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 O.W. FRANCIS HOUSE

other names/site number 089-0710-0006

## 2. Location

street & number ROUTE 1, BOX 12 ☐ not for publication

city or town BURR OAK ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county JEWELL code 089 zip code 66936

## 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.)

Richard D. Pankratz D-SHPO DECEMBER 10, 1999
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 commenting 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:)

O.W. FRANCIS HOUSE
Name of Property

JEWELL 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)

- [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 |
| | | 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

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD: WEATHERBOARD; SHINGLE
roof ASPHALT
other

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

O.W. FRANCIS HOUSE
Name of Property

JEWELL 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 listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1909

**Significant Dates**

1909

**Significant Person**
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

FRANCIS, CLARK

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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography**
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

O.W. FRANCIS HOUSE
Name of Property

JEWELL COUNTY, KS
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** LESS THAN ONE ACRE

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 14 | 559410 | 4414480 |
| 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 SUSAN ABEL

organization _____ date _____

street & number ROUTE 1, BOX 12 telephone 785-647-5551

city or town BURR OAK state KS zip code 66936

## 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 SUSAN ABEL

street & number ROUTE 1, BOX 12 telephone 785-647-5551

city or town BURR OAK state KS zip code 66936

**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.

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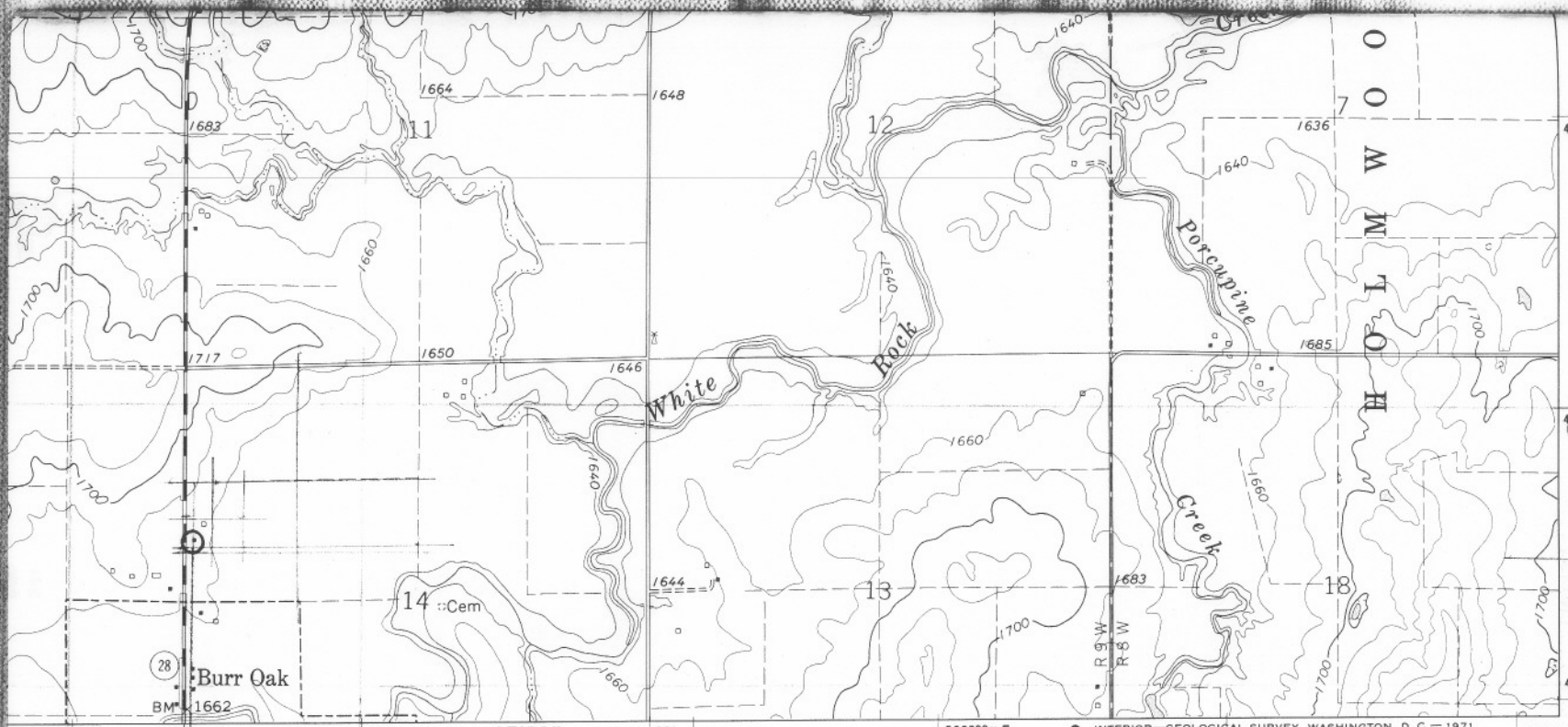


UTM COORDINATES
D. W. FRANCIS
HOUSE
14 559410
4414480

(MANKATO)
6363 I SW

R OAK)
IV SE
1:24000

1 MILE
4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

ERVAL 20 FEET
AN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface

Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

State Route

KANSAS

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
R, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
S AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

# NORTH BRANCH, KANS.

N3952.5—W9815/7.5

1969

AMS 6363 IV NE—SERIES V878

The O. W. Francis House (c.1909) is located 1/2 mile North of Burr Oak on State Highway #128 in Jewell County, Kansas. The population of Jewell county is 4,059 and Burr Oak has a population of 320. The house sits on a hill overlooking the White Rock valley. It is partially surrounded by an iron fence. The three-story Queen Anne style house is built on a brick foundation. The facade is on the west elevation. A secondary entry is on the south elevation and a third entry on the east elevation.

The roof of the house is of the Free Classic interpretation of the Queen Anne style. The roof was originally covered with wooden shingles and several times since replaced with asphalt shingles. Metal cresting outlines the hipped, with lower cross gables, roof with decorative scroll work at the roof edge.

The house is basically square with wrap-around porches on the facade, south elevation and east elevation. There is a three-story turret at the southwest corner. The tower is a part of the house roof line on the second floor and the third floor of the tower extends into its own roof-line. The tower has three curved windows on each floor. The third floor has small lancet windows.

The two-story spindle railing porch extends across the primary and secondary elevations of the facade and south elevation. The second story is supported by ten original Ionic columns. An additional three plain columns were added (c. 1989) for support. Three curved concrete steps form the approach to the porch from the facade. Another set of concrete steps are the approach to the porch on the south elevation. The ceiling of the porch is tongue and grove. Two trellises were added (c. 1989) at the north end and south-east end of the porch for decorative purposes.

A three-season screened porch starts on the south elevation going around the corner to the east elevation. Three-step approaches to the porch are on the south elevation and east elevation.

The first story is sided with lap siding. There are series of three bay windows used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance on the facade, north and south elevation.

The second floor has a series of cut shingles to emphasize the tower, bays and balconies. Lower cross gables project on the facade, north and south elevations. Small diamond-shaped windows pierce the facade and south gables.

Access to the second-story porch is from the center of the facade. Access to the deck of the screened porch is from the second story east elevation.

The third story of this Queen Anne residence has a vernacular interpretation of a Palladian window on the north and south elevations. The gables on all elevations are highlighted by rows of cut shingles of various patterns.

The yankee gutters are held in the soffitt of the eaves.

Patterned masonry elaborately details the main, double chimney. The back smaller chimney bears the same adornment.

The main entrance to the first floor from the facade is through a double-door foyer that enters into a central inner area. Both doors have beveled glass windows. The focal area of the central room is the open triple-landing staircase to the second floor. The balustrade has spindles similar to the spindle-work of the porch railings with newel posts on each of the three landings. On the first landing there is a double hung sash window with stained glass. Below the staircase is a coat closet, which has a "chipped-glass" window for light.

The central area leads each direction to other rooms. The receiving room, used as a music room, is to the southwest. A pair of oak Ionic columns marks the passage way. This room has an original large brass carbide-gas chandelier, which has been converted to electricity. From this room entrance to the circular turret is between another pair of oak Ionic columns. The interior of the tower room has a curved sitting bench below the three curved glass windows.

Entry to the living room on the northwest corner is through double paneled pocket doors. a fireplace is on the east wall and has an oak mantel with a center oval mirror and a glazed tile hearth and surround. A gas burning log was installed in the fireplace (c.1989).

The central area also leads east to the dining room through a large paneled pocket door. The dining room may also be entered from the screened porch on the east. Another entry is from the kitchen on the north.

A central hall extends from the central area to the north and leads to a back parlor. This hall leads into the kitchen area.

The woodwork on the first floor is oak and in original condition, with the exception of kitchen and bath, which is painted. All of the rooms, except the kitchen, have a picture rail on the walls two feet from the ceiling. The Craftsmen style, one-panel doors are also solid oak. The floors are oak, but are presently covered with carpet. The doorknobs and droplets are brass. The casings of the windows and doors are molded, vertical with a projecting trim board across the top casing of the doorways. Wooden corner moldings are used on the first and second floor.

Fenestration is comprised of 1/1 double hung sash windows in singular, double and triple groups.

The interiors of the first, second and third floors retain their original floor plan and detailing except for the southeast room of the first floor. The room was originally a maid's pantry. In c. 1988, it was converted to a combination 3/4 bath and laundry room.

The kitchen has an entry to an enclosed porch on the east elevation. The enclosed porch, on east elevation, leads north to a small storage room and also south into the screened porch, which spans across the southeast corner of the house, on the first floor. From the kitchen a straight closed stairway leads to the second floor. Another straight partially enclosed stair leads to the basement.

The basement area is also entered by an outside entry on the east elevation. The basement has seven rooms, one of which is a one-half bath. The original laundry room has an original divided granite sink. Other rooms are used for storage and the hot-water heating system.

The landing of the open stairway is a large area which leads into a central hall.

The five bedrooms, bath, and the back enclosed stairway are accessed from the hall. The woodwork on the second floor is varnished pine.

The bedroom located at the southwest continues into the tower of the second floor. A door from this bedroom leads to a small entry-way opening onto the secondary elevation of the facade.

Other bedrooms are: one at the northwest corner; one in the center on the north; and one at the southeast corner which is accessible from the hall on the north and west. The fifth room is used as a sewing room and office. There is a door from this room onto the veranda which is the roof area of the back porch on the east elevation extending around the corner to the west.

At the east end of the long central hall is the full bath. It has one window of "chipped glass" and painted woodwork. The original large lavatory and claw-foot bathtub remain in place.

The third floor is accessible from the second floor by a closed stair. The landing on the third floor is part of a central room which leads to a room on the west and a room on the east. The diamond-shaped windows in the gables on the facade and south elevation are accessed through small doors into the attic area. The third floor of the tower may be entered through a small attic door in the ceiling of the southwest bedroom on second floor.

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Oren W. Francis House (c. 1909) is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C. for its architectural significance as a Queen Anne residence.

The three-story Francis house has distinguishing Queen Anne features. The steeply pitched roof with three lower cross gables, one front-facing and two are side-facing. All are asymmetrically placed on the respective facades. A three-story turret is placed at the southwest corner of the facade.

The Free Classic Queen Anne detailing incorporates the wall surfaces as elements of primary decoration. The bays, overhangs and wall projections as well as the tower avoid the smooth-walled appearance. The wrapping two-story full-width porch with classical columns are a part of the decorative elements. A combination of cut shingle patterns next to the walls of plain clapboard siding give a bold emphasis to the bays, gables, and tower. The continuous bands of cut shingle bring the projections into a more contained relationship with the adjacent parts of the structure.

Doors and window surrounds are simple in the Francis house. The window sashes have a single pane of glass. The tower windows have curved glass. The doors have a single large pane of glass set into the upper portion.

There were several large houses built in the Burr Oak area from the 1890s to around 1910. Four houses still exist and are occupied. The Francis house was probably the most unique and outstanding in detail. Over the years, it has become a high-style landmark of the area.

The Oren W. Francis house is located 1/2 mile north of Burr Oak (founded 1870) in Jewell County, Kansas.

Oren Francis was an early settler of the Burr Oak area. He was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania in 1846, and moved to Wisconsin as a child. In 1871, at age 25 years, he came to Kansas and homesteaded the farm north of Burr Oak. He returned to Wisconsin

and married Abbie Carpenter in 1874. Oren and Abbie drove overland in their prairie schooner back to Jewell County, Kansas. O. W. Francis obtained a patent from the United States dated December 13, 1879 for the 160 acres of land on which the Queen Anne home was later built.

Oren and Abbie Francis raised a family of ten children. It was during this era (1890-1910) that Jewell County was known as the "Banner" county of Kansas. The country in this part of the state was unsurpassed in fertility. The farmers had prospered by reason of the prolific yields of corn, alfalfa, and made possible the sales of great numbers of farm animals to eastern markets.

By 1905, O. W. Francis had acquired a large amount of real estate. He farmed the 480 acres with various horse-drawn equipment such as: a lister, harrow, corn planter, plow and cultivator. They raised corn, oats, millet and hay. They had the usual farm animals and poultry; horses, mules, cattle and swine. They fed a family of twelve as well as having farm products for sale. Fairbanks windmills were used for pumping water on the farm.

The Francis family lived a quiet lifestyle. Their family and farm were their main interest. Oren Francis was a stockholder in the Jewell County National Bank for a period of time.

It was well known that Burr Oak was located in one of the garden spots of productive Kansas. The prosperous years contributed to a period of house building in Burr Oak and the surrounding area.

The Francis family became one of the house builders. Their son Clark, 23 years of age, oversaw the building of the house, which was constructed on the west side of the 160 acres, overlooking the White Rock valley. The house was built by John Shand, a traveling carpenter with headquarters in Mankato, Kansas. The original blueprints, prepared by John Shand, are in the possession of the present owner. The materials for the house were shipped via railroad to the nearby town of Otego and transported by horse

and wagon to the construction site. The woodwork came from the Chicago Millwork Supply Company. It took one wagon load alone to haul the window weights needed for the house. Shipping boards were used in various cupboards in the house.

In the year 1910, a souvenir booklet described the area:

> In the peaceful and fertile valley of the famed White Rock, which winds its way across the north half of the county, stands beautiful Burr Oak .....The population of the town is only about eight hundred but here are some of the strongest financial and business institutions in northern Kansas. The country in this part of the county is unsurpassed in fertility in our great state.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis continued to live in the home until their respective deaths in 1930 and 1927.

Following their deaths, the house and acreage remained in the Francis Estate for several years. Ownership was ultimately transferred to Elton and Jessie Gillett in 1947. They occupied the house until their deaths in 1987 and 1983.

In 1988, the Oren W. Francis house and land was deeded to Susan L. Abel. Susan lives in the home with her husband, Donald L. Diehl.

Selected Bibliography:

Abstract of Title #2278, Jewell County, Kansas.

Burr Oak Herald, 10 June, 1909

Karp, Ben, Ornamental Carpentery on Nineteenth-Century American Houses (New York, Dover Publications, Inc., 1981).

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994).

Photographic Views of Beautiful Burr Oak, Jewell County, Kansas, (1910).

Pocket Directory of Burr Oak, Kansas (1911).

Standard Atlas of Jewell County Kansas, (Chicago: Geo A. Ogle & Co., Publishers and Engravers, 1908).

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Section number 10 Page 1**

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the SW4, NW4, SW4, NW4, S14, T2S, R9W in Jewell County, Kansas. Standing as part of a 160 acre tract just north of Burr Oak, the nominated property is located on a 150' x 150' parcel that contains the house. Standing in the center of the 150' square parcel, the house measures 24' from north to south and 32' from east to west. The parcel is bounded by the driveway to the south and east, by the iron fence to the west, and adjacent ground to the north.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the nominated property. The nominated parcel contains the house and is part of a 160 acre farm that also contains a barn, chicken house, garage and buffalo wallows. These resources are not included in the nomination.