NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)		RECEIVED <sup>OMB No. 19924</sup> 0018
United States Department of the Interio National Park Service	or	MAR 2 2 1005
National Register of Historic Registration Form	eterminations for individual properties and rm (National Register Bulletin 16A). Comple does not apply to the property being docum significance, enter only categories and sub	e each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or nented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, ocategories from the instructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property		
historic nameBabbitt-Doerr Hous	se	
other names/site number145-2980		
2. Location		
street & number <u>423 West 5th St</u>	treet	not for publication
city or town <u>Larned</u>		vicinity
Kansas anda	KS south Downoo	
state <u>Kansas</u> code		code <u>145</u> zip code <u>67550</u>
As the designated authority under the Natio	eets the documentation standards for regist	tering properties in the National Register of
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar Markets does not meet the National Re nationally statewide X locally. (	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 egister criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date	tering properties in the National Register of 6 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar The meets does not meet the National Re nationally statewide Normannelly (0.5) Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 egister criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar There is a does not meet the National R nationally statewide Thocally. ( Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets do comments.)	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 egister criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.)
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar Therets does not meet the National Ri- nationally statewide Thocally. (DS <u>enume over SHPO</u> , Signature of certifying official/Title <u>Kansas State Historical So</u> State of Federal agency and bureau	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 egister criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.)
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar Therets does not meet the National R nationally statewide X locally. ( Second ShPO, Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets do comments.)	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 register criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date ociety	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.)
As the designated authority under the Natio	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 register criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date ociety bes not meet the National Register criteria.	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.)
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar Therets does not meet the National Ri nationally statewide X locally. ( Second SHPO, Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets do comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 register criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date ociety bes not meet the National Register criteria. Date	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.) ( See continuation sheet for additional
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar Theets does not meet the National Re nationally statewide X locally. ( Summer SHPO, Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets do comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau <b>4. National Park Service Certification</b> hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 register criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date ociety bes not meet the National Register criteria.	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.) ( See continuation sheet for additional
I request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar meets does not meet the National Ri nationally statewide X locally. (05 State of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So State of Federal agency and bureau          In my opinion, the property       meets       doe comments.)         Signature of certifying official/Title         State or Federal agency and bureau         4. National Park Service Certification         I hereby certify that the property is:         M entered in the National Register.         See continuation sheet.	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 register criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date ociety bes not meet the National Register criteria. Date	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.) ( See continuation sheet for additional Contended in the Date of Actiony
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar Theets does not meet the National Re nationally statewide X locally. ( Summer SHPO, Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets do comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau <b>4. National Park Service Certification</b> hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 register criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date ociety bes not meet the National Register criteria. Date	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.) ( See continuation sheet for additional Contended in the Date of Actiony
As the designated authority under the Natio request for determination of eligibility me Historic Places and meets the procedural ar Theets does not meet the National Re nationally statewide X locally. ( Second SHPO, Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical So State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets do comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau <b>1. National Park Service Certification</b> hereby certify that the property is: Mentered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the	eets the documentation standards for regist nd professional requirements set forth in 36 register criteria. I recommend that this prop See continuation sheet for additional comm February 22, 1995 Date ociety bes not meet the National Register criteria. Date	tering properties in the National Register of 5 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property erty be considered significant ents.) ( See continuation sheet for additional Contended in the Date of Actiony

Babbitt-Doerr House

Name of Property

Pawnee County, Kansas County and State

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)         Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
I private I building(s) ☐ public-local ☐ district	Contributing Noncontributing
□ public State) 30333 YOM30 Site □ public Federal 303 3 YOM30 N□ structure	sites
	0.000
	objects
	3Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously liste in the National Register
N/A	N/A
6. Function or Use	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Domestic; single dwelling	Domestic; single dwelling
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Late Victorian: Queen Anne	foundation <u>Stone: limestone; concrete</u>
	walls_Brick
	Wood: shingle
	roofMetal
	other

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

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria for National Register listing.)

- X A Property is associated with eve a significant contribution to the our history.
- **B** Property is associated with the significant in our past.
- **C** Property embodies the distinctiv of a type, period, or method of represents the work of a maste high artistic values, or represen distinguishable entity whose con individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely information important in prehistor

#### **Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- □ A owned by a religious institution religious purposes.
- **B** removed from its original location
- **C** a birthplace or grave.
- **D** a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object
- **F** a commemorative property.
- □ G less than 50 years of age or ac within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on on

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibilography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources us

### Previous documentation on file (NF

- preliminary determination of ind CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National
- previously determined eligible b Register
- designated a National Historic L
- □ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # .
- □ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

#### Pawnee County, Kansas County and State

<b>a</b> a qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
nts that have made broad patterns of	Architecture
	Commerce
lives of persons	
	Politics/Government
ve characteristics construction or r, or possesses	
ts a significant and	Period of Significance
mponents lack	c. 1886- 1924
y to yield, ory or history.	
	Significant Datas
	Significant Dates
	<b>c.</b> 1886, 1907
or used for	
on.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
	Albert A. Doerr
	Cultural Affiliation
	N/A
, or structure.	
,	
history significance	Architect/Builder
hieved significance	Unknown
e or more continuation sheets.)	
; 	
ed in preparing this form on one	e or more continuation sheets.)
PS):	Primary location of additional data:
ividual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency
Register	Giner State agency     Federal agency
y the National	Local government
andmark	University Other
anuman	

#### Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

#### **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 4	4 9 0 9 8 0	4 2 2 5 3 8 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### **Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

3 💷		
Zone	Easting	Northing
4		
🗌 See 🛛	continuation sheet	

.

11. Form Prepared By	
Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Hi name/title <u>Michele Risdal</u> , <u>National Register Speci</u>	
organization <u>Kansas State Historical Society</u>	date February 22, 1995
street & number <u>120 West 10th Street</u>	telephone (913) 296-5264
city or town <u>Topeka</u>	
Additional Documentation	

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### **Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name <u>Wayne and Brenda Hagerman</u>	
street & number <u>822</u> Broadway, Box C	telephone
city or townLarned	state KS zip code 67550

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Pawnee County, Kansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	RECEIVED 413	
National Register of Historic Place Continuation Sheet	<b>S MAR</b> 2 2 <b>1995</b>	
Section number 7 Page 1	INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	

OMR Approvel No. 1024-001

NPS Form 10-900-

The Babbitt-Doerr House (c. 1886) is located at 423 West 5th Street in Larned, Pawnee County, Kansas (pop. 4,490). The one-and-a-half story Queen Anne style house sits on a rusticated limestone foundation and is surmounted by a pressed metal shingled, hipped roof with three gable projections and three shed dormers. The building has a northern facade orientation and a secondary elevation to the west. The house is sited on a hill overlooking Larned. The high elevation of the building in relation to the surrounding landscape places a visual importance on three (the north, east and west) elevations.

Two outbuildings are included with the nomination, a brick outhouse (c. 1886) and a brick garage (c. 1910) that both stand southwest of the house. The brick garage sits on a concrete foundation and is surmounted by a pressed metal shingled, gable roof. The roof was originally covered with wooden shingles. Each gable end is defined with two square windows. The garage has a western facade orientation with the intersecting street. A c. 1910 photograph indicates that the garage originally had three folding garage doors instead of an overhead two-car garage door and one folding garage door. The other three elevations have two square windows centered vertically on each wall.

Abutting the garage on the east side is an outhouse. The brick outhouse is surmounted by a metal covered, hipped roof. A c. 1910 photograph indicates that the roof was originally covered with wooden shingles. A door and a double hung sash window to the east comprise the north facade. Brick voussoirs surmount the door and window. The south facade has a door and a square window. The majority of the exposed brick needs to be tuckpointed.

A wooden barn originally stood at the rear of the house along the alley. A non-extant garden shed, outhouse, chicken shed, and carriage house were also located to the south of the house. An extant hitching post is located west of the garage near the street.

The overall rectangular form of the house is surmounted by a pressed metal shingled, hipped roof that is flattened to form a deck. The deck supports wrought iron cresting. The roof was originally covered with wooden shingles, but in c. 1920s or 1930s the house was reroofed with extant pressed metal shingles. The hipped roof becomes the projection point of three gable roofs and three shed dormers. The gables are located on the front facade, northeast corner and west elevation. The second story of the south elevation is defined by one five window shed dormer and an one window shed dormer placed on a recessed wall. The other shed dormer is located on the east elevation.

Brick comprises the building's first story. The rusticated limestone foundation and brick walls are divided by a row of bush hammered limestone blocks. On the second story, shingles cover all gable projections and shed dormers. A triangular section on each gable is formed by a wooden board which spans the gable and is upheld by brackets. The steeply pitched hipped roof with a front-facing gable projection, patterned shingles, and cutaway bay window are all used to avoid a

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_7 Page \_2

smooth walled, symmetrical appearance. Chimneys rise from the northwest corner of the hipped roof, the shed dormer on the east side and the shed dormer on the south side. A c. 1910 photograph indicates that the chimney on the northwest corner of the hipped roof was originally a louver.

A one-story, full length, spindlework porch accentuates the asymmetry of the northern facade. Ten turned posts support a gently sloping roof with a gable over the entrance. A wooden balustrade composed of two horizontal rails terminated by posts, with horizontal and vertical members defining the railing spans the space between the posts. A spindle frieze is upheld by brackets. Brick lattice work supports the porch. Six poured concrete steps with concrete abutments form the approach to the porch. A tongue and groove ceiling surmounts the porch.

Fenestration is comprised of 1/1 double hung sash in singular and double groupings. "Door and window surrounds tend to be simple in Queen Anne houses. Window sashes have only a single pane of glass...Doors commonly have delicate incised decorative detailing and a single large pane of glass set into the upper portion." (McAlester, 266) A square bay window projection fenestrates the northeast corner. Windows on the south and east side of the foundation alight the basement. The stone lintels above the first floor windows and doors display a delicately incised floral pattern. Brick voussoirs surmount every door and window. A small non-accessible porch with a wrought iron railing and brackets underscores the double window on the east elevation.

The interiors of the first and second floor retain their original floorplan and detailing, except for the southwest room on the first floor which in 1950 was converted into a den, bathroom and kitchen. The first floor is arranged by having one room lead into another, there is no importance placed on the staircase, which is located behind the door on the south wall of the entry hall. The second floor is reached by this straight, narrow staircase. All rooms on the second floor are accessed by an ell-shaped hallway.

The dining room, entry hall and two parlors compose the public space on the first floor. The entry hall is a large room that functions more as a parlor than an entry. Entry into the house occurs on the north wall through a door with a large single pane of glass set in the upper portion of the door and is surmounted by a transom. To the west is a double hung sash window. The trim surrounding the windows and doors is a molded pilaster finish design. This is defined by thin pine pilasters rising from the base blocks, meeting the head blocks at the head of the door or window, with the entire casing being held together by a molded head casing. The molded profiles of the pine pilasters are bead-and-cove. At the top corners of each door and window are bull's eye corner blocks. Beneath each windows on the first floor and above each door is paneling. All doors have their original locksets and knobs. The original pine baseboards are defined by a rounded top with a bead-and-cove band at the top.

A molded cornice defines the ceiling line. The woodwork detailing is the same throughout the

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_

first floor. All hardwood floors are original. In 1950 an elevator was installed in the southwest corner of the entry. The woodwork surrounding the door to the elevator is dated 1950.

To the west of the entry hall is the dining room. A butler pantry connects the dining room to the kitchen. The door and window surrounds, molded cornice, and baseboards have the same design as the woodwork in the entry hall. A marble fireplace with a floral incised band decorating the surround dominates the southeast corner of the dining room. The fireplace marble shelf is upheld by large decorative brackets. An ornate cast iron mounted ventilation grate fills the opening. Plain ceramic tiles define the hearth. Next to the fireplace on the south wall is a radiator with a food warmer above it.

To the east of the entry hall is the parlor. On the northeast wall of the parlor is a bay window. The door and window surrounds, molded cornice, and baseboards have the same design as the woodwork in the entry hall. A marble fireplace is located at the southeast corner of the parlor. The face and surrounds are elaborately decorated with floral patterns, landscape scenes and geometric designs. An ornate cast iron mounted ventilation grate fills the opening. A metal fender separates the hearth from the ceramic tile flooring. A checkerboard pattern of plain tiles and floral tiles define the flooring which is bordered with floral tiles.

Another parlor is located behind the northeast parlor. The woodwork has the same design as the other three public rooms. A single doorway leads to the remodelled room which is now a den, bathroom and kitchen.

A straight closed stairway located behind the south door in the entry hall rises to the second floor. A balustrade on the landing defines the opening of the staircase. The balustrade has banisters and newel posts decorated in lay trim. An ell-shaped hallway connects five rooms and two bathrooms. The trim surrounding the doors starts at the base blocks and rises to the head casing. The molded profiles of the pine pilasters are bead-and-cove. Bull eyes' decorate the top corners. The window surrounds are composed exactly like the door surrounds except the pilasters rise from the sill. The baseboards, which carry throughout the second floor, have a rounded top with a bead-and-cove band at the top. All doors have their original locksets and knobs. The rooms off the corridors all have the same molding and trim for the doors and windows.

The interior of the first and second floor of the house have a great deal of visual continuity. The public rooms on the first floor, though, have more detail. All room's carry the decorative theme of corner bull eye's, even though window casings differ in amount of ornate detail.

The Babbitt-Doerr house retains a high amount of architectural integrity as an example of the Queen Anne style house. The extant locations of both the garage (c. 1910) and the hitching post are interesting to note because it represents the transition from horse carriage to car. The

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

outhouse, which is located behind the garage, is also still extant.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The Babbitt-Doerr House (c. 1886) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its association with the growth and development of Larned, Kansas, under criterion B for its historical association with Albert A. Doerr, and under criterion C for its architectural significance as a Queen Anne residence.

The Babbitt-Doerr House is an example of the Queen Anne style. The house is a one-and-a half story, brick structure with a metal covered, hipped roof. The house sits on a cut limestone foundation and exhibits an elaborately turned, spindlework front porch. Stone lintels above the windows and doors display a delicately incised floral pattern. Fishscale shingles cover the building's projecting roof gables. The building maintains its external and internal asymmetry, and maintains a high degree of material integrity. Two outbuildings are included with the nomination, the original brick outhouse (c. 1886) and a brick garage (c. 1910). A wooden barn originally stood at the rear of the house along the alley.

Larned was founded in 1872, and "derives its name from Fort Larned, a military post established by the government on the old Santa Fe trail in 1856." (Letham, p. 146, 1891) An 1881 Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad gazetteer describes Larned as ".... famous for its development of three new and distinctive enterprises: First, wool growing; Second its sugar factory; and Third, the successful production of Rice corn. The city has a population of 1,250; three hotels, one flouring mill, one elevator, one bank, two potteries, two newspapers, two churches, a very fine school house, and many stone quarries." (Brown, p. 75, 1881)

The Babbitt-Doerr House was built for George H. and Adaline F. Wadsworth. George Wadsworth was a stock-raiser and real estate agent who settled in Pawnee County in 1875 with his family. Andreas writes of Wadsworth that in "1882 he bought and shipped 350,000 pounds of wool, all the product of Southwestern Kansas. He has a sheep ranch eleven miles southeast of Larned, consisting of 1,200 acres of fine grazing lands.... He is the pioneer sheep man of Pawnee County...." (Andreas, p. 1354, 1883)

The Wadsworth's did not live in the house very long. The 27 October 1887 issue of the Larned <u>Eagle-Optic</u> notes that, "J. C. Babbitt and G. H. Wadsworth traded residences the first of the week and moved their households over the week-end. Mrs. George Wadsworth left to spend the winter in California." Why the Wadsworth's sold the house so soon after its completion is not certain, but it appears that a family tragedy claimed the lives of the Wadsworth's son and his two children in 1886. This loss may have influenced the family's decision to leave Larned.

The Wadsworth's purchased the six lots where the house was constructed in 1885 for \$265 from A. A and Mary Wirsig. The Wirsig's had purchased the land from the Larned Town Company in 1878 for \$150. The Wadsworth's spent \$7,000 to construct the house and sold the property to J. C. and Susan M. Babbitt in 1887 for \$10,000.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Both Wadsworth and Babbitt were very active in the civic and business affairs of Larned during the mid-1880s. In 1885, Babbitt was elected to the city council, the following year Wadsworth was also elected to the city council; Wadsworth was elected president of the city council in 1887. In 1886, Wadsworth and Babbitt help to organize the Phoenix Loan and Trust Company, serving on the board of directors. In 1887 Wadsworth was elected treasurer of the Larned Natural Gas, Oil and Coal Company, in 1888 Babbitt was elected as a director for the Pawnee County Building and Loan Association. Babbitt established a building supply store in Larned in the early 1880s, supplying lumber, lath, lime, cement, and roofing material to the community's builders until his retirement in 1907.

In the year that the Babbitt-Doerr House was constructed, the Larned Eagle-Optic writes:

Larned is a city of fine residences. In every portion of the city can be seen elegant dwelling houses, the finer ones having been erected last year. Most of them are surrounded by handsome grounds and grass covered lawns with beautiful shrubbery tastefully arranged, making everything appear like home indeed. Trees of a beautiful foliage surround many of the residences which in the summer time furnishes cool refreshing shade. Last year was an era in tree planting, and nearly every dwelling house in the city is surrounded by young trees of a thrifty growth." (Larned Eagle-Optic, 16 May 1886)

The house was constructed on a hill overlooking the Larned downtown called Quality Hill. "A slight eminence surrounds the business part of the city from the southwest to the northeast, and upon this eminence a considerable portion of the residence part of the city is built. No better site for building purposes could be selected, and here we have erected a large number of private dwellings, tasteful in their architecture and forming attractive features in the outskirts of the city." (Lethem, p. 146, 1891)

On the hill where State Street crosses Fifth is a very handsome building owned by Mr. G. H. Wadsworth. This house is a story-and-a-half solid brick and contains 10 or 12 rooms besides the basement, which is very large and contains two rooms other than the cyclone escape. This house is as well arranged as any we have ever seen. Halls and closets seem to be plentiful, in fact, almost one for every room. The building is very finely lighted by large double, plate glass windows. From the second story and looking to the east the entire city may be seen and the Arkansas river too, which presents a prominent feature in the picture. The brick used is the Kansas City pressed brick and is very even and glossy leaving no rough places to be seen. Mr. Wadsworth has been to considerable expense in building this house but when completed he will have one of the finest houses in the city and a home as long as he will last." (Larned Chronoscope, 20 August 1886)

In 1887, when the Wadsworths sold their home to the Babbitts, Larned's population had grown

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

to 5,000, and Larned was reincorporated as a second class city. Two years later, in 1889, the bottom fell out of the grain market, banks failed, businesses closed, and people moved away. Larned's population slumped to 1,800. In 1891 Lethem writes that "the different branches of business characteristic of a busy town are carried on successfully here in commodious stores, chiefly built of brick manufactured in the vicinity. The town, in short, is the natural trade center for a large section of the surrounding country." (Lethem. p. 147, 1891) Lethem records Larned's population at "nearly 3,000" in 1891.

The Babbitts sold the house on Quality Hill to Albert A. and Laura P. Doerr in 1907. "The beautiful Babbitt residence on the Hill, which the family has occupied for a decade or more, and which is considered one of the best homes in Larned, was sold to A. A. Doerr several weeks ago." (Larned <u>Tiller and Toiler</u>, 6 December 1907) Babbitt retired from the lumber business, and with his family, moved from Larned to California.

At the time of the sale, Larned's population had stabilized at 2,500. The 1909 <u>Souvenir History</u> of Larned and Pawnee County describes Larned in the following way:

The city is modern in every respect. The city owns its own waterworks plant and has just established eight miles of new sewer. Its streets are broad and well kept. There are thirty miles of cement and brick sidewalks, completely covering the town.....Larned has a number of manufacturing industries, including two large flowering mills, a large ice plant, creamery, machine shops, elevators, etc.....Larned is fast becoming a city of homes. The residence section is building up very rapidly with beautiful homes. City water, sewer and electricity furnish all the facilities for complete modern buildings and this is the kind being erected. Three new business blocks have gone up during the past summer, and another is under way." (Souvenir, 1909)

Albert A. Doerr (1866-1950) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and moved to Pawnee County with his parents in 1878. Doerr married Laura Pate Vernon (1876-1944) in 1899. The couple's children were Pauline Pate Doerr (Davis), who was born in 1900, and Laura Isabell Doerr (Campbell), who was born in 1902.

Doerr was raised on the family farm near the Zook community, southeast of Larned. In 1896, Doerr purchased the Larned <u>Tiller and Toiler</u>, serving as its editor and publisher until the following year, when he sold the paper and returned to the farm. In 1898 Doerr purchased the stock of the A. Mojonier (Majoiner) and Son hardware and plumbing fixture store for \$3,000.

Doerr built his Larned business based on his knowledge of farmer's needs. "Eighty-five per cent of my business is with farmers...." (<u>The Country Gentleman</u>, 25 September 1920) As the A. A. Doerr Mercantile Company expanded, chinaware, harnesses, furniture, well supplies, and farm machinery were added to the inventory. Doerr also bought a funeral home, and established an

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

automobile dealership, and a metal manufacturing plant.

"Mr. Doerr claims for his business the unique distinction that he has the largest retail establishment also doing the largest volume of business of any firm in the United States operating in a strictly agricultural community and in a county whose population is under 10,000 inhabitants. The stock is divided into departments consisting of hardware, implements and vehicles and harnesses, queensware and glassware, and as an automobile dealer has the agency for the Buick and Chevrolet cars." (Connelley, p. 1647, 1919)

Doerr's knowledge of the community and success in business lead him to politics. In 1912 he was elected on the Democratic ticket to the State House of Representatives from Pawnee County. He served two terms as a State Representative, becoming the minority leader in 1915. He was elected to the State Senate subsequent to his service in the House, serving for a one year term between 1917 and 1919. In 1923 Governor Jonathon Davis appointed Doerr as the State Business Manager, a position he held until 1924. Doerr engaged in an unsuccessful campaign for Lieutenant Governor in 1924, the Democratic ticket of Davis and Doerr losing to the Republican Capper ticket.

Doerr maintained a very active involvement with national and regional trade organizations. He served as president of the National Federation of Farm Implement Dealers and as president of the Western Implement and Hardware Dealers Association.

Mrs. Laura Doerr helped to organize the Pawnee County Historic Society, was a member of the Kansas State Historical Society, the Kansas Authors Club, and a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Larned. "Mrs. Doerr takes great interest in politics and public affairs and always accompanied her husband to the state capitol during the legislative session, where she is well and favorably known. She is much interested in the promotion and passage of such welfare measures as the mothers and women of the state so earnestly champion." (Connelley, p. 1648, 1919)

In 1944, the Babbitt-Doerr House was deeded to Laura Isabell Doerr Campbell. Mrs. Campbell and her husband lived in the residence from the early 1950s until recently. The property is held by the estate of Mrs. Campbell, and will probably be sold to a Larned family who intends to establish a bed and breakfast business in the house.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>9,10</u> Page <u>1,1</u>

### **Selected Bibliography:**

Andreas, A. T. History of Kansas. (Chicago: Andreas, 1883).

Brown's Industrial Gazetteer and Hand Book of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R. (1881).

- Connelley, William E. <u>A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans</u>. V. IV. (Lewis Publishing Chicago/ New York, 1919).
- Kansas: The First Century- Family and Personal History. Vol. III. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing, 1956).
- Larned Chronoscope; 20 August 1886.

Larned Eagle-Optic; 16 April 1886, 16 July 1886, 30 July 1886, 16 May 1886, 27 October 1887.

Larned Tiller and Toiler, 6 December 1907.

Lethem, Jonathon. History of Kansas. (New York, 1891).

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Souvenir History of Larned and Pawnee County, Kansas. (1909)

The Country Gentleman, "Big Country Merchants- A. A. Doerr, of Larned, Kansas." (Philadelphia, PA., V. LXXXV, 25 September 1920, No. 39).

### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is located on the east 8 feet of lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 in Block 23, Original Town. The property is bounded to the north by Fifth Street, to the west by State Street, and to the south and east by adjacent property lines.

### **BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary includes the property that is historically associated with the house.