek, Josie. Frontier Lore, 1976-77. Pottawatomie County Historical Society.

Goins, Charles R. and Morris, John W. Oklahoma Homes Past and Present. Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1980.

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Acreage: Less than 1 acre. Quadrangle name: Shawnee 1967; 7.5'.

Verbal Boundary Description: East 1/2 of block 7, lots 37 through 40 of block 7, of
W.J. Estes A.P. Wallace A.P.

UTM: Zone: 14 Easting: 688660 Northing: 3912360

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Washichek, Josie. Frontier Lore, 1976-77. Pottawatomie County Historical Society.

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