

MAY 1 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

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 *NATIONAL PARK SERVICE* 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 "not applicable." 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 Mattie M. Elliot House

other names/site number 161-3490-0058

2. Location

street & number 600 Houston Street  not for publication

city or town Manhattan  vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Riley code 161 zip code 66502

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.)

Roman Powers, SHPO April 19, 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register Date of Action 6/2/95

**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. 1927-28

**Significant Dates**

c. 1927-28

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Wolfenbarger, Floyd O; Architect

**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

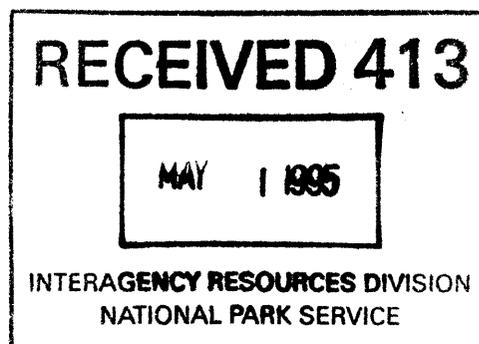
Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

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The Mattie M. Elliot House (c. 1927-1928) is located at 600 Houston Street in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas (pop. 32,644). The two story, red brick, limestone and stucco Tudor Revival house stands on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a hipped roof that is intersected by a north/south gable roof on the west side. The building has a southern facade orientation and a secondary elevation to the east.

A one story, red brick, stucco and timbered garage (c. 1927-1928) stands northeast of the house facing 6th Street. The garage stands on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a wooden shingled, gable roof. Each gable is defined by five vertical timbers with stucco in-fill. The garage has an eastern facade orientation with the intersecting street. Two garage doors pierce the west facade. The building's east and north elevations are composed of brick. The west and south elevations are stuccoed. One double hung sash window centered vertically on the wall pierces the north and south elevations.

The overall rectangular form of the house is surmounted by a hipped roof that is intersected by a north/south gable roof on the west side. A small gable is located on the northeast corner of the north elevation. Two windows on either side of a brick chimney pierce the east side of the hipped roof. The east side of the hipped roof carries down the house to flare out over the one story enclosed porch. A c. 1938 indicates that the present wooden shingles replace asphalt shingles.

The building's primary south elevation is brick with a stucco second floor. The north, east and west elevations are stuccoed. Rusticated limestone blocks define the openings for the windows, arches and corners on the first story of the south facade and the porch arch on the north elevation. The rusticated limestone blocks break the visual continuity of the brick facade. A tall chimney rises from the east side of the hipped roof. Each elevation presents a unique and asymmetrical appearance, recalling the additive style of 16th century Tudor architecture.

The Elliot house is an integration of geometric forms placed together to create a harmonious facade. The overall rectangular shape of the house is surmounted by a hipped roof but a gable projects from the west side. The east roof line of this gable is the east roof line of the projecting gable entrance. The hipped roof on the east side flares over the enclosed porch. The projecting gable entry is pierced by a recessed arch. The first story of the south facade is composed of brick while the second story is stuccoed. Three arched windows and an arch pierce the eastern bay of the south facade. These openings are punctuated with rusticated limestone blocks that lighten the heavy appearance of the brick facade.

The building's south facade is comprised of two sections. A gable comprises the western bay. The second story of the gable overhangs the first story. A corbelled brick bracket on the southwest corner upholds the second story. Rusticated limestone blocks punctuate the surrounds of each window and the porch arch on the first story. The eastern roof line of the gable is also

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the eastern roof line for the gabled entrance projection. The corners of the entrance porch are defined with free standing spandrel walls on the west and east corners. The spandrel walls are defined with rusticated limestone blocks. An arched, brick recessed entry defined by three, brick recessed arches leads to the front door. The door and knocker are original. A Classically inspired brass knocker head is inscribed with the name "ELLIOT." A mail slot is located to the north of the arch.

The three arched windows and a screened-in porch comprise the eastern bay of the south facade. The arches on the window are composed of rusticated limestone blocks with enlarged rusticated keystones. Rusticated limestone blocks punctuate the center of the sides of the window and the bottom corners of the window.

A screened-in porch defines the east corner of the house. The porch is a continuation of the main body of the house and is pierced with four arches that are located on the south, east and north elevations. The arches on the south facade and north elevation are defined with rusticated limestone blocks alternating with brick. The arches on the east elevation pierce a stucco wall and are surmounted by wooden planks. One arch is located on the eastern bay of the south facade, two arches compose the east elevation, and one arch is located on the eastern bay of the north elevation. There is no exterior entry into the porch. The southeast and northeast corners of the house are defined with a free standing spandrel wall. The corners of the spandrel walls are composed of rusticated limestone blocks.

The second story of the south facade is stuccoed with two double groupings of 6/6 double hung sash windows and one arched window located over the first floor windows and entry door. The two double groupings of windows have non-moving, decorative wooden shutters. The shutters are defined with pegged decorations.

The east elevation is composed of stucco and timber. Two arches pierce the stucco wall and are surmounted by wooden planks. The east side of the hipped roof slopes down to flare over the one story enclosed porch. Two 6/6 double hung sash windows on the second floor pierce either side of the chimney.

The eastern bay of the north elevation is defined by a screened-in porch. The screened in porch is composed of brick but the rest of the elevation is stuccoed. The second floor overhangs the first floor. A wooden bracket upholds the northeast corner. A one story, flat roof addition projects from the center of the north elevation. A door pierces the east facade of the addition.

The west elevation is stuccoed. A small gable surmounts each second story double grouping of 6/6 double hung sash windows on the west elevation. A wooden band visually separates the first and second floor on the north and west elevations.

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Fenestration is comprised primarily of 6/6 double hung sash windows in singular and double groupings. A group of three arched windows fenestrates the eastern bay of the south facade.

The interiors of the first and second floors retain their original floorplan and detailing. The first and second floorplans are aligned around the center staircase, which is placed on the north wall of the entry hall. The first floor is arranged by having one room lead into another. The second floor is reached by a dog-legged staircase. A dog-legged staircase consists of two flights rising in opposite directions. All rooms on the second floor are accessed by a ell-shaped hallway.

The entry hall, dining room, and parlor compose the public space on the first floor. Entry into the house occurs on the south wall of the entry hall through an arched door. The trim surrounding the arch doorway has a flat profile. The dog-legged staircase, aligned directly across from the door, is defined by a open stringer. A Colonial Style newel post on the starting step begins the railing up the stairs. The balusters on the railing are turned. A molded cornice defines the ceiling line. All doors have their original lockests and knobs.

An arch to the west of the entry hall leads to the dining room. The south wall is composed of a double grouping of double hung sash windows. Two windows pierce the west wall. The trim surrounding the doors and windows has a flat profile. The window trim rises form the sill to end at the head casing. A molded cornice defines the ceiling line. A door on the north wall leads to the kitchen. The kitchen has been extensively remodelled.

Another arch to the east of the entry hall leads to the parlor. On the south wall is group of three windows with circle top transoms. The door and window surrounds and molded cornice have the same design as the woodwork in the dining room. A ceramic tile fireplace is located on the east wall. Six tiles with a floral design are located on the face above the mounted ventilating grate. The mantel is upheld by four ceramic brackets. Plain ceramic tiles define the hearth. To the south of the fireplace is a fifteen light door leading to the porch. Built in cabinets are located on either side of the window on the north wall.

A smaller arch on the north wall in the entry hall leads to a hallway. This short hallway contains an arched, recessed shelf for the phone. The hallway ends with a square door that leads into the den. The door and window surrounds have the same design as the woodwork in the dining room. A ten light door on the west wall leads to the kitchen.

A dog-legged staircase rises to the seconds floor hallway. A Colonial style newel post stands on the landing. A balustrade on the landing defines the opening of the staircase. A ell-shaped hallway connects four rooms and one bathroom. A built in cabinet is located in the hallway directly across from the stairs. The trim surrounding the doors and windows have a flat profile. All doors have their original lockests and knobs. The rooms off the corridors have the same molding and trim for the doors and windows.

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The Mattie M. Elliot House reflects all of the design characteristics that are commonly found in the Tudor Revival style houses of the 1920s and 1930s, and maintains a high degree of architectural integrity. Mattie M. Elliot lived in the house until her death in 1948.

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The Mattie M. Elliot House (c. 1927-1928) is located at 600 Houston Street in Manhattan, Kansas. The property is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of the English Tudor Revival style.

The English Tudor style was fashionable during the 1920s and 1930s when only the Colonial Revival rivaled it in popularity as a vernacular style. The style expanded in popularity during these decades as masonry veneering techniques allowed even the most modest examples to mimic closely the brick and stone exterior of English prototypes. The style is loosely based on a variety of late Medieval English prototypes, ranging from thatch-roofed folk cottages to grand manor houses. These traditions are freely mixed in their American Eclectic expressions but are united by an emphasis on steeply pitched, front-facing gables which, although absent on many English Tudor prototypes, are almost universally present as a dominant facade element in Tudor houses. (McAlester, p.358, 1984)

The brick veneered and stucco house is the most common English Tudor subtype. Brick became the preferred wall finish for even the most modest Tudor cottages after masonry veneering became widespread in the 1920s. The first-story brick walls are contrasted with stucco on the principal gable and upper stories, which is a common arrangement.

The house was built for Mrs. Mattie (Martha) McNair Elliot (1862-1948) in 1927 and 1928. Mrs. Elliot was born in Cork County, Ireland and was raised in Wabaunsee County, Kansas. She was the widow of Willard S. Elliot, who died in 1918, leaving her his estate. Mrs. Elliot was one of the founding members of the Manhattan Carnegie Library Board in 1903, and remained an active member of the nine member board through 1929. Her husband founded the W. S. Elliot Clothing Store in Manhattan in 1897 and wrote and published literary criticism and light fiction. The couple had no children.

In 1923 Mrs. Elliot purchased a frame, Italianate house at 600 Houston Street. This building was removed to the northern portion of the lot in 1927 to allow for the construction of Mrs. Elliot's English Tudor house. When completed the house was valued at \$35,629.

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce selected the Elliot house to appear pictured in its promotional literature throughout the 1930s and 1940s. These publications were civic and industrial reviews of "progressive middle western cities which receive essential public utility services from the subsidiaries of North American Light and Power Company."

Floyd O. Wolfenbarger, a prominent Manhattan architect, is believed to have designed the house for Mrs. Elliot while completing his Bachelor's of Architecture at Kansas State University. Drawings to confirm this belief may be stored at Seaton Hall in a records area containing student projects from the early 1900s. The Wolfenbarger drawings for the Elliot house would likely date from 1926 or 1927.

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Wolfenbarger completed his studies at Kansas State University in 1927 and moved to Boston, Massachusetts for the next eight years. He received a scholarship from the Bemis Foundation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to develop modular units for design and materials in the building industry. He later worked for the Boston architectural firm of Bigelow, Wadsworth, Hubbard and Smith as project manager for several hospital projects.

He returned to Manhattan in 1935 to establish his practice. He designed hospitals, jails, recreational facilities, businesses and homes in Manhattan and the surrounding region. He served as a consultant on ecclesiastical art and architecture for the Catholic church and in 1949 was elected as president of the Kansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Marguerite Davidson, Mrs. Elliot's great niece, and her husband A. P. Davidson, inherited the property in 1948. The couple sold the house that year, and the property changed hands several times into the 1950s, when the St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church purchased it for a rectory. The church sold the property to the current owners, Gary Ellis and Breta Bloomberg-Ellis, in 1988.

The Mattie M. Elliot House retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is eligible for the National Register under criterion C.

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**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Manhattan City Clerk Records, Assessment Books, 1923-1929.

Manhattan Supplement, Current Topics, October 20-26, 1929.

Manhattan, Kansas Tribune-News; 28 August 1947, 10 February 1949.

Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. Manhattan- One of the Finer Cities, 1938-1940, 1943.

Manhattan, Kansas Mercury-Chronicle; 6 January 1948.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Knopf, 1984).

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is located in Ward 1 on the south 100' of E 1/2 lot 610 and the south 100' lot 609 in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the south by Houston Street, to the east by 6th Street, and to the north and west by adjacent property lines.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

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