

56-1289



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 Newell-Johnson-Searle House

Other names/site number KHRI #087-460 (house) & 087-4240-00015 (stone outbuilding)

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Street & number <u>609 Walnut Street (US-59)</u> | | not for publication |
| City or town <u>Oskaloosa</u> | | vicinity |
| State <u>Kansas</u> Code <u>KS</u> County <u>Jefferson</u> Code <u>087</u> Zip code <u>66066</u> | | |

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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Patrick Zollner 5-15-17
 Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society
 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:)

Alan Oberholser 7/10/17
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Newell-Johnson-Searle House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | 1 | buildings |
| 1 | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 3 | 1 | Total |

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/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VERNACULAR

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD/weatherboard & board & batten

STONE

roof: OTHER/Composite shingle

WOOD/shingle

other: _____

Newell-Johnson-Searle House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kansas
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Narrative Description

Summary

The Newell-Johnson-Searle House is located on a half-acre parcel along US-59 highway on the east edge of Oskaloosa (population 1,084) in Jefferson County, Kansas (Figure 1). Situated on a slight rise, the former farmstead is a tree-filled lot with a cluster of three buildings – a 2-1/2-story, wood-frame residence, a one-story stone building with a cellar, and a wood-frame garage (Figure 2). The buildings reflect varying periods and methods of construction, illustrating its transition from a Territorial-era homestead to a fashionable early 20th-century farmstead. The property’s setting, location, and built features all reflect its significance to the early history of Oskaloosa.

Elaboration

Setting (Photos 1 & 2)

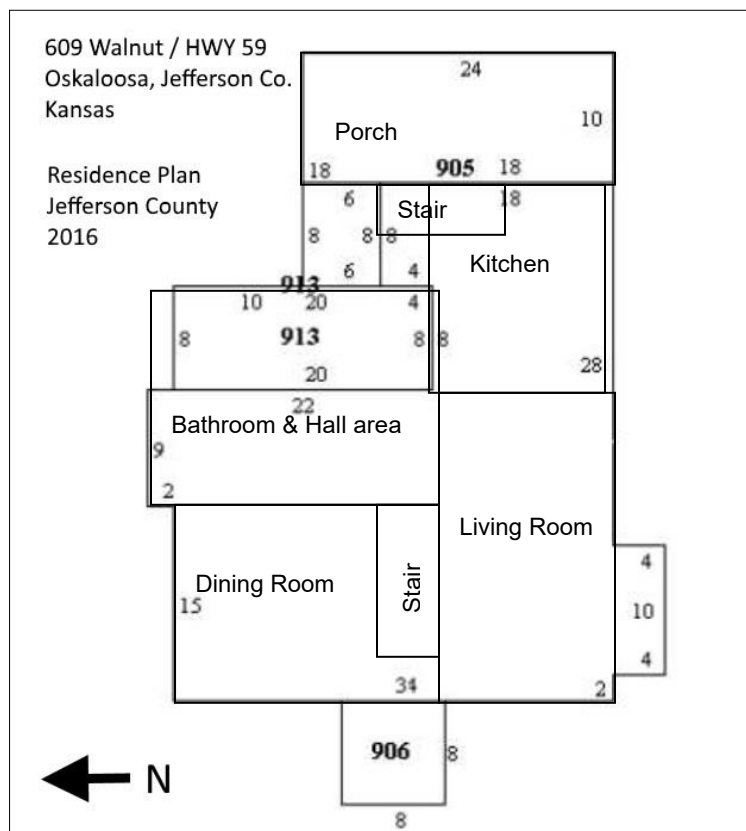
Oskaloosa is a small county-seat town located near the center of rural Jefferson County in northeast Kansas. The Newell-Johnson-Searle property is all that remains of a once-thriving farmstead of more than 100 acres. The character of the setting surrounding the property has changed in recent decades from close-in rural farmsteads and residences of the 19th and early 20th centuries to small commercial and industrial properties. The development and use of US-59 highway has contributed to the change in character, and today, this property is the only residential parcel along the east side of a nine-block stretch of the highway.

There are a few defining characteristics of the site (contributing resource) that identify this property as a former farmstead. The many trees, particularly along the property lines, provide a wind break and a canopy that envelops the cluster of buildings. Second, and somewhat less obvious, is the disappearing network of paths and sidewalks of both concrete and native stone pavers on the property. For example, one set of stone pavers skirts the south side of the house, leading to the back porch and stone building. Historic photographs of the property reveal more evidence of the circulation patterns, suggesting most activity and foot-traffic emanated from the rear of the house.

Wood-frame House (ca. 1860, 1877, 1913; contributing building)¹

The Newell-Johnson-Searle House is exactly as its name implies, an amalgamation incorporating components from three distinct major construction/reconstruction activities. The current overall configuration and finishes are from the 1913 reconstruction after a significant fire, with more recent updating of the kitchen and bathrooms.

The 2-1/2-story house faces west toward the highway (Photo 1) and is situated on the west one-third of the parcel, a lot measuring 100’ x 204’. The 2,250-square-foot, wood-frame structure has an L-shaped plan, with a side-gable front section and an intersecting rear gabled ell. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad in horizontal clapboard siding with a narrow reveal and corner boards. It has a wood shingle roof. Older wood windows of varying sizes and configurations are found throughout the building. The four-over-four attic-level windows are likely the oldest sashes, while the remaining one-over-one windows are probably early replacements. Most retain their wood storm windows.



¹ Architect Stan HERNY, HERNY Associates, Inc., conducted an on-site review of the property on January 23, 2017. Findings from his report, dated March 2, 2017, are used throughout this Narrative Description. A copy of his report is on file with KSHS.

Newell-Johnson-Searle House

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West Elevation (Walnut St. / US-59)

The primary façade is symmetrical and three bays wide. The central entrance is marked by a one-story, single-bay wood porch supported by two columns. The porch is raised just one step off the ground. A low wood balustrade encircles the flat roof, which serves as a second-story porch and is accessed by a second-floor hallway door. This porch dates to the mid-20th century and replaced a sprawling, full-width porch (installed in 1877 by F. M. Johnson) as seen in historic photographs.

The windows are trimmed in simple, flat trim with a slightly projecting head casing. The second-story windows are shorter than those on the first story and reach nearly to the roofline. The side-gable roof is quite steeply pitched, has a slight eave with attached half-round gutters with a northwest corner downspout, and is clad in composition shingles.

South Elevation (Driveway Side)

The south façade has a few defining elements (*Photo 3*). First, a two-story square bay with a shed roof projects from the west end of this south façade. The base of the bay features wood-panel detail and the first and second stories are wrapped in windows – ten windows in all. A small section of clapboard siding with corner boards separates the two stories of the bay. Second, adjacent to the projecting bay is an end-wall brick chimney. It pierces the eave and roofline, just off-center from the peak of the roof. Centered in the gable wall above the projecting bay is a tall, narrow opening with a four-over-four wood window.

The south wall of the intersecting rear gabled bay is flush with that of the main section of the house. This south wall includes one window on each of the first and second stories. The eave projects slightly and a half-round gutter is attached to the roofline. The associated downspout is attached to the southeast corner of the building.

East (Rear) Elevation

Three bays define the east elevation – the gabled end wall at the south end and an L-shaped, shed-roof bay occupied by a sleeping porch on the second story (*Photo 4*). The north one-third is stepped back and its first-story porch has been enclosed. A one-story, shed-roof porch supported by several wood columns spans the south two-thirds of the east elevation. The concrete floor of the porch is buckling; it covers a cistern where a pump once used to be. A second cistern is to the north of the porch.

Two concrete steps access the porch and a door at the southeast corner of the building. This door likely facilitated much of the foot traffic in and out of the building, given its proximity to the driveway, garage, stone building, and cisterns. Centered on the gabled end wall are two windows – one on the second story and the other at attic level. The second-story sleeping porch, believed to be a 20th century addition, is almost entirely windows.

North Elevation

The north side of the house is three bays wide (*Photo 4*). The gabled main section of the house makes up the west two-thirds, and the two-story, shed-roof sleeping porch section occupies the east one-third. The gabled main section includes one window and a single-story square bay, two second-story windows, and a pair of attic-level windows centered in the gable wall. The two attic windows each have a four-over-four configuration.

Interior

The house exhibits an interior plan typical of an I-house, a traditional folk form that is two rooms wide and one room deep, with a center stair.² The form was common among rural Midwestern dwellings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and preferred ornament could easily be applied to satisfy personal tastes and changing trends. The spaces and circulation patterns throughout the residence have been retained from at least the early 20th century, as have the wood floors, some wood trim and baseboards, interior doors, and hot-water radiators. Most plaster walls have been papered.

The formal entry on the west wall of the residence opens into a central open space with the dining room on the left (north) (*Photo 5*), the living room on the right (south) (*Photo 6*), and a narrow, enclosed, straight-run staircase straight ahead to the east. A large fireplace with a rubble stone surround and a wood mantel occupies the south wall of the living room. A kitchen occupies the southeast corner of the first floor and is accessed by a rear, north-south hallway through a swinging

² Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002), 96.

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door in the east wall of the dining room or through double pocket doors in the living room's east wall (*Photo 20*). A bathroom with historic tub and wooden built-ins is also located through the swinging door in the dining room (*Photo 21*).

The central staircase terminates near the rear east wall of the second floor in an L-shaped hallway (*Photo 7*). The east-west portion of the hallway terminates at a bathroom along the south wall and a bedroom at the north end. A built-in linen closet is in the hallway next to the bathroom (*Photo 8*). The north-south hallway accesses bedrooms on the north and south sides (*Photo 9*). The hall terminates on the west at a door that exits onto the second-story front porch and on the east at the entrance to the sleeping porch (*Photo 10*).

The full, unfinished attic is accessed by a narrow staircase above the stair from the main level. The rafters and roof underlayment are visible at this level (*Photo 11*).

The north half of the house has a crawlspace beneath it (*Photo 12*). A basement occupies the area beneath the south end (*Photo 13*) of the house and extends east beyond the footprint of the house (under the porch). This basement, an interior space measuring approximately 23'-7" E-W by 11'-0" N-S, has whitewashed limestone walls. There are two points of access – one via a staircase near the rear door and the other through an exterior in-ground cellar door along the south foundation wall. The basement is an unfinished space with a dirt floor, stone walls, exposed structure and piping. There are small windows at ground level, and some have been filled in or boarded. Sawn wood beams stand vertically atop a stone base to support the structure, which includes a mix of large sawn and hewn beams (*Photo 14*).

Observations on the Building Structure and Change over Time

As previously noted, this building is the result of several construction periods, beginning with Jesse Newell's tenure (1858-1874). The earliest building dates are circumstantial and based on the documented presence of Newell at this location in Oskaloosa as early as 1858, but exact dates of Newell's constructions are unknown at this time. Material and structural observations help to understand the various alterations to the house and illuminate possible time frames, especially for those parts attributed to Newell. The following were observed during a thorough site visit in January 2017.³

The south half of the house has a limestone basement, under the kitchen (southeast room) and living room (southwest room). Only the top 8" are visible on the exterior, and the interior walls are whitewashed. There are no stones visible with the strata of fossilized material present in the stones of the adjacent stone building. This does not preclude that the basement was constructed at the same time as the stone building, but it does suggest it was constructed either at a different time or with stone from a different quarry site. This portion of the house appears to be the oldest and may date to ca. 1860.

The north half of the house has a crawl space with stone foundation walls (under the dining room and back hall/bathroom area). There are first-story floor framing anomalies that suggest various expansions and changes in floor plan arrangement. The floor framing under the first-story, directly north of the basement, indicates an original area of approximately 9'-0" x 10'-0", which may also date to ca. 1860 or to as late as 1877. There is a first-story porch directly east of the kitchen, and the south portion of this porch is framed in a way indicating it predates the north portion of the porch; the south porch area probably dates to between ca. 1860 and 1877.

The stair from the basement comes up at the east end of the kitchen. In the south wall a portion of plaster and lath has been removed. The exposed studs have fire char damage, and the wall studs have visible sawmill marks. The room's south, east, and north walls likely date to ca. 1860.

The west wall of the kitchen has a large double pocket door into the living room; there is a wood post in the basement at the floor joist under the double door. The west wall of the basement is approximately 9'-0" west of the double door. There is a noticeable rise/hump in the living room floor here; this is where the original west wall of the ca. 1860 house would have been located. In the attic is a wood framed truss above this point, and two steel hanging rods come down through the second story to carry floor framing where the wall was removed. It is possible this framing is carrying original second-story floor framing remaining from the ca. 1860 construction; further investigation would be necessary for exact determination. At the top of the basement wall directly below this point is evidence of a brick chimney having been removed, indicating that the original house had a centered west gable-end chimney.

³ The following is taken from a structural report by architect Stan Hernly, Hernly Associates, Inc., dated March 2, 2017. Copy of report on file with SHPO.

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The remainder of the first-story construction may date to 1877, with modification made to interior arrangement in 1913. The second-story construction appears to date to 1913. Some of the framing in the attic appears to incorporate salvaged lumber, possibly from the 1877 construction and reused after the 1913 fire.

One-story, Stone Building (mid-19th century, contributing building)⁴

A one-story limestone building with a cellar is located directly behind (east of) the frame house and faces west. It measures 23'-5" (N-S) x 12'-2" (E-W) and has a rectangular plan with a side-gable, wood-shingle roof. It rests on a stone foundation and has a full basement. The building has one main-floor entrance, an exterior in-ground cellar entrance, a brick chimney, and three wood-frame windows.

The mortared limestone walls are generally 18" thick. The stone course size is approximately 12" at the base of the basement walls, reduces to approximately 8" through the upper basement and lower first story, and reduces again to 4" to 6" in the upper first story. Many of the approximately 8" stones have an approximately 4" strata at the top or bottom with an abundance of nautical fossilized material. At both the north and south walls there is a steel cross-tie rod just above the window that is tight against the inside face of the walls; these penetrate the east and west sidewalls and have exterior exposed steel nut and large round washer.

The wood-framed roof consists of 2x4 rafters approximately 24" on center and 1x6 collar ties located at all rafters located approximately 1'-6" above the side walls. Two collar ties at approximately 7'-6" height. The roof has 1x board sheathing, plywood sheathing overlay, and one or two layers of deteriorated asphalt shingles.

The primary (west) façade features just one opening: a door centered on the elevation (*Photo 15*). The opening is one small step above grade with a limestone stoop and a wood frame. It provides the only exterior access to the main floor. The door measures 2'-5" wide and 6'-4" tall. It is a wood stile-and-rail door with two bottom panels and two upper panels, which are divided with two glass lites in each panel. It is uncertain whether the glass lites are original or are modifications replacing previous solid panels. The door hardware is steel with a decorative exterior pull-handle, back plate, and thumb-latch, which operates the interior drop-latch. The door hinges are surface mounted and match the finish of the thumb-latch lock. The door and hardware appear to date to the mid-19th century.

The north elevation includes one of the building's two main-level windows (*Photo 16*). Positioned nearer the west corner, the two-over-two wood window measures 56" x 30" and has a limestone sill. An approximately 18" square brick chimney is centered on the façade and inlaid within the stone masonry; the bricks are fairly soft, approximately 8-5/8" x 2-3/16". It is unclear whether the chimney is original to the building or a later added feature. Below the window, at ground level, is a crudely framed rectangular opening that measures 20" x 28". On the interior, the window opening is situated at ceiling level in the basement. This opening may have been added later, based on the visible evidence of cracking and repointing nearby.

The east (rear) elevation is an uninterrupted stone wall with no openings or architectural embellishment.

The south elevation includes the building's second main-level window (*Photo 17*). Like its counterpart on the north wall, this window is positioned nearer the west corner. It has a one-over-one configuration, a stone sill, and measures 56" x 29". At the base of the wall, centered on the facade, is an angled, in-ground cellar door. The wood cellar door swings outward to reveal a set of stone steps with stone sidewalls that lead down to the full basement.

The interior includes one main-level room and one basement-level room, the spaces measuring 20'-0" x 9'-2". The main-level space has a wood floor structure that consists of 2x6 joists, 1x6 board sheathing, and T&G painted wood flooring. The floor joists are 1-5/8" x 5-3/4" and do not appear to be original to the building; the east and west bearing ends project into the stone walls and sit on top of what appears to be the remaining ends of original floor joists that have been removed. The stone above and below the west first-story door opening appears to be modified to adjust for the raised floor height. It is uncertain when this modification was made, but the floor joists' size and appearance suggest a 1900 to 1930 time frame.

The interior limestone walls have a thin layer of cement parging (*Photo 18*). There is no finished ceiling, nor is there evidence one ever existed, and the roof framing is visible. This framing is blackened through fire, smoke, or water damage. The brick chimney in the north wall includes an opening for a stove pipe. There is no interior access to the cellar.

⁴ Much of the following description is based on Hernly's March 2017 report.

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The cellar height is approximately 7'-0" with limestone walls and a dirt floor (*Photo 19*). The base of the brick chimney tapers and terminates midway down the north wall. There is evidence of water damage on the north wall around the chimney and small window at the ceiling. The ceiling is unfinished and includes the framing for the main-level floor system. The building has been wired for electricity.

Garage (c. 1940, non-contributing building)

A gravel driveway along the south side of the property leads from US-59 to a one-car garage located southeast of the residence. The wood-frame building has board-and-batten siding and a front-gable roof with wood shingles. The garage-door opening consists of two outward-swinging, board-and-batten doors on the west façade. The garage is considered non-contributing because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

Construction Notes & Integrity

The contributions of Jesse Newell (1858-1874), Francis M. Johnson (1877-1905), and Francis J. Searle (1905-1918) to the development of the property are integrally linked in the buildings and site. The extant frame house largely dates to 1913 when the home was rebuilt after a fire.⁵ At the time of the fire, the local newspaper reported that the "original part of the house was a relic of early times – the frame being made of native timber for Jesse Newell. It was the home for many years of F. M. Johnson, who had it completely remodeled [in 1877] ..." A subsequent article suggests these early walls were salvaged: "Work has begun on the re-building of Frank Searle's residence, with W. D. Monroe in charge assisted by Hoskinson and Leach. It will be practically a new house, with a part of the lower walls and the big veranda retained," the latter feature having been added by the previous owner F. M. Johnson.⁶

Both property and court records link Jesse Newell to the nominated property as early as 1858.⁷ In 1860 the local newspaper noted that Newell had just built a "large, two-story residence,"⁸ and that the Newell residence was the location of the office of physician and surgeon S. A. Fishero.⁹ It is believed that this is the early residence referenced in the 1913 newspaper article. Beyond these few historical references, no photographs or substantive documentation of Newell's residence have been found. Even less is known about the construction history of the stone building, amplifying the importance of any information of this early period that may be gleaned from the structures themselves and their immediate environs.

The property's setting, location, and built features all reflect its significance to the early and developmental history of Oskaloosa and Jefferson County, from Newell's Territorial-era homestead to Searle's sophisticated early 20th century farmstead.

⁵ *The Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS], 18 April 1913, 5.

⁶ *The Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS], 9 May 1913, 5.

⁷ *Newell v. Newell*, 14 Kan. 202 (1875), page 4 of the Brief for Defendant in Error. (Kansas Supreme Court briefs in *Abraham Newell v. Jesse Newell*. Supreme Court Library, Kansas Judicial Center, Topeka.)

⁸ *The Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS], 8 August 1860, 3.

⁹ *The Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS], 19 September 1860, 4. Fishero is also recorded with the Newell family in the 1860 U.S. Census.

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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.

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.

Areas of Significance

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

ca. 1858-1918

Significant Dates

1858, 1877, 1913

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Newell, Jesse

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1858 when property and court records link Territorial settler Jesse Newell to the nominated property and extends to 1918 when stockman and breeder Francis J. Searle sold it. This span of years is reflected in the property's extant resources. From Newell's occupation, there are parts of the structure and foundation of the residence. Subsequent renovations in 1877 and 1913, by Francis M. Johnson and his grandson Francis J. Searle, respectively, fall within the period of significance.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Newell-Johnson-Searle House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance in the area of Exploration/Settlement and Criterion B for its association with Jesse Newell. The property and its built features are associated with the establishment and early development of Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas. Named for those who owned it during the period of significance (1858-1918), the property reflects layers of occupation, beginning with the ownership of Newell. Although the property has changed since Newell's occupation, this is the only documented resource associated with this locally significant person. Newell was a co-founder of Oskaloosa and a key figure in the area's Bleeding Kansas period. After Newell, local banker Francis M. Johnson lived here from 1874 to 1905, renovating the dilapidated frame residence in 1877. Johnson's grandson, stockman and breeder Francis J. Searle, lived here from 1905 to 1918. He is responsible for the appearance of the homestead as it is today, as he rebuilt much of the house after a fire in 1913. The residence, in its various iterations, has been long known as one of Oskaloosa's finer early homes.

Elaboration

Oskaloosa Beginnings

With the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Kansas Territory was opened for settlement in May 1854. Jefferson County was among the 33 original counties established by the Territorial Legislature. Among the first to settle near the Big Slough Creek in the area that would later become Oskaloosa was Dr. James Noble, a Missourian. Although he filed no land patent and is not noted in early property records besides the land survey map, he settled near Big Slough Creek in the fall of 1854 (*Figure 3*).¹⁰ With the opening of the Kansas Territory, prospective settlers arrived in search of land, including a group from Iowa with Jesse Newell and his brother-in-law Joseph Fitsimmons.¹¹ They returned with their families in May 1856, and Newell acquired Noble's farm and cabin.

Newell and Fitsimons bought land at the 1850s government land sales that would eventually become Oskaloosa, named after Oskaloosa, Iowa. Newell's land occupied parts of Sections 4 and 5, Township 10S, Range 19E, including the site that is the subject of this nomination. Newell subsequently purchased the land patent for 85 acres in Section 5, where he established a saw mill, while his son John Newell secured the patent for 113 acres in Section 4.¹² Fitsimons purchased 160 acres in the adjacent Section 32.¹³ In 1857, the three men, along with Franklin Finch, Henry Owens, N. B. Hopewell, Newell's son V.F. Newell, Isaac Newhouse, William Meredith, and W. C. Stagg, formed the Oskaloosa Town Association.

Newell's arrival in 1856 put him in the harshest year of Bleeding Kansas, when pro-slavers and freestaters clashed over whether Kansas would enter the Union as a free or slave state. Fraudulent voting by Missourians bent on extending slavery to Kansas was coupled with violence and protest.¹⁴ Trying to take mules from Topeka to Lawrence shortly after his arrival in May 1856, Newell was repeatedly stopped and harassed by pro-slavers. Fed up, he stopped in Lecompton, the territorial capital to complain to Gov. Shannon, whom Newell knew from Ohio. Shannon told Newell it was too dangerous to travel freely because of the warring free-state and proslavery factions but wrote him a pass.¹⁵ Newell made it through,

¹⁰ *Report of the Special Committee Appointed to Investigate the Troubles in Kansas* (Washington, DC: Cornelius Wendell, Printer, 1856), 283-86. This source includes James Noble's testimony regarding his residence in Jefferson County and his participation in the controversial March 30, 1855 election. See also: General Land Office Land Survey Map, (Sections 4 and 5, Township 10S, Range 19E), recorded 9 February 1856. Later county and state histories, such as William Cutler's 1883 *History of the State of Kansas*, credit Noble as Oskaloosa's earliest Euro-American resident.

¹¹ The surname for Oskaloosa's co-founder is spelled several ways in early accounts and news items, but most often was spelled Fitsimons. His land patent carries the name "Fitsimmons" and in later years, and today, it is Fitsimmons.

¹² It remains unclear how John Newell's land in Section 4 transferred to his father, Jesse, but the earliest court records Jesse Newell as the owner.

¹³ Land Patent Records for Section 4, 5, and 32, Township 10S, Range 19E, General Land Office Records, Bureau of Land Management.

¹⁴ *Miscellaneous Documents of the [U.S.] House of Representatives for the Third Session of the Thirty-Fourth Congress, 1856-'57*. Jesse Newell and others protest elections.

¹⁵ *Alton Weekly Telegraph* [Alton, Illinois], 29 May 1856, 2. Newspaper report of wording of travel pass issued by Gov. Shannon to Jesse Newell.

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arguing his cargo of mules must be delivered.¹⁶ A few days later Lawrence was attacked and property destroyed by proslavery partisans, including flag-bearing South Carolinians, in what was called the Sack of Lawrence.¹⁷

In September pro-slavery partisans in Kansas Territory, many of them Missourians, and bolstered by South Carolinians and others from southern slave states, harassed freestaters on the eastern side of the territory, including Jefferson County. They burned businesses in Grasshopper Falls, stole horses and livestock throughout the county, destroyed settlers' crops and other property, and nabbed free-state settlers.¹⁸ Freestaters, led by James H. Lane and James A. Harvey and many others, did not overlook this behavior. While pro-slavers were beginning to move in on free-state Lawrence again, an attack squelched later by incoming Gov. John Geary, Harvey and Lane took on the proslavery bands north of the Kansas River in Jefferson and Leavenworth counties.¹⁹

Harvey's Kansas men were returning to Lawrence from Leavenworth County, where many freestaters had been violently driven out by marauding pro-slavery militants, including those from southern states. While Harvey and his company were camped near the future McLouth in Jefferson County (about six miles east of Newell's log cabin), Jesse Newell rode into the camp late September 10, 1856, to tell Harvey where a group of South Carolinians were camped on Slough Creek (about two miles north of Newell's log cabin). In the dark early morning hours of September 11 Harvey and troops, along with at least one of Newell's sons, ambushed and captured the group, taking about 100 weapons and other supplies, then releasing the southerners with the admonition to leave Kansas Territory. The prize item Harvey's band took was the big, red "Southern Rights" flag carried by the South Carolinians.²⁰

Two days later, pro-slavery partisans were camped at Hickory Point in Jefferson County, a stopping point for them between the proslavery strongholds of Lecompton and Atchison. Lane sent his best troops and some Topeka area fighters to Hickory Point on September 13, but recognizing that more men and ammunition were needed, he sent for Harvey in Lawrence. On September 14, Harvey brought Lawrence men and picked up Jefferson County freestaters on his way to Hickory Point, stopping first at Newell's future town (then called Newell's Mill) for breakfast. The Battle of Hickory Point, fought about six miles north of Newell's property, was not a large battle. One man from the South Carolina group was killed; Harvey again made his terms the departure of the pro-slavery partisans. After the fight, Harvey and his men returned to Newell's Mill to rest, gathering at the nearly constructed mill four blocks from Newell's home.²¹ But soon, U.S. troops sent out because of pro-slavers' complaints, arrived at Newell's Mill and arrested the freestaters. Harvey was at Jesse Newell's home and escaped.

At some point during this five-day September 1856 period, Newell was attacked at his home by proslavery men, who threatened to hang him if he did not give them information about free-state troops' whereabouts. One account says it was September 12, the day after Jesse Newell led Harvey to the encampment on Slough Creek.²² On September 20, 1856, Newell wrote an affidavit to Gov. Geary detailing how he and others had been threatened with hanging, the destruction of his home and his sawmill, and how Newell's fences and grain had been destroyed.²³

The turmoil probably did not help the town's growth, but Newell was town president in 1857. Newell's home was a polling place in the 1858 elections, the first "free state" elections, and Newell was an election judge.²⁴ That year, 1858, is linked

¹⁶ Sherman-Willis, Mary, blog, "The Fight for Kansas, The Letters of Cecilia and John Sherman," 2003. Newell's account of his Topeka-Lecompton trek. <http://www.archipelago.org/vol6-3/willis.htm>

¹⁷ Kansas State Historical Society, *Kansapedia*, Cool Things – Southern Rights Flag; <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p267401coll36/id/3320/rec/1>

¹⁸ "Claims of the Citizens of the Territory of Kansas," in a report by Commissioner H.J. Strickler, *Second Session of the Thirty-fifth Congress, 1858-'59, Miscellaneous Documents, Vol. 2, No. 43*. Settlers detailed financial losses from the territorial troubles, mostly from 1856, in the form of claims for repayment.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=K2tHAQAIAAJ&lpg=PA590&dq=skaggs%20kansas%20territory&pg=PR3#v=onepage&q=claims&f=false>

¹⁹ "The Kansas Experiences of J.A. Harvey," from Thaddeus Hyatt Papers, State Archives, Kansas State Historical Society, p 7. http://www.territorialkansasonline.org/~imlskto/cgi-bin/index.php?SCREEN=show_transcript&document_id=100432. And multiple sources.

²⁰ The flag, which says "South Carolina" on its other side, is on display at the Kansas History Museum in Topeka. <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/cool-things-southern-rights-flag/10254>

²¹ Jefferson County tax records specify where Newell's mill sat.

²² *Pittston Gazette* [Pittston, PA], 10 October 1856, 2.

²³ Affidavit from Jesse Newell to Kansas Territory Gov., John Geary, 20 September, 1856; collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. An image of the affidavit is on the Missouri Digital Heritage, Missouri-Kansas Conflict, at <http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/moksconf/id/2393>

²⁴ *The Kansas Herald of Freedom* [Wakarusa, KS], 26 December, 1857, 2.

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by property and court records to Jesse Newell and the nominated property.²⁵ Also in 1858, a newspaper writer praised Oskaloosa's development and called it a "real, live two-horse town." The article described the town's two good sawmills, 80 homes, citizens raising money for a school, and heaped praise on Jesse Newell, "that whole-souled man."²⁶

The home of Jesse Newell – born in Ohio around 1812 and called a radical Republican freestater – was tied to the Underground Railroad in 1859.²⁷ Jesse Newell was listed as the first stop on John Doy's route to take 13 freedom-seekers north from Lawrence to Oskaloosa and on to Holton in Jackson County.²⁸ Doy's party was ambushed before he made it to Oskaloosa, but five months later when a group of men broke Doy out of a Missouri jail, "Captain" Newell and his "rifle company" served as armed escorts to get Doy and the men who rescued him back to Lawrence, taking the Oskaloosa-to-Lawrence leg of the trip.²⁹

Newell's home in the town he co-founded was of note in 1860, when the local newspaper was promoting town development and said Jesse Newell had a large two-story residence.³⁰ A month later, an advertisement said Dr. S.A. Fishero had his office in Jesse Newell's house, Room No. 1.³¹ Previously, Newell had lived in Mahaska County, Iowa, (from 1848) and was a local political and pioneer leader. Mahaska County's first school house was built on Newell's farm in Iowa, and a local Mahaska, Iowa, history said, "families were trained in that school who went to make new homes in different parts of the west."³² Newell was a doctor of sorts and a Methodist preacher.³³

Property and Ownership History

As cited, property and court records link Jesse Newell to the nominated property as early as 1858. He owned about 113 acres of land on the east side of the town, of which one acre was his homestead.³⁴ In 1874, Newell had sold the property to W.H. Easter and the Newells had moved to the Cherryvale area in Montgomery County, Kansas.³⁵

Three years later, Easter had "traded" property with Francis Marion Johnson, an Indiana man who had come to Winchester, Kansas, in 1864 and several years later to Oskaloosa (*Figure 4*).³⁶ The 1877 newspaper article said Johnson's new property was "the unsightly old landmark once occupied as a residence by Uncle Jesse Newell. The new owner will tear the old hulk to pieces and have a handsome modern residence in its place."³⁷ Born in 1827, Johnson was a merchant and a banker who amassed a large amount of property and was a wealthy man in Jefferson County.³⁸ In November 1877 the Johnson family was moving into their home: "He has one of the most convenient and substantial dwellings in town."³⁹

One of Johnson's grandsons, Francis J. Searle, lived in his grandfather's house during part of his youth. After F.M. Johnson died in 1905, "Frank" Searle moved his wife and daughter into the elder Johnson's home (*Figure 5*). Searle had run a hardware and tinware store in Oskaloosa, but he was more widely known for his "Sunflower Herd" dairy of Holstein-Freisan cattle, which were on the farm next to the house.

²⁵ Newell v. Newell, 14 Kan.202 (1875), 7th page of document, from the Brief for Defendant in Error. (Kansas Supreme Court briefs in Abraham Newell v. Jesse Newell. Supreme Court Library, Kansas Judicial Center, Topeka) "... 3rd. That said real estate was, at the time of making said deed [November 26, 1861], and for more than three years previous thereto had been, the homestead of said plaintiff [Jesse Newell]."

²⁶ *Kansas National Democrat* [Lecompton, KS]. 19 August 1858.

²⁷ Birthdate and birth place from Ancestry.com, U.S. and Kansas censuses, and A. J. Baughman, *History of Ashland County, Ohio* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1909), 125; *The Daily Commonwealth* [Topeka, KS], 15 March 1881, 4.

²⁸ *St. Joseph Weekly West* [St. Joseph, MO]. 26 June 1859; Jenkins, Gary; "Immortal 10 and the Rescue of John Doy," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-4T2xh61s0>

²⁹ Abbott, James B., "The Rescue of Dr. John W. Doy," *Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society, Vol. IV*.

³⁰ *Oskaloosa Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS], 8 August, 1860, 3.

³¹ *Oskaloosa Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS] 19 September 1860, 4.

³² Manoah Hedge, *Past and Present of Mahaska County, Iowa* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1906) Harrison Township, Chapter 21.

³³ *The Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS], 11 July 1863, 3; *The Daily Kansas Tribune* [Lawrence, KS], 31 March 1868, 2.

³⁴ Newell v. Newell, 14 Kan.202 (1875), 7th page of document, from the Brief for Defendant in Error. (Kansas Supreme Court briefs in Abraham Newell v. Jesse Newell. Supreme Court Library, Kansas Judicial Center, Topeka)

³⁵ Deeds, Jefferson County Register of Deeds Office, Oskaloosa, Kansas.

³⁶ *Oskaloosa Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS] 3 March 1877, 7.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Oskaloosa Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS], 22 September 1905, obituary.

³⁹ *Oskaloosa Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS] 10 November 1877, 3.

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A fire that started in a flue burned the home in April 1913. "The original part of the house was a relic of early times – the frame being made of native timber for Jesse Newell. It was the home for many years of F.M. Johnson, who had it completely remodeled and a large veranda added (*Figures 6 through 8*), surrounding two sides of the upper and lower stories."⁴⁰ *The Valley Falls New Era* noted in its front page article about the fire: "Mr. Searle's cattle records were saved, they being the most important item [in the house]."⁴¹

A May 9, 1913 article in the Oskaloosa paper offered an update, saying the rebuilding was to begin after the fire "...with a part of the lower walls and the big veranda retained." And in November 1913, the Searle family occupied their "remodeled mansion."⁴² The extensive front porch was removed at some point in the late 1940s or early 1950s (*Figures 9, 10 & 14*).

Five years later Searle was ready to wind down his business and decided to sell his herd and his home. Joseph Drummins bought the nearly 114-acre property on March 9, 1918.⁴³ The farm and home stayed together until the 1940s. In 1944, the Drummins family sold about 110.25 acres to a farmer, Walter Means, and in 1943 had sold the home on about 3.5 acres to Dr. Delos Stevens. The home stayed with the Stevens family until 2015 when descendants of Jesse Newell purchased the deteriorating one-half acre property.

Summary

The Newell-Johnson-Searle House reflects layers of occupation, from the formative years of the late 1850s to the early 20th century. The property's early association with Jesse Newell is particularly significant. Not only was he an Oskaloosa town founder, but while owning and occupying this property, he played a significant and under-documented role alongside his Jefferson County neighbors in defending the Free State cause. The Johnson and Searle years were those of growth, with prominent and civic-minded citizens developing the property on the edge of the town. The nominated property is less than one acre of Newell's original landholdings, and it represents the only documented property associated with this town father.

⁴⁰ *The Oskaloosa Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS] 18 April 1913, 5.

⁴¹ *The Valley Falls New Era* [Valley Falls, KS] 17 April 1913, 1.

⁴² *The Oskaloosa Independent* [Oskaloosa, KS] 7 November 1913, 5.

⁴³ Deeds, Jefferson County Register of Deeds Office, Oskaloosa, KS.

Newell-Johnson-Searle House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kansas
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Hernly, Stan, Hernly Associates, Inc. Structural Assessment of Newell-Johnson-Searle Residence and Stone Building.
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Jefferson County

Appraiser's Office Records

GIS Department

Register of Deeds Office

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September 1856.

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*Miscellaneous Documents of the [U.S.] House of Representatives for the Third Session of the Thirty-Fourth Congress,
1856-'57*.

Standard Atlas of Jefferson County, Kansas. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1916.

St. Joseph Weekly West [St. Joseph, MO]. 26 June 1859.

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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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.47

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | <u>39.214653</u> | <u>-95.310478</u> | 3 | _____ | _____ |
| | Latitude: | Longitude: | | Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | 4 | _____ | _____ |
| | Latitude: | Longitude: | | Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

In Section 4, Township 10, Range 019. Com. 411' S of SE corner of intersection of Walnut and Jefferson St., thence E203'(S), S100', W204'(S), N100' to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

These are the boundaries for the homestead property as it stands today. All buildings are within it.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Leech, with assistance from Sarah J. Martin (SJM Cultural Resource Services)

organization _____ date Spring 2017

street & number 8435 SE 83rd Street telephone (206) 226-2850

city or town Mercer Island state WA zip code 98040

e-mail fireballhill@comcast.net

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

name Paula Ellis

street & number 9199 K-4 Highway telephone (785) 484-3380

city or town Meriden state KS zip code 66512

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 100 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.

Newell-Johnson-Searle House
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: **Newell-Johnson-Searle House**

City or Vicinity: **Oskaloosa**

County: **Jefferson** State: **Kansas**

Photographer: **Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS) & Stan Hernly (SH)**

Date
Photographed: **April 2016 & January 2017 (SH)**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 01 of 21:** Looking east from west side of Walnut (US-59).
- 02 of 21:** Looking SW from NE corner of parcel, showing garage, stone outbuilding, and house.
- 03 of 21:** House, looking NW at south elevation.
- 04 of 21:** House, looking SW at east and north elevations.
- 05 of 21:** House, main level, looking north into dining room from living room.
- 06 of 21:** House, main level, looking SSE into living room from main entrance (SH).
- 07 of 21:** House, second level, hallway, looking west from top of stairs.
- 08 of 21:** House, second level, built-in closet.
- 09 of 21:** House, second level, southeast bedroom, looking SE.
- 10 of 21:** House, second level, sleeping porch, looking east.
- 11 of 21:** House, attic, looking SE and showing roof framing.
- 12 of 21:** House, crawlspace, looking NW from basement.
- 13 of 21:** House, basement, west wall.
- 14 of 21:** House, basement, framing.
- 15 of 21:** Stone outbuilding, east elevation.
- 16 of 21:** Stone outbuilding, looking SE at north elevation (garage visible in background).
- 17 of 21:** Stone outbuilding, south elevation.
- 18 of 21:** Stone outbuilding, main level, looking north at north and east walls.
- 19 of 21:** Stone outbuilding, basement, looking north at west and north walls.
- 20 of 21:** House, main level, kitchen area, looking west (SH).
- 21 of 21:** House, main level, bathroom off dining room, looking north (SH).

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Newell-Johnson-Searle House

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Figure 1: February 2017 Google aerial of Oskaloosa, showing location of property. No scale. Note: Bill Noll, Director of Jefferson County Public Works, pinpointed the location of Dr. Noble's cabin by studying GLO maps and field notes taken by surveyors in the 1850s and measuring those descriptions against today's aerial GIS photography. Noll is a licensed surveyor in Kansas, a certified floodplain manager and has extensive knowledge of Jefferson County's old survey and road records.



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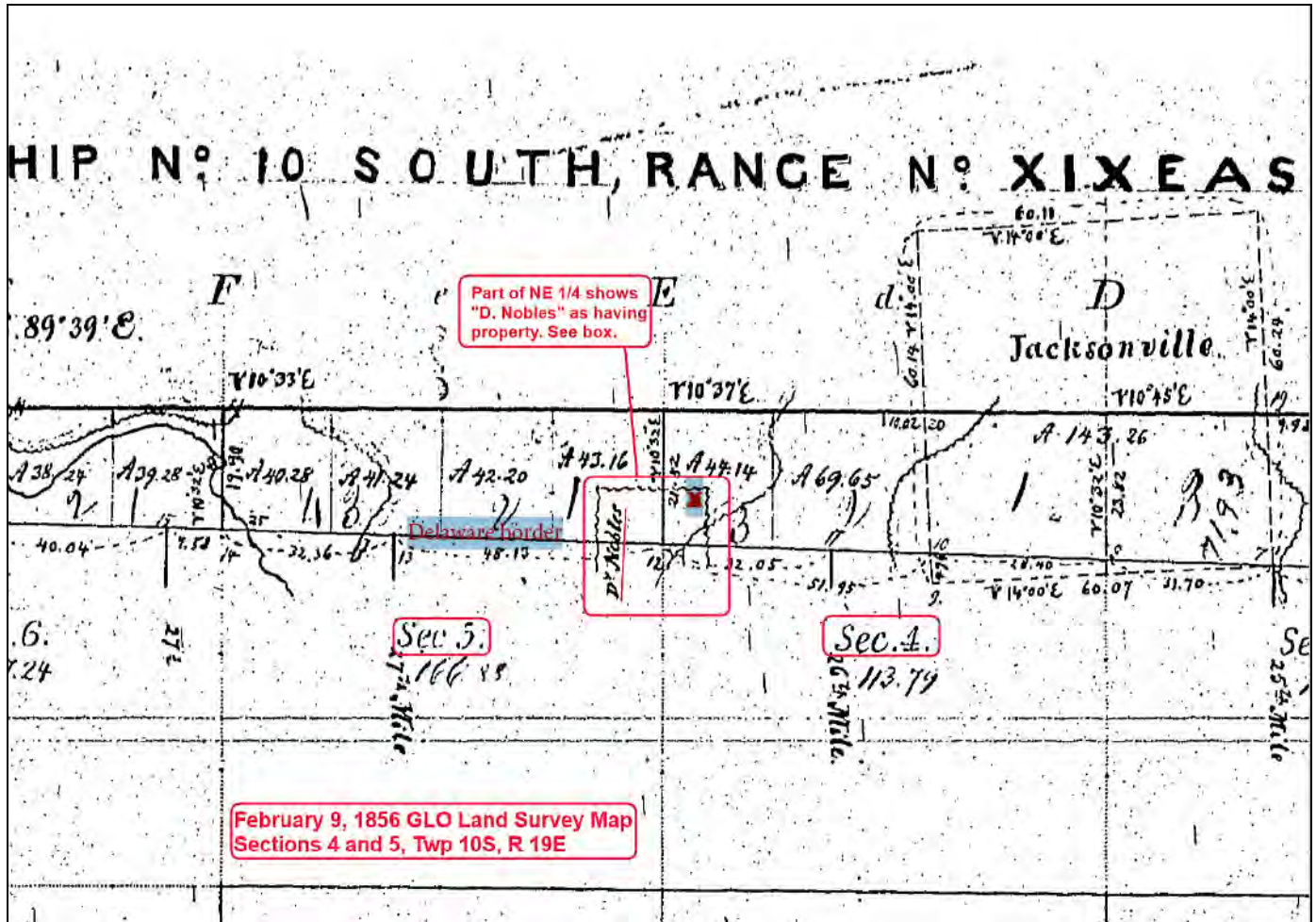
Figure 2: February 2017. Google aerial of Oskaloosa, showing location of property. North is up; no scale.



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Figure 3: General Land Office, Bureau of Land Management. Land Survey Map. Sections 4 and 5, Township 10S, Range 19E. Recorded 9 February 1856.



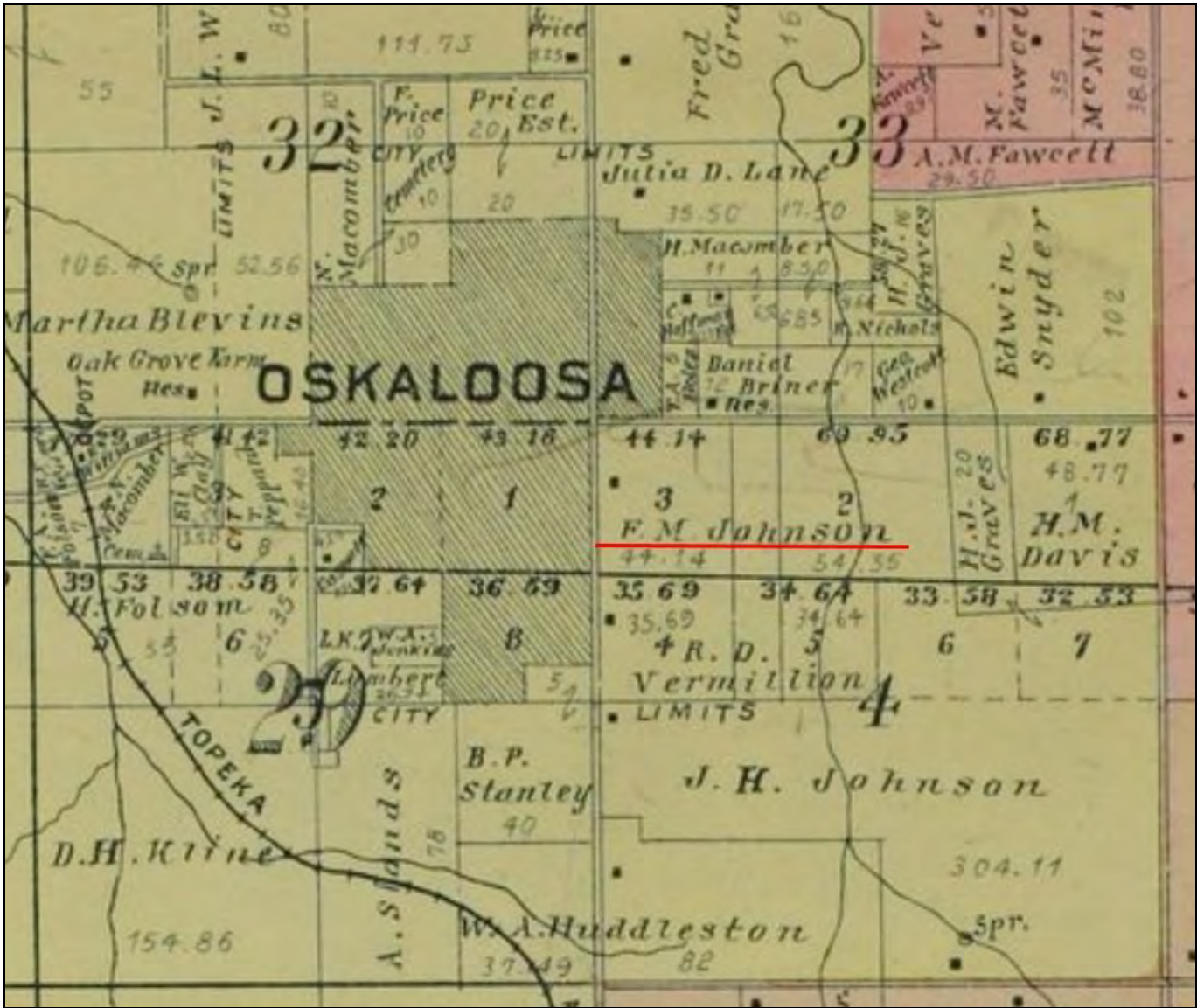
Newell-Johnson-Searle House

Jefferson County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

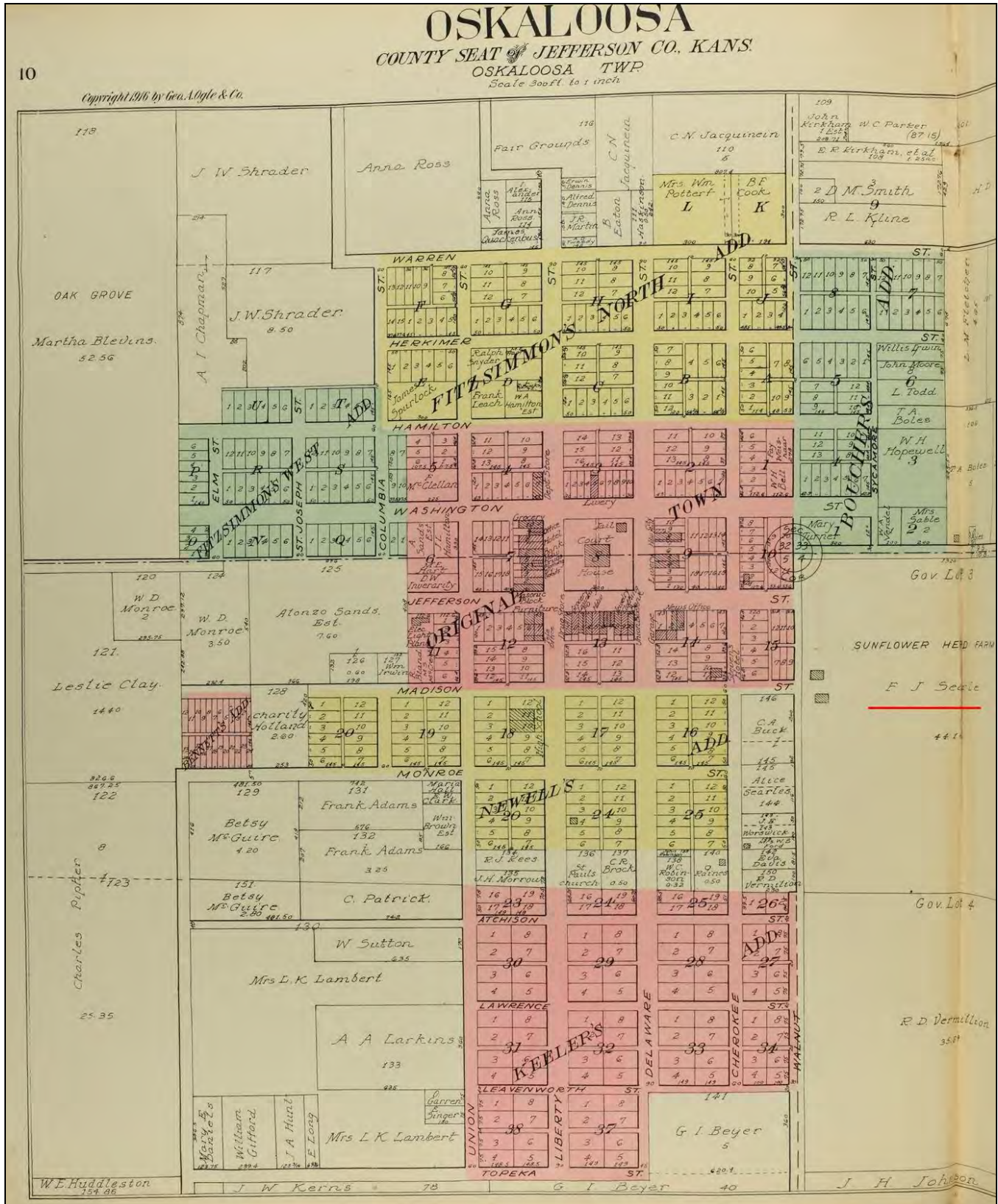
Figure 4: Oskaloosa from the 1899 *Descriptive Atlas of Jefferson County, Kansas*, page 40, showing the location of the F. M. Johnson property on the east edge of town.



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Figure 5: Oskaloosa from the 1916 Standard Atlas of Jefferson County, Kansas, page 10, showing the location of the Searle Farm on the east edge of town.



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Figure 6: A group of women sitting on the porch of the Newell-Johnson-Searle House. Early 1900s.



Figure 7: Newell-Johnson-Searle House, circa 1921



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Figure 8: Newell-Johnson-Searle House, in background, circa 1910s.



Figure 9: Newell-Johnson-Searle House and garage (at right), circa 1940s.



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Figure 10: Newell-Johnson-Searle House, west (front) elevation. Camera facing NE. Photo taken during the late 1940s or early 1950s, likely after the removal of the wrap-around porch.



Figure 11: Newell-Johnson-Searle House, south (side) elevation. Camera facing N. Photo taken during the late 1940s or early 1950s.



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Figure 12: Newell-Johnson-Searle House, showing porches at NE corner. Camera facing S. Photo taken during the late 1940s or early 1950s.



Figure 13: Newell-Johnson-Searle House (right) stone building (left). Camera facing SE. Photo taken during the late 1940s or early 1950s.



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Figure 14: Newell-Johnson-Searle House, 1964



Figure 15: Newell-Johnson-Searle property, showing stone building and concrete pathways, 1960s.



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Figure 16: "House on Centennial Tour," *Topeka State Journal*, 27 March 1959.

Topoka State Journal
March 27, 1959 p. 2



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—State Journal Correspondent Photo.

House on Centennial Tour

This pioneer house will be one of the points of historic interest included in centennial tours of Jefferson county this summer. Standing in front of the house is Mrs. D. M. Stevens, owner. The house stands near the site of the first house built on the Oskaloosa townsite. Other places of interest on the centennial route will be the battlefields of Slough creek and Hickory Point, the William Blevins house and Frontier house.

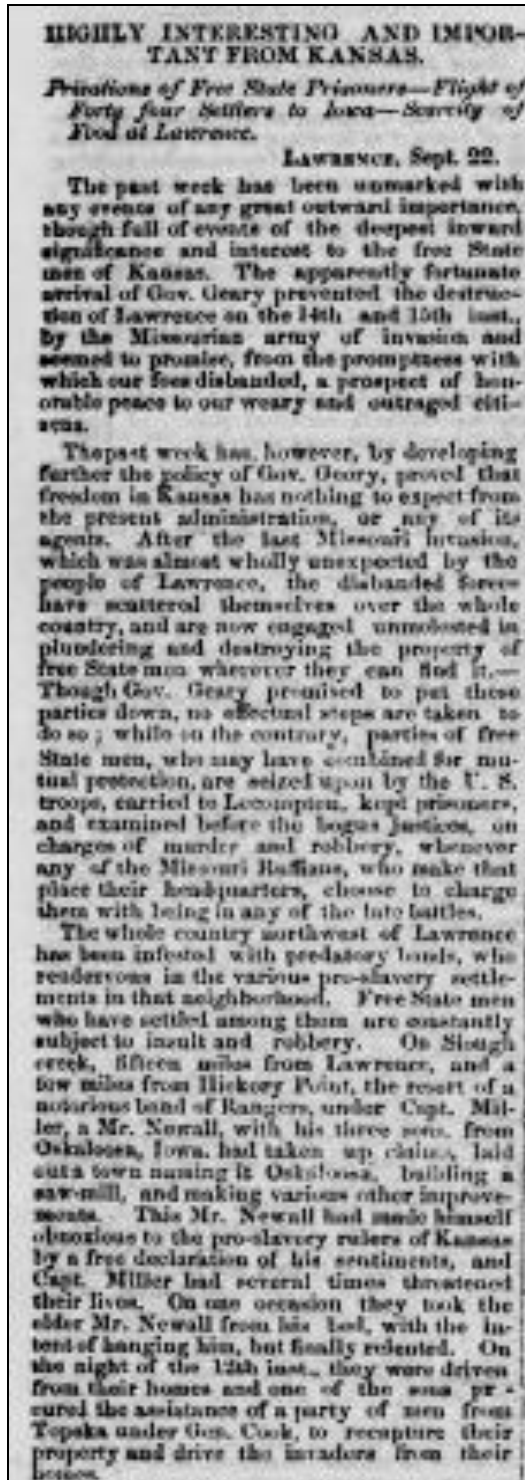
Newell-Johnson-Searle House

Jefferson County, Kansas

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Figure 17: Portion of a news article from the Pittston Gazette [Pittston, PA], noting the struggles and violence suffered by Jesse Newell and his family. The article said that free-state men in Newell's area were "constantly subject to insult and robbery" and that Newell, in speaking freely of his free-state sentiments had made himself "obnoxious to the proslavery rulers of Kansas." "On one occasion they took the elder Mr. Newall [sic] from his bed, with the intent of hanging him, but finally relented. On the night of the [September] 12th inst., they were driven from their homes and one of the sons procured the assistance of a party of men from Topeka under Gen. Cook [alias for James H. Lane] to recapture their property and drive the invaders from their homes." What followed September 13 and 14, 1856, was the Battle of Hickory Point.



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Figure 18: "Searle dairy." This barn was just south of the Newell-Johnson-Searle House about where a discount store stands today. Photograph from the Jefferson County Genealogical Society, Oskaloosa, Kansas.



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Figure 19 F.M. Johnson and family, April 1888. F.M. Johnson is seated in the center of the photograph and his grandson, Francis J. Searle, is seated in the front row on the far left, holding a hat.













THE BACK WAY



































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National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/26/2017 Date of Pending List: 6/28/2017 Date of 16th Day: 7/13/2017 Date of 45th Day: 7/10/2017 Date of Weekly List: 7/13/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 7/10/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

PAT ROBERTS
KANSAS

109 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605
202-224-4774

FRANK CARLSON FEDERAL BUILDING
444 SE QUINCY, ROOM 392
TOPEKA, KS 66683
785-295-2745

<http://roberts.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

April 25, 2017

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

FINANCE

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

ETHICS

RULES

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615

RECEIVED

APR 27 2017

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Dear Board Members:

I am writing today to ask you to give favorable consideration to adding the stone cabin of Jesse Newell and the Newell-Johnson-Searle house located in Jefferson County to our historic property registers. Granting this designation would help secure a new contributing story in Kansas history and provide another venue for Kansans to appreciate the sacrifices of men and women that made our state great.

Jesse Newell was a true pioneer, both in launching the town of Oskaloosa and in leading local Kansas Territory settlers in the Free-state cause. He left a prominent business in Iowa, moving his family to a meager stone cabin to insure that Kansas would enter the Union as a free state. Working with others, he helped enslaved people and free African Americans via the dangerous and secretive Underground Railroad. The Johnson and Searle families who later owned the property were active civic participants and prominent contributors to the further development of Oskaloosa and Jefferson County.

Like my great-grandfather John Wesley Roberts, who started *The Oskaloosa Independent* newspaper in July 1860, Newell staunchly believed in the abolition of slavery. During the Civil War, Roberts' newspaper was a weekly call for the preservation of the Union and an early advocate for including African-American men newly freed from slavery in the fighting Kansas regiments. With his pen, editor Roberts helped record the momentous events unfolding in Kansas from July 1860 onward, and included vivid details via letters home from the Jefferson County and Oskaloosa "boys" at war. Post war, his efforts turned to building up the town of Oskaloosa and the new Republican "Party of Lincoln."

It is only now, with renewed research effort and modern research tools, we are learning more about Jefferson County's territorial days and Oskaloosa's free-state struggles. Investigation into the Newell cabin and the origin and development of the Newell-Johnson-Searle home has allowed us to recognize this spot as a symbol of the past efforts for freedom and enterprise that we all join in honoring. The home site is ideally

situated near the Jefferson County Historical Society's Old Jefferson Town. By providing recognition to this home, we help contribute to its preservation and restoration, enhancing a historical site that has interest to school groups, local residents, and visitors from across the state and the country.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you join me and all Kansans to give thanks to our predecessors who help build our great state.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Roberts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pat Roberts

PR:ab

April 28, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615

Re: Newell-Johnson-Searle House KHRI #087-460

Dear Review Board Members,

I am writing to urge your support for including the Newell-Johnson-Searle House on the state and national registers of historic places.

My family held the home and a few acres around it from the 1940s, when my grandparents Delos Meeker Stevens, M.D., and his wife, Blanche Stevens, purchased the property. Prior to that, they had lived one block west where the family had owned two homes side by side. The larger of the two homes had once been a boarding house known as the Stevens Hotel. When my grandparents bought the home at 609 Walnut, their fifth child, my father, Philip Lindbergh Stevens, was still in high school. His older siblings had graduated from high school and moved away. Philip would become a medical doctor and practice in the nearby town of Tonganoxie for exactly 60 years until his death in 2015.

My grandparents' Oskaloosa home was a memorable family gathering place for aunts and uncles and cousins. From the basement to the attic, the house held seemingly limitless opportunities for children to explore. The living room with its beamed ceilings, stone fireplace and bay window, the little nook in the parlor where Grandma paid bills and wrote letters, the kitchen with its red and white linoleum floor, and of course the always-full cookie jar in the cupboards on the west wall. The upstairs was fascinating with the sleeping porch, the long hallway and generous bedroom windows that caught the breeze on the hottest summer day.

Outdoors, there seemed to be a maze of porches on the northeast side of the house — the screened-in porch, the little closet on the porch and of course the larger space complete with a cistern where we could pump water for the cats and dog. From there, we could look upon the most unique aspect of the property — the old stone cabin.

The stone cabin was a place where one of my father's uncles stayed briefly after the Second World War, and where my grandmother and friends did their sewing and other work during the summers to escape the heat. On the south side of the stone house, tucked beneath the trumpet vine, was a door leading to a cellar. Just behind the stone house was a large fenced area surrounding a chicken house.

As children enjoying our visits to our grandmother's house, we didn't know much about the history of the home and the stone cabin behind. I do recall hearing that the stone cabin was one of the oldest buildings in Oskaloosa.

When my grandmother died in 1972, my aunt, Margaret Victoria Stevens Baker, and her husband, Albert "Bus" Baker, of Topeka, became the next owners of the house. (Dr. Delos Stevens had died in 1955.) Aunt Margaret and Uncle Bus were happy to be in Oskaloosa. To our good fortune, they continued hosting our large family get-togethers as my grandmother had done. This kindness gave the extended

family another 25 years of connection to the house. Aunt Margaret so loved her youth and later life in Oskaloosa that she wrote a book of stories about her life there.

Our family history in Oskaloosa began in about 1870, when my great-grandfather, Victor Mortimer Stevens, a Civil War veteran from Stevensville, Pennsylvania, moved to Kansas. In Oskaloosa, Victor was a teacher, tonsorial artist and owner of the Stevens Hotel. With Oskaloosa residents Bennet Chapman and Henry Wise, Victor developed a patent for a power butter churn.

Several years ago, the house that had once been the Stevens Hotel fell into disrepair and had to be razed. During the past two decades since Aunt Margaret's death, it appeared that the same fate might befall the historic house at 609 Walnut. We are heartened that the Newells bought the home and stone cabin and plan to preserve them for posterity.

Thank you for considering this property.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stevens Scheller

Jefferson County, Kansas

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 321 • Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066 • (785) 863-2272 • FAX (785) 863-3135

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May 2, 2017

**Kansas Historical Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66615**

I am writing in regards to my support of the nomination of the Newell-Johnson-Searle (Jesse Newell Homestead) property to the National Register of Historic Places. The grand old historic property on Highway 59, if rehabilitated, would prove to be an asset to the city of Oskaloosa and Jefferson County. Also would be of historic educational interest to many.

The history associated with this property and original owner, Jesse Newell, is very important to American history and very important and loved by the people of this area.

I supported the Newell family in their tenacious efforts to obtain this property and will also support their efforts to rehabilitate. Having this property as a historic site could be an economic benefit along with contributions to civic pride to the people of Oskaloosa and Jefferson County.

I hope you will give favorable consideration to this important historic property.

Sincerely,



Lynn Luck
Jefferson County Commissioner

CITY OF OSKALOOSA

PO Box 446
100 E. Washington Street, Ste C
Oskaloosa, KS 66066

Eric Hull, Mayor

Phone: 785-863-2651
Fax: 785-863-2363
cityofoskaloosaks.org

May 2, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615

Re: Newell-Johnson-Searle House (KHRI #087-460)

Dear Review Board Members,

It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation to support the nomination of the Newell-Johnson-Searle House to the National Register of Historic Places.

The white frame house overlooking Highway 59 has been a favorite old beauty in the City of Oskaloosa for many years. The once-handsome home had fallen into disrepair in the past decade and the city had no choice but to declare it uninhabitable and board it up.

The re-discovery of long-forgotten Oskaloosa and Jefferson County history prompted the descendants of Jesse Newell, a co-founder of Oskaloosa, to buy the property and save it. The Newell family's plans are to help Jefferson County residents know about the remarkable events that took place here more than 160 years ago. The homestead's proximity to the Old Jefferson Town, the Jefferson County Historical Society's historical village, could add to Oskaloosa's status as a history tourism destination.

Thank you for your favorable consideration in placing the Newell-Johnson-Searle House on the national register.

Sincerely,



Eric Hull
Mayor, City of Oskaloosa

May 4, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615
Re: Newell-Johnson-Searle House (KHRI #087-460)

Dear Members of the Board of Review:

I am writing you to offer my support for placing the Newell-Johnson-Searle House on the state and national registers of historic places.

As a long-time officer of the Jefferson County Historical Society I have been involved in the preservation and promotion of my home county's rich history. We operate the historic village Old Jefferson Town in Oskaloosa, about a block from the Newell homestead site.

We have moved historic buildings, some of which otherwise would not have been saved, to Old Jefferson Town. This includes the boyhood home of artist John Steuart Curry, first cousin of my mother, Nelle Curry Manville, who led development of the popular John Steuart Curry Museum at Old Jefferson Town. We have conducted re-enactments of the 1856 Battle of Hickory Point on OJT grounds, had horse-drawn haying exhibitions on its native grass pasture, offered teas at the late 19th Century Nincehelter home and hold other educational events to celebrate our history.

Old Jefferson Town, in fact, is where Dr. James Noble located his log cabin, the same one into which Jesse Newell moved in May 1856 before he built up his homestead about a block north, the property under consideration today.

With the Internet and expanded research opportunities opening up, historic research can reach a new depth, and enough information has been found to re-write the story of Jesse Newell and offer long-forgotten details about the early days of Jefferson County. That includes fresh accounts about Jefferson County's free-state vs proslavery Battle of Hickory Point, fought on my family's farm, that should be kept on record.

Newell's homestead, with the much-changed white wood-frame farm home now perched beside U.S. Highway 59, offers another chance for Kansans to understand their history.

Thank you for your positive consideration for this property.

Sincerely,

William Manville
Vice president, Jefferson County Historical Society
Winchester

May 5, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615

Re: Newell-Johnson-Searle House (KHRI #087-460)

Dear Board of Review Members:

I am writing today to urge your favorable consideration of the Newell-Johnson-Searle House for inclusion on the Kansas and national registers of historic places.

The structures at 609 Walnut Street in Oskaloosa are about a block from the Jefferson County Genealogical Society and the re-created “Old Jefferson Town” operated by the Jefferson County Historical Society. The JCGS Research Center has an extensive collection of historical documents that are available to those researching Oskaloosa and Jefferson County history.

From Jesse Newell’s Kansas Territory homestead to the Johnson family’s civic contributions and prosperous Holstein operation, and the Stevens family of doctors, all have been significant to the county’s story. Much of the earliest history of Jesse Newell, the Johnsons and of Jefferson County had long been forgotten. Records in our genealogical collection, combined with bits of newly uncovered information elsewhere, are combining from this story to add more depth to the county’s narrative.

I am encouraged that the formerly stately home on U.S. Highway 59 and the limestone cabin behind it will be revived, and a refreshed history of Jefferson County better understood.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Wellman
Life Member, Jefferson County Genealogical Society
Life Member, Jefferson County Historical Society
Former Editor of YESTERYEARS, Member Newsletter (2000 – 2015)
Research Assistance Volunteer, JCGS (1998 – present)

May 7, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615

May 6, 2017

Re: Newell-Johnson-Searle House (KHRI #087-460)

Dear Members of the Board of Review:

I am a member of the Johnson family that built onto and expanded the wood frame house at 609 Walnut Street, the Newell-Johnson-Searle House under consideration for the state and national registers.

My grandmother was Lois Johnson Robbins, great grand-daughter of Francis Marion Johnson, who we only recently were reminded had built up the Newell place, adding a double wrap-around porch and making other improvements to the home and farm. We had been more familiar with the stories of the home of Jeremiah H. Johnson, F.M.'s son who built a large two-story wood frame home, also with a double wrap-around porch, about a half mile south on Walnut Street (U.S. Highway 59).

I owned and lived in an Oskaloosa home nearby that had been my great grandparents H.L. and Bessie (Buck) Johnson's house. Although it was smaller than F.M.'s and J.H.'s homes, it, too, has a wrap-around porch!

Both F.M Johnson and his son, J.H. Johnson, were bankers in Oskaloosa, and their children and descendants ran sizeable farms in the area, in addition to their military, civic, political and social participation for the community. One farm south of Oskaloosa has been in my Johnson family for six generations.

I urge you to give favorable consideration to the Newell-Johnson-Searle House for listing on the state and national registers of historic places. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Thomas Robbins
15413 118th Street
Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

Kansas State Historical Society

Re: Newell-Johnson-Searle House (KHRI #087-460)

May 7, 2017

Dear Board of Review Members:

I have been researching the Newell-Johnson-Searle property and its first owner Jesse Newell for about five years and prepared the draft nomination narrative about the site's significance. My interest in this property, which sat across the highway from where I grew up, was piqued when a friend warned that it might be sold and the buildings razed to make room for a commercial property. Because my friend was especially concerned about the small, ancient-looking stone building hidden behind the large, deteriorating house at 609 Walnut Street, I looked at the place anew.

What I learned mandated that James Newell and I should strive to gain national and state historic property register designation for the site. James and his Newell cousins bought back their ancestral property late in 2015.

I earnestly ask the Board to approve this site for the Kansas State Register of Historic Places and endorse its inclusion on the national register. A specialist architect evaluated the property and estimated the limestone cabin to have been built around 1856 and parts of the wood frame house in front of it (including foundation and basement stone work) to 1860, all in the time Newell held the property. Further support is contained in our nomination documentation. We are thrilled to have found still-standing relics of Territorial Kansas in Jefferson County and even more gratified to have unearthed details from Jefferson County's Territorial days.

In 2012, as I traced the property backward, I found not a drop of ink on any record regarding the thick-walled, tiny stone structure behind the house. What I *did* learn was rather a surprise. The little homestead lot and roughly 112 acres once attached to it (odd-sized because it bordered the Delaware Reserve, closed to settlement) had belonged to Jesse Newell, co-founder of Oskaloosa with Joseph Fitzsimmons. The site of Newell's homestead was a long-forgotten fact.

Beautifully developed in later years, this plot was embedded in the Territorial history of Oskaloosa and Jefferson County, especially the year 1856, the worst of the Bleeding Kansas years of struggle over slavery. Jesse Newell, like many other lowans and "western men" (Translation: not from New England) who came to Kansas Territory, was a radical Free-stater who opposed allowing slavery in Kansas and wanted slavery abolished altogether. We believe Jesse Newell may also have been among the free-state Jayhawkers who fought to keep proslavery partisans from taking Kansas (research continues).

Jesse Newell's story, astonishingly important segments of which are absent from local history, is part of Jefferson County's largely under-researched role in the making of a free Kansas. The scale of that contribution is not enormous, but its contribution to a more accurate portrayal of what made Kansas a free state *is* important.

This story meshes with a mass of events that took place in Kansas Territory, especially north of the Kansas River and especially with the violent stories of Leavenworth County. The inclusion of such events can widen the template story of Kansas Territory, a history that some historians argue needs correction and a more comprehensive telling. New research avenues have brought an explosion of previously hard-to-discover information and material that must be considered and can clarify our view of those important days. For Oskaloosa and Jefferson County, we've already found fascinating material unknown, apparently, to local historians. We are excited about the potential to help tell this story through a physical remnant of those times.

Thank you for your consideration of the Newell-Johnson-Searle House property.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Leech
8435 SE 83rd St.
Mercer Island, WA 98040
fireballhill@comcast.net
206.226.2850

May 8, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615

Re: Newell-Johnson-Searle House (KHRI #087-460)

Dear Members of the Review Board:

I am happy today to ask the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review to support listing the Newell-Johnson-Searle House on the state register of historic places. I am a member of the Newell family for whom this property nomination is named.

Jesse Newell is my 3rd great-grandfather, as he is to my two cousins, Paula Newell Ellis and Pamela Newell Jones, who with me recently brought this property back into our family. The original 1850s Jefferson County homesteads of our great-great-grandfather Valentine F. Newell and his younger brother Robert Newell, in another part of Jefferson County, are land I grew up on. Both homesteads are still owned and farmed by the Newell family today.

Ohio born and raised, Jesse Newell and his wife, Mary, moved their family of 8 children to Mahaska County, Iowa, in 1847. During their 9 years in Harrison Township there, the Newell family prospered. A Methodist minister, doctor and farmer, Jesse is credited with building a school on his land, the Newell School, where he helped train pioneers for settlement in the West.

Newell, who strongly opposed allowing slavery in Kansas, came to Kansas Territory in 1855 with a scouting party of other future emigrants to look at possible home sites. Jesse's adult sons Valentine F. and John Newell stayed. Jesse and the rest of his family, and other Iowa emigrants, returned to Kansas Territory in May 1856 and Jesse Newell chose his site to set up a steam saw mill and, with co-founder Joseph Fitzsimmons, set up a new town soon to be called "Oskaloosa." They laid out the town right next to a dying pro-slavery settlement called Jacksonville.

The Newell-Johnson-Searle House retains pieces of lumber most likely milled at Jesse Newell's sawmill on the west side of Oskaloosa. Newell's 1860 two-story wood frame house was a work in progress, its first major makeover coming in 1877 at the hand of owner Francis Marion Johnson and again in 1913, when Johnson's grandson, Francis J. Searle, remodeled after a fire. Searle's repairs and expansion placed the house in its current configuration but retained some original construction dating to 1860.

The stone cabin behind the wood frame house is even older, based on study by specialist architect Stanley C. Hernly of Lawrence. This stone cabin, in particular, is a stunning relic that serves as a reminder of the turbulent times in Territorial Kansas. Likely built around 1856, the little stone cabin is made like a fortress, its limestone walls thicker than the norm.

Perhaps it was a defense after Newell's attack by South Carolinians and other slavery supporters who came to clear Kansas of Free-staters and take Kansas for slavery. It was Jesse Newell who risked life and limb to notify Freestate military leader James A. Harvey and his civilian free-state fighters about the South Carolinians' campsite on Slough Creek north of Oskaloosa. There, Harvey & co, with help from the Newells, captured the South Carolina Palmetto Guards, relieving them of their weapons, horses and the large, red "Southern Rights" flag displayed here at the museum.

Here is a shorthand list of a few other of Jesse Newell's activities in Jefferson County, some of these activities only recently uncovered during research on his homestead:

- Built, owned, operated a steam sawmill
- Co-founded and platted town of Oskaloosa
- With co-founder Fitzsimmons, donated town's county courthouse square
- Donated school block
- Formed and led early town government
- Served as a Territorial-era county commissioner
- Helped to ensure that free-state Oskaloosa became county seat, removing the honor from proslavery Osawkee (Ozawkie).
- Served as captain of a rifle company that helped escort the rescued Underground Railroad operator John Doy back to Lawrence in 1859.
- Slated to help as a station master or conductor in the Underground Railroad in one confirmed instance (1859), reputed to have participated in more than the one case.
- In 1856 was captured, threatened with hanging (the rope was on him) and otherwise attacked by proslavery partisans. Likewise, proslavers destroyed his crops, threw down his fences and otherwise persecuted Newell for his radical free-state beliefs.
- Fought at Jefferson County's 1856 Battle of Hickory Point and helped Col. James A. Harvey escape U.S. troops arresting freestaters.
- Described as a commander of a unit of Jayhawkers helping to deplete proslavery forces, (still under research).

Our research into Jesse Newell has brought out a fuller, largely unknown history of other Jefferson County participants and events in the fight over freedom. The fact that we can identify a property associated with these important times is very exciting to those of us interested in the discovery and retention of our regional Kansas history. People and events related to Bleeding Kansas shaped and focused the direction taken in America at a crucial time.

We hope you will help us develop and share this history by giving favorable consideration to the nomination of the Newell-Johnson-Searle House. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

James A. Newell
Federal Way, Washington
206.718.3031

March 8, 2017

Freedom's
Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Attn: Amanda Loughlin
National Register Coordinator
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

Dear Board Members:

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, Inc., urges you to add Jesse Newell's homestead and the Newell-Johnson-Searle House to National and State Registers of Historic Places. Including this Oskaloosa property on the registers would help broaden the story of freedom and settlement on the Missouri and Kansas Territorial border during the 1850s Border War struggles.

Freedom's Frontier partner organizations in 29 eastern Kansas and 12 western Missouri counties tells the strong story of freedom that led to a violent Border War after passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. Oskaloosa, co-founded by Jesse Newell in Jefferson County, is part of Freedom's Frontier. As a Freestater from Iowa, Jesse Newell was involved in the Border War struggles.

The house in Oskaloosa, about six miles south of the Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley Military Road, reflects our themes of western migration and settlement, as well as the Missouri-Kansas Border War. While the sentiments of Jefferson Countians' fell on both sides of the slavery issue, Jesse Newell is known to have helped in the Underground Railroad.

Territorial Jefferson County has not been deeply researched, but efforts associated with the Newell-Johnson-Searle House have renewed attempts to mine and retain what can be learned about how the county weaves into the larger regional story of freedom. Just one county over from the Missouri River border and located across the Kansas River north of Lawrence and Lecompton, Jefferson County was situated between the largest centers of conflict. We are proud to support this application to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Ogle
Executive Director

FREEDOM'S FRONTIER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES Jody Ladd Craig, Chair, Leawood, KS · Duane Benton, Vice Chair, Kansas City, MO · Kent Glasscock, Treasurer, Manhattan, KS · Deborah Barker, Secretary, Ottawa, KS · John Dillingham, Executive Committee Member-At-Large, Kansas City, MO · Deanell Reece Tacha, Executive Committee Member-At-Large, Lawrence, KS · Kevin Wood, Executive Committee Member-At-Large, Harrisonville, MO · Kay Barnes, Kansas City, MO · Peggy Buhr, Butler, MO · Kay Caksey, Butler, MO · Kelvin Crow, Fort Leavenworth, KS · Jan English, Prairie Village, KS · Bob Ford, St. Joseph, MO · Henry Fortunato, Overland Park, KS · Grant Glenn, Topeka, KS · Stanley Harris, St. Joseph, MO · Mary Hunkeler, Mission Woods, KS · Jeremiah Morgan, Kansas City, MO · Gary Nevius, Overland Park, KS · Craig Patterson, Lawrence, KS · Larry Pfautsch, Harrisonville, MO · James P. Rankin, Topeka, KS · Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Donald Scott, Kansas City, MO · Luther Smith, Kansas City, KS · Kala Stroup, Lawrence, KS · Bill Tempel, Lexington, MO · Nancy Thellman, Lawrence, KS · Bill Wagnon, Topeka, KS · Alexis Woodall, Olathe, KS · Walter Wulf, Humboldt, KS · Honorary Chair: Governor Sam Brownback, KS · Governor Eric Greitens, MO

Post Office Box 526
Lawrence, KS 66044
Ph 785-856-5300
Fx 785-856-5303

March 2, 2017

Mr. James Newell

Re: Jesse Newell Homestead
609 Walnut Street
Oskaloosa, KS

On January 23, 2017, I conducted an on-site review of the Newell Homestead property along with Drew Hinderliter, a student intern-architect in our office. The purpose of the visit was to investigate the Newell Stone Cabin and the Newell/Johnson/Searle House to evaluate various building components and to provide my opinion of the approximate construction date related to the components. I photographed both buildings throughout, observed the overall buildings and various construction elements and materials, and took notes regarding the physical composition of the buildings. The following describes the findings of that investigation.

Newell Stone Cabin ca. 1856

This is a one-story stone building, approx. 23' N-S by 12' E-W. It has a full cellar/basement with access via an exterior cellar-door and stone stair on the S side; it is uncertain if the cellar-door and stair are original to the building. The interior dimensions are approx. 20' N-S by 9' E-W. It has an approx. 10:12 pitch wood-framed gable roof with N-S ridge. The 1st story has a single door centered in the W wall, and single windows in the N and S walls centered approx. in the W half of the building. The basement has one window high in the N wall below the 1st story window.

The exterior cabin walls and basement walls are limestone masonry approx. 18" thick. The stone course size is approx. 12" at the base of the basement walls, reduces to approx. 8" through the upper basement and lower 1st story, and reduces again to 4" to 6" in the upper 1st story. Many of the approx. 8" stones have an approx. 4" strata at the top or bottom with an abundance of nautical fossilized material. There is an approx. 18" square brick chimney centered in the N wall and inlaid within the stone masonry; the bricks are fairly soft, approx. 8-5/8"x2-3/16", and it's unclear whether the chimney is original to the building or a later added feature. At both the N and S walls there is a steel cross-tie rod just above the window head height that is tight against the inside face of the walls; these penetrate the E and W sidewalls and have exterior exposed steel nut and large round washer.

The basement height is approx. 7' and the 1st story walls are approx. 8' tall at the E and W sidewalls. The mortar appears to be primarily lime mortar with a few areas pointed with harder Portland/lime mortar (mostly in the N wall around the brick chimney and window). The interior 1st story stone has a thin layer of cement parge coating.

The wood framed roof consists of 2x4 rafters approx. 24" o.c., 1x6 collar ties at all rafters and located approx. 1'-6" above the side walls, and two collar ties at approx. 7'-6" height. The roof has 1x board sheathing, plywood sheathing overlay, and one or two layers of deteriorated asphalt shingles.

The wood 1st story floor structure consists of 2x6 joists at 24" o.c., 1x6 board sheathing, and T&G painted wood flooring. The floor joists are 1-5/8" x 5-3/4" and do not appear to be original to the building; the E and W bearing ends project into the stone walls and sit on top of what appears to be the remaining ends of original floor joists that have been removed. There is a wood 1x bearing ledger laid into the stone wall at the bottom of the previous joists. The stone above and below the W 1st story door appears to be

modified to adjust for the raised floor height. It is uncertain when this modification was made, but the floor joists size and appearance suggests a 1900-1930 timeframe.

The W 1st story door is 2'-5" wide and 6'-4" tall. It is a wood stile-and-rail door with two bottom panels and two upper panels which are divided with two glass lites in each panel. It is uncertain whether the glass lites are original or are modifications replacing previous solid panels. The door hardware is steel with a decorative exterior pull-handle, backplate, and thumb latch which operates the interior droplatch. There is a surface mount deadbolt lock above the thumb latch lock. The door hinges are surface mounted (not mortised) and match the finish of the thumb latch lock. The door and hardware appears to be original building materials dating to the mid 1800's; numerous examples of similar hardware are displayed at the Steamboat Arabia Museum in Kansas City.

The N and S 1st story windows are wood, 2'1" wide by 4'2" tall, 2/2 double-hung. They have 1x6 wood interior trim. These appear to be original building materials. At the S window the glass is broken, the top rail of the bottom sash is broken, and the vertical dividing mullion is missing at both sashes.

Based on the building materials evidence, it appears the stone cabin dates to approximately 1856, the early days of Oskaloosa and Kansas Territory. The specific size and configuration suggests it may have been constructed with an eye toward serving as a defensive fortress; the location of the two N and S windows, the single W door, and the thick stone walls, provide well protected vantage points within the structure. The W facing orientation also suggests less concern with environmental considerations, like avoiding cold winter NW winds, and more with protection from possible physical attacks from an easterly direction. Without documentation this is conjecture, but the described characteristics are uncommon and seem to suggest some specific purpose other than simply providing a place for domestic dwelling.

Newell/Johnson/Searle House ca. 1860/1877/1913

The Newell/Johnson/Searle house is exactly as its name implies, an amalgamation incorporating components from three distinct major construction/reconstruction activities. The current overall configuration and finishes are from the 1913 reconstruction after a significant fire, with more recent updating of kitchen and bathrooms.

The SE portion of the house has a limestone basement, which is approx. 23'-7" E-W by 11' N-S (interior dimensions). The interior of the stone walls are whitewashed and only the top 18" of stone are visible above grade outside; there are no stones visible with the strata of fossilized material present in the stones of the cabin. This does not preclude that the basement was constructed at the same time as the cabin, but does suggest it was constructed either at a different time or with stone from a different quarry site. This portion of the house likely dates to ca. 1860.

The floor joists above this basement are full-dimension 2x8's with visible sawmill marks; this area also has a full-dimension 8x8 sill beam around the perimeter on top of the stone basement walls. It would be typical that stone blocking would have been laid between the ends of the floor joists, and lack of whitewash at the joists ends suggest that this stone blocking has been removed. There is a stair at the east end of the basement up to the 1st story; the floor framing around this stair suggests original continuous floor framing was modified to create the opening for the stair (full length floor joists appear to be cut and headed off, and previous location of diagonal wood blocking is evident at the open side of the stair rim). The wood sub-flooring in this area is random width T&G 1x boards; at the E side of the stair this also serves as the finished flooring, and it may have originally been the finished floor through the entire area. The floor framing and sub-flooring in this area likely dates to ca. 1860.

The rest of the house has a crawl space with stone foundation walls. There are 1st story floor framing anomalies which suggest various expansions and changes in floor plan arrangement. The floor framing under the 1st story kitchen area, directly N of the basement, indicates an original area of approx. 9' x 10' which may also date to 1860 or to 1877. There is a 1st story porch directly E of the kitchen and the S

portion of this porch is framed in a way indicating it predates the N portion of the porch; the S porch area may date to 1860 or 1877.

The 1st story area above the basement is the current Dining Room, and the stair from the basement comes up at the E end of the room. In the S wall, around the window, a portion of plaster and lath has been removed. The exposed studs around the window have fire char damage, and the wall studs have visible sawmill marks. The S, E, and N walls of the Dining Room most likely date to ca. 1860.

The W wall of the Dining Room has a large double pocket door to the Living Room; there is a wood post in the basement at the floor joist under the double door. The W wall of the basement is approx. 9' W of the double door, there is a noticeable rise/hump in the Living Room floor here; this is where the original W wall of the ca. 1860 Newell house would have been located. In the attic is a wood framed truss above this point, and two steel hanging rods come down through the 2nd story to carry floor framing where the wall was removed. It's possible this framing is carrying original 2nd story floor framing remaining from the ca. 1860 construction; further investigation would be necessary for exact determination. At the top of the basement wall directly below this point is evidence of a brick chimney having been removed, indicating that the original ca. 1860 house had a centered W gable-end chimney.

The remainder of the 1st construction may date to 1877, with modification made to interior arrangement in 1913. The 2nd story construction appears to date to 1913. Some of the framing in the attic appears to incorporate salvaged lumber, possibly from the 1877 construction and reused after the 1913 fire. The roof has 1x wood board skip sheathing and wood shingles.

Based on the visible evidence it appears the basement and 1st story SE portion of the house dates to ca 1860. This portion encompasses the house described in 1860 as a "large two-story residence". It's not certain if it had a full height 2nd story; many houses of this time period had a second story with approx. 4' tall sidewalls and steeply pitched (10:12) roof. It's also possible a single-story wing was located on the N side of the 1860 house, and possibly a porch at the NE inside corner. Based on the location of the house on the lot relative to the currently unused street R.O.W. on the S side, and based on the centered W gable-end chimney toward Walnut Street to the W, it's likely the 1860 house was a side-gable type with a front door and entrance porch facing south.

Conclusion

It has been a pleasure reviewing the Newell Cabin and the Newell/Johnson/Searle House for you. I will forward copies of this report to Sarah Martin and to Liz Leech, who have been working with you on the National Register Nomination for the property. I will also email a DropBox link to you, Sarah, and Liz with a folder of all of the photos I took of the house.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the report, or if there is any other way I can assist you.

Sincerely



Stan Hernly



6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615



Sam Brownback, Governor
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

May 22, 2017

Paul Loether, National Register Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Re: National Register documents for Kansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:

NEW NOMINATIONS (5)

- **Oak Hill Cemetery; Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination, .kmz file, and letter of support;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **Keystone Ranch; Burns vicinity, Marion County, Kansas (new nomination) (nominated under the "Historic Agriculture-related Resources of Kansas" MPS)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **Harper Standpipe; Harper, Harper County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **Frisco Freight Depot; Pittsburg, Crawford County, Kansas (new nomination) (nominated under the "Historic Railroad Resources of Kansas" MPS)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and email from owner;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

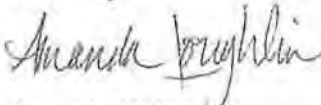
- **Newell-Johnson-Searle House; Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination, structural report referenced in nomination, and letters of support;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

REMOVAL REQUESTS (2)

- **Naomi & Leona Apartment Buildings; Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas** (removal request)
 - Physical, signed copy of the removal request;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the removal request;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photograph.
- **Ellington Apartment Building; Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas** (removal request)
 - Physical, signed copy of the removal request;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the removal request;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photograph.

If you have any questions about these enclosed items, please contact me at ext. 216 or Amanda.Loughlin@ks.gov.

Sincerely,



Amanda K. Loughlin
National Register Coordinator
Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures