NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

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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 instructions 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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Kirk, Sennett and Bertha, House

Other name/site number 003-1990-0024

2. Location

Street & number 145 West Fourth Avenue ☐ not for publication

City or town Garnett ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Anderson Code 003 Zip code 66032

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.)

Christy Davis 9/15/05

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or 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 commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

☐ 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:)

Kirk House
Name of Property

Anderson Co., Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: C

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Limestone
Walls: Weatherboard

Roof: Metal

Other:

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Kirk House
Name of Property

Anderson Co., Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register

- ☐ **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 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 it 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

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1913

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

Kirk House
Name of Property

Anderson Co., Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	303820	4239200
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Dale E. Nimz

Organization _____ Date May, 2004

Street & number 1928 Countryside Lane Telephone 785-842-8992

City or town Lawrence State KS Zip code 66044

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Robert Logan and Robert Cugno

Street & number 145 West Fourth Avenue Telephone _____

City or town Garnett State KS Zip code 66032

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

Description

Summary

The Sennett and Bertha Mellen Kirk House, 145 West Fourth Avenue, Garnett, is a two-and-a-half-story three-bay residence. Built in 1913, the residence is a very well-preserved example of Colonial Revival style architecture. Both the exterior and the interior have excellent historic architectural integrity. The house is located on the northeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Walnut Streets in a mainly residential neighborhood one block west of the Anderson County Courthouse square and the central business district of Garnett, Kansas. The Garnett Public Library and Art Gallery is located adjacent to the Kirk House to the east.

Elaboration

The main rectangular block is oriented east and west facing Fourth Avenue to the south with a rear t-wing to the north. The main block has a side-gabled roof of medium pitch with a central gable roof dormer and ornamental cornice return in the gable ends. The rear wing has a hipped roof and a central gable wall dormer. The roof is covered with modern red corrugated metal roofing.

The main block is fifty-two feet wide from east to west and forty-two feet long from north to south. The rear wing is recessed eight feet from each side of the main block. The wing is thirty-six feet wide from east to west and fourteen feet long from north to south.

The house has a central entrance and a symmetrical interior plan with the main rooms opening from a wide central reception hall. There are thirteen rooms on the main floors and eight rooms in the basement.

The residence is constructed of wood frame and weatherboard on a rock-faced cut limestone foundation. The irregular-sized stone blocks are light gray in color and set in ashlar bond with raised, tooled mortar joints.

There are no historic outbuildings. A cistern with a concrete top is located in the yard near the southwest corner of the house.

Exterior

In the front, there is a prominent full-length entrance porch with a low metal roof now covered with asphalt roofing. The porch roof is supported on square stone posts of rock-faced blocks set in ashlar bond resting on wide stone piers. The roof has built-in gutters and is surmounted by a wooden

balustrade with square spindles and ornamental recessed panel metal end posts. Beside the main stone posts, there are metal fluted porch columns with terra cotta Ionic capitals. The porch has a wide cornice molding with crown molding at the eave. The porch ceiling is composed of square ornamental pressed metal panels (some deteriorated). There are three light fixtures. The wooden porch railing has turned spindles. The porch floor is wooden tongue and grooved one inch by four inch boards painted with modern ornamental panels. There is vertical board screening under the front porch and the enclosed side porch to the east. The front entrance steps are approximately ten feet wide and constructed of cut stone blocks with rock-faced stone side piers. There is a concrete walk leading to the front porch. In the rear, there are five rectangular cut stone slabs leading to the exterior entrance in the northeast corner of the house.

The important decorative elements of the Kirk House are representative of the Colonial Revival style. A prominent feature is the ornamental Palladian window centered in the front gable roof dormer. The prominent front entrance has a door of dark stained oak with an upper beveled glass panel flanked by sidelights with beveled glass. Also, there are two large first floor windows with lower movable sash surmounted by tripartite leaded glass panels. These ornamental panels are divided into a tripartite pattern with a diamond and stem motif in the end and center panels. Above the door and windows, there is a projecting ornamental window head with crown molding. Other important decorative elements include the wide water table with projecting molding and the wide frieze board with projecting molding at the top of the second floor which forms a triangular pediment in each side gable end.

Generally, the house has wooden double-hung windows. On the second floor front, there is a central bank of three, flanked by two small and two larger windows. The basement window openings have smooth-cut stone sills and small rectangular hatch windows. The basement windows are covered with diamond mesh security wire.

There are two chimneys. The east exposed end chimney is constructed of yellow brick and the central chimney is red brick.

Interior

The first floor has a vestibule leading to the central reception hall. Formal rooms open from this hall with the main stair rising from the northwest corner. In addition to the reception hall, the first floor rooms include a parlor, den, and dining room to the west and a living room and library to the east. The rear kitchen to the north has two pantries and opens to a rear porch to the northeast. Also, there is a rear service stair rising from a separate hall behind the reception hall.

In addition to the floor plan, the architectural character of the Kirk House is defined by fine woodwork, hardware, and fixtures. There is tongue and grooved oak flooring in the main first floor and second

floor rooms as well as wide oak baseboard, door and window moldings, and cornice moldings. The formal first floor rooms have dark stained woodwork, while, to distinguish the informal rooms on the second floor, the flooring and moldings have a lighter stain. Walls are painted lath and plaster. Doors have ornamental brass handles and hinges. Leaded glass ornamentation accentuates the front windows and several interior fixtures. These reflect an Arts and Crafts influence, and, reportedly, were made in Ottawa, Kansas, on order from the architectural firm, Washburn and Son. Glass overhead light shades have an embossed grape cluster motif. Originally, the wall and ceiling light fixtures were designed to use either gas or electricity for lighting. The house has a boiler and hot water heating system.

The entrance vestibule has a floor of small square white tiles with a border of blue tiles set in an ornamental geometric pattern in the corners. The walls and ceiling are paneled in dark stained quarter-sawn oak. The vestibule has molded base blocks, rounded door moldings, a chair rail, and a cornice molding. There is a built-up projecting molding over the door heads. The vestibule door is solid oak with a beveled glass panel flanked by sidelights with beveled glass similar to the front entrance door. There is a round embossed ceiling light globe. The closet to the west has a solid oak door with shelves and a coat hook rail. There is a bench with storage underneath to the east.

The reception hall has oak flooring and baseboard with a projecting cap molding. The door casing has rounded edges with a projecting head molding. There is a heavy built-up cornice molding with a lower picture rail and upper crown molding. There are sliding solid oak pocket doors from the hall to the parlor (southwest) and a cased opening to the living room (southeast). There is a radiator in the northeast corner of the hall.

The parlor has oak flooring, baseboard, and moldings with an ornamental painted pressed metal ceiling cornice. There are oak paired sliding pocket doors from the hall. The den has a solid oak door with ornamental hardware. As an informal room, the den interior has light stained oak woodwork. There is a solid oak closet door and oak flooring. There is a projecting molding over the doors and window with a beveled cornice molding and screen molding. Because this room is located under the main stair landing, it has a lower ceiling.

The dining room has oak flooring, baseboard, and moldings. There are oak paired sliding pocket doors from the hall. The dining room has several prominent decorative features. There are seven built-up oak ceiling beams with three hanging brass-colored metal light fixtures constructed of tapered streaked art glass and metal with an x-brace motif. Standing on the south interior wall, there is an oak cabinet. It has two long lower drawers, three upper drawers, two side cabinets surmounted by a single cabinet with three glass shelves, and sliding beveled glass paneled doors ornamented with a grape cluster, leaf, and vine motif.

The dining room also is decorated by seventeen painted panels on all four walls at eye level. These are naturalistic views of landscapes painted by local artist Paul Nordstrum. The wall paintings are trimmed with flat oak moldings extending to the baseboard and surmounted by a projecting beveled molding.

There is a fireplace in the east interior wall that projects approximately eighteen inches into the room. This has an ornamental surround composed of large square buff-colored glazed Rookwood tiles framed by a molded tile border and base. This is trimmed with a flat oak molding with a projecting head molding. There is a brass-colored sheet metal fireplace hood tapered from a narrow top to a broad overhanging hood over the fireplace opening. The hood has an upper raised panel with lower scrollwork ornamentation. It was fabricated by the Cramer Metalworking Shop of Garnett.

The living room has oak flooring, baseboard, and moldings. There are solid oak sliding pocket doors to the library. There is a fireplace in the east exterior wall. The fireplace has a floor of square glazed dark green tile, an ornamental surround composed of large glazed multi-colored tile with brass metal trim. The fireplace is surmounted by a simple projecting oak mantel. There is a large central hanging light fixture with seven glass shades. Two paired oak doors with beveled glass panels and ornamental hardware on each side of the fireplace open to the enclosed porch.

The library has oak flooring, baseboard and moldings. There are solid oak doors to the rear stair hall from the library and reception hall. The library's main ornamental features include a long oak bench against the east exterior wall flanked by two end bookcases with ornamental leaded glass doors and ornamental latches. Ornamental oak beams form a paneled ceiling similar to the dining room. There is a central hanging light fixture with four square tapered glass shades.

There is a rear stair with a closet underneath beside the hall to the kitchen. The hall has an ornamental light fixture beside the stair and a radiator.

The kitchen has two pantries to the west and a rear entrance porch to the northeast. The kitchen has small white hexagonal tile flooring and curved tile base. Openings are trimmed with painted base blocks and moldings. The door from the rear stair hall is solid stained oak with a large patterned glass panel. The kitchen has a large central ceiling light fixture with a white glass shade. There is a butler's pantry to the south and cook's pantry to the north. The pantries have hexagonal tile flooring. There are oak paneled doors from the kitchen. There are hooded head moldings over door and window openings and a beveled cornice molding. The butler's pantry has built-in oak drawers. The north and west walls are surmounted by cabinets with glass doors to the north. Drawers under a window to the west have a wide top for a work area. There is a cabinet and radiator in the southeast corner of the pantry. There is a solid oak swinging door to the dining room. The cook's pantry has a refrigerator space in the northeast corner. There are built-in oak paneled door cabinets to the north with solid front drawers below and under the window to the west.

The rear entrance porch has a painted wooden entrance door from the kitchen with a lower recessed panel and an upper glazed panel. The porch has painted wooden tongue and grooved 1 X 6 flooring. There is a shallow wooden cabinet with paired recessed panel doors standing against the south interior wall.

The main formal stair rises from the northwest corner of the reception hall and turns around an intermediate landing to the second floor hall. The stair is enclosed with triangular oak panels. The lower stair has an oak curving balustrade with a rounded handrail and turned balusters. There is an ornamental square newel post set oblique to the balustrade. The post has a square ornamental metal post supporting a light fixture with a glass globe. The light fixture on the landing has a grape cluster motif in the shade.

The second floor stair hall has dark stained oak woodwork. There are paired oak sliding pocket doors to a hall leading to the bathroom on the east and the rear stair. The bedrooms opening from the stair hall have oak doors with single recessed panels. All the bedrooms have light stained oak flooring, baseboard, and moldings.

There are five bedrooms on the second floor. The three south bedrooms and the northwest bedroom are approximately fifteen feet square. The northeast bedroom is slightly smaller. The main bathroom is located to the east between two bedrooms.

A passage between the south bedrooms has narrow paired oak pocket doors. The southwest bedroom has two paired combination light fixtures in the east interior wall. The south central bedroom has two combination metal light fixtures with glass globes in the north interior wall. A closet opening from the passage between the bedrooms has oak built-in drawers and a hook rail, and a sliding pocket door with recessed panels. The southeast bedroom has two metal combination light fixtures with glass globes in the north interior wall. This bedroom has a large closet with a window to the east. This closet has oak built-in drawers, hook rail, and a hanging light fixture. There is a plumbing access panel trimmed in oak located in the closet.

There is a short hall leading from the stair hall to the main bathroom located between the southeast and northeast bedrooms. The main bathroom has a paneled door with a solid lower panel and an upper panel glazed with ornamental hexagonal patterned glass. The door is flanked by two sidelights with patterned glass. The bathroom door is painted white inside. There is a white hexagonal tile floor with square tile wainscoting, base and a projecting tile cap. Walls are painted lath and plaster. The bathroom moldings are painted. There is a pedestal sink, a stool, a large high bathtub and a smaller foot tub, and corner radiator. The bathroom has two double-hung windows in the east exterior wall. In the bathroom hall,

there is a cedar closet in the south interior wall opposite the rear stair entrance. This closet has an oak paneled door and cedar built-in drawers.

The northeast bedroom has an oak entrance door and closet door. The closet in the west interior wall has built-in drawers, a hook rail, and a hanging light fixture. Another oak door leads to a modern bathroom installed in the southeast corner of the enclosed sleeping porch.

The northwest bedroom has two paired combination metal light fixtures on the south interior wall. There is an oak paneled closet door and oak built-in oak drawers in closet to the east. This bedroom has a bathroom in the northeast corner with an oak paneled door. The bathroom a white hexagonal tile floor, white rectangular tile wainscoting with a projecting tile cap and lath and plaster walls. There is a bathtub with a modern shower enclosure, an ornate pedestal sink, and corner radiator. Two wooden double-hung windows open from this bathroom to an enclosed sleeping porch.

The hall to a former sleeping porch to the north has a cased opening and a corner radiator. There is a tripartite linen cabinet under the attic stair with large paneled oak doors. The door to the porch has a lower recessed panel with an upper glazed panel. The enclosed sleeping porch has modern oak flooring. There is an original painted baseboard on the south interior wall, projecting window head molding, and cornice molding. This enclosed porch has thirteen double-hung windows with modern moldings.

With the stair to the third floor attic, there is a change to pine flooring, baseboard, door and window moldings. The stair turns around an intermediate landing. There is a pine paneled door to the attic with an upper glazed panel and overhead transom. The main room is centered under the roof with a servant's bedroom to the east. The attic has dark stained tongue and grooved one by four inch pine flooring. There is a wide baseboard with crown molding, window and door molding with rounded edges, and hood moldings above the door and window openings. There are radiators in the northwest and southwest corners of the main room. There are three ceiling light fixtures with glass shades. The servant's room has triple windows and a corner lavatory. There is a closet in the north interior wall. Entrances to the storage space under the southeast, southwest and north eaves have low single-panel pine doors.

Interior access to the basement is from the rear stair hall on the first floor. There is a painted wooden stair and railing to the basement. The basement partition walls are stone roughly parged with mortar and painted white. Under the southeast corner of the main block, there is a storm cellar with a reinforced concrete ceiling. There are two storage rooms adjacent to the storm cellar. A fruit storage room is located in the center of the south side. There is a boiler room in the southeast corner with an adjacent fuel storage room. The fuel room has a cast iron loading door (now covered with wood) set in the exterior foundation to the north. Under the rear kitchen wing to the north, there is a large laundry room. Beside the laundry, there is a bathroom in the northeast corner. The bathroom has a stool, tub, lavatory,

and hanging light fixture. Although the bathroom is not shown in the original drawings, it appears to be more than fifty years old. Another stair to an exterior rear entrance is located between this bathroom and the fuel room. The exterior wooden door has two lower vertical recessed panels with an upper patterned glass panel surmounted by a recessed horizontal panel.

The doors to the storm cellar, fruit room, boiler room, fuel room, laundry, and bathroom are painted wood with five recessed horizontal panels. There is no door between the north and south storage rooms. The brick chimney base for the dining room fireplace is located in the north storage room. The laundry and the boiler room have original paneled smooth finished concrete floors. The boiler room has a brick fireplace pier for the living room fireplace with a cast iron door for ash cleanout.

Alterations

Two ornamental metal front porch columns have been removed from the center of the front porch. Outside railings on the front porch steps have been removed with a modern metal railing installed in the center of the steps. The north end chimney in the center of the kitchen wall has been removed above the roofline. The east porch is now a sun room with modern windows and moldings. The former sleeping porch also has been enclosed.

Modern aluminum storm windows have been installed throughout. The storm windows are recessed into the openings. There are modern aluminum attic vents in both gable ends. There are pyramidal metal caps on the east end and central chimneys. The deteriorated original clay tile roofing was replaced with corrugated metal tile roofing in 2003. There is modern rectangular corrugated metal guttering. Presently, the exterior paint is somewhat deteriorated and peeling in a few places. There are plastic plugs in the weatherboard at eye level for blown-in insulation.

The rear entrance porch has modern aluminum storm windows in the openings and a metal storm door leading from the porch to the modern rear deck to the north. This deck has two by six inch flooring, six by six inch square wooden posts, and a wooden railing with vertical flat board railing and handrail. There is a modern wooden arbor (approximately eight feet wide) attached to the deck that extends northeast to the rear property line.

The kitchen has been redecorated. There are modern cabinets (c. 1960) on the north, east, and south walls and modern countertops. A half-bathroom has been installed in the former refrigerator room on the first floor under the rear service stair. The first floor side porch to the east has been enclosed. The former porch is now a sunroom with modern wooden casement windows in the south, east, and north exterior walls. The room has oak flooring, modern painted baseboard and window moldings. Similarly, the second floor sleeping-porch has been enclosed. There is a modern half-bathroom enclosed in the

southeast corner of the former sleeping porch with access from the northeast bedroom. One sleeping porch window has been covered.

Several modern radiators have been installed (reception hall, parlor, dining room, living room, main stair landing, central, northwest, northeast second floor bedroom, and enclosed sleeping porch). There are modern handrails on both stairs. In the attic ceiling, there is a central opening for a modern exhaust fan. The laundry room has a modern partition. The basement has modern vinyl flooring installed over concrete in several rooms.

Significance

The Sennett and Bertha Kirk House, located at 145 West Fourth Avenue, Garnett, Anderson County, Kansas, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a significant example of Colonial Revival residential architecture. Prominent Colonial Revival features include the main rectangular side-gabled form with pedimented gable ends and a front Palladian roof dormer. The historic architectural integrity, both exterior and interior, is excellent. In addition, the Kirk House may be significant under Criterion C as a significant late example of the residential design work of George P. Washburn, noted Kansas architect.

Finally, the Kirk House may be significant under Criterion A for its association with the social history of Garnett and Anderson County. At this time, a local historical context for this association has not been developed.

Chronology

A banker for more than half a century, Sennett Kirk was cashier of the Garnett State Savings Bank from the time his father, Lester K. Kirk, opened it on September 6, 1889 until Sennett Kirk became bank vice-president in 1947. Sennett Kirk also served as secretary of the Garnett Mutual Loan and Savings Association organized in October 1894. The Garnett State Savings Bank moved into the northwest room of the Kirk Building in 1901.

Sennett Kirk married Bertha Mellen of Garnett on June 12, 1904 and they lived on Fourth Avenue their entire married life. Bertha was born January 11, 1873 in Greeley, Kansas, the daughter of William and Emma Mellen. She attended the University of Kansas and graduated from the Tulton and Trueblood School of Oratory in Kansas City, Missouri. She taught in the State School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois and then in the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe. Bertha Mellen Kirk was a member of the Congregational Church. Sennett and Bertha Kirk's first child, Leta was born January 4, 1906. Another daughter, Bertha, was born a few years later. A son, Sennett Kirk, Jr., was born September 17, 1909.

Because of their wealth, education, and social connections, the Kirks were influential in the local Garnett community. Sennett Kirk's father, the Hon. Lester K. Kirk, was elected in April 4, 1870 to be the first mayor of the city of Garnett when it was granted third class status. When Lester Kirk died on July 4, 1902, he was known as a prominent attorney and "one of the foremost citizens of Anderson County." He also served as county attorney, state representative and state senator. A long-time friend Manford Schoonover wrote in Kirk's obituary, "there are a score or more of men in Anderson County who owe their start in life to his help financially, and by council and friendship." Martha Lindsay Kirk, wife of L. K. Kirk, died April 7, 1908. She was well known in Garnett and Anderson County and had been prominent in social and church circles since the early days of settlement.

Bertha Kirk's father was William H. Mellen, one of the oldest and best known businessmen of Garnett and Anderson County. He taught school at Greeley in 1871 and was elected Register of Deeds of Anderson County. Mellen then finished an unexpired term as County Treasurer. His wife died in 1889, and after that time he lived with his three daughters. In an obituary September 29, 1899, William Mellen was described as "a highly educated man, a poet of merit, and a progressive man in business circles."

On July 8, 1913, the Garnett Evening Review reported, "Sennett Kirk has a force of men at work preparing to move his house to the rear of the premises preparatory to building a handsome new house of modern style and appointments." A few days later on July 16, the Review noted, "Ground was broken today for Sennett Kirk's new house. Jake Barnett and George Ashburn and their men are preparing to put in the foundations." In a front page notice July 31, "A Fine Residence," the newpaper reprinted a report from the Ottawa Herald, "George P. Washburn & Son, architects, have drawn the plans for a $15,000 residence at Garnett for Sennett Kirk of the State Savings Bank. The building will be the finest in Garnett and will be a three story structure with basement. The building will be of wood, and the plans are drawn for the most modern residence in eastern Kansas. The location will be at Fourth and Walnut, in the principal residence district of the city."

On Monday September 13, the Review announced, "DeWolf Got the Contract." The report stated that "Sennett Kirk let the contract for the woodwork, painting, and finishing of his new house, Saturday, to the DeWolf factory. Harry Barnard will have charge of the work. It will take them several months to put up the building and get it ready for occupancy. And it goes without saying that it will be a good job." By November 5, the Review noted, "work is progressing at a rapid rate this week on Sennett Kirk's new residence. On account of the DeWolf factory closing down, several extra carpenters were secured, and there are about a dozen on the job now."

Construction of the Kirk House was associated with the development of municipal services in Garnett. The town began to supply water in 1890-1891. Streets first were paved in 1898. Gas service was developed for cooking, heating, and lighting in 1904-05 and the town began producing electricity in 1914. As the Evening Review mentioned February 1, 1915, "it is expected that the change of juice from the McAfee factory to the power house will not interfere with the service. We are thankful that the dark nights will soon be a thing of the past." With the installation of electric street lights, Fourth Avenue in front of the Kirk House became the "great white way" of Garnett and Anderson County.

After the family moved into the new house, the large and stately Colonial Revival residence became a gathering place for the community. One of many social events hosted by Sennett and Bertha Kirk, for example, included a whist party with guests at fourteen tables. Both the first and second floors were decorated with orange blossoms and balloons. According to local reminiscences, the Kirks often

entertained high school students in their home on significant occasions with refreshments followed by entertainment such as dancing or music in the top-floor "ballroom."

Bertha Kirk the younger married Claron Payne on September 5, 1931. In 1949 Bertha Payne lived in Allentown, PA. Leta Kirk married Jack Wagoner Hardy of Los Angeles, California, in August, 1933 at her parents' home. In 1949 Leta Hardy Rhymer lived in Washington, D.C. Sennett Kirk, Jr. married Kathryn Jones and lived in Garnett.

Sennett Kirk died in his home at the age of 79 on November 7, 1949. Born in Garnett, he remained a lifelong resident. A few years after the elder Kirk's death, his son Sennett Kirk, Jr. announced in September 1954 the sale of controlling interest in the Garnett State Savings Bank to C. H. Goppert of Kansas City, Missouri.

When Mrs. Bertha M. Kirk died intestate on September 14, 1951, the three Kirk children inherited the Kirk House. On June 15, 1957, the heirs sold the property to Herman G. and Emma S. Brandenburg. The Brandenbergs sold to Effie M. Graham on November 28, 1960. Mrs Graham died at Kansas City, Missouri on October 23, 1970 and her son, William S. Graham inherited the property. In March, 1988, the present owners, Robert Logan and Robert Cugno purchased the property. Until recently, they lived in the house and shared their hospitality as a popular bed and breakfast. In 1991 Mr. Logan and Mr. Cugno received an award for preservation from the Kansas Preservation Alliance.

Architectural History

The Kirk House has excellent historic architectural integrity. Because its original location, contemporary setting, well-preserved design, materials, and workmanship convey a sense of the past, the feelings and associations that provide a vivid sense of past time and place are evident.

The Kirk House may be the last house superintended by notable Kansas architect George P. Washburn. Presumably, George Washburn collaborated with his son, Clarence, on the design and construction of the Kirk House. The design and quality of construction for the Kirk House expressed the Kirk family's prominent social standing in the community. According to local tradition, Bertha Mellen Kirk was familiar with Washburn's work in Garnett and throughout eastern Kansas. Therefore, she wanted the "best" architect in Kansas to design her new house. Reportedly, Mrs. Kirk wanted a more elaborate porch than originally designed so, in order to satisfy the client, the architects added metal columns with ornamental terra cotta capitals to enhance the square stone piers which actually supported the porch roof. According to another traditional story, the contractor was unable to order new quarter-sawn oak lumber for the interior paneling and instead acquired and reused paneling from a Chicago mansion being demolished.

The DeWolf Furniture Company with Harry Barnard as superintendent built the Kirk House. Because of their experience manufacturing store, bank, and church fixtures, the company's workers were prepared for the fine woodwork that distinguished the Kirk House. Charles Wesley DeWolf established the first furniture factory in Garnett in 1887. He came to Garnett in 1872 with his two sons George and Harry DeWolf and engaged in the furniture and hardware business. Charles DeWolf had a furniture store in downtown Garnett in 1885. Then on February 11, 1887, the local board of trade voted to build the walls of a building to be used as a furniture factory and production work started by July 22. Charles DeWolf left Garnett for Kansas City in 1897. When George DeWolf died in 1924, he also was credited with the development of the furniture manufacturing business in Garnett. "As a draftsman and designer of special furniture, he was an artist."

Soon after constructing the Kirk House, the DeWolf Furniture Company was sold to the Garnett Church Furniture Company. Harry Barnard became the new manager and George DeWolf remained as traveling salesman. On October 30, 1919, the old DeWolf factory building was sold by Harry Barnard. The Garnett Church Furniture

Company purchased the old McAfee factory building with plans to rebuild the section which had been destroyed by fire in 1912. The Garnett Church Furniture Company was established by J. Q. McAfee to build fixtures for churches, banks, and schools. The company is still an important business in Garnett. Since the 1930s, however, the company has built only church furnishings.

Local artist Paul Nordstrum painted the naturalistic murals in the Kirk House dining room. According to local tradition, these paintings were based on sketches of Anderson County landscapes suggested by Mrs. Bertha Kirk. In the April 24, 1914 Garnett Review, Nordstrum was described as an accomplished artist who had been praised in a recent Vernon, Missouri newspaper article for his decoration of the county courthouse. The report said, "the decorative skill of the artist is shown admirably, both in the harmonies and pleasing combination of colors ... throughout the building, all done in what is technically known as the New Art style . . . The two long panels on the east and west walls, at the head of the grand stairway, are filled with beautiful Missouri landscape scenes, the one on the west wall representing a landscape before civilization, and that on the east wall, the more newly-developed country."

Paul Nordstrum studied in the Chicago Art Institute and the Detroit Museum of Arts School. He was curator and instructor at the Detroit Arts School, and, according to the Evening Review, had decorated a number of large building interiors, notably the Priscilla theatre in Cleveland, Ohio. As the local newspaper concluded, "Garnett has a reason to be proud of having such an artist." The Congregational Church had some of his handiwork just above the entrance to the lecture room. Reportedly, Nordstrum also painted murals and stencil ornamentation for the Masonic and Odd Fellows Lodge rooms in Garnett.

The Kirk House is a well-preserved example of the Colonial Revival architectural style. This was "a dominant style for domestic building throughout the country during the first half of this century." During the first decade of the twentieth century, the expression of Colonial Revival design shifted toward carefully researched copies with more correct proportions and details. This was encouraged by new methods of printing that permitted wide dissemination of photographs in books and periodicals.[1] The style was based on the simple dwellings of the colonial period, but included interesting building forms with large porches as well as expansive interiors with flexible plans. Typically, the interior features a traditional center hall with curving stair handrails and ornamental fireplaces. Colonial Revival residences were constructed of one, or at most, two building materials. Doorways were the focal point of the main facade with side porches extending from gable ends.[2]

The distinguishing architectural features of the Kirk House are representative of the Colonial Revival style and details of the interior ornamentation express the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement. The Kirk House is an excellent example of the rectangular side-gabled Colonial Revival building sub-type. This sub-type was built throughout the period of popularity, but predominated after about 1910.

Washburn and Son, Architects, designed the Kirk House. The senior partner was George P. Washburn, who lived and worked in Ottawa, Franklin County, from 1879 until his death in 1922. Washburn designed and supervised the construction of many public buildings and residences in Kansas. For example, he designed the Anderson County Courthouse, Garnett, built in 1901. From 1891 to 1917, George Washburn designed courthouses in twelve Kansas counties: Anderson, Atchison, Butler, Doniphan, Franklin, Johnson, Harper, Kingman, Miami, Neosho, Pratt, and Woodson. The Johnson and Neosho County courthouses have been demolished.

George Washburn was born March 21, 1847 in Brown County, Ohio. The family moved to a farm in Clark County, Missouri in 1857. Washburn served in the 21st Missouri Infantry from 1863 to 1866. He learned carpentry at Quincy, Illinois in 1868 which studying drawing and architecture at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College. In 1870 George Washburn married Alice Sponsler, settled in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois, and formed a partnership with contractor L.A. Fuller. By 1878 Washburn was listed in the Kansas City, Missouri city directory as a carpenter. One year later, he moved his family from Mt. Pulaski to Ottawa, Kansas where he worked as a carpenter, architect, and contractor. In 1880 Washburn began working for Cross and Taylor, architects in Kansas City. He supervised the construction of railroad depots in Atchison, Kansas, Denver, Colorado, and Peoria, Illinois. After two years, Washburn opened an architectural office in Ottawa. For six years, he served as the architect for the State Board of Charities and designed several state buildings.

[1] Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1986), 322-326.
[2] James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, House Style in America (New York: Penguin Books, 1996), 177, 181, 183-186.

Washburn's career as one of the leading architects in Kansas was established in 1891 when he was selected to design and build the Johnson County, Kansas, courthouse. He followed with the Franklin County courthouse in Ottawa in 1893. These notable commissions were followed by the Atchison County courthouse, Atchison, in 1896; Miami County courthouse, Paola, in 1898; Woodson County, Yates Center, in 1899; Anderson County, Garnett, in 1901; Neosho County Courthouse, Erie, in 1904; Doniphan County Courthouse, Troy, in 1905; Kingman County courthouse, Kingman, in 1907; Butler County Courthouse, El Dorado, and Harper County Courthouse, Harper, in 1908.

Washburn also designed the Beaver County, Oklahoma, courthouse and supervised the construction of the Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, Courthouse. He designed school buildings for Ottawa and Baker Universities and many residences. As reported in 1899, "many of the finest business blocks and residences in the state have been erected under his superintendence." Later, the letterhead stationery from the firm of Geo. P. Washburn and son dated 1909 listed forty-four major commissions as references as well as "hundreds of residences and other buildings." George P. Washburn was a member of the American Institute of Architects from 1885.

In 1910 Miss Hazel Washburn married Roy Stookey. While the newly-weds were on their wedding trip, Mrs. George Washburn died suddenly. Disheartened by this shock, George P. Washburn went into semi-retirement at the age of 63. Then son-in-law Roy Stookey joined Clarence Washburn, George's eldest son, in the firm. Design and construction of the Kirk House in Garnett, one of the hundreds of residences produced by the firm, came in 1913. The company built the Chautauqua County Courthouse, Sedan, in 1917. After a productive career that left a memorable architectural legacy in eastern Kansas, George P. Washburn died May 16, 1922. The architectural firm continued as Washburn and Stookey until 1936.

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Garnett Evening Review, 5 November 1913, p. 4, col. 1.

Garnett Evening Review, "The Work of a Real Artist," 13 January 1914, p. 1, col. 3.

Garnett Evening Review, "Fine Work of a Garnett Artist," 24 April 1914, p. 1, col. 4.

Other:
Abstract of title to Lots 13, 14, and 15, Block 34, City of Garnett, in possession of property owners Robert Logan and Robert Cugno.

Oral statements from descendants of Sennett and Bertha Mellen Kirk collected by property owners, Robert Logan and Robert Cugno.

Original architectural drawings by Washburn and Company, Ottawa, Kansas.

Photographs:
Sennett and Bertha Kirk House, 145 West Fourth Avenue, Garnett, KS. View from southeast, (c. 1920).
Sennett and Bertha Kirk House, 145 West Fourth Avenue, Garnett, KS. Interior view, living room, (c. 1920).

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property stands on Lots 13, 14 and 15, Block 34 in Garnett, Kansas. The property is bounded by West Fourth Avenue on the south, Walnut Street on the west, a public alley on the north, and an adjacent property line to the east.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the nominated property.

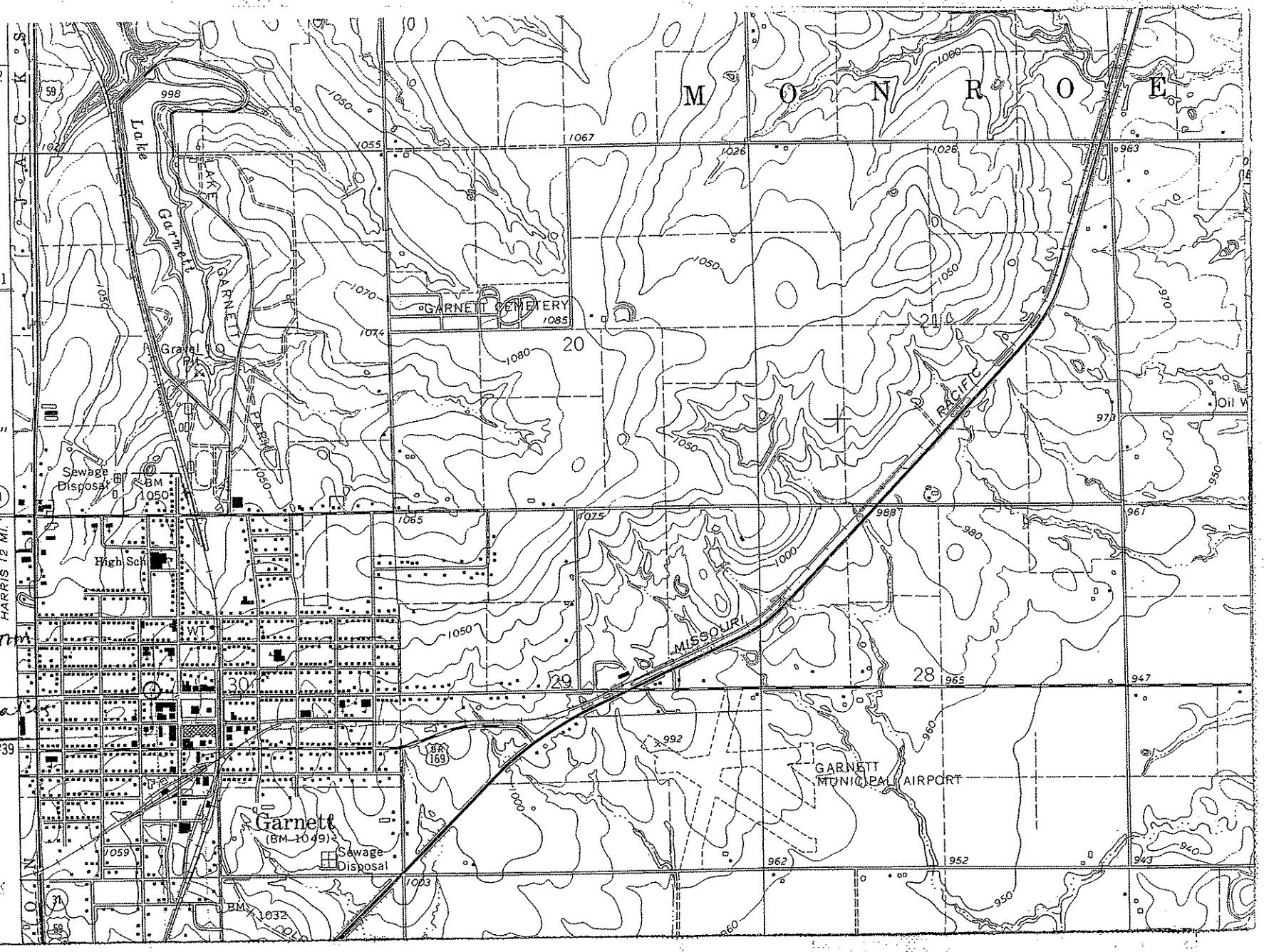
Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Kirk House
2. Anderson Co., Kansas
3. Photograph by Dale Nimz
4. March, 2004
5. Negative on file with Dale Nimz

The following information is applicable to specific photographs:

Photo #	Description of View
1.	View from the south/southeast
2.	View of front elevation & porch from the southwest
3.	View of western elevation from the southwest
4.	View of rear elevation from the north
5.	View of newel post and formal staircase
6.	View of living room fireplace
7.	View of dining room
8.	View of dining room fireplace



GENNETT & BERTHA
KIRK HOUSE
UTM Coordinates
15
303820
4239200
Anderson Co., Kansas