

P40018251

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Harvey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-115-0002	DATE 1/12/70

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Warkentin House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Warkentin Home

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 211 East First Street (1st Street)

CITY OR TOWN: Newton

STATE: Kansas CODE: 67234 COUNTY: Harvey CODE: 67234

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments being maintained by owner until sold to Preservation of Kansas Landmarks

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Bethel Deaconess Hospital

STREET AND NUMBER: 411 SE 2nd

CITY OR TOWN: Newton

STATE: Kansas CODE: 67234

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse 800 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newton

STATE: Kansas CODE: 67234

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

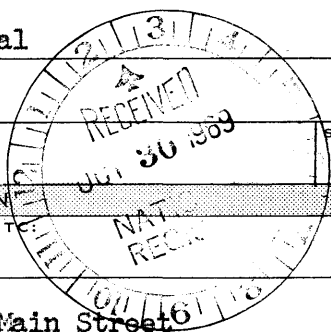
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The architectural style of the Warkentin House can be classified as Victorian Baroque. It can also be called a mansion because of its large size, complicated plan and stylistic pretensions. On the other hand, the exterior treatment is quite restrained in comparison with other Victorian Baroque mansions of the period. This is presumably due to the self abasing nature of its Mennonite owner. The spindle work railings of the porch and the mildly decorated cornices, gable ends and chimneys are the only ornamentation on an otherwise relatively plain clapboard and shingle house.

Interestingly enough, the interior gives quite another impression; one of great variety and luxury. The Baroque desire for richness and heaviness is best seen here. Each room is decorated in the finest materials of the time. Flocked wall paper, inlaid floors, carved woodwork and leaded glass all in great variety are seen. Each room is done in different materials and furnished in a different motif. It is the furniture and appointments which are quite impressive. The major portion of the original furnishings and appointments are in the home and most rooms have complete integrated sets. Cabinets are filled with fine crystal, silver and linens. Even such things as small watches of the period are found in drawers and the book case is full of books.

The property on which the house stands has several large elm trees, oak trees, maple, linden, and interesting walkways through the garden. A curved red brick drive connects the street with a porte-cochere at the house and continues in a graceful curve to a carriage house at the rear of the lot. The carriage house is in the same restrained style of the house. It contains such interesting things as a turntable on which an early electric car was parked and turned around. In the rear yard stands an octagonal gazebo with walls of decorative lath work, characteristic of the times. Though some of the original property was sold, the house and grounds still enjoy a separation and separate identity from their more recent neighbors.

All in all the Warkentin House and grounds is a complete and integrated example of the way of life for which it was built. One of very few still remaining in anything like their original form and condition. 1

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Warkentin built home 1886 - 87

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property known as Warkentin House is significant in the areas of architecture and history.

Architecturally - see preceding page.

Historically

Bernhard Warkentin purchased the property 211-East 1st St. in 1886 and began his home which remained the family home until the death of his widow in 1932, when it was deeded to Bethel Deaconess Hospital and used as the Bethel Deaconess Sisters Home until the past year when it was offered for sale to a Preservation organization. Upon completion of purchase, Preservation of Kansas Landmarks (Inc. filed) plans to open the home for tours and meetings, to bring the people closer to this part of their heritage. The wheat story has never been told and we feel this to be the last real opportunity to help people become aware of this part of our history and its effect on the National economy. In the library of the home a Research Library on Warkentin, the Hard Winter Wheat and Mark Carleton<sup>2</sup> is planned. We have access to the personal letters of Warkentin, his correspondence with Carleton regarding their work, etc.

"Bernhard Warkentin is a famous name in the wheat annals of the nation. It was he who led the great Mennonite migration into Kansas during the early 1870's, and the Mennonites brought Turkey Red seed wheat with them from southern Russia. After the superiority of this variety was established, he imported large quantities of seed for distribution in the area where his flour mills were located. Turkey Red became one of the foremost factors in the creation of the hard winter empire of the Southwest."<sup>3</sup>

Mark Carleton, the celebrated cerealist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture worked in Kansas with Warkentin to find the right variety of hard wheat for Kansas, and eventually the entire U.S.

"The chain of events that in the course of time established hard winter as the most extensive class of wheat in the United States began when Bernhard Warkentin set his feet on Kansas soil and urged his fellow Mennonites to follow

The career of Bernhard Warkentin serves to exemplify a statement once made by Thomas Jefferson. Said the Sage of Monticello, "The greatest service which can be rendered to any country is to add a useful plant to its culture, especially a bread grain."<sup>3</sup>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1 Jack Jones A.I.A. Wichita, Kansas
- 2 "Hunger Fighters" - by Paul deKruif
- 3 "The Saga of Bernhard Warkentin" - by Herman Steen, (Retrd. Exec. Vice-President National Millers Federation) Article in The Southwestern Miller - August 19, 1969

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	02'	36"	97°	20'	23"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.40 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Phyllis Steinkirchner, President**

ORGANIZATION: **Preservation of Kansas Landmarks (Inc. filed)**      DATE: **Oct. 24, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**316 East Ninth Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Newton**      STATE: **Kansas**      CODE: **15**      ~~47334~~

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name Nyle H. Miller

Title Liaison Officer for Kansas

Date 10/27/69

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

*Arrest Allen Groulx*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **JAN 12 1970**

ATTEST:

*William F. Swartz*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date **DEC 1 1969**

No  
UTM  
HR

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Continuation Sheet)*

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*(Number all entries)*

- The Warkentin House is now owned by the city of Newton and is maintained as a public museum.