NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BERGTHOLDT HOUSE

other names/site number 079-2250-0012

2. Location

street & number 205 E. 5TH ☐ not for publication

city or town HALSTEAD ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county HARVEY code 079 zip code 67056

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide XX locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz D-SHPO, 9-9-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: 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:)

BERGTHOLDT HOUSE
Name of Property

HARVEY COUNTY, 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	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne;
Queen Anne/ Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone
walls WOOD: weatherboard, shingle
roof OTHER: composition
other

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

BERGTHOLDT HOUSE
Name of Property

HARVEY COUNTY, 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 listing.)

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

XX **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

XX **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1885-1900

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

~~BERGTHOLDT, CHRISTIAN~~

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

RUTH, JNO. W.- BUILDER

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(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:

XX State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:

~~KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY~~

BERGTHOLDT HOUSE
Name of Property

HARVEY C NTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1/2 acre more or less

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	631360	4207700
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 DAVID FLASK

organization PROPERTY OWNER date

street & number 205 E. 5TH telephone

city or town HALSTEAD state KANSAS zip code 67056

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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name DAVID FLASK

street & number 205 E. 5TH telephone

city or town HALSTEAD state KANSAS zip code 67056

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.

The Bergtholdt House was built in 1885 in Halstead (pop. 2050) Harvey County, Kansas. It is a wood frame two and one-half story structure with east-west dimensions of 38 feet and north-south dimensions of 46 feet. It has an asymmetrical cruciform floor plan with the main facade facing north. There are four projecting gables on the third level - one on each side. The house underwent a sensitive conversion to a rooming house in 1913 and retains most of its original features. The 2 1/2 story clapboard house employs a blend of Eastlake and Queen Anne exterior ornamentation. The overall impression of the house is symmetrical.

The house is built on a limestone foundation that rises three feet above ground. The first and second stories are sided with 4" clapboards exclusively with the exception of a 3′ X 6′ square bay on the west side of the first floor. The bay has four windows surmounted by fanlights and trimmed with diagonal paneling, pilasters, and various ornamentation. Each of the four gables have sawn shingle and vertical siding with two multi-paned stained glass windows in each. The rest of the windows are one-over-one and are trimmed with gothic surrounds that incorporate built-up moldings and rondels. There is an "L"-shaped porch and balcony spanning the north and northeast facades. A porch is also located off the kitchen at the southeast corner. A third porch opens off the library on the south. These porches are supported by spindle turned porch supports and are decorated with jigsawn bracketing.

The front facade of the house faces north. A covered porch with balcony extends its length. Double solid-wood front doors are surmounted by a transom and are asymmetrically placed. The 1-over-1 windows are symmetrical placed to balance the front doors. The symmetry is continued by a large centrally placed gable on the roof. The east side consists of a 2 1/2 story projecting structure flanked by porches on the first story. The north one being a continuation of the front porch with turned columns.

The south kitchen porch has square chamfered posts and a flat roof. The door to the "L"-shaped balcony is on this side. There are two sets of 1-over-1 double windows. the gable on this side flares out to produce a bracketed entablature where it joins the second story. The south - or rear - side of the house has a roof-mounted center gable from which rises a chimney. There is a non-original flat roofed porch which was constructed with parts from a removed wing of the front porch.

Windows are 1-over-1. The west side has a 2 1/2 story projecting wing centered on the facade. On the first floor of this wing is a square bay window with fanlights over the four windows. The flat-roofed bay is heavily ornamented with pilasters, rondels, pediments, paneling, and various ornamental detail.

The front stair hall is placed on the northeast corner of the structure and leads to the parlor, dining room, and an arch surmounted vestibule leading to the living room. Double sliding doors separate the parlor and living room. They are seven-panel and are topped demi-lune panel. The opening to the bay window in the living room is full-height and is supported by massive corbels. The kitchen has original tongue-and-groove wainscotting. There is an enclosed bank staircase. All of the windows and door surrounds are of pine. They are bevelled and incised with incised corner blocks, base plinths and bevelled and incised headers. All woodwork on the first and second floors matches. All doors are five-panel pine. On the second story there are four bedrooms and one non-original bathroom. An enclosed staircase leads to the floored but unfinished third floor.

The house was remodelled into an apartment/rooming house in 1912-13 by the original builder's daughter. Alterations included:

1) *Kitchen divided into two rooms (Now kitchen and library)*
2) *Back stairs removed (now replaced)*
3) *"U"-shaped porch altered to "L"-shape*
4) *Balcony railing removed and front porch columns remodelled*
5) *South porch added*

This remodelling was done sensitively -- all removed materials were either reused or stored; additional bath and kitchen facilities were created within existing spaces; woodwork was left natural. There was also a small rental house (25 x 15) moved onto the lot east of the main house and a ca. 1925 four-car garage added. The current owners have turned one of the original five bedrooms into a bathroom and have added a half bath to the first floor. All kitchens and baths from the apartment house have been removed. The original kitchen has remained divided to provide room for a library. Plans are to restore the original "U"-shaped front porch and balcony.

The Bergtholdt house was originally sited on a 1 1/2 acres of land encompassing a half block on what was then the southern boundary of Halstead. Part of the land was a small orchard. This parcel remained intact until the 1920s, when several lots were sold off the south end of the property. The house today sits on approximately 1/2 acre of land. Outbuildings include a 25′ x 15′ clapboard house directly east of the main residence and a circa 1925 4-bay garage.

The Bergtholdt House (1885) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria B and C for its historical association with Christian Bergtholdt and for its architectural significance as an example of the Queen Anne/ Eastlake style.

Christian Bergtholdt and his family came to Halstead in 1877 from Summerfield, Illinois as part of the Mennonite migration and settlement of this area. He was a prosperous miller and land speculator. In 1885, with Jno. W. Ruth as contractor, he built his house on a half city block. After a two year sojourn to California (1887-1889) he returned to Halstead and his house where he dealt in real estate, insurance and coal until his death in 1900.

Christian Bergtholdt was born in Friedelsheim, Germany (Bavaria), September 7, 1839. He immigrated to the United States in 1857 and settled with fellow Mennonites in Illinois. While there, he married Elizabeth Strohm and had three children. In 1877, Bergtholdt moved his family further west and settled in Halstead, Kansas.

The Mennonite immigration to Kansas reached its zenith in the late 1870s and early 1880s. Russian Mennonites, escaping religious persecution under Czar Alexander II, flocked to Kansas bringing their unique strain of hardy winter wheat with them. Polish and German brethren followed, including a large German contingent from Illinois that had migrated a generation earlier. Bergtholdt belonged to this latter group.

Halstead, Kansas (pop. 2000) is located in the fertile plains of central Kansas. It was settled in 1874 and incorporated in 1877. Halstead and Harvey County were the center of the Mennonite immigration of the 1870s and 1880s. These industrious German/Russian farmers introduced wheat to the state and helped to establish Kansas as the "bread basket of the world". "The city, besides supporting the usual number of business enterprises, has the largest flouring mill in the county, two elevators with a capacity of 15,000 and 12,000 bushels respectively, and a feed mill." (Andreas, 1883)

The Russian Mennonite immigrants brought sacks of Turkey Red wheat with them to Kansas. This proved to be the first successfully grown hard winter wheat in this area. Warkentin and his Father-in-law, C. Eisenmeyer, built the first and largest mill to specifically handle the hard-kernel wheat. Due to the rapidly growing population and the abundance of wheat being grown, several storage elevators and mills were soon built in Halstead, including Bergtholdt's.

With the sudden vast amounts of Mennonite grain being produced, Bergtholdt began a milling and grain elevator operation.

> *CHR. BERGTHOLDT. Although not quite so large as P. Wiebe's, yet its facilities are of the best and Mr. Bergtholdt has had his share of the grain coming into town. And right here it may be said that our grain market operated by Messrs. Warkentin, Wiebe, Bergtholdt and Logan, of whom we will speak more fully further on, has been the best in the county during the past year. It was no uncommon thing last fall to see 100 loads of grain unloaded in our city in a single day by the farmers of this vicinity. (The Halstead Independent, 28 April 1882)*

> *Halstead Elevator and Roller Corn Mill. C. Bergthodt and Co., Proprietors. Highest Market Price paid for all Kinds of Grain. We have just completed the erection of a ROLLER CORN MILL, and are prepared to grind corn by the NEW PROCESS. We make a superior quality of BOLTED CORN MEAL, and grind all kinds of grain into chop feed. We do a general custom and exchange business. Farmers desiring their grain chopped or their corn manufactured into first-class meal will do well to give us a call. HALSTEAD, KANSAS. (The Halstead Clipper, 28 January 1887)*

During these boom years, Bergtholdt built his home for his wife and three teenage children. The 2 1/2 story clapboard house was built in 1885. The cruciform building used a blend of Renaissance Revival, Eastlake, and Queen Anne exterior ornamentation. The overall impression of the house is symmetrical. Jno. W. Ruth was the contractor for the original construction. A fellow Mennonite immigrant, Ruth was primarily a farmer, but supplemented his income with construction work. Because of this, the house was started in May - after planting - and finished in August - before harvest.

The construction of the Queen Anne/ Eastlake house was chronicled in the local papers of the day.

> *"C. Berghold (sic) is having started for a residence, the foundation for one of the finest houses in the country. It will be a building 40 x 48 feet. The location being near D. C. Hege's residence. Jno. W. Ruth is the contractor." (The Halstead Clipper, 8 May 1885)*

"C. Bergtholdt has commenced the erection of a fine dwelling on his block in the southeastern part of town. He has a almost beautiful location and intends to put up one of the best houses in the city." (The Halstead Independent, 15 May 1885)

"The frame work on the Bergtholdt residence is almost competed and from present indications the house will be one of the finest in this section of the country." (The Halstead Clipper, 19 June 1885)

"Bergtholds (sic) new residence has assumed shape, displaying in appearance so far, one of the finest residence structure in the county. Such property denotes a prosperous future in Halstead." (The Halstead Clipper, 26 June 1885)

"The roof has been put on Mr. Bergtholdt's residence." (The Halstead Independent, 3 July 1885)

"The outside frame work on the new Bergtholdt residence is completed." (The Halstead Clipper, 17 July 1885)

"C. Bergtholdt's new mansion is still progressing." (The Halstead Independent, 7 August 1885)

"The Bergtholdt residence is being painted in a combination of colors that make a very pleasing effect, when completed this will be one of the finest and neatest residence in the county." (The Halstead Clipper, 21 August 1885)

The Bergtholdt House is a wood frame two and one-half story structure with east-west dimensions of 38 feet and north-south dimensions of 46 feet. It has an asymmetrical cruciform floor plan with the main facade facing north. There are four projecting gables on the third level - one on each side. The house underwent a sensitive conversion to a rooming house in 1913 and retains most of its original features.

The house is built on a limestone foundation that rises three feet above ground. The first and second stories are sided with 4" clapboards exclusively with the exception of a 3′ X 6′ square bay on the west side of the first floor. The bay has four windows surmounted by fanlights and trimmed with diagonal paneling, pilasters, and various ornamentation. Each of the four gables have sawn shingle and vertical siding with two multi-paned stained glass windows in each.

The rest of the windows are one-over-one and are trimmed with gothic surrounds that incorporate built-up moldings and rondels. There is an "L"-shaped porch and balcony spanning the north and northeast facades. A porch is also located off the kitchen at the southeast corner. A third porch opens off the library on the south. These porches are supported by spindle turned porch supports and are decorated with jigsawn bracketing.

"About 50 percent of Queen Anne houses have delicate turned porch supports and spindlework ornamentation, which most commonly occurs in porch balustrades or as a frieze suspended from the porch ceiling. Spindlework detailing is also used in gables and under the wall overhangs left by cutaway bay windows. Lacy, decorative spandrels and knob-like beads are also common ornamental elements in this subtype. Spindlework detailing is sometimes referred to as gingerbread ornamentation, or as Eastlake detailing." (McAlester, p. 264)

The nominated property is located within the city limits of Halstead, Harvey County, Kansas, at 205 East Fifth Street. The land was originally part of the vast landholdings of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. Deeded to the Arkansas Valley Town Company in 1873, and to the Halstead Town Company in 1875, the property was platted as Block 43 of Halstead in the Supplemental Addition of 1880.

Several individual owners held title to the undeveloped block during the early 1880s. The west half of Block 43 was purchased by Christian Bergtholdt in November of 1884 for $321.00. Harvey County tax records show that under Bergtholdt's ownership in 1884 Block 43, lots 8-14 were assessed at $5 per lot, in 1885 Block 43, lots 10-13 were assessed at $5 per lot, in 1886 Block 43, lots 8-14 were assessed at $880.52 and Block 43, lot 7 was assessed at $40.52. The increased tax assessment for 1886 is further evidence that the Bergtholdt house was complete by this time.

In 1887, Bergtholdt sold his Halstead business and followed a new Mennonite migration to California. During the next two years, he established a fruit shipping business in Placer County, California. Leaving his son in charge of the fruit business, Bergtholdt returned to his home in Halstead, where he was engaged in the real estate and coal business until his death in 1900 at the age of 61. With the death of his widow in 1904, the house passed to his unmarried daughter, Anna, who died in the house in 1936.

Bergtholdt's maiden daughter Anna continued to live in the house after her parents death. Having attended the Bush Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Anna was an accomplished pianist and gave music lessons in the house. With little other income, Anna began selling off lots and turned the house into an apartment/rooming house in 1913.

With Anna's death in 1936, the house passed to her brother Jacob, who was living in California. He immediately sold the property to Floyd and Eda Arnold from Topeka. Mr. Arnold was stationmaster at the Halstead Santa Fe Depot. After his death, Mrs. Arnold, no longer renting rooms, continued to live alone in the house until her death in 1979. The Arnold's son continued to spend summers in the house until selling the property to the current owners in 1990.

The Bergtholdt house was originally sited on a 1 1/2 acres of land encompassing a half block on what was then the southern boundary of Halstead. Part of the land was a small orchard. This parcel remained intact until the 1920s, when several lots were sold off the south end of the property. The house today sits on approximately 1/2 acre of land. Outbuildings include a 25' x 15' clapboard house directly east of the main residence and a circa 1925 4-bay garage.

The Bergtholdt house is significant as a representation of the affluence achieved by German Mennonite immigrants. their rapid rise in economic stature was testament to their industriousness and the richness of the virgin prairie. The house, by virtue of its size and style, is one of the earliest demonstrations of Kansas Mennonite prosperity. The cruciform 2 1/2 story structure is representative of the homes built by affluent Mennonite immigrants during the last quarter of the 19th century. It is one of the earliest homes of this size and style in Halstead and one of only four extant.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. T. Andreas. History of the State of Kansas. (Chicago: Andreas, 1883)

Flask, David. Bergtholdt House, National Register nomination draft.

The Halstead Clipper; 8 May 1885, 19 June 1885, 26 June 1885, 17 July 1885, 21 August 1885, 28 January 1887.

The Halstead Independent; 28 April 1882, 15 May 1885, 3 July 1885, 7 August 1885.

Harvey County, Kansas. Tax Records, 1884, 1885, 1886.

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the N. 33.3′ lot 12, all of lots 13 and 14, Block 43, in Halstead, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by East Fifth Street, to the west by Spruce Street, and to the east and south by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Bergtholdt house was originally sited on a 1 1/2 acres of land encompassing a half block on what was then the southern boundary of Halstead. Part of the land was a small orchard. This parcel remained intact until the 1920s, when several lots were sold off the south end of the property. The house today sits on approximately 1/2 acre of land. Outbuildings include a 25′ x 15′ clapboard house directly east of the main residence and a circa 1925 4-bay garage.