National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for *Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property historic name Anton-Woodring House 177-5400-0021 Terrace Lake other names/site number 2. Location 1011 Cambridge Avenue not for publication street & number vicinity city, town Topeka 177 66604 Kansas code KS Shawnee code state county zip code 3. Classification **Ownership of Property** Category of Property Number of Resources within Property XX private XXbuilding(s) Contributing Noncontributing district 1 public-local buildings public-State site sites public-Federal structure structures object objects 1 Total Number of contributing resources previously Name of related multiple property listing: N/A listed in the National Register _

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional In monopinion, the property IX meets does not meet the National Register co on State Historic Preservation Co Signature of certifying official	n standards for registering properties in the requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. riteria.
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register c	riteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
5. National Park Service Certification	Foto a
I, hereby, certify that this 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.	National Register S 23/9
removed from the National Register.	Der Date of Action

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) Domestic: Single Dwelling	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) Domestic: Single Dwelling		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification	Materials (er	iter categories from instructions)	
(enter categories from instructions)			
(enter categories from instructions)	foundation	Concrete	
enter categories from instructions) Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:	foundation _ walls	Concrete Brick	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	foundation _ walls		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Anton-Woodring House (c. 1926- 1927, 1930) is located at 1011 Cambridge Avenue in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas (pop. 115,266). The house is an example of the Italian Renaissance style, with some Prairie School influences. The two story structure is made of reinforced concrete with a blond brick veneer and is surmounted by a red clay tile, cross-hipped roof. The house maintains a very high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The original seven-acre tract and its landscaping has been reduced to two-acres, and much of the Anton period landscaping is gone. The house and grounds are commonly known as Terrace Lake.

The Anton-Woodring House is a vernacular interpretation of the Italian Renaissance style, with Prairie School influences found only in the casement windows and perhaps in the wide and narrow chimneys. The house does share the smooth lines and horizontal nature of the Prairie School, but its classical detailing and proportion place it clearly in the Italian Renaissance tradition.

The Anton-Woodring House has a northern facade orientation, its overall dimensions are 65 feet from east to west and 52 feet from north to south. The house is a T-plan design; the main body measures 65 feet from east to west and 30 feet from north to south, and this includes a 17 feet by 8 feet rectangular unit that projects from the western elevation of the main unit. The rear center "T" projection measures 18 feet from east to west and 22 feet from north to south. The "T" was added in 1930.

The house is built into a slight bank, leaving the eastern elevation exposed to almost full grade. Although the house is essentially a "T" plan, there are various right angle projections and exposures, such as the banking, which make the house appear deceptively large or small from particular vantage points. The house's center hall plan provides for three main rooms on each floor and an additional room on each floor of the "T" projection, resulting in an eight room house.

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The house sits on an above grade foundation. A prominent balustraded concrete porch fronts the eastern two-thirds of the facade. The porch is broken by a concrete staircase that leads to the facade's centrally located front door.

The Tuscan order is employed for the northern facade's wooden door surround. Two columns stand in antis, flanking the arched, single door. The arched main portal is recessed and is immediately flanked by two narrow rectangular sidelights. Two emblematic concrete shields surmount the doorway, flanking a rectangular leaded glass window. The classical intent of the facade is further offset by the imposing, balustraded porch.

A bricked-in sun porch projects from the eastern elevation, fronted by the balustraded porch. The sun porch surmounts the two car garage and a basement room. A walled-in patio extends out from the house's rear "T" projection.

The sun-porch was bricked in late 1960s or early 1970s, historic photographs reveal this space to have been screened and shaded with awnings. Historic photographs also reveal that awnings shaded all but the northern windows and doors of the house during the Anton residency.

Large, singular, curvilinear brackets support the wide eaves of the cross-hipped roof. The cross-hipped roof is low and wide, covering the main rectangular unit and the rear "T" projection. The onestory sun porch on the east elevation and the two story kitchen and bathroom projection on the west elevation have flat roofs. Blond brick chimneys project from the center of the eastern wall of the main rectangular unit, the western edge of the main unit's roof ridge, and the roof ridge of the rear "T" projection. The chimneys are wide with very narrow depth and moderate height.

Casement windows comprise the fenestration on the house. The windows are arranged in various hierarchical combinations. Many of the windows are surmounted by transoms. Above grade windows fenestrate the east, south, and west elevations. Arched niches provide visual symmetry on the second level western elevation of the rear "T" projection. French doors provide access to small balconies from the second floor library and to the sun-porch patio from the second floor master bedroom.

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Black iron railings line the balconies of the rear "T" projection, the sun-porch patio, the roof crest of the western elevation's rectangular projection, the crest of the wooden cornices below the two tri-partite casement windows on the second level of the northern facade, and the crest of the northern facade's wooden door surround.

A banked garage is built into the eastern foundation wall of the house. The original folding garage doors were replaced in the 1950s when the garage was extended east by approximately five feet. As part of the 1988-1989 restoration the Chubbs removed the nonoriginal extension, reclaiming the double door entry which is flush with the foundation wall.

The interior of the house is designed around a very liveable and flowing center hall plan. The floorplan is spacious and includes an unusual and very practical split level second floor, which was constructed as part of the 1930 "T" addition to the rear. A den and library were put in the "T" addition on the first and second floors respectively. The interesting split level on the second floor belies a subtle distinction between the public space of the first floor and the private space of the second floor.

The interior maintains a very high degree of integrity, despite a fire in the rear "T" in the 1940s. The wood panelling in the first floor den and second floor library was replaced where needed and refinished in a much lighter tone, described as enameled in the 1955 Neiswanger appraisal. Panelling and other woodwork has been painted in some of the rooms. Colonial Revival woodwork, such as the staircase and its trim, the mantles, panelled doors, door surrounds, and baseboards, is incorporated into the house. Classically inspired marble fireplaces grace the den and library. Arched niches flank the fireplace in the den. The wooden floors are oak. The upstairs bathrooms retain their original fixtures.

Neiswanger describes the interior in the 1955 appraisal:

"The wide entrance hall opens to a large dining room on the west, with modern kitchen and other service facilities adjacent to the south. To the east of the center hall is a lovely living room with fireplace and casement windows. The woodwork of mahogony (sic) and quartered oak is enameled in this room. Off the living room to the east is a large screened living porch, extending the full width of the house." (Neiswanger, p. 4, 1955)

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"Beyond the front hall and to the south is an informal dining or living room, which opens off onto a large brick and stone terrace. This room is floored in marble, with matching fireplace and wrought lighting fixtures and so forth. A half bath of good size is tiled and equipped with high quality modern fixtures. Half-way to the second floor and over the rear section of the main body of the house is a beautiful room completely paneled in hand-rubbed mahogony (sic), with fireplace. There are three bedrooms on the second floor, two of them very large. Bathrooms newly tiled to the ceiling, with new shower equipment and modern fixtures are found on the second floor, one of which serves the master bedroom and the other the two remaining bedrooms jointly." (Neiswanger, p. 4, 1955)

"Many of the light fixtures are museum pieces. There is a modern servants apartment in the basement, with bath, together with storage space and a large garage area, the doors of which are overhead construction type. There is a hot water heating plant equipped with a coal burning stoker." (Neiswanger, p. 4, 1955)

The environs of the Anton-Woodring House is described in the 1955 Neiswanger appraisal:

"A block of new residences of more modest type were constructed along the 10th Street frontage directly north of the appraised property six or seven years ago....The site extends from Gage on the west to Cambridge on the east, the house being located somewhat nearer the Gage frontage than the Cambridge. It is, however, well placed on the acreage, with circular drives for ingress and egress around the house to the front entrance and beyond to a parking area." (Neiswanger, p. 3, 1955) "An artificial lake has recently been filled and converted into a lawn with rose garden. Adjoining the rear terrace on the south is a fountain and pool with an object of art as a center of interest." (Neiswanger, p. 4, 1955)

The seven-acre Italian Renaissance landscape of the Anton period was reduced in 1946 and in the late 1950s when the northern and eastern acreage respectively were subdivided. Lost are the circular drive to the north; the lake, the pergola, and the lake house to the east; and the fountain, pool, walks, and gardens to the south. However, the terraced effect of the remaining two acres has been maintained and is identified by the concrete balustrades that mark the progressing grade or terracing of the landscape south

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and west of the house. The extant physical and photographic evidence will allow the landscaping immediately south and west of the house to be recreated.

Italian gardens and architecture gained popularity in the early twentieth century. "Balustraded terraces could be made on a hilly site as well as dramatic cascades and water steps, reminiscent of those in Italy. Italian gardens lent themselves very well to the use of statuary, a trademark of the early twentieth century, as well as sculptured shrubs." (Favretti, p. 63, 1978) "Early twentieth-century gardens and grounds were architectural gardens, meaning that their design was highly structured and that they contained many architectural elements such as pergolas, fountains, teahouses, limestone benches, sundials, rose arches, and sheared shrubs for accent. A strong axial plan tied the gardens together." (Favretti, p. 67, 1978)

The Antons lived in the residence from 1927-1941, when it was purchased by Harry Hines Woodring (1887-1957). The Woodring family owned the property into the 1960s and is responsible for the many of the landscape alterations.

The Christian Church of Kansas subsequently purchased the house in 1968 and used it for its offices until the late 1980s. It was purchased by its present owners, Don and Janet Chubb, in 1988. The Chubbs have restored the house as their residence and are gradually working on the grounds.

8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop nationally	perty in relation to other properties:
Applicable National Register Criteria	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) <u>Architecture</u> <u>Commerce</u>	Period of Significance Significant Dates 1926-1927, 1930 1926-1927, 1930 1926-1941 1926-1941 1926-1941
	Cultural Affiliation
Significant Person Anton, Frederick A.	Architect/Builder Anton, Frederick A. Wight, William D.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Anton-Woodring House (c. 1926- 1927, 1930) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria B and C for its historical association with Frederick A. Anton (1866-1944), a Topeka, Kansas inventor and entrepreneur, and for its architectural significance as an Italian Renaissance style residence. The house and grounds are commonly known as Terrace Lake.

Anton was born in Melich, Germany. As a young man he studied architecture and cabinetmaking. Anton immigrated to the United States in 1884 and worked for the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad in Nebraska until 1889. He was transferred to the Union Pacific Railroad's Denver office in 1889. Anton married Augusta Rosina Krueger (1872-1934) of Topeka, Kansas in 1891. The couple moved to Seattle, Washington in 1891 or 1892, where he established a general contracting business.

In 1894 Anton moved to Topeka, Kansas with his wife and baby daughter Estella Louisa (1892-) to be with Augusta's parents. He purchased the interests of William F. Myer's Kansas Tent and Awning Company at 304-306 Kansas Avenue in Topeka in either 1894 or 1897. Myer, also a German immigrant, had established his awning business in Topeka in the 1870s. Myer became Anton's employee and was still with the awning company in the early 1930s.

In 1901 Anton formed a partnership with B.W. Carter and William Schick and established the Topeka Tent and Awning Company, with himself as president. Anton bought out Carter and Schick in 1917, forming the Anton-Ackerman Company of which the Topeka Tent and Awning Company became a subsidiary of. Anton served as the president of the Anton-Ackerman Company, his son Willis Anton served as vice-president, and his son-in-law J.M. Long served as Secretary and Treasurer. The company was headquartered at 130-134 Kansas Avenue from 1917 until 1987, when the family sold the business.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.	
	XX See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested previously listed in the National Register	XX State historic preservation office
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Specify repository: <u>Kansas State Historical Society</u>
	<u>Ransas State Historical Society</u>
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 2.14 acres	
UTM References A [1,5] [2]6,4]2,6,0] [4,3]2,5[7,4,0]	3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	$D [___] [______] [______] [_______] [_______] [_______] [________$
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
The nominated property is located in Block 2 of Clubber 2 and 2 an	
SW 1/4, S.35-T.11-R.15, Topeka, Shawnee County the SE corner of Lot 8, Sena Park Addition sou	
west 32', north 277.5', and east 440' to the p	
bounded to the west by Gage Bouldevard and by	adjacent property lines to the north,
east, and south.	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The boundary includes 2.14 acres of the origin	al 7 acre tract and includes the house
and some formal landscaping features. The rem	aining acreage was subdivided in the
1940s and 1950s.	
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	Historian
name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural	nistorian

name/titleMartina_Hagedorn=Krass, Architectural H.	Lstorian
organization Kansas State Historical Society	date <u>May</u> 7, 1991
street & number <u>120 West 10th</u>	telephone 913-296-5264
city or townTopeka	state Kansas zip code <u>66612</u>

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Topeka Tent and Awning Company had a large national and international wholesale and retail business. The 1924 <u>Topeka Tent</u> <u>and Awning Co. USA Catalogue</u> (No. 27) featured tents, camping equipment, awnings and awning arms, canvas advertising specialties, auto tops, curtains, seat covers, oiled clothing, and the famous "Anton Lateral Awning Arm." In 1928 Topeka Tent and Awning Company employed one hundred people and had a payroll of \$110,650. In addition to the downtown Topeka office and factory, Anton owned a printing plant which printed thousands of company catalogues annually for regional, national, and international distribution.

The Anton-Ackerman Company continued to expand throughout the decade of the 1920s. In 1925 the Anton-Ackerman Company purchased the Pueblo Tent and Awning Company in Pueblo, Colorado and in 1929 established a plant in Los Angeles, California. The fabric manufacturing business of the Anton-Ackerman Company was greatly enlarged by the addition of the two western plants, but most of the metal fabrication work continued to be centralized at the Topeka plant.

The company's success and expansion was directly related to the numerous patents that Anton received for various improvements to awnings and awning arms. Anton received his first patent in 1911, the year that he became an American citizen. The United States and Canadian patents for the "Anton Lateral Awning Arm" were issued in 1911, and numbered (U.S. Patent No. 986120) and (CAN. Patent No. 142263) respectively. The "Anton Lateral Awning Arm" was designed for Prisma plate glass store fronts and was designed to be fastened to transom bars. The device was made in even foot lengths, measuring from four to ten feet inclusive. The angle assumed by the canvas roof of the awning could be regulated, slide rods and all permanent lower attachments were eliminated.

The United States patent application for the "Anton Lateral Awning Arm" was filed on November 3, 1909 as a petition for the "new and useful improvement in Awnings and Arms Therefor (sic)." Anton writes in the patent application that:

"My invention relates to awnings especially of larger sizes, such as are used for store fronts and the like. Heretofore the supports for such awnings have comprised brackets of various sorts requiring considerable space below the point of attachment of the awning to the building, for supporting the brackets or braces. It is the object of my invention to improve generally upon the supports for

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awnings generally, to provide a special arm for supporting the awning, which arm is secured to the building close up to the awning, so as to avoid the usual downwardly extending brackets or frames or braces; to provide an awning arm which may be attached to the building close under the awning and which is foldable when the awning is up and automatically unfolded when the awning is extended; to provide a simple, strong, and efficient foldable arm for supporting the awning; and to provide parts, improvements, and combinations herein set forth."

In 1932 Anton received patents for two inventions which would "revolutionize the awning industry and bring business and fame to the city (Topeka)." (Topeka <u>Capital</u>, 10 April 1932) The "Anton Rolomatic Awning" (U.S. Patent No. 1847459) and the "Laterolok Arm" (U.S. Patent No. 1854499) were produced at the Topeka plant as well as at the Pueblo Tent and Awning Company in Pueblo, Colorado and at a Los Angeles plant. The "Anton Rolomatic Awning" was designed for awnings where height is greater than the projection. "This new Rolomatic fits a window without wind rattling or whipping. It can be lowered to any position. It rolls up in a container out of It works from inside or outside the house." sight and weather. The "Laterolok Arm" was (Topeka <u>State Journal</u>, April, 1932) designed for awnings where the projection is greater than the height.

In addition to the three most famous and presumably most lucrative inventions, Anton received five other patents for "new and useful improvements" to awnings. Anton received two patents in 1926 for "Window Awnings" (U.S. Patent No. 1587134) and "Adjustable Awnings" (U.S. Patent No. 1587135). In 1930 Anton received two patents for "Automatic Window Awnings" (U.S. Patent No. 1758244) and "Window Awnings" (U.S. Patent No. 1758245). Anton's last patent was granted in 1938, which was for "Automatic Visor Awnings" (U.S. Patent No. 2129555).

During World War II, the Topeka Tent and Awning Company secured a contract totaling over \$500,000 to make tents, flies and cot covers for the United States military. The Topeka plant employed over 200 people to meet the contract demands. This contract marked the next significant phase of the company, which coincided with Anton's reduced involvement in the company and subsequent death in 1944. The Topeka Tent and Awning Company gradually moved away from tent production, and when the Anton family sold the company in 1987 its biggest seller was an air-supported swimming pool dome.

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Anton purchased the seven-acre tract that became Terrace Lake in February, 1925. Although confirmation of an exact construction period for the Anton-Woodring House is not available, the circa 1926-1927 time period is very likely. The property first appears on the tax rolls under Anton's name in 1927 and was valued at \$17,600 for purposes of taxation, indicating that the house was complete by this time. Additional corroboration of a 1926-1927 construction date is found in the Topeka city directories. The Anton residence is listed as 405 Western in the 1926 Radges <u>Topeka</u> <u>City Directory</u>, this house was the long time residence of the Antons, who were living there atleast as early as 1902. The 1927-1928 Polk's <u>Topeka City Directory</u> lists the Anton residence at 10th and Gage Boulevard.

"He was the first Topekan to build an imposing suburban home, making the plans both for the home and landscaping of the luxurious estate at Tenth and Gage blvd., now occupied by the H.H. Woodring family." (Topeka <u>Journal</u>, 29 May 1944) In Connelley's 1928 <u>History of Kansas and Kansans</u> Anton's Gage Boulevard residence is referenced. "His large grounds surrounding his beautiful new residence in the recently opened residential district in Topeka, in the Gage Boulevard neighborhood, display the results of his careful planning and love and knowledge of horticulture." (Connelley, V. 5, p. 2129, 1928)

The house is an example of the Italian Renaissance style, with some Prairie School influences. The two story structure is made of reinforced concrete with a blond brick veneer and is surmounted by a red clay tile, cross-hipped roof. The center hall plan is spacious, with an unusual and very practical split level second floor. The original seven-acre tract and its landscaping has been reduced to two-acres, and much of the Anton period landscaping is gone.

"The Italian Renaissance style is found in the early 20th-century houses throughout the country but is considerably less common than the contemporary Craftsman, Tudor, or Colonial Revival styles. Primarily a style for architect-designed landmarks in major metropolitan areas prior to World War I, vernacular interpretations spread widely with the perfection of masonry veneering techniques; most of these date from the 1920s. The style steadily declined in popularity through the 1930s, and post 1940s examples are rare." (McAlester, p. 398, 1984)

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The Anton-Woodring House is a vernacular interpretation of the Italian Renaissance style, with Prairie School influences found only in the casement windows and perhaps in the wide and narrow chimneys. The house does share the smooth lines and horizontal nature of the Prairie School, but its classical detailing and proportion place it clearly in the Italian Renaissance tradition.

The seven-acre Italian Renaissance landscape of the Anton period was reduced in 1946 and in the late 1950s when the northern and eastern acreage respectively were subdivided. Lost are the circular drive to the north; the lake, the pergola, and the lake house to the east; and the fountain, pool, walks, and gardens to the south. However, the terraced effect of the remaining two acres has been maintained and is identified by the concrete balustrades that mark the progressing grade or terracing of the landscape south and west of the house. The extant physical and photographic evidence will allow the landscaping immediately south and west of the house to be recreated.

Italian gardens and architecture gained popularity in the early twentieth century. "Balustraded terraces could be made on a hilly site as well as dramatic cascades and water steps, reminiscent of those in Italy. Italian gardens lent themselves very well to the use of statuary, a trademark of the early twentieth century, as well as sculptured shrubs." (Favretti, p. 63, 1978) "Early twentieth-century gardens and grounds were architectural gardens, meaning that their design was highly structured and that they contained many architectural elements such as pergolas, fountains, teahouses, limestone benches, sundials, rose arches, and sheared shrubs for accent. A strong axial plan tied the gardens together." (Favretti, p. 67, 1978)

Anton's background in architecture and general contracting and his technical abilities would have made it very possible for him to design the house and grounds. As of this writing, no additional information beyond what has already been presented can be found to solidly prove that Anton was solely responsible for the designs. Newspaper accounts of the construction and landscaping of Terrace Lake and the construction blueprints and landscape plan would be valuable resources for the researcher if they exist.

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Another plausible theory for the attribution of design for Terrace Lake is that Anton may have secured the advice and services of William D. Wight (1882-1947). Wight was a well respected Kansas City, Missouri architect who with his brother Thomas (1874-1949), practiced under the firm name of Wight and Wight from 1911 until the 1940s.

Anton's patent attorneys were located in Kansas City, Missouri and one may assume that Anton's business brought him to Kansas City on other matters as well. Anton was very likely aware and interested in the architectural environment around him, and took note of the buildings designed by Wight and Wight. The firm received many important commissions in Kansas City, Missouri, including the William Rockhill Nelson Art Gallery (c. 1927) and the Swope Memorial (c. 1921).

The Wights received atleast two commissions in Topeka during the 1920s. Wight and Wight received the commission for the Central National Bank (c. 1926-1927, NR 1976) in 1925. William D. Wight is credited with the 1927 design of the Frank Pitts MacLennan residence, now Cedar Crest, (c. 1928-1929, NR 1982).

The Anton-Woodring House is an architect designed house which has a very similar floor plan and finishing treatments to the MacLennan residence, the house that William D. Wight designed in 1927. Additionally, the two known Topeka buildings which are credited to Wight and Wight and William D. Wight were constructed between 1926 and 1929. The Wight brothers were very active principals who were frequently on site during the construction phase of their projects. Anton, who was a very clever and pragmatic businessman, may have seized the opportunity that Wight's frequent visits to Topeka presented, and secured the services of a first rate architect to critique and assist in the design of his new house and grounds.

The Antons lived in the residence from 1927-1941, when it was purchased by Harry Hines Woodring (1887-1957), who lived there until his death in 1957. Woodring served one term as Governor of Kansas but lost his bid for reelection in 1932 to Alf Landon. Woodring served as President Franklin Roosevelt's Assistant Secretary of War from 1933-1936 and then as Secretary of War from 1936-1940. Woodring continued his involvement in politics upon his return to Kansas, running "strong but losing gubernatorial campaigns in 1946 and 1956." The Woodring family owned the property into the 1960s and is responsible for the many of the landscape alterations.

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The Christian Church of Kansas subsequently purchased the house in 1968 and used it for its offices until the late 1980s. It was purchased by its present owners, Don and Janet Chubb, in 1988. The Chubbs have restored the house as their residence and are gradually working on the grounds.

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	JENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

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Ralph Eugene Scamell (1911-1981) was the architect that designed the Anton-Woodring House (c. 1925). Scamell was retained by Frederick Anton to design the Italian Renaissance home. The fire-proof design employed hollow tile and brick wall construction with a brick and concrete foundation and a tile roof. Mahogany, walnut and oak woods were employed for the interior finishes, a vapor vacuum heating system was selected to warm the house.

Scamell was born in Atchison, Kansas and received his Bachelor's of Science from the University of Kansas in 1911. He was employed as a draftsman by the American Bridge Company at Gary, Indiana that year and for the next seven years was the design engineer for Capital Iron Works in Topeka. From 1918 until 1920 he taught engineering at Washburn College, in 1920 he established a private architectural practice.

During the 1920s Scamell received numerous commissions in Topeka and northeast Kansas, including the Silo Baptist Congregation Church in Topeka, the Tonganoxie High School, the IOOF Temple in Lawrence, and the National Reserve Life Insurance Building in Topeka. In late 1925 Scamell moved his office from the New England Building to the National Reserve Life Insurance Building. In later years Scamell worked as an architect for Neville, Sharp and Simon Architects and Black and Veatch.

Senne Construction of Topeka received the contract to build the \$30,965 Anton home and subcontracted the work for the millwork, roofing and sheet metal, stone, steel, heating and plumbing, wiring, and painting. Capital City Vitreous Brick and Tile Company received the millwork contract, G. W. Warren and Son received the roofing and sheet metal contract, Lumbermen's Supply Company received the stone contract, Capital Iron Works received the steel contract, W. F. Sheahan received the contract for the heating and plumbing, Jordan Electric Company received the contract for the wiring, Miller and Schlendering received the contract for the painting.

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