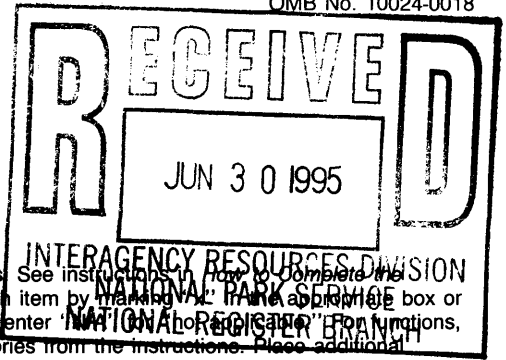


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 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 John Sargent House

other names/site number 177-5400-0568

2. Location

street & number 225 SW Clay  not for publication

city or town Topeka  vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Shawnee code 177 zip code 66606

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.)

Barbara Powell, SHPO May 5, 1995  
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:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action 7-28-95

John Sargent House

Name of Property

Shawnee 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

1 buildings

\_\_\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_\_\_ objects

1 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 19th and 20th Century Revivals:

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Stone: limestone

roof Asphalt shingles

other

Narrative Description

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

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The John Sargent House (c. 1882-1885) is located at 225 S. W. Clay in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas (pop. 115, 266). The two-story, ell-shaped, limestone, Late Gothic Revival house stands on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a cross-gabled, asphalt shingled roof. A two-story, gable roof, limestone addition to the west was added c. 1910. The building has a southeast facade orientation.

The Gothic Revival style is characterized by a steeply pitched roof, usually with cross gables, wall surfaces that extend into the gable without break, and windows that extend into the gables. The gables are most commonly decorated with brackets. "Doors commonly show pointed arches or other Gothic motifs as well as decorative crowns similar to those found on windows. Elaborate paneled doors are common." (McAlester, p.198)

The exterior of the house is constructed of native limestone quarried at Cottonwood Falls. This same stone was used on the west wing of the State Capital, and a local legend states that the stone was "appropriated" from the Capital grounds. The wall construction is solid cut slit stone. Decorative carvings of floral and vine motifs occur on the bay window and the quoins are bush hammered. Limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each door and window respectively. The number 61 is carved above the entrance to the house.

The original shape of the house is ell-shaped with an angled entry. A limestone, gable roof addition was added to the west c. 1910. The northwest corner of the addition has a trimmed concave corner. Legend relates that Sargent trimmed the corner on the addition to allow his horses access to the non-extant barn without scraping against the wall. A wooden, shed roof addition pierced by a door and a sixteen light window projects from the south side of the limestone addition. A wooden fascia board defines the roof line. Both front gables have four brackets supporting the roof eave. A chimney rises from each side of the cross-gabled roof.

The angled entry on the house aligns with the Capital dome which is visible from the upper windows. A limestone porch dominates facade of the building where the cross-gables meet. Two square, limestone piers support a gently sloping gable roof. A tongue and groove ceiling surmounts the porch. A solid limestone railing defines the porch area. Limestone blocks support the porch. The porch is accessed from the southeast by one limestone step. A c. 1889 photograph indicates that this porch replaces a wooden porch composed of four posts supporting a gently sloping roof. Decorated brackets upheld the frieze. The porch was accessed from the southeast by one wooden step.

Fenestration is comprised primarily of 1/1 double hung sash windows in singular groupings. A stained glass window is located on second story of the south elevation. A one-story bay window fenestrates the east facade. The lintels over the bay windows are decorated with a floret at each corner and floral motif lines the bottom edge. A vine motif is located at the level of the window meeting rail. The south and east gables are defined with small pointed arched windows.

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The interiors of the first and second floors retain their original floorplan and detailing. Oak woodwork is employed for all treatments on the first and second levels. The first and second floorplans are aligned around an angled hallway on the southeast corner. The first floor rooms are accessed by a square hallway. The second floor is reached by a dog-legged staircase. All rooms on the second floor are accessed by an ell-shaped hallway.

A sitting room, dining room and parlor compose the first floor, creating the public space. The sitting room and parlor are accessed through arched doorways with a wooden steamboat frieze. Entry into the house occurs on the south wall of the hallway through a solid oak paneled door with an upper section composed of a hand painted and stained glass scene in the center of the leaded, bevelled glass window. The surrounds flanking the door have edges with a bead-and cove molded profile. A dog-legged staircase is aligned directly across from the door, the sides are enclosed by the dining room and parlor walls. A picture molding defines the ceiling line. All doors have their original locksets and knobs.

An arched doorway with a wooden steamboat frieze to the east of the entry hall leads to the parlor. The east wall is composed of a bay window located through an arched opening. The trim surrounding the doors and windows has a bead-and-cove molded profile. The window trim rises from the sill to end at the head casing. The baseboards are defined with bead-and-cove molded profiles. A picture molding encircles the room. A fireplace surrounded by a wooden mantel is located on the east wall. The mantel is defined by wooden brackets starting at the floor to support the shelf. Above the shelf is a mirror with a row of shelves on either side and a cornice above it. A cast-iron liner defines the opening. The liner surround is decorated with a floral and vine motif. Plain ceramic tiles define the hearth.

A doorway to the southwest of the entry hall leads to the dining room. The wooden trim, baseboards and picture molding have the same design as the trim the parlor. A built-in cabinet is located on the south wall. A door surmounted by a transom on the east wall leads to the kitchen. The kitchen has been extensively remodelled. A back staircase on the north wall rises to the second floor.

An arched doorway with a wooden steamboat frieze to the west of the entry hall leads to the sitting room. The wooden trim, baseboards and picture molding has the same design as the trim the parlor.

A dog-legged staircase located directly across from the entry door rises to the second floor. A balustrade on the landing defines the opening of the staircase. The balustrade has turned banisters and a newel post. An ell-shaped hallway connects four bedrooms, one bathroom and a nursery. The trim surrounding the doors starts at the base blocks and rises to the head casing. The surrounds flanking the door have edges with a bead-and cove molded profile. The window surrounds are composed exactly like the door surrounds except the pilasters rise from the sill.

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The baseboards, which carry throughout the second floor, have a rounded top with a bead-and-cove band at the top. The hallway doors are surmounted by transoms and have their original locksets and knobs. The rooms off the corridors all have the same molding and trim for the doors and windows. Each room has a picture molding located at the level of the window head casing.

A straight staircase leads to the attic. The staircase is located behind a door in the second floor hallway. The overall shape of the attic space is ell-shape and the ceiling follows the contour of the gable roof. Each gable is pierced by a small pointed arch window. A stone mason's signature is located over the east pointed arch. The inscription appears to say "John Adams May 16 1882"

The John Sargent House reflects all the design characteristics that are commonly found in the Gothic Revival style house. The house maintains a high degree of architectural integrity. Sargent resided in the house until death on March 16, 1916.

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1882- 1916

**Significant Dates**

c. 1882-1885, 1916

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Sargent, John

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Sargent, John

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**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

John Sargent House  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   4	2   6   7   6   0   9	4   3   2   7   6   8   0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele M. Risdal, National Register Assistant

organization Kansas State Historical Society date May 5, 1995

street & number 120 West 10th Street telephone (913) 296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

#### 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 Dr. Jeffrey Weaver; Topeka Public School U.S.D. #501

street & number 624 SW 24th Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66611

**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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The John Sargent House (c. 1882-1885) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria B for its historical association with its builder/resident John Sargent and under criteria C for its architectural significance as a Gothic Revival house.

The specific building date for the Sargent House is not known, but it is usually subscribed to sometime in 1882. The Sargents are listed in the 1883 city directory at No. 61 Clay Street (the lot number), the previous directory give their address somewhere else in the city. The present numbering system was not used by the city until 1885-7, and the 1885 directory notes Sargent at 225 Clay. The number 61 is carved above the entrance to the house, further evidence of its erection c. 1882. Also no building is shown for that location in the 1880 "bird's eye view" of the Topeka lithograph. A stone mason's signature is located over the pointed arch in the attic. The inscription appears to say "John Adams May 16 1882".

The Gothic Revival style is characterized by a steeply pitched roof, usually with cross gables, wall surfaces that extend into the gable without break, and windows that extend into the gables. The gables are most commonly decorated with brackets. "Doors commonly show pointed arches or other Gothic motifs as well as decorative crowns similar to those found on windows. Elaborate paneled doors are common." (McAlester, p.198)

Alexander Jackson Davis was "the first American architect to champion Gothic domestic buildings; his 1837 book Rural Residences, was dominated by Gothic examples. This was also the first house plan book published in this country. Previous publications had shown details, parts, pieces, and occasional elevations of houses, but Davis's was the first to show three-dimensional views complete with floor plans. Davis's book had only a small circulation but his ideas were picked up by his friend, Andrew Jackson Downing who expanded them in pattern book published in 1842 (Cottage Residences) and 1850 (The Architecture of Country Houses). Downing's writings were far more successful, because the author promoted them with tireless public speaking and personal energy. Downing thus became the popularizer of the style." (McAlester, p.200)

Downing defines the cottage as "both suitable and appealing to an aggressive middle-class society. More than that, as the country expanded westward and settlements became towns the demand for new houses increased accordingly. Downing's books, therefore, through many editions, fell into the eager hands of the people on the move and the impact of these works was felt not only in the old and established regions of the country, but also in the most remote parts of the newly settles lands." (Pierson, p.403)

The best known instances in Kansas of the Gothic Revival style in addition to the Sargent House are the Amelia Earhart home in Atchison and Lawrence's Castle Tea Room. The architect John G. Haskell's two Bethany College buildings (1875) are other major Gothic Revival buildings still extant in Topeka, but neither was erected for domestic purposes.



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The exterior of the house is constructed of native limestone quarried at Cottonwood Falls. This same stone was used on the west wing of the State Capital, and a local legend states that the stone was "appropriated" from the Capital grounds. The wall construction is solid cut slit stone. Decorative carvings of floral and vine motifs occur on the bay window and the quoins are bush hammered. Limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each door and window respectively.

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John Sargent was born on August 28, 1849 in Barnstaple, Devonshire County, England. Sargent received his schooling and learned the trades of stone cutting and masonry in England before coming to the United States in 1870. A month before coming to the United States, Sargent, at the age of twenty-two, married Mary Lane Griggs on April 2, 1870. They had two sons, John Richard and William.

John and Mary Sargent first located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sargent's first contract was for the erection, in 1870, of the Episcopal church edifice at Cumminsville, a suburb of Cincinnati. In 1873 he entered the United States Treasury service in the supervising architect's department and assisted in the erection of the custom houses and postoffices at St. Louis, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Little Rock, Arkansas. He continued working for the United States Treasury service for seven years.

From that work he moved to Topeka, Kansas in 1879, where he took charge of the construction of the west wing of the State Capital building. Upon the Statehouses's completion, Sargent entered into private business and partnership with O.P. Smith of Lawrence. Their first contract was for the stone work and inside finishings of the Topeka government building. They subsequently completed contracts for the inside finishings for the old postoffice building at Kansas City, Missouri; the government Indian school building at Lawrence; the Emporia College building at Emporia; the Methodist church edifice at the corner of Harrison and Sixth avenue, Topeka and many other contracts.

The partnership dissolved in 1883 and Sargent took as an associate of business the Scotsman James Cuthbert. During their connection in the business they erected the courthouse in Lawrence, the courthouse at Beloit, and the Spooner Library on the campus of the University of

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Kansas, Lawrence; plus many other buildings of lesser proportions. During the partnership with Cuthbert, Sargent's wife Mary died in 1907. On June 8, 1909, Sargent married Mrs. Luella Mason.

In 1910 Sargent went into partnership with his son John Richard in the Sargent Cut Stone Company. Sargent was in charge of the field work and supervising construction while his son, John Richard, had charge of the plant in Topeka. The firm completed contracts for the Grace Cathedral, Santa Fe office buildings, the E. T. Crosby, Thomas Page and H. C. Kibbee residences, the new hospital for women at the State Hospital at Topeka, and the Gage Park arch entry. They also furnished stone for the new agricultural building at Manhattan and the Dillon residence in Topeka.

In addition private business adventures, Sargent was one of the directors in the Shawnee Building and Law Association, a director in the Prudential Trust Company of Topeka, and a member of the Topeka Commercial Club

Sargent resided in the house until death on March 16, 1916. The house maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and reflects all the design characteristics that are commonly found in the Gothic Revival style house.

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**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- Diehl, Sabra Eastin. "John Sargent Home." Preliminary Site Information Questionnaire. August 16, 1994.
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- "Sargent is Dead." Topeka State Journal, March 13, 1916.
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National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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## **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is located on Section 30, Township 11, Range 16: POB 85 FT NELY OF NW COR 3RD & CLAY STS, NWLY 150 (S), NELY 70, SELY 150 (S) TO S T, SWLY 70 TO POB in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the southeast by Clay Street, to the northwest by an alley, and to the northeast and southwest by adjacent property lines.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary contains all property historically associated with the nominated building.