

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 16 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 29 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\*\* MAHAFFIE, J.B., HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Kansas City Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Olathe

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 3, Larry Winn

STATE

Kansas 66061

80<sup>DE</sup>

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

091

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Roger L. Cohen & Company

STREET & NUMBER

# 1 Hanover Building, 15 West 10th Street

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64105

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Johnson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Olathe

STATE

Kansas 66061

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Toneka

STATE

Kansas 66612

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	DATE 1858
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The J.B. Mahaffie house in Olathe sits approximately 500 to 600 feet north of the old Kansas City road, the former route of the Santa Fe trail. It is situated on a 13-acre tract at the east edge of the city and is a small working farmstead. Additional tracts to the north and east are part of the same farm operation. Originally the house was one mile from Olathe but eastward expansion has brought it within the city limits. Development is now occurring in the vicinity of the Mahaffie house.

The Mahaffie house was originally a one and one-half story five-room frame structure. It was built in 1857 at an unknown site in Olathe and moved to Mahaffie's claim in 1858. A two story native stone addition in the vernacular style was built to the south in 1865. It was connected to the frame structure which was then (or perhaps later) raised to two stories. The house measures 40 feet across the south facade; the stone addition extends back to the north 20 feet while the east and west facades of the frame house measure 24 feet, giving an overall length of 44 feet on the east and west sides. The north facade of the wood house measures 32 feet.

The main facade, which is part of the 1865 stone addition, faces the Kansas City road. This part of the house is two stories high with a basement. The stone has been laid in a squared rubble, and the roof which is surfaced with asphalt shingles is pitched. The house has a simple boxed cornice with a plain frieze. The chimneys break the roofline at the peak, a brick one on the east side and a stone chimney on the west. The doorway has been centrally placed. Entrance is through double wood doors and screen doors which have been set in a simple wood frame. The one story porch supported on Tuscan columns which originally extended the length of this facade has been shortened although the raised foundations still remain. A balustrade encloses the flat roof of this porch, and access can be gained to this area through a centrally placed second story doorway. This door has been recessed and has sidelights. Originally there were two aligned windows on each story to either side of the central bay, but the space between windows on the first story has been infilled with another window. The window lights have an interesting configuration. The upper pane has been divided into two rows with four lights each and a wider row of three lights. The lower panes have not been divided into lights.

The west facade of the stone addition has been simply treated. It has one window on the first story and two on the second. The windows have plain stone lintels. An outside entrance to the cellar is located below the first story window. The original wood house sits back eight feet from the stone addition and has a simple one story raised wood veranda. There is a door to the south end of the wing while windows of various shapes are asymmetrically arranged on the facade. The wood house has a hipped roof which is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A thin brick chimney rises from the roof on the north side just below the ridge line.

The frame house and the stone addition connect flush on the east facade. The stone facade has again been simply treated with one rectangular window on the first story and two on the second with a small square window set off-center in the gable. Two small windows near ground level light the basement. There is an oriel window at the south end of the frame house. Other windows of various sizes are asymmetrically arranged on the remainder of the facade.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1858, 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.B. Mahaffie

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J. B. Mahaffie house at Olathe was the first hotel and stagecoach station along the Santa Fe trail in that part of Johnson county as well as the residence of one of the area's pioneer settlers.

James Beatty Mahaffie was born in Ohio in 1817 and later moved with his parents to Indiana. He was married to Lucinda Henderson in 1844 and first came to Kansas in late spring, 1857. He and three other men left their families behind and came to look for land. They also took time to view some of the battlegrounds of the Free State and Proslavery forces. (In 1854 Kansas had become a territory and was opened to settlement. Under the doctrine of popular sovereignty the people of the territory were to decide whether it should be slave or free. Consequently there was an influx of people of both persuasions into Kansas, both groups determined to carry the territory for their cause.) Mahaffie and his friends tried to find claims in Douglas, Leavenworth and Johnson counties, but, as he recalled almost 50 years later, the Proslavery Missourians had claimed all the good land. He returned to Indiana in June but soon came back to Kansas with his family, determined to find a suitable claim.

In November, 1857, he was in Olathe where he purchased a one and one-half story five-room frame house for \$200 in gold and a land warrant for 160 acres worth another \$200. In 1858 he bought 160 acres one mile northeast of Olathe on the Santa Fe trail for \$600; he paid \$400 to the estate of Benjamin Reynolds, a veteran of the War of 1812 who had filed on the claim, and \$1.25 an acre to the U.S. government. The frame house was moved to the claim and located just to the north of the Santa Fe trail. Reportedly the first night it stood there, he took in \$5.00 from travelers just for the privilege of sleeping on the wood floor. This was the first hotel and stage station in that part of Johnson county. The Mahaffie station became widely known for its hospitality. Three stage lines with passengers and mail stopped there; horses were changed and there were also meal stops. The use as a stage station came to an end with the close of the Civil War and the coming of railroads to the area.

In 1865 the large stone addition to the south was built. The stone came from a quarry on the Mahaffie farm.

Mahaffie was one of the leading farmers of the area and was active in local political and social affairs. On May 31, 1858 he was elected chairman of the Johnson county supervisors. He was a charter member of several lodges and the Olathe Grange. He was a progressive man who supported activities designed to aid the development of the county. A staunch supporter of railroad building, he was on the first board of directors of the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad. He showed a

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arrows to Atoms: A Historical Album of Olathe, Kansas (Olathe, 1957), pp. 6, 7, 22.

Blair, Ed, History of Johnson County, Kansas (Lawrence, Kan., Standard Publishing Co., 1915), pp. 85, 96, 104, 105, 236-238.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	3,4,3	9,2,5	4,3	0,6	2,5,0	B	1,5	3,4,3	9,2,5	4,3	0,6	0,6,5
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,5	3,4,3	6,9,5	4,3	0,5	9,1,0	D	1,5	3,4,3	6,9,5	4,3	0,6	2,5,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (approximate)

Beginning at a point on the north line of Kansas City Road, said point being 880 feet more or less, southwesterly of the intersection of Kansas City Road and Ridgeview Road, all being in Section 25, T 13 S, R 23 E, City of Olathe, Johnson County, Kansas, thence northerly 650 feet, more or less, thence westerly 700 feet, more or less, thence southerly 1050 feet, more or less, to a point on the north line of Kansas City Road, and thence finally 830 feet, more or less, northeasterly along the north line of Kansas City Road to the point of beginning, containing approximately 13 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey  
Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society DATE February 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

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 Edgar Lampson

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE March 3, 1977

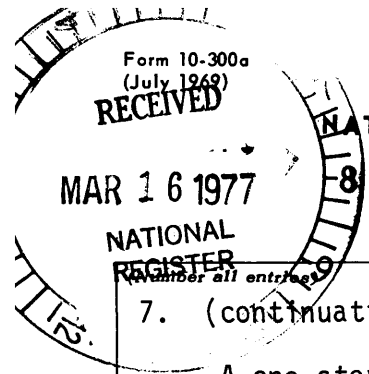
FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION Charles Adams KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER 8/29/77

ATTEST: Charles Adams DATE 8.25.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 29 1977	

7. (continuation sheet No. 1)

A one story wood lean-to runs the length of the north facade. There are three evenly spaced windows above this lean-to though the sill line of the center window has been dropped to the roofline of the lean-to.

Much of the simple interior wood work still remains, and the interior stairway is a fine example of craftsmanship. Many of the door frames and baseboards have been painted and the original flooring has been covered in many of the rooms.

To the west of the house stands the only other original building on the farmstead, the two-story stone smokehouse. A one-story frame addition has been built to the north. An exterior wood stair on the south wall provides access to the second floor. Also located on the property are several more recent farm barns and outbuildings.

8. (continuation sheet No. 1)

consciousness of history, advocating the preservation of the route of the old Santa Fe trail as a memorial to its users and its history.

He retired from the farm in 1881, sold the property in 1883 to J.H. Hershey, and moved to Olathe. Other owners have been William P. Browning, Jr., 1921; Robert D. Kissick, 1942; Charles E. Miller, 1955; and Roger L. Cohen and Company, 1971. Some modifications were made to the house under Hershey's ownership; heating, plumbing and lighting facilities were added.

The Mahaffie house is an important link, and one of the few remaining links, to the pioneer heritage of Johnson county. Because of its proximity to Kansas City, Johnson county is rapidly becoming an urbanized area. The city of Olathe is considering acquisition of the Mahaffie house and surrounding 13 acres. This acquisition would preserve a significant historic site and would provide for retention of green space in a developing area. Possible future uses could include a museum of the local historical society and perhaps a small park.

All but a small corner of the acreage included in this nomination was part of the original Mahaffie claim. The southwest corner is included to fill out the boundary to the old Kansas City road as the Santa Fe trail ran diagonally across the corner of the property. Although not part of the original Mahaffie land, it has been associated with the property for more than 70 years and its preservation would help to retain some open environment around the house.

Because of its associations with the Santa Fe trail and the role of James B. Mahaffie in the development of the area, the house is considered to merit National Register nomination.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 29 1977

(Number all entries)

9. (continuation sheet No. 1)

"Governor Denver's Administration," Kansas Historical Collections, volume 5 (1896), p. 492.

Heisler, E.F., and D.M. Smith, Atlas Map of Johnson County, Kansas (Wyandotte, Kan., E.F. Heisler and Co., 1874), pp. 71, 101.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A.T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 629, 633.

"J.B. Mahaffie," Olathe Mirror, October 24, 1907.

Mahaffie, J.B., "How I Came to Johnson County," Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Old Settlers Association of Johnson County, Kansas (n.p., 1907), pp. 33-36.

"Mahaffie House Stays, Olathe Women Assured," Olathe Daily News, April 30, 1971.

"Mahaffie Stagecoach House," Olathe Daily News, April 6, 1971.

"The Mahaffie Stagecoach Station Was the First Hotel on the Santa Fe Trail," Olathe Mirror, August 29, 1957.

"Old Homes and a Historic Tavern on View at Olathe," Kansas City Star, September 1, 1957.

"Reunion of Pioneers at Dinner Party in 1907," Johnson County Democrat, September 12, 1957.

"Uncle Beatty Mahaffie Gone," Olathe Mirror, October 17, 1907.

Preliminary nomination form prepared by Donald Seifert, Community Development Coordinator, City of Olathe

