115 3000-0799

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 Doyle Place

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Doyle Place - ½ mile south of Florence ☐ not for publication

city or town Florence ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Marion code 115 zip code 66851

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 2-13-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:)

Doyle Place
Name of Property

Marion 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
1		structures
		objects
2	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: Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Stone: limestone
roof Wood: shingle
other

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

Doyle Place
Name of Property

Mar a Co y, 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.
- ☐ **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

1881-1882

Significant Dates

1881-1882

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Doyle, Patrick

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:

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

Name of repository:
Kansas State Historical Society

Doyle Place
Name of Property

Marion County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.6 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	681530	4233670
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 Mrs. Judy Mills

organization _____ date _____

street & number Doyle Place telephone _____

city or town Florence state KS zip code 66851

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 Randy and Judy Mills

street & number Doyle Place telephone _____

city or town Florence state KS zip code 66851

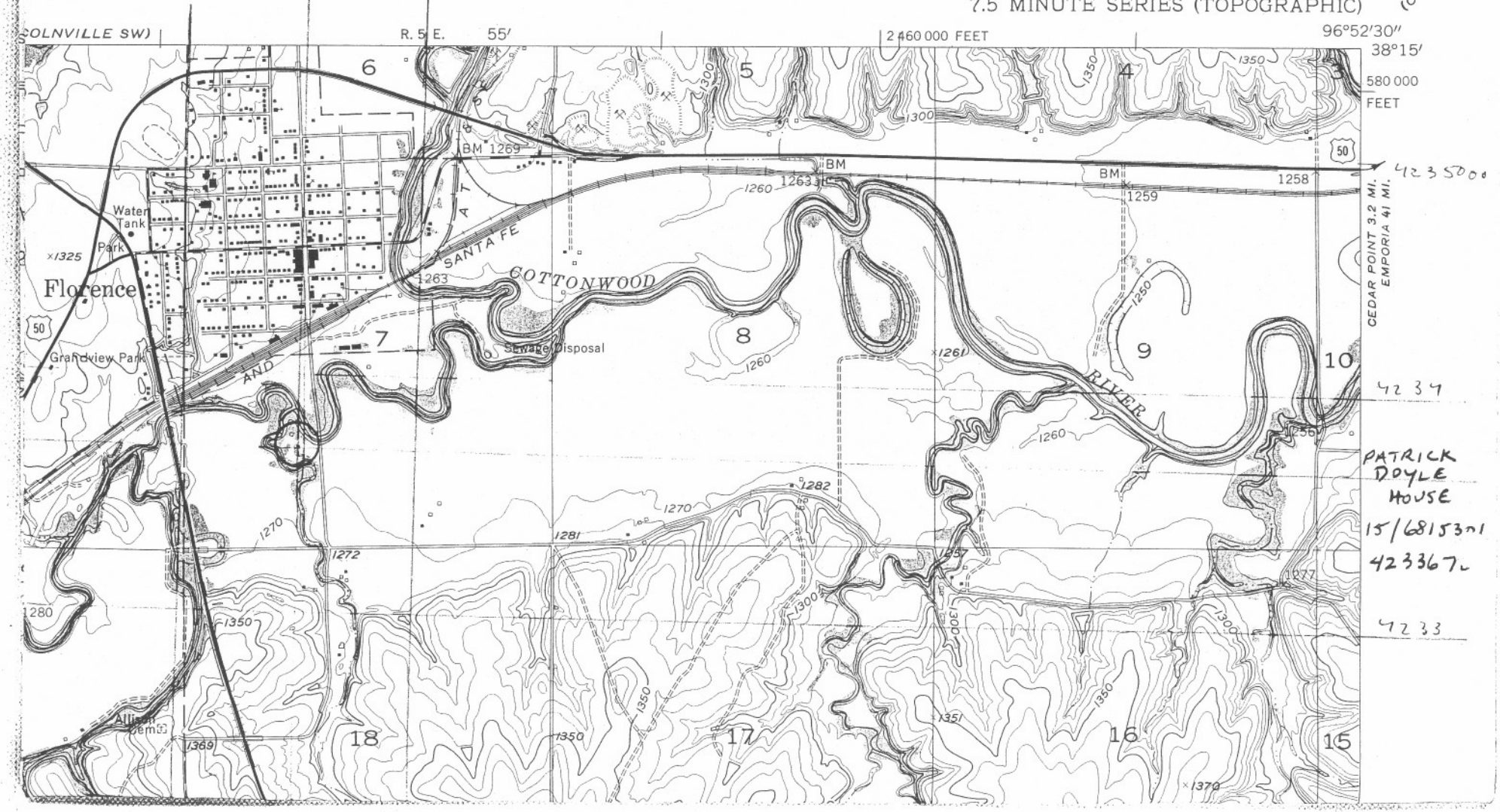
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

OF KANSAS

FLORENCE QUADRANGLE
KANSAS—MARION CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(CEDAR POINT)



PATRICK DOYLE PROPERTY

The home of Patrick Doyle, which was built in 1881-1882, is located on approximately three acres more or less, south of Florence, Kansas. The house has a eastern facade overlooking and nestled in the Cottonwood Valley and surrounded on three sides by Doyle Creek. Along the entire front of the property, out by the road, is a rusticated native limestone wall, capped with a row of flat blocks, which once was shaded by large stately old Elm trees. Due to the Elm disease, the trees have since been replaced with junipers. In front of the home, on either side of the front porch are stately Sycamore and Evergreen trees presumably about the same age as the home. Behind the home is a seed house which was renovated after 1969 and barn in its original form.

The two-story home is Italianate architecture and built of rusticated native magnesium limestone quarried nearby. Finished limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each door and window respectively. Detailing includes quoins and watertable foundation of finished limestone. The identifying features are a high pitched, centered gable roof with wide overhang. A wooden fascia board defines the roof line. Two chimneys, one on the right and one on the left, rise from the roof. The fenestration is comprised of 13 2/2 double hung sash, singular, narrow, segmental arched, hooded, inverted U shaped windows with U-shaped crowns. All 13 of the windows have the original outer shutters. At the peek of the the centered gable style roof is carved the date of 1882 in stone. The facade is dominated by a full length porch with four square limestone and round wooden pillars. A tongue and grove ceiling surmounts the porch.

Upon entering the paired, segmental arched, hooded, inverted U shaped doors, surmounted by one stained glass window on the front of the home, one will find parlor/living room on the left, library on the right, dining room directly behind the parlor, and kitchen behind the library (the original floor plan). A sunroom on the south (off of the dining room), family room/fireplace and bath on the north (off of the kitchen), and garage/back staircase to the second floor on the west were added in 1969 with stone from a former school

house that was found to match the original stone construction. These additions required the removal of a large old sickly Sycamore tree on the south, coal chute on the west and a storm cellar of stone with arched ceiling on the northwest.

At the main entryway of the home, the walnut winding staircase, defined by a turned newel post and balusters, leads to the second story as well as winds the entire length of the hall of the second floor. The turned balustrade on the landing defines the opening of the staircase. Where there was once four bedrooms, there are now three with a bath and utility area. None of the rooms had closets at the time of construction. Each bedroom is now smaller in size due to the addition of closets along one wall. The wide pine flooring has been carpeted both downstairs and upstairs. Transoms above all doors have been removed to allow for duct work for air conditioning and heating. The pine mantels found in the library and living room were used merely to frame the coal/wood stoves which were the source of heat at the time of construction of the home. These mantels are defined by wooden brackets starting at the floor to support the shelf. It is assumed that running water was supplied from a well on Doyle Creek from the time of its construction or shortly thereafter, but no dates are available as to when plumbing and electricity were added. At the time of renovation in 1969 all were replaced. The interior of the first and second floors retain most of their original floorplan and detailing. The trim surrounds flanking the front door have edges with a bead and cove molded profile. The window surrounds are composed exactly like the door surrounds except the pilasters rise from the sill. Due to the fact that the outer walls are 18" thick allows for all windows with woodwork of pine to become window seats if desired. The kitchen was been remodeled for present day living. A few of the original features had to be changed in order to modernize the home but keeping with the original was of the greatest concern during renovation. There was very little detailed woodwork inside the home as is is said by old timers that Mr. Doyle put all of his money and work on the exterior. From all outward appearance, the original home of Patrick Doyle looks almost exactly as it did in 1882. The greatest indication that time has not stood still is the grandeur of the stately Sycamore trees trumpeting the entrance and framing the majestic old home.

Randy and Judy Mills purchased Doyle place in 1969 and embarked on a remodeling effort that resulted in the tastefully discrete additions of the family room, garage and sun room. A pool and patio were built in the area created by the intersection of these additions. The property was modernized in some ways to make the house more liveable for a growing family. The additions stand to rear of the property and are made primarily of rusticated limestone block. The additions are large, increasing the size of the house substantially. However, their rear placement and the nature of the siting of the house diminish their visibility.

During the remodeling, the original plaster walls were covered with dark wood paneling. Much of the original wooden baseboard trim, window and door molding, doors and the staircase were maintained. The original center hall floor plan is still in place.

The 2.6 acre tract contains a seed house and barn that are non-contributing features of the nomination. These buildings stand at the rear of the property and are not visible features. Both buildings are wooden. The seed house is a board and batten, side gable roofed, one story building that stands directly behind the garage. The barn is gable roofed with a loft. It is painted black and stands in the northwest quadrant of the property near the creek.

The 2.6 acre tract very likely contains landscape features that date to the 1881-1882 period. These features, such as the sycamores, elms and evergreen trees previously described in the text, are mature specimens and have been planted in a deliberate pattern. For instance, the drive leading from the road to the house is tree lined.

Doyle Place near Florence is being nominated to the National Register for its architectural significance as an example of the Italian Villa style. Built between 1881 and 1882, the house was home to Patrick Doyle (1816- 1911) and his family for over fifty years. Built of locally quarried limestone, the house employed arched windows, quoins and brackets to achieve the Italianate image.

Doyle established his 160-acre claim south of Florence in 1859, becoming the first caucasian to claim land in Marion County. Doyle did not move his family to Florence until 1871, upon which time they began to farm the acreage. By 1895 Doyle had amassed 800 acres of farmland adjacent to and near his original claim. None of the three Doyle children married and they continued to live in the house until they passed away. Upon the death of the last sister in 1935 a complicated international lawsuit that attempted to establish the identities of the surviving heirs began. Acreage added to the farm in 1906 yielded enough oil royalties to the children very wealthy and the distribution of this wealth was the root of the lawsuit.

The Italianate Villa style is part of the Picturesque Movement, a mid-nineteenth century reaction against classical architecture. The Picturesque Movement used nature as an important backdrop to the architecture associated with it. Made popular by Andrew Jackson Downing, the first Italianate houses were built in late 1830s. The Italianate style, including the Italian Villa style, was gradually replaced as the residential style of choice by the Queen Anne style during the 1870s.

Doyle Place is a centered gable example of the Italian Villa style. The house is built of rusticated native limestone. Detailing includes quoins and watertable foundations. Identifying features are the high pitched, center gable roof with a wide overhang. The fenestration is composed of 2/2 double hung sash with segmental arched windows and lintels, these are identifying features of the style. The two major elements that stand outside the style are the lack of brackets under the eaves and the 20th century classical porch, which replaced an earlier version.

Doyle's choice of style was probably rooted in his sense of proper design, his idea of what a house should look like. For his time period, even though the Queen Anne was becoming popular in Kansas, the Italianate still represented the idea home to him. Using native limestone quarried nearby, the family constructed a dwelling to them serve as the quintessential model of what a home should look like.

The house is located on a 2.6 acre tract that contains mature landscaping, trees and plantings. The acreage is nestled in the Cottonwood Valley, surrounded on three sides by Doyle Creek. Along the front of the property, out by the road, is a rusticated native limestone wall, capped with a row of flat block which was once shaded by large stately old elm trees. Due to Elm disease, the trees have since been replaced with junipers. In front of the home on either side of the front porch are stately sycamore and evergreen trees presumably about the same age of the house.

Despite the additions and interior alterations, the property is a distinctive and characteristic example of the Italian Villa style. The use of native Kansas limestone for its construction rings of a familiar trend throughout the state. While the house is unique, it does stand as an important representation of the Italian Villa style for the Florence region. As an example of the Italian Villa style, Doyle Place stands among the finest residential designs associated with the late 19th century development of Florence and the surrounding region.

PATRICK DOYLE/THE DOYLE PLACE

The first white person to claim land in Marion County, in the vicinity of Florence, was Patrick Doyle, an Irishman. Born in Carlow, Ireland on November 1, 1816, the son of John Doyle, Patrick Doyle came to the United States in 1848 at the age of 32, on the sailing ship "City of London" landing in New Orleans. What he did and where he was in the eleven years between 1848 and 1859 is mostly shrouded in mystery, but it is known that he worked in St. Louis. Patrick Doyle and Mary McGuan (or McQuinn) (born September 7, 1837, died March 4,1892) were married at St. Louis, Mo., September 5, 1852. Little or nothing is known of his wife except that she too came from Ireland. From St. Louis, Patrick and family went to Illinois, where Ellen was born. Later they moved to Montgomery county, Missouri, and part of that time Patrick had a saloon in Platte City, Mo. When the Civil War began in 1861, Doyle and his family moved to Leavenworth and lived there for nearly ten years, until 1871. Those ten years spent in Leavenworth are also hidden in mystery. Old settlers who knew him used to tell that he had a saloon and pool hall in Leavenworth, and that when he returned to live on his land in Kansas he brought considerable money with him. He was living in Leavenworth in 1859 when he heard from surveyors in Leavenworth that land around the Cottonwood River in Marion County was excellent for farming. The surveyors had just completed surveying that section of Kansas. Doyle followed their suggestion, and in that same year Doyle homesteaded near the site of what is now the city of Florence, on the day that John Brown was executed at Harpers Ferry in Charlestown, W. Va., Dec. 2, 1859. Having found a quarter section that he liked, he returned to the Junction City land office to file a claim for the SW 1/4 of Section 7, Township 21, Range 5E (160 acres a half mile south of where Florence, Kans. is now). This land was originally granted to Reuben Rogers as bounty land for serving in the War of 1812. His heir Julian Rogers had it returned to the federal government and the government put it up for homestead land. Title to the land was granted to Patrick Doyle, September 3, 1860. The creek which flowed through the Doyle claim was called Doyle Creek. For awhile this area was called Doyle settlement for post office purposes until the town of Florence came into being. That was when it was the wild frontier. Herds of buffalo roamed and grazed on his

land and wild Indians were always close. Doyle built a small log cabin on the corner of his claim, living there long enough to establish ownership of the land.

He moved his family to Florence, Kansas in 1871 when the Santa Fe was building its railroad near by. The family consisted of his wife, Mary; two sons, William B. and James D.; and two daughters, Mary and Ellen. Five children were born to this union, namely, Thomas Doyle, born in Illinois in 1855, died in infancy; Ellen Doyle, born at Alton, Ill., July 7, 1857, died at Florence, Kansas., March 12, 1935; William B. Doyle, born at Leavenworth, Kan., September 17, 1863, died at Florence, Kan., April 26, 1918; Mary Doyle, born at Leavenworth, Kan., August 25, 1869, died at Florence, Kan., June 16, 1933; and James Doyle, born at St. Louis, Mo., July 7, 1870 and died at Florence, Kan., February 4, 1877. For forty years, from 1871 to the day of his death on March 23, 1911, at the age of 94, Patrick lived on his farm.

In 1871 there was condemnation of 3.86 and 11.77 acres for right-of-way to the Santa Fe and 36,750 sq ft (.84 acres) sold to Batty and Tabor. In 1882 1/2 acre was sold to Richard Hagan and 3/5 acre to Rasmus Larson.

By 1875, the Kansas and Federal Cencus indicated that Patrick Doyle, age 57, and his wife Mary, age 40, had four children, Ellen, age 16; Mary, age 14; William, age 12; James, age 5; and Pat McGwin, age 18, relative of Mary Doyle, residing in the home. The value of the real estate was $2500, $200 personal property, $25 in farm improvements and machinery and a total amount of wages paid during the year, including board was $500. There was 160 acres not under fences. He had 30 acres of winter wheat, 3 acres of rye, 38 acres of corn, 1 acre of Irish potatoes, 1/4 acre of sorghum, and 6 acres of garden produce. The family made 50 lbs of butter. The value of poultry and eggs sold was $10 and the value of animals slaughtered or sold was $50. They had 2 mules, 2 milch cow, 6 other cows, 5 swine, 4 dogs.

It is assumed that the Doyle children would have gone to school #3 which was just east of the home about two miles between 1873 and 1902 but the names of students were not listed on the yearly report until 1880 and then no Doyle children could be found. This District merged with District #4 (don't know the date) and in 1923 the District turned the School #3 over to the land owners again.

In 1881 stone was quarried from a limestone quarry nearby and Doyle "built what was the finest house in that

part of Kansas". The Two-story house built of white magnesium limestone with black shutters and stone pillars on the wide front porch is one half mile south of Florence. Numbers carved in stone reveal that is was built in 1882. Since there were many quarries in the area from which to get the rock for the home, it is impossible to say just were Mr. Doyle got the rock for his home. It could be assumed that rather than cross the creek with the rock, that the rock came from a quarry about 1/4 mile to the south from the home, but that is purely speculation. The home consisted of a living room (or parlor), dining room, den, kitchen and four bedrooms. In 1885 there was an $800 mortgage on the 160 acres which was paid off in 1898.

By 1885, the household consisted of Patrick Doyle, age 68; Mary Doyle, age 54; Ellen Doyle, age 21; and Mary Doyle age 19. (William was apparently not present the day the census was taken as his name was missing.) The value of the farm, including improvements had increase to $8000, farm improvements and machinery had increased to $50. There was now 120 acres not under fences and 40 acres under fence. He now had 24 tons of cut prairie hay, 75 apple trees-bearing, 100 peach trees -bearing, 6 cherry trees - bearing, 25 apple trees - not bearing, and 3 pear trees - not bearing, with 20 acres of artificial forest-other varieties than walnut, maple, honey locust or cottonwood at a value of $100 for marketed wood. The family was now making 100 lbs of butter. The value of animals slaughtered or sold was now up to $700. They had 2 mules, 4 horses, 7 milch cow, 57 other cows (3 additional cows died of disease that year), 47 swine, and 1 dogs.

In 1895 William Doyle was the first person listed on the cencus, indicating that possible by this time he was the head of the household (or prime occupant). Those present for the census were Patrick, age 78; William, age 29; Ellen, age 32; Mary, age 30. Pat McGwin, age 39, was back staying with them again as well as David Walty, age 22, possible a farm laboror. The value of the farm, including improvements had decreased to $5000, farm improvements and machinery had decreased to $20. There was now 120 acres under cultivation and 800 acres under fence. There was 180 rods of hedge fence and 620 rods of wire fence. The farm consisted of a total of 800 acres. They had 25 acres of winter wheat, 35 acres of corn, 13 acres of oats, 1 acre of Irish potatoes, 41 acres of Millet and Hungarian, 11 acres of kaffircorn, and 15 acres of

alfalfa. They had now increased to 50 tons of cut prairie hay, 80 apple trees-bearing, and 2 pear trees - bearing. They had decreased to 24 peach trees - bearing, 2 cherry trees -bearing, 6 apple trees - not bearing, and 2 pear trees -not bearing. The family was still making 100 lbs of butter. The value of animals slaughtered or sold was now up considerably to $2000, with the value of garden product at $100 and poultry and eggs at $25. They had 2 mules, 10 horses, 3 milch cow, 9 other cows, 27 swine, and 2 dogs.

The Federal Census of 1900 indicated that the Doyles had a farm laboror by the name of Lee Mayhew, white male, born May 1888 in Kansas, parents were born in Illinois, age 21, married for one year, could read, write and speak English.

By 1905 the Kansas Census indicated the farm was owned by the Doyles and free of any mortgage. This time the census indicated that William was now 40 year of age, Mary, 42, Ellen, 43, and Patrick, 88. (There is a discrepancy in age of all Doyle family members, in all census reports, except for Patrick.) The value of the farm, including improvements had now increased to $13,000, farm improvements and machinery had increased to $200. There was still 800 acres under fence; 200 acres of which was considered improved land and 600 acres uncultivated land under fence for meadow or pasture. There was 160 rods of hedge fence ($50 cost per rod) and 1600 rods of wire fence ($35 cost per rod). The farm still consisted of 800 acres with sources of water supply from a 35 foot well and a creek. They had increased to 70 acres of corn, 25 acres of kaffircorn, and decreased to 15 acres of winter wheat, 1/4 acre of Irish potatoes, 25 acres of sorghum, and 5 acres of alfalfa. They had increased to 120 tons of cut prairie hay and 10 tons of tame hay. The family was now making 150 lbs of butter. The value of animals slaughtered or sold was now up to $2700, with the value of poultry and eggs at $80 and milk and cream sold at $50. They had 11 horses, 1 milch cow, 137 other cows, and 2 dogs.

Doyle Township Tax Rolls show the following:

1871 - 160 acres, value of property $1920, tax $47.04
1872 - 160 acres, value of property $2400, tax $69.60
1882 - 160 acres, value of property $900, tax $52.38
1883 - 152 acres, value of property 1300, tax $65.49

The only explanation the County Treasurer could make for the change in valuation on the tax rolls was either the building of the home, change in the tax structure, or both.

Patrick Doyle was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Florence beside the grave of his wife, Mary, who had died nineteen years before on March 4, 1892.

In the Florence Bulletin printed after the death of Patrick Doyle in 1911, is a long article about him written by his friend, John Madden, from which the following is taken: "Patrick Doyle was a devout Catholic. In early days Mass was held in the open for the Indians, in log houses and any building that might be handy. Patrick Doyle was the first resident Catholic in Florence, and Mass was often held in the home south of Doyle Creek. His standing in the Florence community, the esteem in which he was held by his neighbors, is indicated by the fact that Doyle Township, Doyle Creek and Doyle Street, in Florence were all named after him. In an old scrap book kept by T. P. Alexander, a pioneer merchant of Florence, were found two ballots cast in a town election in 1872, with the name of Patrick Doyle at the head of one as the candidate for mayor of Florence. He was defeated and Mr. Alexander was elected.

He prospered on his farm, and lived a simple, honest and conservative life. As the years passed he built a splendid modern home. Where he preempted his claim, he held his cattle. Where the blue-stem grew in the bend of the creek, he raised corn. Where the wild prairie rolled in front of his house, he planted trees. Beyond the northern boundary of his farm, he saw the beautiful city of Florence grow. Across a corner of his farm a great transcontinental railroad built. There, in the midst of his broad acres and at peace with the world, rich in this world's goods, but richer still in the blessing of a life that had its beginnings in a peasant's cottage in his native land, the Kansas pioneer rounded out the fruitful days of a well spent life in a new state he had helped to build."

Patrick Doyle's three children inherited his estate, which consisted of the land, improvements and a small amount of cash. None of the children married. They kept quietly to themselves except for attending St. Patrick's Church in Florence. They had lived with their father in the big stone house, and they continued to live there, unmarried until they died. William Doyle, the son, added 640 ares of pasture land

to the estate (deeded June 30 1885 - Sec. 29-21-5) in 1885 and another eighty acres (deeded August 6, 1906 - N 1/2 of NW 20-21-5) in 1906. At that time, there was no thought that there might be oil beneath any part of Marion County. William died on April 26, 1918, at the age of 55, never having dreamed himself that there might be oil and a fortune beneath their land. He, as his father, left no will and his part of the estate was quietly absorbed by his two sisters, who continued to live alone, without servants or many callers, in the big stone house.

This was first the home of Patrick Doyle, one of Florence's early settlers but when oil was discovered on his land after his death, the community soon found that his daughters were two of the wealthiest persons in a wide area. Nobody knows how much money came rolling in from royalties, for the heads of the two Doyle sisters were not turned by their good fortune. They continued to live as quietly and aloofly as before, the two of them in the big stone house keeping closemouthed as fortune piled up. They invested their money in stocks and bonds and also gave to charity. Mary died in June 16, 1933, at the age of 64 and was buried beside her father, mother and brother in the Catholic cemetery. Ellen than was the sole owner of the 160 acre homestead, 640 acres of good farm land, a 80 acre tract, rich oil returns, pumping wells and hundreds of thousands in bonds. After the last heir, Ellen, died on March 12, 1935, at age 79, Father E. J. Flanagan, the priest who founded the Father Flanagan Home for Boys near Omaha, was notified of her death and came to Florence and assisted at her funeral. Then it was disclosed to the people of Florence that Mary and Ellen Doyle had given $165,000 in cash to Father Flanagan's Home for Boys. A gymnasium was built and called the William Doyle Memorial Building. Other charitable institutions received lesser amounts. She is said to have contributed regularly to more than 40 charitable institutions for many years. The total of which aggregated $465,000.

From what was discovered since Ellen died, it was estimated that more than a million dollars in cash came into the Doyle farm house from oil royalties. The 80 acres on which the oil field was located, a few miles south of Florence, alone produced over a million dollars.

Nothing could be found in the local newspaper of 1870-1911 concerning the Doyle home. The Doyle's appeared to be rather reclusive which very well could be supported in the

fact that the official "History of the State of Kansas" by A. T. Andreas dated 1883 makes no mention of Patrick Doyle under his Biographical sketches of the leading citizens of Florence even though the Doyle name is listed as the second early settler and the first to claim land in Marion County. We know that he was a Catholic, that he ran a saloon before he came to Florence, that he ran for the first Mayor of Florence and was defeated, and that the transcontinental railroad took part of his beloved ground to build across. Maybe he had reason for staying to himself. What was the attitude of the community toward Catholics and saloon owners? Was this the reason for the defeat as Mayor? How would you feel toward the railroad taking part of your property? The lack of information that could be found concerning the home of Patrick Doyle and information during the period in question could certainly be substantiated by the fact that settling the estate of the last known heir, Patrick Doyle's daughter, became the trial of the century according to all reports. The litigation lasted well over three years with more than 700 individual claimants. A bitter fight was waged in the courts and on one particular day in Marion County there were sixty-four lawyers, representing clients from distant parts of the U.S.A. and Europe in front of the trial judge at one time. Most of this was due to the fact that the family had lived such a private life that little was known about the family, causing a great deal of investigation and research.

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1882 Tax Roll - Doyle Township
1883 Tax Roll - Doyle Township

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1900 Federal Census
1910 Federal Census

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located one half mile south of Florence, Kansas on a 2.6 acre tract. The property begins at a point 1180 feet south of where the south edge of the corporate limits of Florence City intersect with Center Main Street. The boundaries proceed 395 feet west, 290 feet south, 395 feet east, and then 290 feet north to the beginning. The property is bounded to the east by a gravel road, and the north, west and south by Doyle Creek.

Boundary Justification

The 2.6 acre tract contains the land historically associated with the home. In addition to the house, other features include the retaining stone wall along the road, which is a contributing structure, and the seed house and barn at the west edge of the property, which are non-contributing resources.