

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **AUG 7 1985**

date entered **SEP 5 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic Fairmount Cottage

and or common Fairmount Cottage

**2. Location**

street & number 1717 Fairmount Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Wichita N/A vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Sedgwick code 173

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name James M. and M. Jane Van Milligen

street & number 1717 Fairmount Avenue

city, town Wichita N/A vicinity of state Kansas 67208

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Sedgwick County Courthouse

city, town Wichita state Kansas 67201

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West Tenth

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered

(very slightly)

**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

"Fairmount Cottage" is a two-and-a-half story irregular-plan house built in 1888. It exhibits stylistic characteristics of the American Queen Anne style.

The first story and basement walls are of limestone. The blocks are laid in a variety of decorative patterns and show several different textures. The second story is built of wood and has wood shingle siding on the exterior walls. The third story, which was originally unfinished, is attic space, tucked under the slope of the roof. The gables feature decorative "half-timbered" patterns.

The first story features a verandah extending across the full width of the front (east) facade and projecting on the north to form a porte cochere.

The windows vary greatly in size and shape, and include a clear-glass Palladian window on the south, a colored glass Palladian window overlooking the staircase on the north, a stained glass horizontal fixed window in the front parlor, and several sizes and shapes of double-hung windows.

The interior has undergone little change on the two main stories and retains its original appearance to a high degree. Among the notable interior features are the mantel and woodwork in the rear parlor and the staircase in the entrance hall.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

<b>Specific dates</b>	1888	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Design attributed to W.T. Proudfoot and G.W. Bird, Architects
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Fairmount Cottage" is primarily significant for its architectural character. Built in 1888, it is believed to be one of only four extant residences in Kansas - all located in Wichita - to have been designed by the architectural partnership of Willis T. Proudfoot and George W. Bird.

Proudfoot and Bird were the leading architects of the Wichita area in the 1880s and 90s and among the most important architects in Kansas at that time. Their work, which was strongly influenced by that of H.H. Richardson, encompasses a variety of styles, including Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle Style, and a distinctive variant of American Queen Anne. Their extant public buildings include the Old Wichita City Hall (1889-92), the Administration Building (1887-90) at Bethel College in North Newton, and the McCormick School (1889-90) in Wichita, which are among the finest Richardsonian Romanesque buildings in the state. (All three are listed on the National Register.)

Proudfoot and Bird designed several notable houses in their own finely-crafted versions of the Shingle and American Queen Anne styles. Proudfoot's home, "Hillside Cottage" (1887) and Bird's home, "The Aviary" (1887) are probably the best and earliest examples of the Shingle Style in Kansas. Both have elaborately-patterned limestone walls on the first story and natural-finish wood shingle siding above. "Riverside Cottage" of about the same date is very similar in plan to "The Aviary," but is a combination of stone, brick, and shingle construction that more closely resembles American Queen Anne design concepts.

Architectural researchers have been unable to provide documentation to confirm that "Fairmount Cottage" is a Proudfoot and Bird design, but there is abundant evidence to support an attribution to them. Although different in stylistic character - "Fairmount" has more of an "Old English" Queen Anne treatment - it nevertheless is almost identical in plan and composition to "The Aviary" and "Riverside Cottage." It shares with them such characteristics as elaborately-patterned limestone walls on the first story, contrasting materials in the second story, and a prominent, asymmetrically placed stone chimney on the front facade. "The Aviary" and "Riverside" have stone panels set into the chimney which are elaborately carved with the name of the house. In exactly the same position, "Fairmount" has a smooth stone slab, which contrasts with the surrounding rough stone and looks as if it was intended to be carved but never was.

Because of these similarities in plan, composition, use of materials, details, and date of construction, the attribution to Proudfoot and Bird seems very firmly based. Even if it is not one of their works, it is clearly one of the most accomplished examples of late nineteenth century residential design in south-central Kansas.

The first owner of "Riverside Cottage" was A.S. Parks, a prominent Wichita lumber dealer. He owned the house until 1892. For a short time it was the residence of the president of Fairmount Cottage (now Wichita State University), which was located nearby. In the later 1890s it was used as a women's dormitory for the college. It is now a private residence.

THIS STATEMENT IS BASED ON CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Building records of the City of Wichita.  
Sanborn maps of the City of Wichita.  
Carter's Monthly, July 7, 1897.

This nomination was prepared from a draft submitted by co-owner Jane Van Milligen.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wichita East, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	5	0	1	8	0	4	1	7	5	2	7	0
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 31, 33, 35, and 37 on Fairmount Avenue in the Fairmount Addition to the City of Wichita.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date July 19, 1985

street & number 120 West Tenth

telephone (913) 296-5264

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

Executive Director

title Kansas State Historical Society

date July 23, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

*for Melissa Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/5/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration