

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received SEP 6 1984
date entered OCT 4 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Plumb, Mrs. Preston B., Home

and/or common Community Center of Lyon County

2. Location

street & number 224 East Sixth Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Emporia N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 66801 code 20 county Lyon code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: rooming house

4. Owner of Property

name Community Center of Lyon County

street & number 224 East Sixth Avenue

city, town Emporia N/A vicinity of state Kansas 66801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Lyon County Courthouse

city, town Emporia state Kansas 66801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mrs. Preston B. Plumb house is located at 224 East 6th Avenue in Emporia, just three blocks east of Sixth and Commercial, the center of the downtown Emporia business district. The house, which was built in 1895, incorporates an earlier structure which was built in the 1870s. Except for a connecting passageway to an auxiliary structure, built in 1920, the house is virtually unchanged since it was built. The frame house stands on a quarry-cut limestone foundation and is roughly rectangular with a wing on the front of the house extending to the west and a brick octagonal room (the library) which projects from the southeast corner of the house. The auxiliary structure was originally the carriage house and was located on the alley. After the property was acquired by the YWCA, this structure was moved to the area north of the house and the interior was rebuilt to provide additional rooms for the residents. Space on the first floor is presently occupied by the offices of the Flint Hills Girl Scout Council. The exterior is architecturally the same in style as the main house. The two sections have been joined by a passageway, two stories high, which creates sitting rooms on both levels.

The house is a fine example of the style of early Colonial Revival architecture which has been called "Neo-Colonial" by Old House Journal. The walls are covered with wood shingles, now brown, but believed to have been red originally. All exterior trim is white.

The facade of the house is dominated by a two-story portico, supported by four wooden, unfluted Ionic columns. The soffit of the pediment features brackets, and centered in the tympanum is an oval window of leaded glass, set horizontally. Below the Ionic capitals is a band of bead and disc molding. The ceiling of the portico is coffered. The main entrance is not centered between columns but is directly behind the second column from the left. Each of the double doors is of one vertical, beveled panel, surrounded by egg and dart molding. Side lights are of leaded glass as is the fanlight above. At the top of the wide molding which surrounds the fanlight is a decorative wooden keystone. The oval doorknob is of brass bordered in a garland design. On each of the doors and on the sidelights is a band of guilloche molding. Highly ornamented brackets support a balcony on the second floor. This balcony extends across the top of the front door and across the top of the bay window which extends into the portico. Two pairs of glass French doors open onto the balcony from rooms on the second floor. Extending to the left of the portico is a one story porch supported by four smaller Ionic columns. At the far end of this porch, a door, painted black and of five horizontal panels, opens into a hall which divides the two rooms of this wing. There is a transom over this door. This wing is one and one-half stories high with two windows set in a wide dormer over the main section and a smaller dormer window is set in the roof of the end section which is designed in the form of an octagon but with only five sides visible. In the gable of the main section of the house, there is an oval window, set horizontally. Near the front of the main section, at the second floor level, another oval window is set vertically.

Extending diagonally from the southeast corner of the house is the library, the building's most unusual feature. It is an octagonal structure of tan Roman brick with a green metal roof, attached to the main building by a very short connecting link, the width of one side of the octagon. The opposite side features a chimney behind which is a skylight. Each of the other six sides features a small casement window of leaded glass in an inverted fish-scale pattern.

Toward the rear of the main structure is a screened porch featuring Ionic columns. Soffit brackets over a dentil cornice surround the main house. On the third floor are three single dormer windows, one of which has been converted into a door giving access to a fire escape. A large open terrace gives access to the east door of the passageway between the main and auxiliary structures. A covered porch adjoins this terrace and provides cover for the entrance to the Girl Scout offices which occupy the first floor of the former carriage house. A

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Palladian window, set in a large gambrel cross-gable, is flanked by two small shed dormers, each with a small casement window. Dentils ornament the cornice.

On the northwest corner of the main structure, the area of the kitchen and pantry on the first floor projects out beyond the main portion of the building. There are three windows on the first floor. Above this are three large, eight-over-eight windows which light a sunroom on the second floor. In the center of the west side of the house, two windows on each floor are long, narrow windows, curved at the top, and thought to be from the original house. On the north side of the west wing, two exterior doors with transoms, of five horizontal panels each, are unused and there are no steps or access to them. Two windows on the second floor are of the type from the original house. On the north side of the far west section of the west wing, a rectangular section without windows houses a vault.

INTERIOR

The main entrance to the house opens into a vestibule. The interior side of the double entrance doors is the same as the exterior in design but is a light wood with natural finish. The vestibule is wainscoted and contains a single inner door of the same design as the exterior doors, which opens into the main hall. This door is surrounded by sidelights and a fanlight which match those surrounding the outer door. A casement window of leaded glass is at the corner of the hall. The woodwork in the hall is of a light wood but around each doorway and window is a molding of walnut. The coffered ceiling is all of wood. The divisions divide the ceiling into squares of approximately two feet which contain diagonal panelling set in alternating directions. Where the divisions meet the ceiling, there is a carved molding. The stairway which rises along the west wall of the hall, has wooden balusters, handrail and carved newel post. At the landing, the stairway rises to both the left and to the right. The flight to the left leads to the west wing of the house. In the far end of the front hall is a built-in carved walnut seat with storage space underneath. The area of the stairway from the stringer to the floor is paneled in the same light wood as the rest of the hallway with strips of walnut molding. Under the landing is a small alcove from which a door opens into an understairs closet and another into the west wing. The alcove is paneled the same as the area on the side of the stairway.

To the right of the main hallway, double doors lead into the front parlor. At the back of the hall, a single door leads into the dining room. To the right of this door is a small alcove from which a single door leads into the back parlor.

The ground floor of the west wing contains a large rectangular room, once used as a billiard room. Beyond it is a small, half-octagonal room which served as an office, with an adjacent vault.

The front parlor is entered from the stair hall through an archway flanked by pilasters of oak topped by Ionic capitals. A dentil molding goes all the way around the room, across the top of all doors, arches, and windows, and around the fireplace. Above the molding is a cove ceiling. On the front of the room is a bay window made of a wide window flanked by two narrower windows. The archway from the front hall does not have pocket doors but a strip of oak has been placed where the opening would be. In a letter dated October 30, 1895, Amos H. Plumb, son of Carrie S. Plumb, informed the architect, Harry Jones of Minneapolis, Minnesota, that the doors were

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unsatisfactory and had broken during installation. He said that he had returned the doors to the manufacturer and that Mr. Thomas, the builder, " ... says he can make a finish on the casing of the door which will look all right."

At the back of the front parlor is an archway which opens into the back parlor. This archway does have pocket doors. On the east wall is a fireplace. The facing and hearth are of mottled white and sienna colored marble. Around the facing is a guilloche molding. The mantel features beaded and egg and dart molding. Above the mantel is a mirror with rounded top. A carved finial in a flame design tops the mantelpiece. At the sides of the mirror are brass sconces, each having three gas-burning outlets.

To the left of the fireplace, a square topped opening framed by paired semi-Ionic columns, opens into a small study. This small room has shoulder-high wainscoting of oak. It is of plain rectangles placed in a masonry-like pattern. In one corner of the room is a statuary niche over bookcases. To the left of the columned opening is a fireplace. The hearth and facing are of glazed tile. The facing is surrounded by egg and dart molding. The mantel support is a curved piece with shell patterns carved into it.

From the corner of the study, an arched opening leads to a small passageway from which a rounded top, copper-clad door leads to the library across a metal threshold. The library was obviously designed to be as nearly fireproof as possible. The room is octagonal. The entrance and the fireplace take up two sides of the octagon and in each of the other six sides is a narrow leaded glass window in inverted fish-scale design. The fireplace is opposite the entrance and is of terra cotta bricks and the extra-wide hearth is of tile. The facing is surrounded by terra cotta molding in the egg and dart pattern. The oak mantel, which is ornamented only by small dentils across the front, is supported only by a terra cotta bracket, featuring a large egg and dart pattern. The ceiling rises to the peak of the conical roof. The roof supports and their horizontal pieces are in oak and the spaces between are covered with narrow bands of wood, laid diagonally with each section alternating direction. Near the top of the room, over the fireplace, is a skylight. A bracket at the top of the room is arranged like the spokes of a wheel from which a light fixture is hung. Two bookshelves project into the room and are accessible from both sides. Additional bookshelves are mounted above the windows.

The back parlor is apparently a part of the original structure, although the woodwork, door and windows all date from the 1895 rebuilding. A large archway with pocket doors opens into the front parlor. A small door in the corner of the room leads into the front hall. A wide doorway with pocket doors opens into the dining room. Standard size doors lead from the back parlor to the back hallway, the study, and the first-floor bedroom. On the east side of the back parlor are two windows set in an alcove. Under the windows is a long built-in seat under which is located the radiator. The ceiling is about ten feet in height and at the seven foot level, a narrow picture molding surrounds the room. In the center of the room hangs a chandelier of brass which is equipped for both gas and electricity. The floor in this room, as is the case with the front parlor, the study, and the dining room, is carpeted wall to wall. The doors and windows in this room are capped by dentils. The single doors are of four horizontal panels and the pocket doors are of five horizontal panels.

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The woodwork in the dining room is the same light wood that is used in the hall with all door and window openings being surrounded by a molding rather than dentils. The two windows on the west are long, narrow windows, indicating that they exist from the original house. The facing of the fireplace is pink marble mottled with gray. The mantelpiece itself is of the same wood as the rest of the room. The mantel entablature is supported by fluted Ionic columns. There is one band of molding, above which is a plain area, at each end of which is a carved, oval pattern. Above this is more crenelated molding. The chandelier matches the one in the back parlor. It is of brass and is equipped for both gas and electricity. To the right of the fireplace is a small alcove from which a door leads to the west wing. The doors, in design, are the same as those in the back parlor. One leads to the front hall and one to the kitchen. The ceiling, as in the back parlor, is about ten feet high.

The kitchen is remarkably preserved in its 1895 state. The woodwork is pine. There is wainscoting of pine around much of the room. In some places, it is about three and one-half feet and in other places about four feet high. It is made of two-inch wide pine strips set side by side. The cabinets, shelves, drawers, and cupboards appear to be unchanged from the time of installation. The kitchen is divided into two parts, separated by a long low rectangular opening. The west section, with two windows, was probably a serving and possibly a dining area. The east section has more cupboards with glass doors and built-in drawers. There is evidence on the wall of the place where the stove pipe from the range entered the chimney. High on the east wall are three small windows which light the back service hall. On the northwest corner of the house, back of the kitchen, is a pantry with glass-doored cupboards and built in drawers.

The first-floor bedroom opens off the back parlor and is said to have been Mrs. Plumb's bedroom. All the woodwork is bird's-eye maple. There is a corner fireplace of bird's-eye maple. On each side is fluted Ionic column with beaded molding down the sides and across the front where it joins the facing. The facing itself is white tile as is the hearth. The upper part of the mantelpiece is a beveled mirror, slightly rounded at the top. On each side of the mirror is a panel. The left one has visible hinges and keyhole. On the east side of the room, next to the window, is an alcove from which double glass doors open onto a screened porch. The window also overlooks this porch. There is a transom above the doors. Leaded glass casement windows are over a paneled section on another wall of this alcove. There is a shelf at the bottom of the window over the paneled section. On the north wall of the bedroom, two doors form a "V". The one on the left opens into a dressing room which has built-in cupboards, closets, and one small window. The other door opens into a bathroom. The tub rests on claw and ball feet. The lavatory is of brown marble, set on brass, spiral legs.

The small flight of stairs that leads to the left from the landing in the main hall goes up to a very small hall with two windows on the north. These windows are obviously from the old house. Opposite the windows is a door leading into a bedroom. All the woodwork in this area is painted as is all the woodwork on the second floor. Chipped areas seem to indicate that the second floor woodwork was always painted. There is a fireplace in this bedroom and the style of the white marble mantel suggests that it is from the original house. Designs are etched into the marble and filled with gold leaf or gilt. Construction indicates that the south side of the room was extended in the 1895 rebuilding and a large dormer with two windows and two closets were added then. The doors and woodwork reflect the earlier house. The doors are four panel and the molding is simple throughout. On the north, to the left of the fireplace, a dormer opens into

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1895 **Builder/Architect** Harry Jones of Minneapolis, MN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mrs. Preston B. Plumb house is primarily significant for its architectural character, thus meeting Criterion C.

It is one of the most elaborate examples in Kansas of what Old House Journal has called the "Neo Colonial Style," in which Georgian and pseudo-Georgian details are used to ornament an irregular, picturesque Victorian building. The NeoColonial Style marks the first phase of the Colonial Revival movement, borrowing decorative elements of the Colonial period without regard to Georgian design concepts.

Carrie S. Plumb, the widow of United States Senator Preston B. Plumb, a founder of Emporia in 1857, built this house in 1895 as a memorial to her husband. Built in a grand manner around an earlier house which had been the Plumb home since 1880, this house was a showplace in the social life of Emporia. As the wife of a man who served in the United States Senate for 14 years as member and speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives and as reporter for the Kansas Supreme Court, Mrs. Plumb was prominent on the Emporia social scene. She gave the land on which Emporia's Carnegie Library was built in 1904. She was one of the most influential women in Emporia and gave of her time and money to many families and organizations. For example, she set aside one room of her home in 1917 for the surgical dressing department of the Emporia Red Cross. On Mrs. Plumb's death on September 28, 1919, the house was inherited by her three daughters who immediately offered the property to the National Y.W.C.A. as a home for working women. The gift was made as memorial to their parents. An additional gift of \$20,000 was given by Mrs. Plumb's two sons for the purpose of moving the carriage house to the north end of the house where it was attached to make dormitories.

A local Y.W.C.A. chapter with 540 charter members was organized on December 17, 1920. By forming the organization, the Plumb gift could be accepted. The Emporia Y.W.C.A. was in existence until July 11, 1955, when the building was deeded to the Community Center, Inc. The house is still used as a residence for low-income working women.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Emporia, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	7	4	7	5	6	0	4	2	5	4	3	4	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 87-89-91 and the South 20 feet of Lot 93 on Union Street in the City of Emporia according to the original survey.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Department
Kansas State Historical Society

date August 21, 1984

street & number 120 West Tenth

telephone (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director
Kansas State Historical Society

date August 21, 1984

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/4/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Emporia Daily News, January 5, 1982.

The Emporia Gazette, November, 1919 and July 23, 1938.

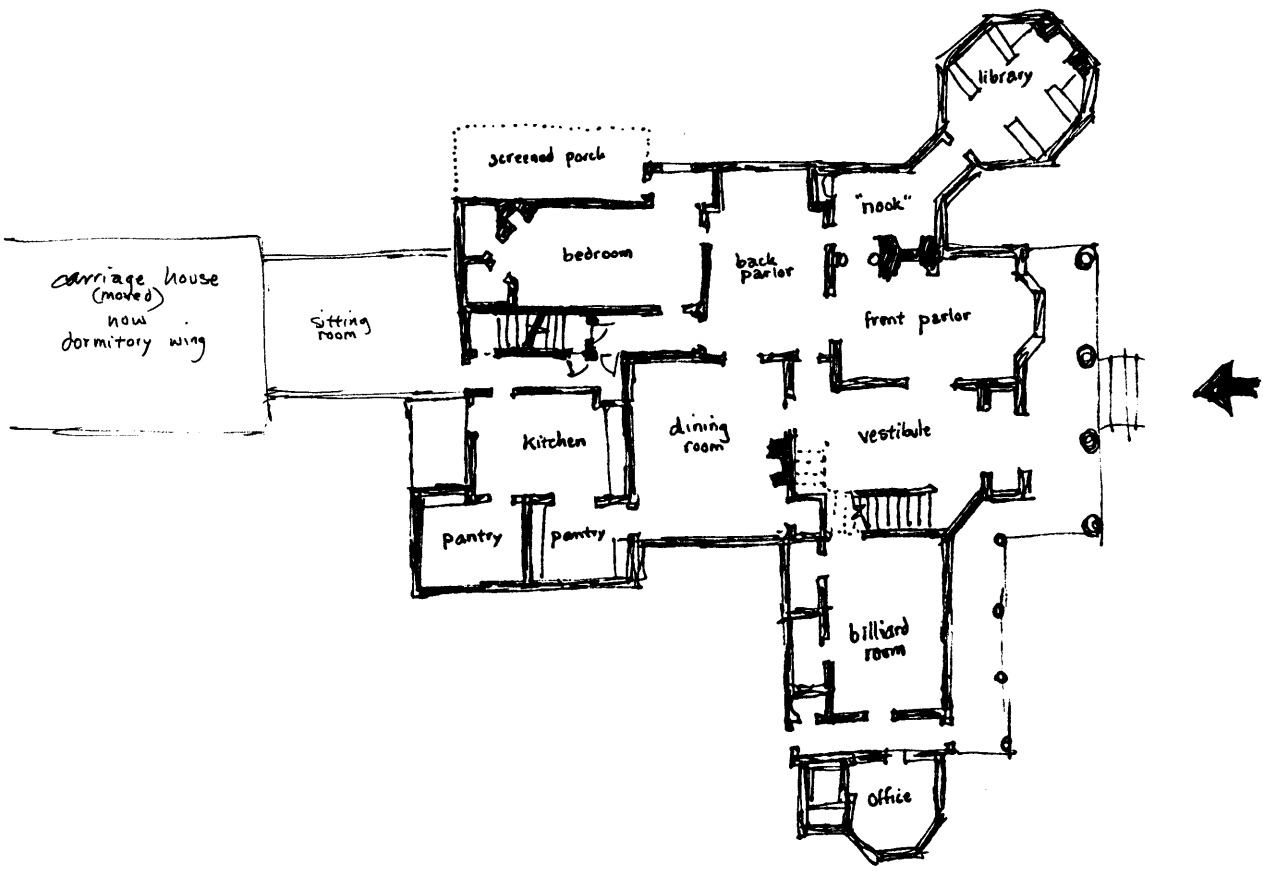
Letter, A.H. Plumb to Harry Jones, Architect, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 30, 1895.

Letter, Amos H. Plumb to J.W. Tipton, Emporia, Kansas, November 15, 1895.

Letter, Amos H. Plumb to Thomas Krutz, New York, N.Y., December 16, 1895.

Letter, A.H. Plumb to Jesse F. McDonald, Leadville, Colorado, January 10, 1896.

This form was prepared from a draft submitted by Mr. Leslie Marks, president of the board of directors of the Community Center of Lyon County, Inc., and Mr. Gail Rindom of Emporians for Historic Preservation.



sketch of plan of
the Mrs. Preston B. Plumb home
Emporia, Kansas