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

1. Name of Property

Historic name Ensor Farm

Other name/site number Ensor Farmsite and Museum, 091-0000-0200

2. Location

Street & number 18995 W. 183rd Street ☐ not for publication

City or town Olathe ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Johnson Code 091 Zip code 66062

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 DSHPO January 9, 2004

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:)

Ensor Farm
Name of property

Johnson 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	
9	1	buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
11	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
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Agricultural/ Subsistance: animal facility
Other: communication

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: musuem

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate
Other: utilitarian agricultural

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Wood: clapboard
roof Wood: shingles; Asphalt
other

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

Name of Property Ensor Farm County and State Johnson County, KS

8. Statement of Significance

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

Communications

Period of Significance

1929- 1953

Significant Dates

1929, 1941

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Marshall Hamilton Ensor, Loretta Ensor

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

McCabe, William; Smith, Eddie

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 lising (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:

Ensor Farmsite and Museum

Name of Property Ensor Farm County and State Johnson County KS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	342820	4295640
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 Carolyn Smith, Site Director

Organization Ensor Farmsite and Museum Date August 2002

Street & number 18995 W. 183rd Street Telephone 913-592-4141

City or town Olathe State KS Zip code 66062

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 Loretta Ensor Trust, c/o Michael Haskin, Attorney

street & number P. O. Box 413 telephone

city or town Olathe state KS zip code 66051

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 Ensor Farm (c. 1929- 1953) an 8-acre park located in Spring Hill Township, Johnson County, Kansas part of a 40-acre parcel of land remaining from the original farm of 120 acres. It is situated in the rolling prairie area of eastern Kansas. The farm is situated on a rise of land that rolls east down to Wolf Creek. The western part of the property is a wooded glen used as a picnic area. The farm complex is situated on the south side of West 183rd Street, an east-west street in Johnson County, KS. The buildings are located approximately in the center of the 8-acre park. The resources that comprise the farm are contributing with the exception of a metal trailer used as a visitor's center. The contributing resources include (1) 1875 one-room pioneer cabin, (2) 1889 North Peg Barn, (3) 1890 two- story Italianate style house, (4) 1896/1900 Cow Barn, (5) one-room cabin used as a summer kitchen, (6) meat house, (7) chicken coop, (8) brooder house, (9) machine shed, (10) concrete silo, and (11) two 80- foot radio towers. This property was the residence of one family for 81 years.

William McCabe purchased 80 acres by warrant deed from the State of Kansas in 1875. He lived on the property until his demise in 1891. During this time McCabe lived in the pioneer cabin which he probably built. He built the peg barn in 1889. He started building the house in 1890 but before it was completed McCabe died. The property was willed to The Little Sisters of the Poor, Kansas City, Jackson County, Mo – 40 acres and St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City Jackson County, Mo 40 acres by the will of William McCabe dated August 11, 1891 and probated in Johnson County, Kansas.

On Feb 11, 1892 the two, 40- acre tracts were sold to Clarence Deweese and wife, Susan. The property was next sold to Eddie Smith on March 28, 1899. Smith later purchased 40 additional adjoining acres. During the time Smith resided at the property he built the middle section of the cow barn between 1896 and 1900. On January 11, 1900 C. C. Holcomb purchased the 120 acres from Eddie Smith.

On February 2, 1909 Jacob and Ida Ensor purchased the 120- acre farm located in Spring Hill Township, Johnson County, Kansas legal description – W ½ NE ¼ 36-14-23 from C. C. Holcomb. Included were the pioneer cabin, the peg barn, the two-story Italianate style house and the cow-barn.

From the oral history of the Ensor Farmsite given in June through August 1989 by Loretta Ensor, last member of the Ensor Family to live on the property, she states that when Eddie Smith purchased the farm he noted that the house was not complete in that baseboard and trim were not installed. It is believed that he finished this work.

The nomination includes the following contributing resources: original pioneer cabin, north peg barn, 2-story Italianate style house, 1896/1900 cow barn, second one-room cabin brought to the property, meat house, chicken coop and brooder house, machine shed, concrete silo and two (2) 80 foot radio towers. A non-contributing metal trailer is also included in the complex.

INVENTORY

(1) Pioneer one- room cabin (c. 1875)

The Pioneer cabin was built c. 1875. It measures 14 feet wide and 16 feet long. Wood used in the construction of this one- room cabin is walnut. It was originally located in front the North Barn or on the west side of the barn. When the property was owned by Eddie Smith the cabin was relocated to where it is now. It originally had a dirt floor, but during the 1920s a concrete floor was poured. There is a double window on the east side and a loft overhead reached by an interior ladder. It is built of rough sawn walnut lumber with wooden vertical siding. It has a wood roof covered by a metal roof. The wood entrance door has a wooden latch. Electricity was added to the structure in the l930s. The building has been used for many purposes – as a chicken house, as a storage shed, and as a place to "cure" new cut lumber that was later used in woodworking projects.

(2) North Peg Barn (c. 1889)

The North Barn was built in 1889. It is 24 feet wide and 40 feet long. The foundation is stacked stone. It is a peg barn constructed with the mortise and tendon and using wooden pegs to hold the 6" x 6" square beams together. The pegs are visible on the 2nd floor. Square nails were used on the roof, sides and flooring. The gable roof is wood shingle. The wide walls of the barn are board and batten style. The wooden flooring on the lower level is of 2" x 6" boards laid on the diagonal to keep the building from twisting. There are three sections on the lower level of the barn – south side was used to stable up to 5 horses; the north side had room for 2 grain bins and the necessary tack needed for the horses; and the middle section with two large sliding doors had room for farm wagons. The second floor was the hay loft. Entrance to the 2nd floor was made through the wall ladder. In l965 the barn was remodeled to become the Ensor Museum. The original wood floor boards were "turned over" by Ensor and reinstalled so that the floor appears unworn. In 1988 an indoor stairway was constructed to make access to the 2nd floor easier. Today the north side room contains a collection of farm tools and items used in farming; the south room is a reconstruction of Marshall Ensor's Industrial Arts Classroom at Olathe High School where he taught industrial arts from 1916 until 1960 when he retired. The middle section is a reference library containing books on woodworking, metal working and radio, as this was Ensor's other interest.

The second floor now houses other Museum memorabilia – first radio transmitter and receiver built by Ensor in 1918; examples of Ensor's woodcraft skills (miniature toys, baseball bats, dominos, chess set); and the first electrical score board used by Olathe High School that was designed and built by Ensor.

(3) 2-story Italianate style Farm House (c. 1890)

The 1890 House – Construction on the 1890 house was begun by the original property owner William McCabe. The two-story Italianate style house was ornate for a farm house. McCabe was not married. His brother, James McCabe, lived on a farm northwest of the McCabe property and had built a 2-story house. He commented that his brother had lived on the property since 1875 and was still living in the one-room cabin. McCabe was "ribbed" into building his house to "outdo" his brother. As a result the house has extra embellishments not found in typical farm houses. As noted earlier, interior finishes were completed by Smith following his purchase of the property in 1899.

The natural limestone used for the foundation was cut from the banks of Wolf Creek, a tributary that runs just east of the property. The stone is 2 feet thick. Rough cut walnut lumber used in the construction of the house may have been cut on the property but it was probably purchased. The floor beams are 2 x 8 placed every 16". The side walls are balloon construction. The simple hipped roof is shingled with cedar shingles. At the center of the roof, where the brick chimney is located, there is a Widow's Walk. The house is covered by white lap siding nailed to the frame. There are green shutters at all windows. The moderately wide overhanging eaves are supported by decorative brackets. The front porch is one story high running across the entire front (north) side of the house and half away around the east side and supported by wooden columns. A screen porch is located at the rear (south) entrance. On the west side is the outside entrance to the basement.

The first floor consists of four rooms – the kitchen 15 ½' x 13', the back parlor 11' x 13' with an 8 ½ x 11' addition, the front parlor 19' x 13' and the entry foyer 4' x 13' plus 3' wide staircase – typical of a four square style house. The ceilings are 9' on the first floor. The walls and ceilings are lathe and plaster construction. All the flooring in the house with the exception of the room additions on the first and second floor are of 5" wide white pine. The flooring in the additions is 3" yellow pine. The windows (16) have pegged frames and are two over two with weights and cords. Window latches are brass. The front parlor room has two French Door windows on the north side that open out to the front porch. The mantle and surround are of painted marble with an English design. The front door (entrance) has two red panel glass inserts each measuring 7" x 38". Keyhole, hinges and knob on the front door are of brass. Doorknobs on the interior doors are porcelain. The stair rail and newel are of black walnut. There are 14 steps in the staircase to the second floor.

On the second floor are 3 bedrooms – east bedroom (9' x 11'), southwest bedroom (18' x 13') northwest bedroom (18 ½' x 11') with one large closet with window (5' x 8') and a second closet that can be accessed from two rooms, (2' x 6'). An L-shaped connecting hallway (4' x 4'.4' x 14') is between the bedrooms. Ceilings on this level are 8 feet. The bathroom (9' x 4') was added in the 1930s. The access to the attic is through the double closet with a wall ladder.

Additions were made to the house as follows: in 1912 the back screened porch was added (south side); between 1912 and 1916 the front wrap-around porch was added (north side); the two story bay addition on the west side of the house was made in 1935.

Other additions to the house were as follows – in 1910 the dirt floor of the basement was concreted (north side); in 1930 concrete stairs were made to the basement replacing the wooden ones; in 1935 the south basement was dug out and walled up. The foundation stones for this came from the old State School for Deaf in Olathe, KS. When this work was completed a water pump and tank were installed since electricity had also been installed in 1935. The upstairs bathroom was installed utilizing a part of the southwest bedroom area. A closet was built in the bathroom and also in the southwest bedroom. A door to the roof of the screened porch was installed in the southwest bedroom. An attic sprinkler system was installed at this time. In 1936 the Radio Room (5 ½' x 7 ½') was added to the main house by enclosing part of the wrap around porch. Windows and the door for the radio room came from the Eureka Baptist Church that was located at 175th & Pflumm and was being razed.

(4) Cow Barn (c. 1896, 1900)

The wooden cow barn (16 feet wide by 36 feet long) was built between 1896 and 1900 by Eddie Smith who was a veterinarian in Spring Hill, Kansas. There is no visible foundation. The interior upright risers are cut hedge (Osage Orange) trees 14' to 15' in height and approximately 6-8 inches in diameter, placed 6 feet apart. The floor is dirt. While this is called the "cow barn" it is not known if it was used to house animals by Smith. There is wooden vertical siding (1 x 10 & 1 x 12) on this part of the structure. The building was added on to by the Ensor family in 1910 with a pioneering design for a dairy barn. Additions were added to each side of the original structure. The South side was developed as a milking area with concrete floor and a drainage trough for cleaning. There are headstalls for 10 cows plus feeding bins at the head of each headstall. The North side was used to store agricultural items needed on the farm. At the rear end (East side) of the middle structure a concrete silo was constructed, one ring at a time, hauling buckets of cement up the ladders and pouring it into the forms. Oval doorways, made of metal are still in use to close the openings formed by the concrete. There are 8 levels of poured concrete approximately 24 inches in height, making the silo 16 feet in height. The top of the silo is covered with a wooden roof. The outer walls on the two additions are clapboard.

(5) Summer Kitchen (c. 1890) This is a one-room cabin, wooden floor, front and rear wooden doors, two windows (sliding) one on the east side and the other on the west side. There is no foundation. The wood siding runs vertical. Not original to the property.

(6) Meat House (c. 1910s) Small wooden house, 4' by 4', with wooden floor, shed roof, wooden door, vertical siding. No foundation. Inside are large metal hooks used to hang meat. This was used as winter only storage for meat. Probably built on property but no record shown.

(7) Chicken Coop (c. 1910s) Large double coop approximately. One side was for chickens and the other side was for geese.

(8) Brooder House (c. 1910s) Used for newly hatched chicks and to keep fertilized eggs warm. Used a kerosene fueled "brooder" for heat.

(9) Machine Shed (c. 1930s) Large metal building with metal roof used for repair of machinery. Contains a blacksmith anvil, hoist, arc welder. The building is sheathed with wide wale, corrugated steel sheets.

(10) & (11) Radio Towers (c. 1920s) Two, 80- foot radio towers are located on the property. One approximately 250 feet southwest of the house, and the second next to the east side of the house. Both towers are places on 10-foot tall hedge posts anchored in the ground, raising them to a height of 90 feet. This was done to obtain clearer reception on the radio and not to interfere with the commercial band radio stations. Ham radio station W9BSP and station W9UA operated from this location for 50 years as both Marshall Ensor and Loretta Ensor were licensed ham radio operators.

(12) Trailer (c. 1960s) One-story rectangular trailer used as an office and care-taker's residence. Non-contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Ensor Farm (c. 1929- 1953) is nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its historical association with Marshall Hamilton Ensor (1899-1970) and Loretta Ensor (1904-1991) who established the Ensor Farmsite & Museum so that others might see how things used to be on a working farm and in the home of one family for 89 years. Marshall Ensor was a pioneer in ham radio operations and instruction. Both he and Loretta were licensed radio operators. They operated a radio station from the farmhouse for 56 years (1917-1973).

The 8 acres of the Ensor Farm complex are part of the original 120 acre farm purchased in 1909 by Jacob & Ida Ensor, parents of Marshall Ensor and Loretta Ensor. Marshall was 10 years old and Loretta 5 years old when they moved to this property. They attended a one room school house located ¾ mile from the farm and then attended high school in Olathe, Kansas, located 6 miles north.

In 1916 Marshall Ensor began his teaching career at the John P. St. John Memorial High School in Olathe, Kansas. As a 15 year old, he had been the national winner of a woodworking contest sponsored by the Simon Saw Company of Illinois. He had designed and constructed a kitchen cabinet/work table which is still in the house. At about this same time Industrial Arts as a high school class was being introduced in the Olathe District. Ensor was asked to be the teacher of this class, because of his expertise in woodworking even though he was still in high school. He spent 46 years teaching Industrial Arts in the Olathe School District. In addition to woodworking he taught design, mechanical drawing, metal work, photography and radio.

For Marshall Ensor's generation radio was the newest media. After Gugliemo Marconi (1894-1937) successfully transmitted radio signals across the Atlantic Ocean from England to Newfoundland in 1901 there was a great interest in wireless radio. Boys built "crystal" sets using plans from *Popular Mechanics*. There radio sets were a "receive only" type and as technology improved the new radio operators or "hams" were upgrading their "rigs" or sets to be both a receiving and a transmitting station.

"Talking" on the radio was done using a code. From radio's advent until after the Frist World War, Morse Code was employed as the communication mode. Voice transmission began with the introuction of the vacuum tube in the early 1920s. The following is from Ensor's Masters Thesis written in 1940:

> The radio code is generally called "The International Morse" code because it is used for all radio, ocean cable, and land line operations except in North America. It was first used on the continent of Europe, hence it is often called the "Continental Code." The Continental code is composed of dots and dashes. These dots and dashes we give a new name for the sake of phonetics. We call them "dits and dahs." It differs from the American Morse Code as used on land lines of North America in that the latter includes the use of spaces in addition to dots and dashes in the formation of certain letters. The continental code is more simple of the two because it uses only dots and dashes.

> The Continental code alphabet is made up of different sounds or tones. Each letter in the alphabet has a distinct sound of its own and it is by these different sounds that the code should be learned; not by the dot and dash method. For example the letter "A" sound like this "ditdah" and the letter "Z" sound like this "dah-dah-dit-dit" and so on. The sound of every letter must be memorized. As soon as one hears the sound "dit-dah" he knows that it is "A". For example if you hear a new song hit and like it, by listening to it several times, you know the very words of the song. As so it is with the code. As soon as we hear any combination of dits and dahs, we know what the letter is. We must hear the composition of the letter as a whole, and not being composed of so many dits and dahs. A separate single sound represents each letter and not a certain number of dits and dahs.

By 1912 there were so many radio stations on the air that a radio law became necessary to prevent interference. Operators were required to be licensed and to have a "call letter" assigned to their station for identification. Operators were further required to pass a test on radio procedures and operating rules administered by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and to be able to send and to receive International Morse Code at a rate of 15 words per minute.

In 1913 Marshall Ensor built his first wireless or crystal radio set. He next built a set using a spark transmitter in 1917. He received his Radio Operator License in 1917 and was assigned the identification or call letters 9BSP. The rig was located in the kitchen of the farmhouse and the batteries in the basement.

World War I interrupted the civilian radio operations and these were not resumed by Ensor until 1922. By then he had built a new radio set using a 1 ½ horsepower gasoline-engine driven generator for power as there was no commercial power on the Farmsite at that time and also he built one of the first tube receivers in the country. The first of the radio towers was erected in 1917.

In 1923 Loretta Ensor received her radio operator license and received 9UA as her call sign. In 1926 she was recognized as the "lone woman Radio Amateur in West" (*Kansas City Journal-Post*, Sunday, January 24, 1926). Her station was relocated to Olathe High School for at least 10 years where Marshall Ensor taught a class in radio at the school. Regulations in effect at that time prevented one person from having two radio stations. This arrangement allowed the school to have a radio station in addition to the class room instruction in code and radio practices. In 1926 and again in 1929 more powerful sets were built and installed. The set built in 1929 was a 250 watt phone rig built with a 1200-volt storage battery.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) of West Hartford, CT asked for volunteers to teach Code lessons to aspiring radio operators. Marshall Ensor was one of the first to respond to this request and in 1929 started "lessons" in Code over station 9BSP to anyone who signed up for the 60 lesson course. Lessons were given from 7:30pm to

8:30pm daily during December and January. Both Marshall and Loretta gave these lessons, Loretta filling in when Marshall had to be at evening school activities. These lessons were given for 10 years. It was estimated that over 10,000 persons were trained in Continental Code during the 10 year time period over Station 9BSP and kater W9 BSP (changed prefix "W" of United States calls occurred prior to 1940.)

The radio transmitter in the house now was built in October 1938, it is contained in a beautiful wood cabinet built by Ensor. When it was installed it had the latest radio features available, with the maximum allowable power of 1000 watts. The station ceased operation in 1973 when Loretta Ensor decided not to renew her license.

In 1940 Marshall Ensor received the William S. Paley Award for his efforts in support of national defense. Each year, William S. Paley, the president of CBS radio, would honor one ham radio operator. Ensor became Paley's third and last winner for his efforts in teaching code lessons over his station for ten years. What follows is the substance of the news release accompanying a photograph showing Ensor instructing a group of his school students in the operation of the W9UA transmitter.

> For his outstanding service in aiding young Americans to qualify as licensed radio operators, Marshall H. Ensor, radio "ham" and high school teacher of Olathe, Kansas, has been named as the winner of the William S. Paley Amateur Radio Award for 1940. Ensor, who is shown here with some of his pupils, was cited as having trained more radio amateurs than any other single individual, and having thus "contributed most usefully to the American people" in preparing mean for vital communications posts in national defense. Over his home-built station W9BSP, Ensor has voluntarily conducted code practice on regular schedule for the past ten years. Mr. Paley, president of Columbia Broadcasting System, will present the silver trophy to Mr. Ensor at a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, June 2. (Columbia Broadcasting System, May 17, 1940)

No more awards were given because at the beginning of World War II all ham radios were shut down. The impressive Paley award trophy was designed by Alexander Calder (1898-1976) noted American artist. It is on display in the house.

At the onset of World War II in 1941 Ensor applied for a commission in the United States Navy. He was accepted and his military service was from 1942 to 1945. He obtained the rank of Lt. Commander. He was stationed at the Naval Air Station, Seattle, Washington where he was assigned to radio operations.

The radio station remained in operation after Ensor retired from teaching in 1964. After Ensor died in 1970, Loretta Ensor operated the radio station. The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) presented her with a 50-year member award in 1974.

Loretta Ensor continued to give tours to individuals and groups who stopped at the museum and began including tours of her home. However, as she grew older her health began to be a problem and so she decided that the museum should be given to Johnson County in return for all that the Ensor family had received from the county. She deeded the 8- acre complex to the Johnson County Museum in 1980 with the stipulations that she reside in the house until her demise and that none of the artifacts be removed from the property.

However, the relationship between the Johnson County Museum and Loretta Ensor deteriorated, with Ensor subsequently suing Johnson County to get her property back. This suit was successful and in 1989 the Ensor Farmsite & Museum property was returned to Loretta Ensor. When that was accomplished Miss Ensor established a trust fund to maintain the museum complex. That Trust Fund is in effect currently.

Bibliography

Columbia Broadcasting System. 485 Madison Ave., New York. Photo Department. For release in the afternoon papers of Saturday May 17, and Sunday, May 18. 1940.

Johnson County, Kansas, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 29, page 620; b. 65, pp411,412; b 69.p458; b. 82, p112; b. 102, p.103 all for West ½ of NE ¼ 36-14-23, Spring Hill Township.

Oral History of Ensor Farmsite given by Miss Loretta Ensor in June through August 1989 to Johnson County Museum Director, Janet Campbell.

"Kansas Has Lone Woman Radio Amateur in West" *Kansas City Journal-Post,* Sunday, January 24, 1926.

"Bow to His Radio Work" "National Award to Olathe Amateur Operator" *Kansas City Star,* May 15, 1941.

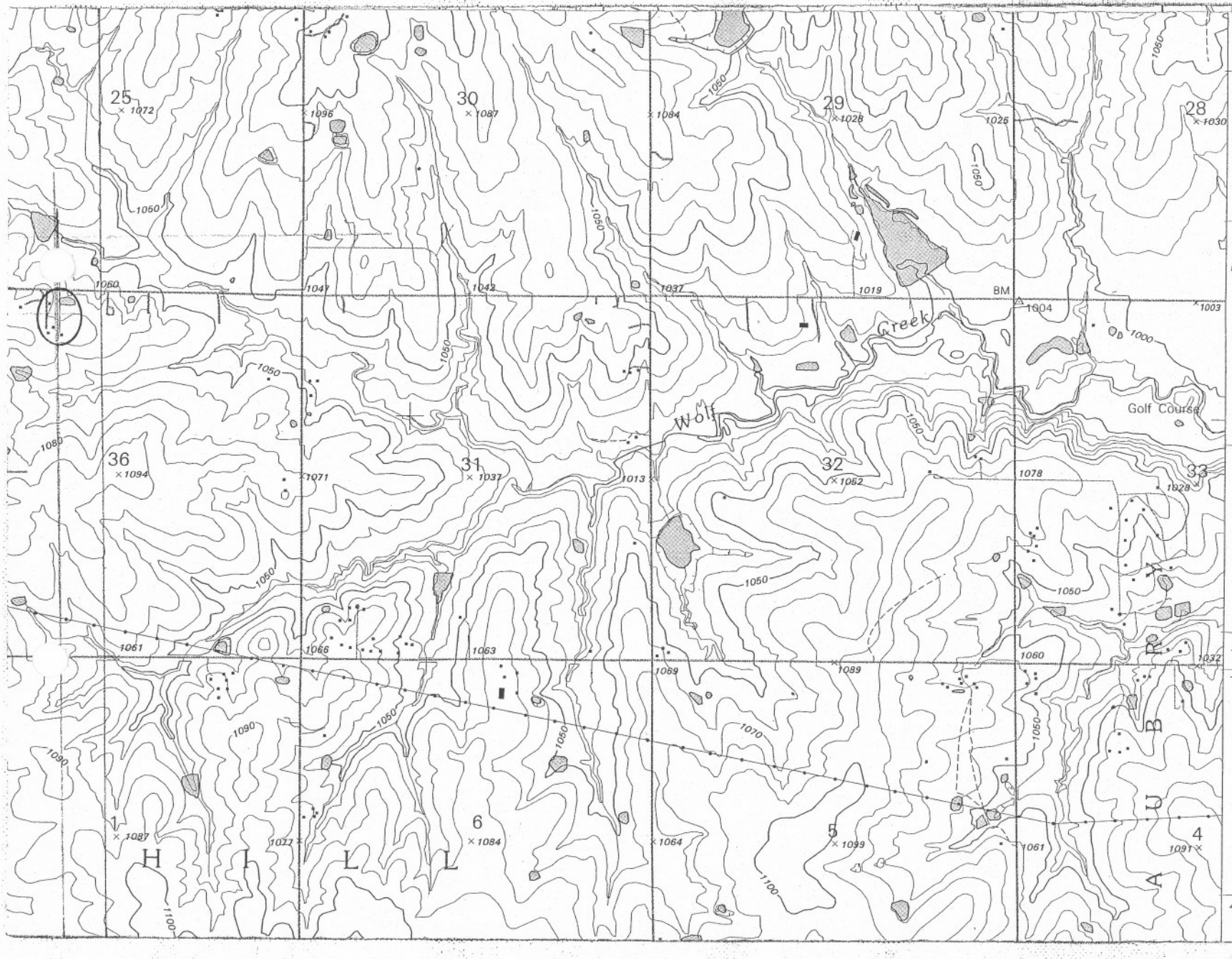
"His Ideas Win Teaching Praise" *Kansas City Star,* Thursday, December 3, 1959.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Ensor Farmsite & Museum is located in Spring Hill Township, Johnson County, Kansas, on 8 acres in the NW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4, S36, T14, R23. The north boundary is West 183rd Street, the east, south and west boundaries are adjacent property.

Boundary Justification

The nominated eight acres is a part of the original 120 acres purchased in 1909 by Jacob & Ida Ensor. The boundary was chosen as it contains the present day Ensor Farmsite & Museum. The boundary includes the pioneer cabin, peg barn, Italiante style farmhouse, cow barn, 2 radio towers, the summer kitchen cabin, chicken coop, brooder house, machine shed and concrete silo.



ENSOR FARM
OCHLETREE QUAD
UTM Coordinates
15 342820
4295640