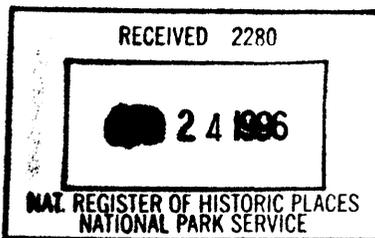


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Monroe-Mahan House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1357 S. Broadway  not for publication

city or town Wichita  vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Sedgwick code 173 zip code 67211

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Beckie W. Harkness D-SHPO April 22, 1996  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Bonda M. McClain June 7, 1996

Monroe-Mahan House  
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Domestic: Single dwelling

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

Domestic: Single dwelling

**7. Description**

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

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Wood: Weatherboard; Shingle

roof Other: Composition

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Monroe-Mahan House  
Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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The Monroe-Mahan House (1887) is a dwelling located at 1357 South Broadway in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas (pop. 304,017). At the time of construction, the area was mainly residential, but, because Broadway Avenue was the major north-south artery and at one time U.S. Highway 81 through Wichita, the area has evolved into mainly light commercial. The house has a 105 ft. frontage on the west side of Broadway (originally Lawrence Avenue) and extends 140 ft. to the alley on the west. Zimmerly Street runs east and west approximately 50 ft. south of the property line of the house.

At the north end the block directly across the street from the house is an old fire house which has recently been placed on the Kansas and National Registers of Historic Places. The fire house is located on a public park which occupies a major portion of the block. It has tennis courts, children's play equipment and a small swimming pool. The rest of the block is vacant except for a small brick building, directly across from the house, which is used by the Immanuel Baptist Church. This church, which sits on the southeast corner of Broadway and Zimmerly, owns the vacant property. The church's future plans call for building a new sanctuary on the plot.

On the same side of the street as the house, there are three residences, a neighborhood pub, a small motel and a used car lot. An attorney's office is located on the corner adjacent to the house. Hamilton Middle School occupies the southwest corner of Broadway of Zimmerly. The block across the alley behind the house has modest older homes, most of which are rentals.

When initially constructed, the Monroe-Mahan house had a floor plan roughly in the form of a cross, the arms being the projecting bay windows. It is a two storey wood frame structure of clapboard construction and rests on a limestone foundation. Two later additions to the house, the sun room and den, are also of clapboard construction but are on concrete block foundations. Originally the hip roof was slate in a three color geometric design, but that has been replaced by asphalt shingles. The main roof has five gables, and there are two additional gables on the first storey level. Originally there were two chimneys, but the kitchen chimney has been removed. The existing chimney is centered on the peak of the roof.

The most distinctive feature of the east elevation is a large verandah with a balustrade of sawn balusters which run from the north bay window, across the front of the house and to the bay window on the south. The porch roof is supported by turned spindle posts with sawn wood brackets. The base of the verandah is covered with wooden lattice. The east and north main entrance steps are of cut limestone, and the south entrance steps are concrete. There is a pediment on the verandah roof which has a small window with colored glass panes directly above the east entrance. All three doors leading to the verandah have screen doors which are highly decorated with wood turnings.

The east elevation has a main entrance and large picture window on the first floor. There is a second entrance with a transom window of colored leaded glass facing the east at the rear of the

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Monroe-Mahan House  
Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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north verandah. There are three Queen Anne windows on the second floor with red, yellow and green panes. There is also a small window of multi-paned colored glass in each of the two gables. The gables are decorated with sawn wood fretwork.

There are matching two storey bay windows on the north and south elevations. The sides of the first floor bays are set at 45 degree angles and form a half hexagon, while the upper bays are rectangular. The south elevation has an entrance door, bay window and a series of five windows making up the wall of the sun room. On the second floor, there is a small multicolored domed window near the rear which gives light for the back stairway. A small balcony sits on top of the south verandah. The gable windows are of multi-paned colored glass, and the gable is decorated with sawn wood gingerbread which matches the main gable on the east and the gable on the north. In recent years, a wooden sun deck has been added on the rear of the house with balustrades designed to complement the design of those on the front verandah. At some earlier period an additional room, which is referred to as the den, has been added to the rear of the house.

The north elevation is similar to the south except there is no balcony, and a kitchen porch is in the relative position of the sun deck. The kitchen entrance has a screen decorated with wood turnings and has a transom window of colored leaded glass.

The rear elevation has a view of the kitchen porch, and the more recently added den has an entrance with dual steps and landing to complement the front verandah. There is also an outside cellar entrance and a back view of the sun deck with an entrance into the sun room. No significant features are to be found on the second storey.

The house has a front and back staircase. The front stairs are of oak, and there is a large entrance hall. The back stairs are painted pine and of utilitarian construction. The original flooring on the first floor has been overlaid with hardwood narrow oak flooring, with the exception of the kitchen and bath.

The area which is now the parlor has strong indications of having been divided into two rooms originally. The fireplace is not original, and it has not been determined if the original rooms had fire places. The woodwork is varnished pine. There are two sets of double pocket doors, of grained pine, into the parlor. The original wall decoration was stenciled plaster. In 1981, "when the wallpaper was stripped down to the original plaster, on a 2-by-3 foot panel of the wall, the eight Beatitudes from the Bible were imprinted." (Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 14 July 1981, p 8z)

The dining room was originally lincrusta from floor to ceiling, but only the lower part of three walls now have the original lincrusta, and the upper walls are wallpapered. The doors to the kitchen and entrance way are grained pine. There is a leaded, colored glass window above an outside entrance door to the verandah.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Monroe-Mahan House**  
**Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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The kitchen still has original pine flooring and a butler's pantry. There is a leaded colored glass window above the outside entrance from the kitchen porch. A small half bath has been located in the area between the back stairs and the kitchen which was probably at one time a small entry hall into the kitchen.

A sun room was added to the south side of the dwelling some time between the years of 1887 and 1914. (Sanborn, 1914. ) It has walls of windows on the south and west with an outside door to the sun deck. There are French doors into the parlor and stair landing.

A room was added to the rear of the dwelling apparently some time after 1955.(Sanborn, 1935, updated to 1955.) At one time this area contained a bath and kitchen, but it has been turned into a utility room and den.

The upstairs has a large landing on the front and a small landing for the rear stairs. There are four rooms and a full bath. The pine floors have been overlaid with narrow oak flooring except in the rear guest room and bath. Closets have been added in two of the rooms some time after initial construction. When the wall paper was stripped in 1993, the plaster walls revealed that they had been painted and stenciled. In three of the rooms, sections of the original stenciling have been framed and preserved. The sitting room in the front area has French doors which lead out to a small balcony. The upstairs woodwork is all intact but has been painted.

The attic is unfinished. The half basement is also unfinished and is accessible only through a rear outside entrance. It has walls of rusticated limestone; however, the walls under the bays have been reinforced with a thick layer of poured concrete.

Since 1887, the property and structures have been substantially altered and then, for the most part, restored.

The present property size is 105 ft. on the east by 140 ft. The property size in January 1887 was 72 ft. by 300 ft. (Deed, Berry to Monroe). In November of that year the west 140 ft. was sold. (Deed, Monroe to Rice). In 1902 the size of the property was increased by the purchase of 70 ft. on the north which ran west 300 ft. to Market St. (Deed, Leighton to Paulline). By 1920, the area had been platted and the property had been established at its present boundaries. (Deed, Paulline to McClamroch).

The original horse barn is located at the rear of the property but was moved approximately 35 feet to the north from its original location between 1914-1927 as verified by the Sanford Fire Insurance maps of 1914 and 1935. It is a 1 1/2 storey, rectangular building, with the top floor being a hay loft. Its dimensions are 16.3 ft. by 18.6 feet. It originally had a wood shingle roof and was painted white, but it has been reroofed with asphalt shingles and painted to match the house. It has had a workshop and garage added to its north side. Windows have been added to the east

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Monroe-Mahan House**  
**Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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side, replacing the sliding barn door, and a small tool shed has been built on the south side.

As shown in one photograph and verified by the Sanborn Insurance map (1914), a non-extant 50 ft. by 50 ft. structure stood at the rear of the north edge of the property and across the alley. It faced the alley and was 1 1/2 stories high. The relationship to the property or primary use of the structure is unknown. It disappeared between 1914-1927. (Sanborn, 1914, and Sanborn 1935-55).

An extant dwelling facing the alley diagonally in back of the property and north of the barn has traditionally been accepted as the carriage house belonging to the property, but this has not been confirmed. (Burge, interview)

An 1899 photograph of the house shows a Victorian verandah with much decoration and gingerbread. From the photograph, it appears that the verandah did not wrap around the south side of the house as it does at present. In this case, the balcony must have been added at a later date. This photograph was used to authenticate the restoration of the verandah.

A photograph of a few years later shows a verandah with Doric columns, simple balustrades, no pediment and much of the sawn wood fretwork removed. By the 1950s the house had become "a ramshackle boarding house." (Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 14 July 1981, p. 8z). The kitchen porch had been enclosed and utilized as a bathroom. The upstairs balcony had been enclosed and used as a sleeping room. An upstairs room had been built on the rear of the house by supporting it with stilts on two sides. The verandah had been enclosed on the south and north, leaving it open only on the front. Holes had been drilled in the inside doors to provide for locks for boarders' rooms. One owner auctioned off many of the original lighting fixtures and the wrought iron fence. The property had reached its low point by the 1970s. (Vickers, interview)

In 1978, the property was purchased by a real estate dealer, Mary Plein, who was interested in restoring the house. It was designated a Wichita Historic Landmark in 1979. She reported to have spent \$40,000 on restoration, including \$7,000 to restore "the wrap-around front porch, complete with spindle columns and lattice trim," as pictured in an 1899 photograph. In an interview with the Wichita Eagle-Beacon, Plein stated, "A room that had been added to the house by enclosing part of the porch has been torn down, as has another old upstairs addition. Layers of outside paint were removed to determine and duplicate the house's original colors of army green and gray." (Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 14 July 1981, p. 8z). Plein used the house for offices for her real estate agency. She rented the outbuildings to a fence company.

By 1986, Plein was disenchanted with the restoration and sold it to Branine, Inc., on September 23. Within weeks, Branine, Inc. applied for a permit to demolish the house. An attorney for the corporation stated, "The rationale is that casualty and liability insurance is not available on the

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Monroe-Mahan House**  
**Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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present building for any commercial use” and that “the realty will be worth more and more salable if the present structure is removed.” Plein added, “The economic times have prevented the proper loans and grants to restore the house the way it should be. It still could be used very well. It’s a neat, grand old house.” (Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 20 November 1986).

In January 1987, Larry Vickers purchased the property with the intent to restore the house and “turn the first floor into a Victorian beauty shop.” Vickers received unanimous approval for a certificate of appropriateness to continue with restoration of the house. (Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 19 March 1987).

This restoration was extensive. The application to the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee provided for removing “siding to open back up north side of front porch per original photo...railing and balusters will be added per original photo.” The room over the south verandah would have the siding and windows removed to relieve weight on the porch roof and provide for the installation of turned porch posts, balusters and rails. The enclosed kitchen porch was to be opened up and all plumbing eliminated. Permission was asked to “build a pediment (per original photo) on the front porch roof.” All items were approved on March 1, 1987. (Wichita Area Planning Department). By 1989, all these items were completed as proposed.

Since 1990, there have been few major renovation activities. The outbuildings have been re-roofed, repaired and painted. Fences have been replaced and extensive landscaping done. The brick walks have been extended from the house to the outbuildings and from the front steps to the city sidewalk. The upstairs study, master bedroom and guest room have had the wallpaper stripped off and the plaster walls repaired and painted. The carpet in the study and guest room and on the back stairs has been removed and the wooden floors exposed. The den on the rear of the house has had the ceiling tile replaced and partitions built to create a utility room and storage closet. Because of hail damage, the roofing of the house and outbuildings was replaced in 1994.

Future plans for renovation of the property include updating the electric wiring, replacing deteriorating plumbing and repair of several double sash windows.

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1887-1938

**Significant Dates**

1887, 1897

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Monroe, Rev. James: Maham, John;  
Drague, Silas

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Monroe-Mahan House  
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property** Less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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 See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Dale and Vicki Churchman

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 17, 1995

street & number 1357 S. Broadway telephone 316-265-4554

city or town Wichita state KS zip code 67211

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dale and Vicki Churchman

street & number 1357 S. Broadway telephone 316-265-4554

city or town Wichita state KS zip code 67211

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

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

**Monroe-Mahan House  
Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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The Monroe-Mahan house is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion B for its association with Wichita leaders, Reverend James Monroe, John Mahan and Silas Dague. It is further being nominated under criterion C for its architectural significance as a typical Wichita middle class residence of the 1880s era.

The Monroe-Mahan house was built in 1887. It is a two-storey, frame structure in the Queen Anne style. Its basic design is shared by other houses of the period in Wichita, including the Enoch Dodge, 1406 West Second Street. It was heated by a coal furnace in the basement, a major part of which is still there. It had a cistern, for a water supply, which has been filled in and is under the present sun deck. The house was lighted by acetylene gas fixtures. It originally had nine rooms. The only extant outbuilding is a horse barn which has been moved to the north of its original site.

The first occupant of the house was Reverend James Monroe. He purchased the land from Lewis Berry on January 21, 1887 for \$2,600. The parcel was 75 feet by 300 feet. (Deeds, Berry to Monroe). This was during Wichita's land boom and the Reverend must have been somewhat of a wheeler and dealer since four months later he sold the west 140 feet for \$3,000. (Deeds, Monroe to Rice). The builder and exact construction dates are unknown, but good evidence of the fact that Monroe built the house was found on the first floor, in what once probably was his study. When the wallpaper was stripped down to the original plaster, on a 2-by-3-foot panel of the wall, the eight Beatitudes from the Bible were imprinted. (Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 14 July 1981, p. 8z). Evidence that the house was constructed in 1887 or before is offered by the 1887 Wichita City Directory, which was the first year an occupant was shown for the 1357 S. Broadway address. (North, 1887, p.424)

Monroe's church occupied the site of the present Broadway Christian Church, two blocks north and on the east side of Broadway. Broadway was known as Lawrence at the time, and his church was the South Lawrence Christian Church, the forerunner of the present Broadway Christian Church. He lived with his wife, Clara; Bert Monroe, who was a school teacher; and Walter Monroe, who was a student. The latter two were probably his sons. (North, 1891) Reverend Monroe owned the house until November 11, 1893. However, the records of the church list him as minister only from January 1, 1887 until 1889. (Mitchell, p. 65).

Reverend Monroe was the third minister of the church. Its new building had been dedicated on July 4, 1886. The Reverend must have had financial resources. He personally gave \$800 to the church for an enlargement to the church building. (Ibid.).

An assistant pastor, Jennie C. Manning, owned the house for about four years after Reverend Monroe. Considering the fact that the house was initially occupied by men of the cloth, the next owner would offer quite a change in professions.

In 1897, the house was sold to John P. Mahan (1861-1929), an agent of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Association and the St. Louis Brewing Company. He had been born in Oswego County, New York

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section 8 Page 2

**Monroe-Mahan House  
Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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and settled in Wichita in 1884 and prospered. He and his brother, Thomas, owned the Mahan Bros. Supply Company. The "supplies" were beer, liquors and mineral water. (Richmond, p. 292). They also owned the European Hotel, 416 E. Douglas and a "cigar store," which was actually a saloon, in the Carey Hotel. (North, 1889, no page number)

On December 26, 1900, Carrie Nation came to Wichita and visited 14 saloons. She chose the Mahan Brother's "cigar store" for her righteous venom and the next morning attacked the bar with rocks and her cane, destroying liquor bottles, a gold-dust mirror and a valuable painting, *Cleopatra at the Bath*. (Miner, p. 113) The painting by local artist, John Noble, had been "critically acclaimed in the peep-shows, but Noble's health had cracked under the travel and he gratefully unloaded the picture on the brothers Mahan-Thomas and John—who owned the Carey and sold wholesale liquor on the side...and the Hotel Carey's clients flocked to the bar in droves." (Taylor, p. 131.)

The Mahan brothers signed the complaint that placed her in the city jail. Sedgwick County District Court documents state:

*that on the 27 day of December, A.D. 1900 in Sedgwick County, and State of Kansas, one Carrie Nation did then and there, unlawfully, willfully, and maliciously break, smash, injure and destroy one large picture glass and frame of the value of one hundred Dollars and all of the personal property of T. H. Mahan and J. P. Mahan partners as Mahan Brothers. (District Court of Sedgwick County).*

This was not the end of the Mahan's troubles with Carry Nation. The Mahans owned a bar in Derby which was destroyed by prohibitionists a few months later. Carry Nation showed up when one of the Mahan brothers and the county attorney tried to enter Derby to arrest the women who were responsible. The women "waylaid [Mahan & the county attorney] at the outskirts of the town and so bespattered them and the car with eggs, they prudently sped back to Wichita without making any arrests." (Beals, p. 300).

Carry Nation and the Mahans clashed again on September 29, 1904. She and four of her lieutenants, trailed by a crowd of W.C.T.U. women and onlookers, headed for the Mahan Bros. liquor warehouse in downtown Wichita and attempted to destroy it. (Beals, p. 303-5)

The same day as the first attack, December 27, 1900, Mahan sold the house to L. K. Leighton. Two years later, the house was sold again, to Arthur Paulline, a commission broker and owner of the Paulline Commission Company. This area of the city is known as the Paulline Addition and was platted on May 14, 1910. (Plat of Paulline Addition).

A tragic incident occurred September 17, 1908. Paulline hired a "man of all work around the house and barn at \$35 per month. Among his duties... was the tending to the acetylene gas plant." (Wichita Eagle, 13 January 1909). The hired man, Charles D. Williams, "instead of using a perforated pan,

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Monroe-Mahan House  
Sedgwick County, Kansas**

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he filled a solid receptacle with acetylene and applied a match to the gas. An explosion followed and the machinery of the generator was shattered, parts of it striking Williams in the head, crushing his skull," and he was killed as a result. Paulline was sued by the widow, Josephine B. Williams, for \$10,000 on the basis that her husband had not been properly instructed in the working of the gas plant. (Wichita Beacon, 12 January 1909, p. 10).

After Paulline's death, his wife Ethel Paulline married Silas R. Dague, who owned the Dague Business University. According to his obituary, Dague founded the college in 1918 and operated it until 1938 when he sold his interest. (Wichita Beacon, 2 July 1959) For most of these years, the college was located at 114-116 S. Lawrence, on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Union National Bank Building, and later at William and St. Francis, on the second floor. On one of the college's promotional flyers which was found in the cellar, it is stated that the college is "the largest business university in Kansas," and that "in no case will the entire cost for the Complete Business Course exceed \$18.75." (Dague, brochure)

Dague was also an inventor. He designed and marketed a device that he called a "retractor for a typewriter carriage." In his design blueprint for obtaining a patent, he said that "the object of the invention is to provide a device whereby the typewriter carriage may be retracted through the use of the foot pedal, after a line has been typed on a machine thereby making it unnecessary for the operator to remove her hand from the typewriter keyboard." (Dague, blue print with explanation). Many parts from this invention have been found in the basement and outbuildings, along with some literature advertising the device.

Silas Dague's wife, Ethel, died in 1947 after a long illness, and in 1949 he married his wife's nurse, Maude Coe. He died July 1, 1959 and his widow continued to occupy the house. She mainly lived in the back room of the house and rented out the upstairs rooms to boarders. By this time the front porch had been enclosed, and rooms were added above the sun room and porch. The home was basically a boarding house from this period through 1973 when Maude Dague sold it to Marvin Roe. (Baldrige, interview).

Marvin Roe was employed by a construction firm and he worked to modernize the house, particularly the upstairs bath. His wife, Helen, disliked the house, and he became disillusioned with it. This resulted in a sale in 1978 in which some items from the house and the wrought iron fence which had enclosed the property on the east and south were auctioned. (Roe, interview). The house was put up for auction and purchased by Mary Plein in the name of Maric, Inc. December 18, 1978.

On the day she bought the house, Mary Plein, owner of Plein Realty, had "attended a city historic preservation seminar on the advantages of finding present-day uses for old structures." Since the house was up for auction, she "stopped by at noontime to buy some leaded glass windows. Instead of buying the windows, I found myself writing a check for the house." Although she paid only \$15,000 for the property, Plein stated that she spent \$40,000 on renovation, and "the outside has been

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transformed to look as it did when the house was built, while the inside now has seven offices.” The property at this time was home to four companies: Plein Realty, Maric Inc., Interior Designs, and the A-One Fence Company. Marion Cone, historic preservation officer for the city, said, “Everyone thought it was going to be torn down because it was such an eyesore. It’s an incredible success story...in that it was a residence and is now a business and works well as such.” Cone stated that “the Monroe-Mahan house was chosen as a landmark because it was typical of what houses on South Broadway looked like in the early days of Wichita.” (Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 14 July 1981, p. 8z)

Cone’s statement above sums up the significance of the Monroe-Mahan house for Criterion C. Or, as paraphrased from the National Register Bulletin 16, it “represents a once common but now rare housing type” of the late 19th century “regionally and is a good example of its type.” (National Register Bulletin 16, p. 51). Broadway at the turn of the century was lined with large Victorian, Queen Annes and four square residences. Several still exist on North Broadway, but very few on South Broadway. The Monroe-Mahan house is the only Queen Anne to survive on South Broadway. The old homes fell victim to the need for room to build. Broadway was U.S. Highway 81 for many years, and the homes gave way to motels, filling stations and other commercial enterprises. The downtown business core of the city sent its tentacles up and down Broadway. The homes that remained often had their streetsides replaced with storefronts. During World War II, the large surviving houses were usually divided up into apartments or rooming houses.

The Monroe-Mahan house has survived these transitions basically intact. By the 1970s, it had many additions tacked onto it and the front verandah had been altered, but for the most part, under it all, the original house was there and in good structural condition. The house has been put back to its original configuration as accurately as it has been reasonable and prudent to do so. It merits recognition on the National Register of Historic Places because it faithfully represents the Queen Anne style of architecture in Wichita during the boom years of the 1880s.

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**Documents**

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- Sedgwick County (Kansas) Register of Deeds. Plat of Paulline Addition. (Wichita, Kansas: May 14, 1910).
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Wichita Area Planning Department, Historic Landmark Preservation Committee. Application of Certificate of Appropriateness, No. 87-3. (Wichita: March 1, 1987).

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Wichita Eagle, 13 January 1909

Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 14 July 1981, 20 November 1986, 19 March 1987, 23 June 1987

**Personal Interviews**

Baldrige, Howard. Boarder in the Monroe-Mahan house in 1960s, friend of Maude Dague and executor of her estate. Derby, Kansas, 1994.

Burge, Dwight. Neighbor who has resided across the alley from the Monroe-Mahan house since 1948. Wichita, 1995.

Roe, Grace. Lived next door north of Monroe-Mahan house and stepmother to Marvin Roe, owner of the house from August 1973 to December 1978. Wichita, 1993.

Vickers, Larry. Owner of Monroe-Mahan house from January 1987 to March 1990 and who did much of the renovation of the house. Wichita, 1994-1995.

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the south 15.48 feet of Lot 15, all of lots 16, 17 and 18 and the north 14.5 feet of lot 19, on Lawrence Avenue, now Broadway, in Paulline's Addition to the City of Wichita, Kansas. The property is bounded to the east by Broadway, to the west by an alley, and to the north and south by adjacent property lines. property line.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominations include the property that is historically associated with the house.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 96000583

Date Listed: 6/07/96

Property Name: Monroe-Mahan House  
County: Sedgwick State: Kansas

none  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

June 7, 1996  
Date of Action

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Section 8

The nomination is hereby amended to drop "criterion B" as a qualifying criterion and "social history" as an area of significance. The names "Monroe, Rev. James," Maham, John," and "Drague, Silas" are also removed from the entry for significant person. Although the information about these early residents is interesting, the nomination does not indicate that the contributions made by any of these early residents to local history are sufficient to merit listing the property for criterion B.

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Martha Hagedorn-Krass, National Register coordinator for the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on June 7, 1996.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)