NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

NOV 28 2007

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 Naroma Court Historic District

Other name/site number

2. Location

Street & number 800 N Buckeye; 801, 803, 805 Spruceway; 106 Naroma Court ☐ not for publication

City or town Abilene ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Dickinson Code 041 Zip code 67410

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.)

Patrick Zollner 10/10/07

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 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:)

Naroma Court Historic District
Name of Property

Dickinson County, KS
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)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
5	2	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Mission / Spanish Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete; Stone
Walls: Stucco; Wood; Metal
Roof: Asphalt; Metal
Other: Terra Cotta

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

Naroma Court Historic District
Name of Property

Dickinson County, KS
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)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1886-1952

Significant Dates

1914; 1926; 1952

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Brown, Cleyson L.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

C. W. Shaver (architect)

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

Naroma Court Historic District
Name of Property

Dickinson County, KS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.6 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	654800	4309500
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 Nanc Scholl & KSHS Staff

Organization _____ Date May 2007

Street & number 813 N Olive Telephone _____

City or town Abilene State KS Zip code 67410

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 See Attached List

Street & number _____ Telephone _____

City or town _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Naroma Court Historic District is located five blocks north of the central business district along and within close proximity to the major north-south thoroughfare (K-15 or Buckeye Avenue) in Abilene, Kansas. The district consists of five residences and two garages whose dates of construction range from 1886 to the 1980s.

The district's earliest building, a residence at 800 North Buckeye Avenue, was erected in 1886 by banker T. H. Malott. He hired the firm Paul & Jacobs to build a Queen Anne-Eastlake style house along the city's main boulevard. The residence was updated and modernized in 1914 by its new owner, Cleyson L. Brown, to reflect its current Queen Anne-Free Classic style. In 1925, Brown hired architect C. W. Shaver of Salina, Kansas, to design a group of four houses in the Spanish Colonial Revival style to be located on the lots behind (west) his house. The four homes were designed and built for Brown's daughter Mina Brown Prather Rugh and three of his business colleagues. The small collection of homes not only represents popular architectural trends of the first half of the 20th century, but it also reflects Brown's personal tastes.

1. 800 N Buckeye (1886, redesigned in 1914 – non-contributing); Garage (c. 1920s – contributing)

Built originally in the Queen Anne-Eastlake style in 1886, the residence at 800 N. Buckeye was updated and modernized in 1914 by entrepreneur Cleyson L. Brown to reflect its current Queen Anne-Free Classic style. Characteristics of the Free Classic style evident on this house include the large classical porch columns and cornice-line dentils. The wood-frame house features an irregularly shaped and steeply pitched roof covered with asphalt shingles. There are two brick chimneys. There is a dominant front-facing gable. The full-width porch is one-story and is supported by grouped classical columns. The house has been covered with replacement aluminum siding. Windows are primarily historic, wooden, double-hung, and include various designs such as 1-over-1, 4-over-4, 6-over-6, and 8-over-8. There are also several decorative stained glass windows exhibiting a Prairie style. A flat-roof porte-cochere extends off the north façade and covers a single-car concrete drive that extends from Buckeye Avenue to two-car garage and curves around to Naroma Court. The circa 1920s garage is wood-frame and covered with stucco.

There are two entrances to the house on the front (east) elevation. The northern entrance is the historic main entrance to the home, and is comprised of a single door with beveled glass flanked by classical columns with sidelights and a transom. The southern entrance on the front elevation leads to a sun porch that was enclosed by Brown during his 1914 renovation. There is a side entrance on the north elevation at the porte-cochere. There are two sets of doors on the west (rear) elevation that lead to a slightly raised wooden deck in the backyard. The backyard, which is enclosed by a wooden fence, includes a swimming pool and spa (1984).

Slightly less than 4,000 square feet, the house consists of ten rooms on the main floor (entry, dining, butler pantry, front parlor, back parlor, library, sun room, kitchen, half-bathroom, and powder room) and

eight rooms on the second floor (large walk-in closet, four bedrooms, two full bathrooms, and sunroom). The master bedroom today was originally two bedrooms and the master bath was originally a porch. There are two sets of stairs leading between the first and second floors, a set of stairs leading to the full basement and a set of stairs leading to the attic. The original floor plan has been slightly altered with the enclosure of the side front porch, the creation of a half-bath from the west portion of the butler pantry, and the removal of one wall between the two south bedrooms creating the current master bedroom.

Similar to the exterior, Brown updated the interior woodwork in 1914 to reflect the simpler classical design. At that time, he also added Prairie style stained glass windows throughout the house. It is believed that he also enclosed the two sun porches on the rear elevation in 1914. The house is non-contributing because it has been covered with metal siding. The non-contributing status of the house could be re-evaluated should the siding be removed.

2. 106 Naroma Court (1926) – Contributing

In 1925, Cleyson L. Brown hired architect C. W. Shaver of Salina, Kansas, to design a group of four houses in to be located on the lots behind (west) his house. The house at 106 Naroma Court was finished in 1926 and reflected the Spanish Colonial Revival style that was popular from the 1910s to the 1940s. This asymmetrical house faces south and boasts its original clay tile roof. The exterior siding is stucco. The front half of the structure is comprised of a cross-gabled roof. The gable ends feature a Mission style parapet. Above the entrance is a large double chimney with a stucco finish and clay tile elements. A two-story flat-roof section sits immediately behind (north) the smaller cross-gable section. It features evenly spaced beam-ends above the second story windows. Windows are historic, wooden, double-hung, and include multi-light designs – primarily 6-over-6. There is a small one-car garage connected to the house at the northwest corner. A matching one-car garage was located at the building's northeast corner; however, it was removed and replaced with a family room and a double-car garage in 1979.

The home consists of four rooms on the first floor (living room, dining room, kitchen and half bathroom), three rooms on the second floor (two bedrooms and a full bathroom), a full basement and an attached single car garage. Character defining interior features include arched doors and entryways, exposed wood ceiling beams in the living room, a living room fireplace, and various historic fixtures, and woodwork.

3. 801 Spruceway (1926, redesigned 1952 – Contributing)

In 1925, Cleyson L. Brown hired architect C. W. Shaver of Salina, Kansas, to design a group of four houses in to be located on the lots behind (west) his house. The house at 801 Spruceway was designed and constructed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, and was redesigned in 1952 to reflect the International style.

The house is asymmetrical and consists of a flat-roof single story at the front of the structure and a larger flat-roof two-story section at the rear. The exterior cladding is stucco. Prior to 1952, this house closely resembled the other three Spanish Colonial Revival style homes that Shaver also designed. Changes to the house in 1952 included removing all Spanish or Mission influenced features – interior and exterior –

and replacing them with International style elements. Mission style parapets were removed leaving rooflines square and flat. Arched window and door openings were filled in or made square. Some wood windows were replaced with metal casements. The stucco-faced chimney was faced with stone. Exterior wall surfaces were left smooth and unadorned, as is typical with the International style. Many interior features reflect this 1952 overhaul. Doors, pantries, built-ins, fixtures, and wall surfaces are consistent with the mid-century update. In addition to these elements, character-defining features include an exposed wood beam ceiling and a stone-clad wall in the living room.

The secondary elevations retain many of the original multi-light double-hung wood windows. A single-car garage was located to the east of the back entrance. There is an attached two-car garage on the east elevation. This was originally a one-car garage.

Consisting of 2,200 square feet, the first floor has six rooms (living room, dining room, kitchen with a breakfast nook, two bedrooms and a full bathroom) with an enclosed porch on the west façade to the north of the main entrance. The second floor consists of four rooms (two bedrooms, a sewing room and a full bathroom). The full basement is comprised of four rooms (electrical room, heating room, storage room and a large open area with laundry facilities). The kitchen retains its 1950s cabinetry and countertops.

4. 803 Spruceway (1926 – Contributing); Garage (c. 1960 – Non-Contributing)

In 1925, Cleyson L. Brown hired architect C. W. Shaver of Salina, Kansas, to design a group of four houses in to be located on the lots behind (west) his house. Built in 1926 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, this cross-gabled structure faces north onto Naroma Court (but has a Spruceway address). The home is asymmetrical and sided in stucco. A single large multi-light window with decorative ironwork dominates the front-facing gable. The entrance is located within a shed-roof entryway at the intersection of this front-facing gable and the cross-gable. Beyond the entrance and within the cross-gable are two large windows each accented by a clay-tile cantilevered roof. The west (side) elevation facing Spruceway Street is defined by a large stucco-faced exterior chimney. There is a similar chimney within the gable on the south elevation. The house retains its historic wood windows, which are multi-light in design. A red metal tile roof that resembles the historic has replaced the original clay tile roof. There is a north-facing two-car garage of frame construction with stucco covering located east of the home. This detached structure built in the 1980s replaces the original single car garage.

With its 1,396 square feet, this home feels spacious when you enter through the main door. This one-story house consists of six rooms (living room, dining room, two bedrooms, full bathroom and kitchen). A laundry chute is located in the hall linen closet that empties into the laundry area in the full basement. A patio was located at the southwest corner of the structure. The kitchen was updated in1980. Character-defining interior features include arched doors, windows, and entryways, exposed wood ceiling beams in the living room, a unique living room fireplace, and various historic fixtures, and woodwork.

5. 805 Spruceway (1926 – Contributing)

In 1925, Cleyson L. Brown hired architect C. W. Shaver of Salina, Kansas, to design a group of four houses in to be located on the lots behind (west) his house. Built in 1926 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, this structure boasts a Mission-shaped roof parapet over the main entrance. The building features a one-story cross-gable plan and also includes a gabled two-story section at the rear. The low-pitched roofs were originally covered with clay tiles, which have been replaced with ribbed or seamed metal. There are three chimneys – two exterior and one interior. The exterior chimneys are located at the gable ends – one is brick and one is covered with stucco. The asymmetrical front (south) façade is the most decorative elevation of the structure. There are 3 pairs of 6-light windows on the west two-thirds of the façade. The eastern one-third includes an extended front arched door leading to the main entrance steps. The door features 3 heavy black strap hinges. The house retains its historic multi-light windows. There are no outbuildings on this property. The garage was originally incorporated into the lower level of the house at northeast corner, but has since been converted into a family room.

This 2,523 square foot house consists of five room on the first floor (living room, dining room, kitchen, full bathroom, bedroom) and three rooms on the second floor (two bedrooms and a full bathroom). There is also a full basement. There are laundry chutes on the first and second floors. As you enter from the north (back entrance) you ascend several steps to the kitchen area or descend several steps to the basement. Much like the other two Shaver-designed Spanish Colonial Revival houses, character-defining interior features include arched doors, windows, and entryways, and various historic fixtures, and woodwork.

Summary

These five houses represent a half-century of popular architectural trends. Despite the removal of a few historic garages and the non-historic metal siding covering the large house at 800 N. Buckeye, the small district retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Naroma Court Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance to the community's development, Criterion B for its association with local businessman Cleyson L. Brown, and Criterion C for the representation of various historic architectural styles. Brown conceived the idea for the Naroma Court neighborhood in conjunction with architect C. W. Shaver of Salina, whom he hired in 1925 to design four residences in the popular Spanish Colonial Revival style. Two new streets, Spruceway and Naroma Court, were created as part of the development. The houses were completed in 1926 for Brown's daughter Mina Brown Prather Rugh and three of C.L. Brown's business colleagues.

Cleyson L. Brown (1872 - 1935)

Cleyson LeRoy Brown was an entrepreneur who built a utility conglomerate that began with a small telephone exchange. Through his insight, the company expanded and became United Telephone Company, which, at one time, was the largest employer in Abilene.

At the height of his financial success, Brown managed a multi-million dollar empire in telephone and electric utilities in Kansas. As author Sondra Van Meter McCoy suggests in her article "The Patriarch of Abilene: Cleyson L. Brown and the United Empire, 1989-1935," Brown took a paternal interest in his employees' welfare and believed that his wealth should be channeled into activities that would benefit them and the community. At the time of his death his debts exceeded his personal assets, but two legacies remained: a billion-dollar corporation, United Telecommunications (later known as Sprint Corporation), and the Brown Memorial Foundation, which still operates and maintains a home for the elderly.[1]

Known by many as C. L. Brown, he came with his family from Brown's Mill in Adams County, Pennsylvania to Dickinson County, Kansas in 1880. His father, Jacob Brown, was a miller by trade, and obtained rights to a gristmill on the Smoky Hill River south of Abilene. When C. L. was 10 years old, he stood too close to a corn grinder and had his right elbow crushed so badly that the arm had to be amputated. In later years he wore an artificial arm and hand, usually covered by a long-sleeved shirt or coat and a dark gray glove. After graduating from high school, he taught in a country school, attended a two-year business college in Burlington, Iowa, and managed a creamery in Wichita before venturing into utilities.[2]

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[1] Sondra Van Meter McCoy, "The Patriarch of Abilene: Cleyson L. Brown and the United Empire, 1989-1935" In *Kansas History* (vol. 5, no. 2) Summer 1982: 107-119.
[2] *Ibid*, 108; "Cleyson L. 'C. L.' Brown – Utility and Telecommunications Pioneer," Kansas Business Hall of Fame. Biographical information available online at http://www.emporia.edu/business/kbhfhistdetail.php?k_id=17.

In 1898 the old gristmill his father had bought was remodeled to generate electricity for Abilene streetlights. The Browns' Abilene Electric Light Works provided electricity to local businesses and residents before extending into other nearby communities.[3]

Recognizing a growing need in rural areas like Abilene for reliable and reasonably priced telephone service, C. L. and Jacob Brown founded United Telecom in 1899. At the time, Bell service was expensive and poorly managed in rural towns. The Browns installed their first long-distance circuit in 1900, and chartered their own company, the Brown Telephone Company, in October 1902. In March 1903, they joined with 14 other Kansas independents to incorporate the Union Telephone and Telegraph Company, which would provide long-distance service to Kansas City.[4] The business expanded and the company was renamed the United Telephone Company in 1911.

In 1914 Brown and his business associates relinquished their status as an independent telephone company by selling controlling interest of the stock (64.47%) to the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company. This provided the United Company with capital needed for plant expansion. It was agreed that Brown would manage the company until his retirement or death, with this arrangement serving both Brown and Bell profitably for many years. Not satisfied to work for Bell, Brown began to purchase small independent phone companies throughout northern and central Kansas, which eventually became the core of his new company, a holding company named United Telephone and Electric, which was incorporated in Delaware in September 1925. This company was organized to purchase stocks of companies throughout Missouri, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

In addition to his communication and electric interests, Brown also owned shares in a grocery store chain, grocery warehouses, a gravel and sand company, hotels, a news service and broadcast station, and an oil company. His wealth steadily increased throughout the 1910s and 1920s.

As Brown's wealth grew, so did his concern for the welfare of his employees and even those less fortunate within the community. His company's newsletter, *The Voice*, reflected his beliefs in thrift and self-discipline. "Conservation of money formed part of Brown's successful business creed and this he would impose on his new employees. A hint of what was to come appeared in the March, 1918, issue of *The Voice*: 'Eat less, drink less, and smoke less, and wear your clothes a little longer. Make it a principal. Make it a religion. Make it a habit. There is not a human being in the United States that cannot exist on nine-tenths of what he does exist on. Save the other tenth.'"[5]

Brown ordered his employees at the United Telephone Company and associated companies to save 10 percent of his income, beginning July 1, 1922. Interestingly, Brown placed his trusted employee David J. Eisenhower (father of Dwight D. Eisenhower) in charge of the company's savings committee. According

[3] *Ibid.*
[4] *Ibid.*
[5] McCoy, "The Patriarch of Abilene," 111.

to McCoy, his decision to implement the savings plan served two key purposes: "his paternalistic concern for his employees and his business self-interest." After all, many of his employees would invest their savings in company stock.[6]

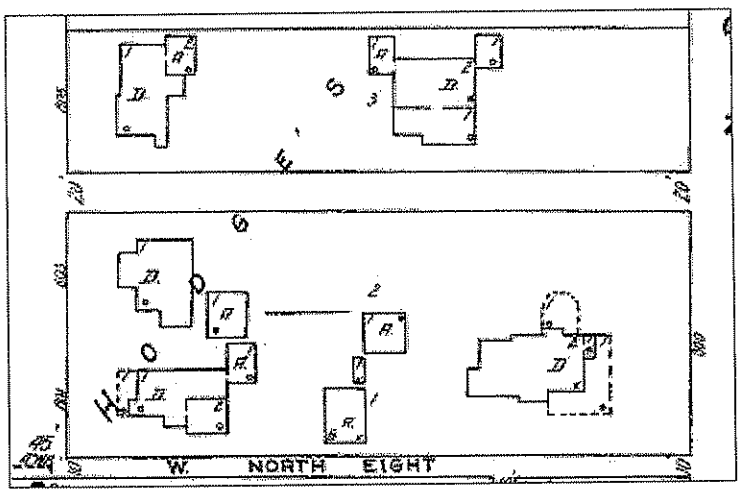
The community benefited from Brown's generosity in many ways. Perhaps the most visible and lasting contribution was his establishment of the Brown Memorial Foundation in 1926. Brown and his sisters, Jennie and Della, formed the foundation in honor of their parents Jacob and Mary. By 1930 the Browns had endowed it with more than $1,000,000. Several years earlier, Brown had purchased a few hundred acres along the Smoky Hill River near the site of his father's old grist mill. The Brown Memorial Home for the Aged opened in July 1929 – just months before the stock market crashed hitting Brown and other entrepreneurs very hard.

In 1914, Brown purchased and remodeled one of Abilene's grandest homes along the main boulevard. Fourteen years later, during his company's heyday, he hired Salina architect C. W. Shaver to design four residences for his daughter and three colleagues. This Naroma Court development further reflects his benevolent qualities.

The economic depression of the 1930s hurt Brown and his business interests, and he struggled to keep his companies afloat. "As for his personal assets, Brown died a poor man." At the time of his death in 1935, Brown's estate was valued at $443,264.34. "By the time all the claims had been filed against him, the debts exceeded the estate's capacity to pay them." His wife, however, could keep their home at 800 N. Buckeye.[7]

Naroma Court Neighborhood and Architectural Trends

The four houses designed by C. W. Shaver and built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style are an important legacy of Cleyson L. Brown. Not only did he initiate the development of this neighborhood, but the four collection reflects his personal tastes in architecture. Two streets were created as part of the development: Spruceway and Naroma Court. By August of 1925, an ordinance was published in the newspaper naming the street Spruceway – because it was located halfway between Spruce and Broadway Streets. Local legend suggests



1926 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Abilene, KS.

[6] McCoy, "The Patriarch of Abilene," 113.
[7] McCoy, "The Patriarch of Abilene," 118-119.

that Brown named Naroma Court using the first two letters of his grandchildren's first names: Nancy, Robert, and Max.

Brown built the house at 106 Naroma Court for his longtime secretary, Ella Horner. The house at 801 Spruceway was built for Harry E. Buchanan, an engineer with Brown's company. Its second owner was Wayne Nordstrom, who was an assistant engineer for United Telephone Company. Brown's daughter, Mina Brown Prather Rugh, moved into the house at 803 Spruceway. Lastly, Brown built the house at 805 Spruceway for Edward A. Gray, the manager of the Abilene district of the United Power and Light Corporation.

There are three architectural styles represented in the Naroma Court Historic District: Queen Anne Free Classic, Spanish Colonial Revival, and the International style. The Queen Anne style was the dominant residential style in the United States from 1880 to 1910. Principal characteristics include a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape usually with a dominant front-facing gable, patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, and an asymmetrical façade with a partial or full-width porch that is usually one story. Free Classicism is a subtype of Queen Anne architecture that became popular after 1890 and has much in common with some early Colonial Revival houses. Common characteristics of Free Classicism are grouped classical columns, cornice-line dentils, swags, garlands, and Palladian windows.[8] The C.L. Brown House at 800 N. Buckeye displays many of these Free Classical details including full-height classical columns on the front porch and porte-cochere and cornice-line dentils, along with overall Queen Anne style massing and asymmetry.

The Spanish Colonial Revival style was popularized at the Panama-California Exposition held in San Diego in 1915, and was most common in the southwestern states. The style reached its apex during the 1920s and 1930s. Identifying features include a low-pitched roof usually with little or no eave overhang, red tile roof covering arched entryways and principal windows, and stucco wall surfaces. The houses at 803 Spruceway, 805 Spruceway, and 106 Naroma Court exhibit the typical Spanish Colonial Revival characteristics.[9]

While early twentieth-century Americans preferred period homes that reflected past traditions – like Colonial Revival – European architects popularized a radically different and modern architecture. Architects who immigrated to the United States during the 1930s brought with them ideas of modern technology and design. As a result, the International style took root in the U.S. in the 1930s, but never really gained much momentum. It occurred primarily in suburbs in the northeastern states and in California. Identifying features include a flat roof usually without a ledge at the roofline, metal casement windows set flush with the outer wall, and smooth unornamented wall surfaces.[10] The house at 801

[8] Martha Hagedorn-Krass, "The Queen Anne: The Queen of Late-nineteenth and Early-twentieth Century Style," In *Kansas Preservation* newsletter (vol. 26, no. 5), September/October 2005, 13-16; Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995), 263-268.
[9] McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 417-418.
[10] McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 469-470.

Spruceway was originally built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, but was completely redesigned – inside and outside – in 1952 to reflect the International style. This overall design change occurred 55 years ago and has gained significance as an example of the International style.

Summary

This unique collection of residences represents over 75 years of local history and development. The properties retain a high degree of integrity and are eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B, & C. Naroma Court Historic District is being nominated under Criterion A for its significance to the community's development, Criterion B for its association with local businessman Cleyson L. Brown, and Criterion C for the representation of three historic architectural styles.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abilene (Kan.) *Daily Reflector*. 2 May 1921; 17 May 1922; 9 June 1927; 11 June 1927; 15 June 1927.

"Cleyson L. 'C. L.' Brown – Utility and Telecommunications Pioneer." Kansas Business Hall of Fame. Biographical information available online at http://www.emporia.edu/business/kbhfhistdetail.php?k_id=17.

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McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995.

McCoy, Sondra Van Meter. "The Patriarch of Abilene: Cleyson L. Brown and the United Empire, 1898-1935. In *Kansas History* (vol. 5, no. 2) Summer 1982: 107-119.

The Voice. May, August, September, December 1921; January, March, May, June 1922.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Naroma Court Historic District includes 5 properties. Legal descriptions for each property are provided below.

800 N Buckeye Avenue: SEC 16 TWP 13 RNG 2 SubDiv: HODGE'S ADDITION / TRCT DESC: LOTS 1 & 2 EXC W 126' & EXC N 19' LOT 2

106 Naroma Court: SEC 16 TWP 13 RNG 2 SubDiv: HODGE'S ADDITION / TRCT DESC: E 166.2' LOT 3, E 189.2' LOT 4 & E 174.2' LOT 5

801 Spruceway: SEC 16 TWP 13 RNG 2 SubDiv: HODGE'S ADDITION / TRCT DESC: BEG 12' E SW COR LOT 1, TH E 114', N 60', W 114', S 60' TO POB

803 Spruceway: SEC 16 TWP 13 RNG 2 SubDiv: HODGE'S ADDITION / TRCT DESC: BEG 12' E & 60' N SW COR LOT 1 N 66', E 114', S 66', W 114' TO POB

805 Spruceway: SEC 16 TWP 13 RNG 2 SubDiv: HODGE'S ADDITION / TRCT DESC: W 165' LOT 3 EXC W 12' & EXC E 10' & W 132' LOT 4 EXC W 12'

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The district boundary includes 5 properties that have been linked historically since 1926. Although the house at 800 N. Buckeye is listed as non-contributing, it is integral to the history of the district and could be rehabilitated in such a manner that changes its status to contributing. Its owner in 1926, C.L. Brown, was responsible for the development of the small cluster of houses on Spruceway and Naroma Court. The parcels included in this district are those historically associated with the five nominated properties.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

The following information applies to all photos described below:

Property Name: Naroma Court Historic District
Location: Abilene, Dickinson Co., KS
Photographer: Sarah J. Martin
Date: 17 July 2007

Photo 1: 106 Naroma Court, south (front) elevation, facing N
Photo 2: 106 Naroma Court, west (side) elevation, facing E
Photo 3: 106 Naroma Court, east (side) elevation, facing NW
Photo 4: 106 Naroma Court, front door, facing N
Photo 5: 106 Naroma Court, interior, living room, facing N
Photo 6: 800 N Buckeye, southeast corner, facing NW
Photo 7: 800 N Buckeye, porte cochere, facing W
Photo 8: 800 N Buckeye, exterior window detail, south elevation, facing N
Photo 9: 800 N Buckeye, main entrance on east elevation, facing W
Photo 10: 800 N Buckeye, garage, facing W
Photo 11: 800 N Buckeye, interior, living room, facing N
Photo 12: 800 N Buckeye, interior woodwork and built-in cabinet, facing NW
Photo 13: 800 N Buckeye, main staircase
Photo 14: 800 N Buckeye, driveway, garage, and house, facing S
Photo 15: 801 Spruceway, northwest corner, facing SW
Photo 16: 801 Spruceway, southwest corner showing main entrance, facing NE
Photo 17: 801 Spruceway, southeast corner showing garage at rear, facing NW
Photo 18: 801 Spruceway, window detail on west (front) elevation, facing E
Photo 19: 801 Spruceway, interior, living room, facing N
Photo 20: 801 Spruceway, interior, living room detail, facing E
Photo 21: 801 Spruceway, interior, corner hallway cabinet
Photo 22: 801 Spruceway, interior, kitchen cabinets
Photo 23: 803 Spruceway, north (front) elevation, facing SE
Photo 24: 803 Spruceway, west (side) and south (rear) elevations, facing NE
Photo 25: 803 Spruceway, east (side) elevation and detached garage, facing SW
Photo 26: 803 Spruceway, interior, living room looking into dining room, facing S
Photo 27: 803 Spruceway, interior, living room fireplace, facing W
Photo 28: 805 Spruceway, south (front) elevation, facing N
Photo 29: 805 Spruceway, east (side) elevation, facing NW
Photo 30: 805 Spruceway, looking west on Naroma Court

LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS

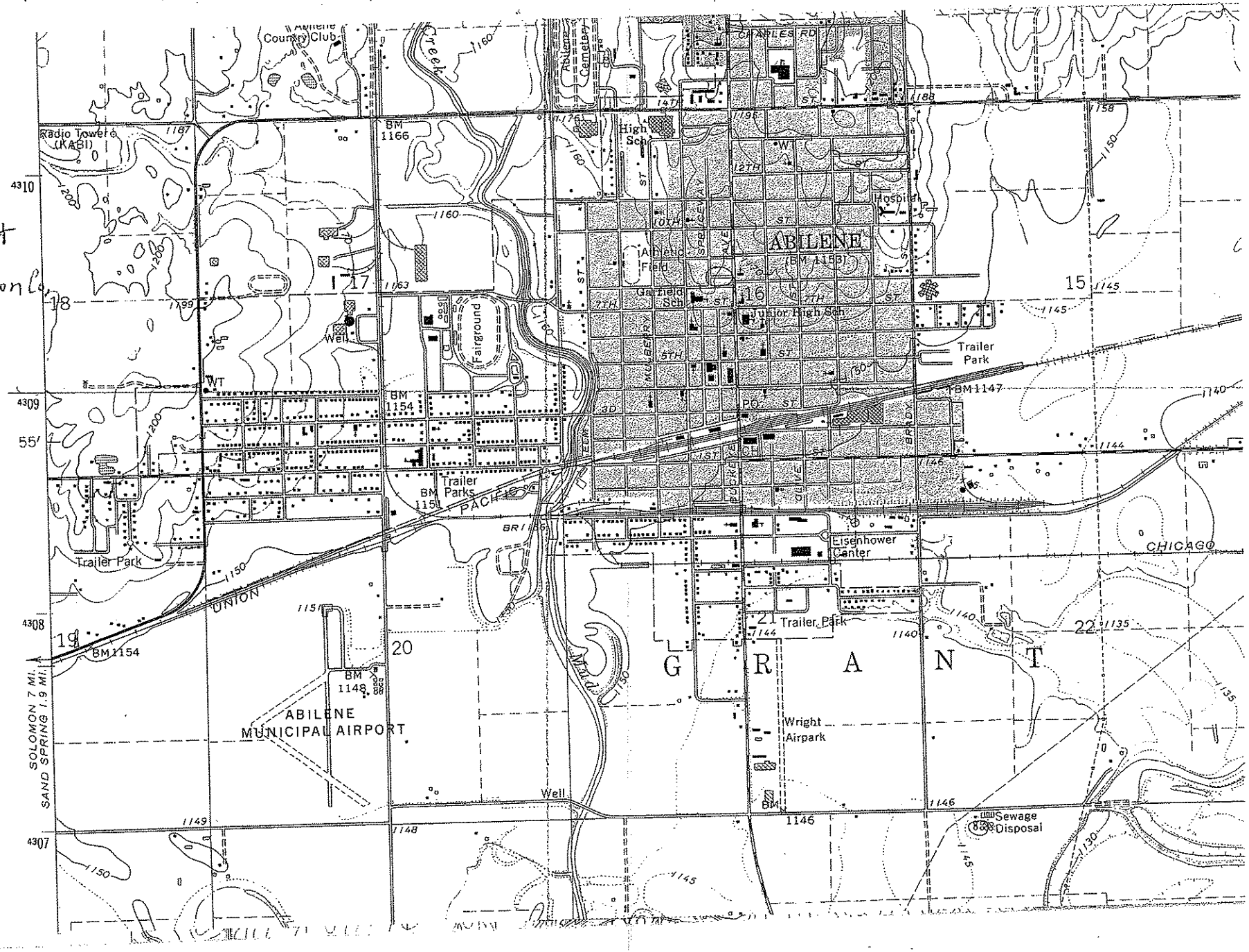
800 N. Buckeye Avenue
Erik Anderson, et al
800 N Buckeye
Abilene, KS 67410

106 Naroma Court
Dr. Frank Holtz
106 Naroma Court
Abilene, KS 67410

801 Spruceway
Ed & Lynda Scheele
309 N Buckeye
Abilene, KS 67410

803 Spruceway
Nancy Farnham
803 Spruceway
Abilene, KS 67410

805 Spruceway
Patricia Sweeney
805 Spruceway
Abilene, KS 67410

Naroma Court
Historic District
Abilene, Dickinson Co.
Kansas

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