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

The Shelley Tipton residence on Fourth Avenue in Garnett, Kansas, is a two-story wood frame house in the Italianate style. A central cupola stands on the low hipped roof. The house faces north and behind it to the south are some outbuildings which are within the nomination boundary lines. Since its construction the house has been a prominent landmark in the town and was the residence of some of Garnett's leading citizens.

The Shelley Tipton house is approximately 40 feet square. It has a three-bay facade with a projecting central bay. The frame structure rests on a basement with dressed stone foundation walls. Exterior walls are sheathed with wooden lap siding. The main roof is covered with asphalt shingles, but the cupola has a metal roof.

A single-story porch runs the length of the front of the house. It is adorned with elaborate jig-saw work and scrolled brackets with pendants. The porch on the back of the house is simpler, but it, too, has scrolled brackets. Both porches have chamfered square posts.

The house has double entrance doors in the projecting bay on the north facade. All of the windows have arched heads and ornamental hood moldings. Some of the windows have wood fillers in the arches so that storm windows could be put in place. There is a bay window on the east side. The windows in front are four over four casement windows, while the windows on the side and rear elevations are double-hung units. Original louvered shutters remain on the cupola windows.

Decorative brackets and a dentil molding ornament the cornice under the roof overhang. The soffit has recessed panels. The quirk beaded corner boards are topped by capitals above which spring two scrolled brackets, one on either side of each corner.

Behind the main house are several outbuildings. The gable-roofed milkhouse has a stone first story and frame second story covered with lap siding. It appears to date from the time of the house construction. The single-story frame garage next to the milkhouse is not so old as the main house and milkhouse.

#### ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the Shelley Tipton House have not significantly diminished its historical integrity. At the southwest corner, part of the rear porch has been closed for a bathroom. The chimney on the west side of the house has been rebuilt above the roof line. Asphalt shingles cover the roof and some rectangular aluminum storm windows, as mentioned earlier, have been installed over the original arched windows.

No. - Production

Wooden front and rear porch steps have been replaced by concrete steps. Concrete block walls have also been introduced to support the porch corners. Some of the brackets decorating the front porch posts are missing.

# 8. Significance

1600–1699 architecture education military social/	X 1800–1899	art commerce communications	exploration/settlement		theater
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#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shelley-Tipton house in Garnett, Kansas is a well-preserved example of the Italianate style. It was built c. 1871 and is a popularized version of the Italian residences which A. J. Downing and A.J. Davis promoted in the mid-nineteenth century. Two of Garnett's leading citizen's owned and lived in the house from 1877-1889. The house was also a landmark in the later residential development of the surrounding areas known at the Orchard Park addition.

1946 - 2013

The land on which the Shelley-Tipton house stands was originally patented by Dr. Thomas Lindsay in 1859. In the Garnett <u>Plain Dealer</u> of August 26, 1870, Lindsay advertised as a physician and surgeon, but he was also a partner in the Lindsay and Huey Land Agency. The partnership offered "real estate in Garnett comprising several hundred town lots in different parts of town--large amounts of good land within five miles of Garnett."

Local tradition maintains that the Shelley residence was built in 1871. Several factors point to that construction date. In 1870 the railroad reached Garnett. Before the construction of a railroad line to Garnett made manufactured materials available, it would have been relatively difficult to acquire the elaborate machine-sawn woodwork which ornaments the Shelley-Tipton house. Also, Garnett was incorporated in 1870 and experienced a building boom until 1873 when a nation-wide economic depression cut growth.

The most significant piece of evidence for the c. 1871 construction date is that Thomas Lindsay sold the parcel where the house stands to Samuel H. Shelley on October 13, 1870. On April 27, 1872 a mortgage of \$1350 was recorded on the property.

Early in 1877, Shelley sold the property to William Groll, a pioneer merchant of Garnett. The <u>Republican Plain Dealer</u> reported on March 2, 1877, "Wm. Groll has purchased of S. H. Shelley his fine residence and ten acres of land situated one-half mile west of Garnett. This is a valuable property." Groll maintained a grocery store in Garnett from 1869 until November, 1886, when poor health forced him to sell out. Evidently, he had given up the Shelley house earlier for the Garnett <u>Weekly Journal</u> of March 6, 1886, reported that J.H. Beatty had acquired the Grimer property (formerly the Wm. Groll residence) west of the city.

Also in the spring of 1886, D. W.Houston of Garnett sub-divided his 80-acre farm west of town into 1, 5, and 20-acre lots. Located adjacent to the Shelley house, this location for inexpensive suburban homes was advertised as the Orchard

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Chief of Registration

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



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Park addition. A building boom continued in Garnett into 1887. Several homes were constructed near the former Shelley-Groll residence.

One of Anderson county's most famous pioneer settlers, Samuel S. Tipton, purchased the house and land associated with it September 5, 1887. He paid \$10,000 to Beatty's Garnett Land and Improvement Company. The Garnett <u>Weekly Journal</u> noted on November 19, 1887, that Tipton and his wife had moved into the Groll residence property in the Orchard Park addition.

Tipton had had an active and prosperous career as a farmer and stockman in northwestern Anderson county before he retired to his new residence in 1887. When he first arrived in the county in June, 1857, "he brought with him about fifty head of cattle, most of which were purebred Shorthorns." Not only did Tipton introduce the breed to Kansas, but the first Kansasbred Shorthorns were recorded from this herd. Tipton was remembered as a "leader in the improvement of Kansas cattle herds."

Before the Civil War Tipton served as postmaster for the settlement of Mineral Point, and he was colonel of the free-state military company organized in the vicinity. Tipton was president of the convention that organized the Republican party in Anderson county.

Not long after Tipton's retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Tipton celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on August 13, 1888, in the former Shelley house. At the time of his death in 1889, Tipton's farm included 720 acres of land valued at \$25,000. When the Garnett <u>Plaindealer</u> reported his death August 13, the obituary noted that, "He became prominent in this part of the state as a breeder of fine cattle. He resided on his original homestead until about a year ago when he removed to this city."

Downing noted in <u>The Architecture of Country Houses</u> (1850) that "There is a strong and growing partiality among us for the Italian style." He went on to say that "Its broad roofs, ample verandas and arcades, are especially agreeable in our summers of dazzling sunshine. . .it has much to render it a favorite in the Middle and Western sections of our Union." In popularized form it did become a favorite style of the Middle and Western regions, and the Shelley-Tipton house is a fine manifestation of that popularity. It has the rather flat roofs projecting onto brackets, prominent window dressings, round and square arched windows, bay window, generous verandah, and a form of tower which came to be associated with the style. The tower, which Downing depicts as a prominent feature located just off-center, on the facade is here suggested instead by the projecting

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central bay and cupola that sits squarely in the center of the roof. The symmetry and regularity of the Shelley-Tipton house make it a classicized version of the Italian style.

The house follows the spirit of Downing's sense of site as well as of form. He stated that "On the whole. . .we should say that the Italian style is one that expresses not wholly the spirit of country life nor of town life, but something between both, and which is a mingling of both." Shelley's house was built near enough to Garnett to allow easy communication with that town, but far enough away that it stood on a sizable piece of land. The advantages of both country and town were near at hand.

The Shelley-Tipton house stands as a landmark to the wealth and position of its builder, as well as of its successive owners. Built in a conservative, but elegant, Italianate style it typifies the aspirations of a well-to-do midwestern gentleman of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It is a reminder of prosperous and optimistic years in Garnett.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

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



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