

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review Meeting
August 12, 2017
Museum Classrooms
Kansas Museum of History, Topeka, KS

Board Members

Present: Jennie Chinn, Eric Engstrom, Sharron Hamilton, Timothy Hersh, Kathryn Herzog, Joseph Johnson, David Sachs and Gregory Schneider.

Absent: John Hoopes and Toni Stewart.

The attendees constituted a quorum.

Staff

Present: Kristen Johnston, Amanda Loughlin, Jillian Love, Katrina Ringler and Patrick Zollner.

Proceedings

Eric Engstrom called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked for introductions from the board members and staff.

Approval of Minutes

The board approved the meeting minutes of May 13, 2017.

Cultural Resources Division Director's Report

Patrick Zollner reported that there are now 1,437 Kansas listings in the National Register of Historic Places and 173 listings in the Kansas register. Since the last meeting, there have been five new Kansas listings to the National Register of Historic Places and two delistings. A copy of the Cultural Resources Division quarterly report was included in the board members' folders. Zollner announced that the State Historic Preservation Office had a soft launch of the new Review & Compliance submittal and content management system. This database will be mandatory for R&C submittals beginning in the Fall of 2017. Zollner also reported that the archeology staff and Kansas Anthropological Association partnered with the Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to host the annual Kansas Archeology Training Program field school, June 1-15 at 14JF420, an Early Ceramic age site near Valley Falls. Participants numbered 179; they contributed approximately 6,941 hours of labor for the field work and classes. Zollner announced that Bethany Emenhiser was hired as a tax credit/project reviewer and started this past Tuesday to replace Jillian Love, who is now the full-time Historic Sites Supervisor. Zollner also announced the upcoming Kansas State Preservation Conference to be hosted by the Kansas Preservation Association, September 28 and 29 in Wichita. "Creating Urban Historic Redevelopment" is the theme, and Joe Minicozzi of Urban 3 will be the keynote speaker.

Report of the Executive Director

Jennie Chinn discussed the upcoming Fall bus tour. This year's road trip takes place September 29 and 30 and will explore the history, art, architecture and curiosities of northcentral Kansas. The trip will be based in Salina. Many National Register properties will be visited including the

Lincoln County Courthouse, the Midland Hotel in Wilson and the Garden of Eden in Lucas. On the second day of the trip we will explore Lindsborg.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATIONS

Topeka Cemetery

1601 SE 10th Avenue, Topeka, Shawnee County

Criteria A & C: Exploration/Settlement; Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance: 1859-1959

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 15 contributing resources; 5 non-contributing resources

Summary: The Topeka Cemetery, platted by Franklin Crane in 1859 east of the four-year-old city, is Kansas' oldest chartered cemetery and remains active today. The cemetery is locally significant as an outstanding example of a planned landscape that combines two periods of cemetery design—19th-Century rural design and a 20th-Century lawn-park landscape. The earliest portion of the cemetery features winding paths on hilly terrain, prominent memorials, markers that incorporate Victorian-era iconography and cohesive family plots with matching headstones, all elements of rural cemetery design. The later, southern, portion of the cemetery presents an orderly assemblage of large markers and paths that reflect the Classical formality made popular by the City Beautiful movement. Mausolea in both portions are styled in the Greek Revival, Classical Revival, Beaux Arts and Egyptian Revival styles.

SHPO Note: This cemetery nomination is the result of a 2016 HPF grant to the city of Topeka.

Presented by: Susan Jezak Ford

Discussion: Kathryn Herzog asked for clarification regarding the use of the house and original office.

Public Discussion: Lisa Sandmar, Topeka Cemetery Association (owner) spoke in support of the nomination.

Motion to approve: Gregory Schneider Second: David Sachs
7 votes yes, 1 abstention¹

Crawford, Nelson Antrim, House

2202 SW 17th Street, Topeka, Shawnee County

Criteria B & C: Literature; Architecture

Period of Significance: 1938-1963

Level of Significance: Local & Statewide

Resource Count: 1 contributing building; 1 non-contributing structure

¹ Chinn typically abstains from voting except when a tiebreak is needed.

Summary: Journalist and editor Nelson Antrim Crawford lived at 2202 SW 17th Street from 1938 until his death in 1963. Crawford wrote the first college textbook on journalism ethics in 1924, managed the popular monthly magazine *Household Magazine* for over 20 years, and co-authored books with friend and fellow Topekan, Dr. Karl Menninger. Crawford's International style house was designed by Kansas architect Floyd Orson Wolfenbarger, and it was the first of its kind in the city of Topeka. The house is locally significant for its architecture and regionally significant for its association with the notable Kansan, Nelson Antrim Crawford, who resided here from 1938 through his death in 1963. This house is the resource best associated with Nelson Crawford during his lifetime.

Presented by: Amanda Loughlin

Discussion: Gregory Schneider asked about whether there were other examples of the International style house in Topeka and Kansas, to which Loughlin that there are known examples in Topeka but they post-date the Crawford House by at least a decade. Loughlin also noted there are other styled houses in Kansas, but she did not know their dates of construction. Eric Engstrom asked if the construction of the house was in the papers, to which Loughlin responded they did not find any references.

Public Discussion: Homeowner Jewel Makda spoke in support of the nomination.

Motion to approve: Joseph Johnson Second: Kathryn Herzog
7 votes yes, 1 abstention

Landmark Water Tower

Sunset Avenue & Leavenworth Street, Manhattan, Riley County

Criteria A & C: Community Development; Engineering

Period of Significance: 1921-1922

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 1 contributing structure

Summary: Although the city of Manhattan had a waterworks facility by the spring of 1888, the town's first water tower was not in use until 1922. Built between 1921 and 1922, the Landmark Water Tower provided water service to the then-westward edge of town. The standpipe also helped equalize water pressure to the rest of the city, whose residents had become increasingly aware of the citywide problem. Marked by its unique style, the nominated standpipe features an external winding staircase, a viewing deck that offers a panoramic view of the town and Flint Hills region, and a tall conical spire. Designed by Kansas City, Missouri-based Black & Veatch, the all-steel tower was manufactured by the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company.

Presented by: Amanda Loughlin

Discussion: Eric Engstrom asked about whether the cost of the standpipe led to its design, to which Loughlin replied yes. Sharron Hamilton asked if the water tower was still being used, to

which Loughlin responded no. Kathryn Herzog asked whether National Register listing would protect the site from encroachment, to which Loughlin replied no.

Public Discussion: Mel Borst, a neighbor of the homeowner, spoke in support of the nomination.

Motion to approve: David Sachs Second: Kathryn Herzog
7 votes yes, 1 abstention

E.S. Cowie Electric Company Buildings
222-232 S. Topeka Avenue, Wichita, Sedgwick County

Criterion A: Commerce
Period of Significance: 1920-1959
Level of Significance: Local
Resource Count: 2 contributing buildings

Summary: The E.S. Cowie Electric Company was established in 1900 in Kansas City, Missouri, and expanded to Wichita in 1916. The Wichita store moved three times in the first fifteen years of business before settling in the 200 block of S. Topeka in 1931. By the time it moved to the S. Topeka location the company was firmly established as one of the largest automotive electric suppliers in the Midwest and Southwest. These buildings are significant for their reflection of the pioneering and enduring role in the automotive industry in Wichita and surrounding states. The Cowie firm was known for its business acumen and fidelity to servicing customer needs with a well-trained expert team. The company created life-long relationships with manufacturers and customers. When the founder E.S. Cowie died in 1951, his hand-picked protégé, Lee Thorn, who had managed the Wichita store for 25 years, became president of the company and the headquarters moved to Wichita. Cowie Electric Company transferred to the Thorn family in 1959, ending the Cowie family's ownership of the business.

SHPO Note: This is submitted as a Part 1 for a potential Federal Tax Credit project.

Presented by: Brenda Spencer

Discussion: David Sachs raised questions about Criterion A classification; he suggested that Criterion B would be better, to which Spencer replied that the 1920 construction influenced the auto story in Wichita. Greg Schneider questioned the Cowie sign, to which Spencer responded it has been removed for repair.

Motion to approve: Joseph Johnson Second: Tim Hersh
6 votes yes, 1 vote no (Sachs), 1 abstention

Maplecroft Farmstead

2957 KOA Road, Grantville vicinity, Jefferson County

Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement; Agriculture

Period of Significance: ca. 1862-1967

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 9 contributing resources; 2 non-contributing resources

MPS: Historic Agriculture-related Resources

Summary: The resources comprising the Maplecroft Farmstead represent the agricultural development of Kaw Township, Jefferson County, Kansas. The earliest buildings also are associated with the earliest settlement of the township. Built in circa 1862 the western portion of the house is attributed to James Townsend, son-in-law of John Kuykendall who acquired the first patent for the land later to become Maplecroft. By the end of 1873, Hanson Frisbie was the owner of the land. This farm has remained in the Frisbie family for over 100 years, being the center of the family's agricultural endeavors that included potatoes, apples, and livestock. Spanning from circa 1862 to 1967, the farmstead's period of significance encompasses the years of its earliest settlement through to Hanson Frisbie's great-grandson's tenure.

Presented by: Amanda Loughlin

Discussion: David Sachs requested clarification of whether this was nominated as part of thematic Agriculture-related Resources, to which Loughlin replied yes.

Public Discussion: Homeowner Leisa Gale spoke in support of the nomination.

Motion to approve: Gregory Schneider Second: Kathryn Herzog
7 votes yes, 1 abstention

Bryant School

1011 Mansfield Street, Winfield, Cowley County

Criteria A & C: Education; Architecture

Period of Significance: 1880-1964

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 2 contributing resources; 2 non-contributing resources

MPS: Historic Public Schools of Kansas

Summary: First constructed in 1880 for Winfield's second or west ward, the Bryant School is the only extant school building that illustrates the town's earliest public education history. As the town's population grew, the school building was expanded to include additional classroom space first in 1916 then in circa 1922 when a separate elementary building was constructed on the north side of the parcel. The main school building was again updated in 1938 to accommodate better circulation and the building's first indoor restrooms. The Bryant School continued to serve the children of western Winfield until 1964. By the end of the 1960s this was the home of the Cowley County Historical Society Museum, who continues to own and operate it today. The

school complex is significant for its association with Winfield's public education history and for its local architectural significance as an example of the City Graded School.

Presented by: Amanda Loughlin

Discussion: Sharron Hamilton asked for clarification regarding exterior changes. Kathryn Herzog asked for clarification about the roof changes.

Public Discussion: Janet Hostetter spoke in support of the nomination. Several HSBR members also voiced their support of the nomination.

Motion to approve: Joseph Johnson Second: Sharron Hamilton
7 votes yes, 1 abstention

Florence Deeble Rock Garden

126 S. Fairview Avenue, Lucas, Russell County

Criteria A & C: Art

Period of Significance: 1935-ca. 1991

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 1 contributing site

Summary: The Deeble Rock Garden, created by Lucas resident, teacher, and artist Florence Deeble, is locally significant as a visionary art environment as it captures her beloved travel places as "Postal Card Scenes" in her backyard, as well as the story of Lucas history seen through her eyes. People and events are encapsulated in her montages, as are the national parks and sites she visited in the western United States during her summer vacations. The garden is made of concrete, rocks, and assemblage objects. Deeble's site is one of the four "outsider art" environments created in Lucas in the 1900's that led to Lucas' designation in 1996 by Governor Bill Graves as the "Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas."

Presented by Amanda Loughlin

Discussion: Discussion regarding possibility of nominating Lucas, KS as a historic district, to which Loughlin and Chinn replied that Deeble's garden and the Garden of Eden are the only two in situ art environments in town. Eric Engstrom asked about other potential sites, to which Chinn responded yes, there are others, and she named a few of them. Tim Hersh asked if this site had inspired other artists, to which Loughlin and Chinn replied most likely, yes.

Motion to approve: Sharron Hamilton Second: Tim Hersh
7 votes yes, 1 abstention

United Telephone Building

1003 Main Street, Goodland, Sherman County

Criterion C: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1931

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 1 contributing building

Summary: Constructed in 1931, Goodland’s United Telephone Building is significant as an excellent local representative of the Art Deco style. Characterized by solid, rectilinear forms, colorful terra cotta geometrical design elements, and strong symmetry of the whole, the 1931 building is an enduring influential example of workmanship and materials of the early 1930s. Constructed as the company offices and housing delicate telephone equipment, the fireproof building served as a communications facility for the United Telephone Company, with home offices at Abilene, Kansas. It served the same purpose from 1937 onward when United was taken over by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. In 1990 a new building for digital equipment was built by Southwestern Bell and occupied in 1991, at which time the 1931 building ceased its use as a telephone utility. The building remained vacant until it was bought by Sherman County in 1994. In 2017 the county gifted the building to the Sherman County Historical Society.

Presented by: Katrina Ringler

Discussion: Joseph Johnson asked if this was similar to the Art Deco telephone building in Wichita. David Sachs asked if a catalog was issued for the terra cotta pieces, to which Ringler replied she did not know.

Motion to approve: David Sachs
7 votes yes, 1 abstention

Second: Gregory Schneider

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES NOMINATIONS

Lueck Store

10 5th Street, Corning, Nemaha County

Criterion A: Commerce

Period of Significance: 1908-1949

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 1 contributing building

Summary: The Lueck Department Store is historically significant for its association with the Commercial development of Corning, a railroad settlement in Nemaha County, and the commerce of the surrounding rural community in Illinois Township. The building is locally significant as one of the last original commercial buildings. Generally, the economy of Corning and its surrounding trade area was based on small scale diversified farming and stock-raising. The Lueck Department Store, operated by George Lueck from 1908 to 1949, is an example of a

successful business that served as the community center of a thriving rural community. As storekeeper and community leader, George Lueck contributed to the development of Nemaha County for several decades in the first half of the twentieth century.

SHPO Note: The building is ineligible for the National Register due to the loss of its storefront.

Presented by: Amanda Loughlin

No Discussion:

Motion to approve: Kathryn Herzog Second: Gregory Schneider

7 votes yes, 1 abstention

Smalley Seed Company Building

322 N Main Street, McPherson, McPherson County

Criterion A: Commerce

Period of Significance: 1888-1918

Level of Significance: Local

Resource Count: 1 contributing building

Summary: This building is significant for its association with the early seed industry in McPherson, Kansas. Between 1888 and 1918 the two-story brick building housed three seed companies, each of which was associated with local seed expert James Smalley. Beginning in 1888 and continuing into 1904, E. Annabil & Co. operated at this location. When Annabil retired, his son-in-law, James Smalley, partnered with Ed Berg to operate Berg & Smalley Seed Company until 1908. James Smalley & Company was created when Ed Berg retired, operating out the building until Smalley's death in 1918.

SHPO Note: The building was determined ineligible by the NPS due to the loss of its storefront.

Presented by: Kristen Johnston

Discussion: Eric Engstrom commented that Smalley Seed Company added to the art collection world. David Sachs remarked that he is glad to see this Kansas listing without integrity for the National Register.

Public Discussion: The property owners spoke in support of the nomination.

Motion to approve: David Sachs Second: Gregory Schneider

7 votes yes, 1 abstention

Other Business

Eric Engstrom was re-elected Chairman and Gregory Schneider was re-elected Vice-Chairman. The meeting dates for 2018 were selected. They are: February 10, May 5, August 4 and November 17.

The next meeting of the Historic Sites Board of Review will be November 18, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the Kansas Museum of History in the Museum Classrooms. The meet adjourned at 11:30 AM.