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 JOHN R. WRIGHT HOUSE

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 322 W. MARLIN STREET ☐ not for publication

city or town MCPHERSON ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county MCPHERSON code 113 zip code 67460

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property XX meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide XX locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz, DSHPO 2-14-01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

JOHN R. WRIGHT HOUSE
Name of Property

MCPHERSON 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	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
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; RESIDENCE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING; RESIDENCE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: QUEEN ANNE;
QUEEN ANNE REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: LIMESTONE
walls WOOD: WEATHERBOARD; SHINGLE
roof WOOD: SHINGLE; METAL: TIN
other

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

JOHN R. WRIGHT HOUSE
Name of Property

MCPHERSON COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

☒ 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)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1887 - 1920

Significant Dates
1887

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

JOHN R. WRIGHT

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
ARCHITECT: UNKNOWN
BUILDER: F.A. SRACKENGAST

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:

JOHN R. WRIGHT HOUSE
Name of Property

MCPHERSON COUNTY, KANSAS
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	616160	4247560
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 RICHARD A. SELACK

organization _____ date _____

street & number 322 W. MARLIN telephone _____

city or town MCPHERSON state KS zip code 67460

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 RICHARD A. SELACK

street & number 322 W. MARLIN telephone _____

city or town MCPHERSON state KS zip code 67460

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.

John R. Wright House
McPherson County Kansas

Description

The John R. Wright House is located at 322 West Marlin Street in McPherson, McPherson County, Kansas (pop. 13,770).

The two-story, plus attic, frame Queen Anne Revival house stands on a rusticated limestone block foundation and is surmounted with a gabled roof. The house has a southern facade orientation. Its overall measurements are 33 feet from east to west and 52 feet from north to south. The property maintains original architectural and structural integrity.

The house stands at the northeast corner of West Marlin and North Chestnut Streets, across the street to the north from McPherson's Memorial Park, a park which was established when the town was founded in 1872. Directly to the east of the park is the McPherson County Courthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property is currently situated on 4-1/2 fifty-foot lots fronting North Chestnut Street.

A 1921 contributing , one story frame garage stands northeast of the house. A driveway enters the property from North Chestnut Street.

The main body of the house is sheathed with wooden clapboards. Corner posts articulate the building's angles. The building's gable faces are decorated with fish scale shingles. Roof rafters possess reeding on their face with circle rosettes at their rounded ends. Facade fenestration is composed of double hung windows with several fixed windows of clear and colored glass to include arched windows at the front attic level. A five-sided turret projects from the west end of the front gable. There are three porches: a front porch which wraps around the east and west sides; a porch on the northwest which opens to the dining room; and a porch on the northeast which opens to the kitchen. The porch balusters are made of horizontal and vertical pieces with half-moons over round knobs. The roof of the main body of the house is composed of cedar shingles. The porch roofs are tin.

John R. Wright House
McPherson County, Kansas

Description (continued)

The exterior of the house possesses all original detail. The porch balusters have been replicated over the last ten years because of deterioration from rot. Pieces of the original balusters were used as a basis for the work. The northeast porch at the back of the house was reconstructed ten years ago using photographs of the original porch as a basis. Only design alteration of the original porch is the addition of glass panels for weather-proofing.

The interior of the house maintains its original floor plan and architectural features. There are eight-foot double entrance doors opening to a vestibule. A glassed pocket door separates the vestibule from the entrance hall. Additionally, the ground floor contains three large parlors, a dining room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. The house has had virtually no alterations, with the exception of the kitchen which has been modernized. Woodwork in the entrance hall, the front staircase, and the front parlor is solid walnut. Woodwork in the east parlor is cherry. Woodwork in the west parlor is gum. Woodwork in the dining room is oak. Woodwork in the kitchen is natural pine and includes original wainscoting. There are two Eastlake-style fireplace mantles. The fireplace in the west parlor contains original glazed art tile. There are pocket doors throughout the ground floor. The ceilings are 10 feet high. There is a back staircase. The second floor contains five bedrooms and a bathroom. The woodwork is natural pine and there are transoms above the doors. Ceilings on the second floor are eight and nine feet. A maid's room was converted to a bathroom sometime after the turn of the 20th century and the original tub and marble lavatory remain. The paneled doors, the pocket doors, the transomed doorways, the fluted door and window trim, the heavy baseboards, the fireplace mantles, the brass and porcelain hardware, and iron heat registers combine for an exceptional late-nineteenth century appearance.

John R. Wright House
McPherson County, Kansas

Statement of Significance

The John R. Wright House (c. 1887) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria B and C for its historical association with John R. Wright and for its architectural significance as a Queen Anne Revival residence. The property maintains original architectural and structural integrity. The house portrays the prosperity of an early businessman in a small but developing Kansas town.

John R. Wright (1841-1926) was born in New Jersey, but was reared and educated in Cincinnati, Ohio. He served in the Civil War and lost his left arm in the battle of Fayetteville, West Virginia on September 10, 1862. Mr. Wright graduated from Nelson's Commercial College of Cincinnati in 1863. In 1871, he and his wife homesteaded in McPherson County, Kansas where he engaged in raising wheat and livestock. He was elected County Clerk in 1873, and held that office for six years. During President Garfield's administration, he was appointed Postmaster of the McPherson City Post Office. He held that position during 1880-1885. It was during that time that Mr. Wright became involved in the real estate business. Mr. Wright became a partner in a firm which engaged in the sale of real estate, insurance, loans and the practice of law. Mr. Wright was also a director of the McPherson Bank, reported in the 1901 McPherson Republican New Century Pictorial Edition to be "the oldest and one of the largest banks in Central Kansas." As a director, Mr. Wright was stated to be "one of the pioneers of this section and besides being a capitalist is the owner of much valuable farm and city realty."

Mr. Wright purchased Lots 7, 8 and 9, Block 57, Original Town Site, McPherson, for $1,200.00 on April 5, 1884. The property was mortgaged for $500.00 on April 12, 1884. An article in a local newspaper in August 1887 states, "The frame work of John R. Wright's $12,000 residence bobbs [sic] up serenely above the city park." The $500 mortgage was released on November 4, 1887, and a new mortgage for $2,000 was taken on November 5, 1887.

Tax valuations for Lots, 7, 8, and 9 totaled $264 in 1883; $280 in 1884; $280 in 1885; $180 in 1886; $480 in 1887; $1,490 in 1888; $1,440 in 1889; and $1,480 in 1890.

John R. Wright House
McPherson County, Kansas

Statement of Significance (continued)

Mr. Wright suffered a stroke of paralysis on August 17, 1913, and retired from business at that time. He left McPherson in 1918 to live with sons in California, where he died on March 19, 1926. The newspaper reporting of his death states, "The early history of McPherson upon which was builded the foundation of the present splendid city, owes much of its success to Mr. Wright, who for many years was considered one of the outstanding factors in the community's political and civic life. This activity he kept up until his health became such as to make impossible efforts of this kind."

On August 12, 1920, the house was sold to Sophia and Andrew B. Anderson for $6,000.00. Mrs. Anderson, soon widowed, rented rooms in the house to sustain a living until she was forced to move to a retirement home in 1956. On May 1, 1956, the house was sold to Mark R. and Jeannette B. Anson and Mark's mother, Jessie M. Anson. Jeff W. and Sara K. Foster purchased the house on November 26, 1986. The current owner, Richard A. Selack, purchased the house on August 29, 1997. Mr. Selack has expanded the property to include 93 more feet on the north.

The John R. Wright House is located at 322 West Marlin Street, directly across to the north from McPherson's Memorial Park. This park was established when the town was platted shortly after its founding in 1872. Just to the east of the park is the McPherson County Courthouse which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is a two-story, plus attic, frame house surmounted with a hip roof with cross gables in the Queen Anne Revival style. The facade is facing south. The house exhibits original architectural and structural detail. There is a five-sided turret with clear and colored glass windows projecting from the southwest roof line. Fish scale shingles decorate the gable faces. The rafters at the roof line include reeding with circles rosettes at their rounded ends. There are three porches: the front porch wraps around the east and west sides; a porch at the northwest corner opens to the dining room; and a porch at the northeast opens to the kitchen. The porch balusters are made of horizontal and vertical pieces with half moons over round knobs. The interior of the house possesses hardwood woodwork on the first floor, to include walnut, cherry, gum and oak.

John R. Wright House
McPherson County, Kansas

Bibliography

Abstract for Lots 7, 8, and 9, Block 57, Original Town Site, McPherson, McPherson County, Kansas.

Andreas, A.T., History of the State of Kansas. Volume I, page 817. Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883.

Sanborn Map Company, Inc. "The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps--Map of McPherson, Kansas." April 1914.

Sanborn Map Company, Inc. "The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps--Map of McPherson, Kansas." July 1927.

Tax Rolls, Town of McPherson, McPherson County, Kansas, 1883-1890.

The McPherson Daily Republican, August 27, 1887.

The McPherson Daily Republican, March 22, 1926. Death Notice of John R. Wright.

The McPherson Daily Republican, March 25, 1926. Obituary of John R. Wright.

The McPherson Republican New Century Pictorial Edition, March 1, 1901.

John R. Wright House
McPherson County, Kansas

Verbal Boundry Description

The nominated property is located on the west 97 feet of Lots 7 and 8, all of Lots 9 and 10, and south half of Lot 11, Block 57, Original Town Site, McPherson, McPherson County, Kansas. The property is bounded on the south by West Marlin Street, on the west by North Chestnut Street, on the north by adjacent property lines and on the east by adjacent property lines and an alley.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all extant property historically associated with the house.