Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SELECTE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Prescott, John H., House

AND/OR COMMON: 169-4900-318

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 211 West Prescott

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Salina

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 1, Keith Sebelius

STATE: Kansas 67401 CODE: 20 COUNTY: Saline CODE: 169

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mr. & Mrs. James Foley

STREET & NUMBER: 211 West Prescott

CITY, TOWN: Salina

__ VICINITY OF

STATE: Kansas 67401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER: Saline County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Salina

STATE: Kansas 67401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic Sites Survey

DATE: 1971

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John H. Prescott house in Salina is a combination of the Italian Villa style with a Second Empire tower. It is located at the south end of Eighth street, and because of its red color, high tower and distinctive appearance it is visible many blocks away to those traveling south on Eighth street. The house is located on large spacious grounds in a residential neighborhood; however, the other houses are of a later era and are located on more restricted lots.

The house, which is constructed of wood, is an arrangement of well defined rectilinear blocks that have been asymmetrically grouped. The exterior of the house is painted red and trimmed with white, though originally the entire house was painted red. The house has stone foundations and is two stories high with an attic, a basement and a tower that rises two additional stories.

The main facade, which faces north, is dominated by the tower that is slightly off-center and serves as a focal point for the entrance. The main entranceway, which is painted white, is a double door with a transom surmounted by a pediment supported on ancones. The pediment is repeated above all apertures. There is also a double screen door. A set of five steps leads up to the veranda which extends from the door and wraps around the west side of the building. The veranda has three columns running across the front, a decorative balustrade, an entablature with dentils and a cornice that is supported by brackets. Above the cornice is an open balustrade with piers above every column. There is a double doorway on the second floor above the main entrance leading out to a balcony on top of the veranda. A pedimented window has been placed next to the doors on both stories. Like all the windows except the ones in the third story of the tower they have working shutters. The next face which is set back from the plane of the main door contains a single door. A set of five steps facing west leads up to this door. A wing projects slightly forward to the east of the veranda on the main facade. This wing is crowned with a gable with an arched dormer window. Coupled windows on either story have been centered on this face. A balustraded balcony projects from beneath the second story window.

The cornice is supported by coupled consoles which extend below the frieze and also by intermediary brackets. The frieze is decorated with rectangular moldings.

The tower, which rises three stories, has a high mansard roof with dormer windows on every face and is decorated with a wrought iron railing on the top.

The eastern facade is also asymmetrical. It is dominated by a slightly protruding wing with a bay window. There is another veranda with an entrance to the south of this bay. The wall to the north of the bay has two windows on either story.

The western facade is also dominated by a bay window. This bay abuts with the veranda which wraps around from the main facade. To the south of the bay is a wall with two windows on either story.

The southern part of the building is a later addition that seems to have been added as a servants quarters and kitchen. (The exact date is unknown.) It attempts to copy the details on the original building but the difference is discernible. The interiors of this wing have been finished very plainly. This wing has a veranda on the west side that is flush with the facade of the main building. This veranda extends from the building to the south where there is a set of stairs. The southern facade has one window on the first story and two windows on the second. There is another entrance with a stoop on the eastern facade of the addition.

The roof, which is hipped, has been covered with light colored asphalt shingles. There is a wrought iron railing around a widow's walk on the top of the roof. There are also two brick chimneys.

The mansion had fourteen rooms before the addition on the south. Carved woodwork and brass and porcelain hardware were custom made for each room.

The grounds no longer contain the front lawn fountain, the fish pond, grape arbor and gazebo. A carriage house still remains to the southwest of the main building. There is a circular walk leading to the front entrance and off that is a walk which parellels the west side of the house. Paving stones have been laid to the east of the building to form a patio and a small stone wall has been constructed. A drive leads to the carriage house from the north, swings around the south end of the house and goes to the street to the east.

There have been certain modernizations made to the house, especially in the kitchen. The plumbing and wiring have been brought up to standard. Lattice work has been added by the present owner to some of the windows.

Basically the exterior appearance of the house is little changed from the time when Judge Prescott lived there.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1884 for a leading Salina citizen, the John H. Prescott house is one of the landmark buildings in Salina.

A native of Pittsfield, N. H., John H. Prescott had come to Kansas in 1865 after serving three years in the Union army and rising in rank from private to captain. He had been studying to be a lawyer when the war began. In Kansas, he first spent several months in Junction City, where he continued his law studies. Then in January, 1866, he moved to Salina, where he resided the rest of his life. Almost immediately he was elected Saline county attorney, serving three years. In 1869 he was elected to the state senate from the Salina district and served four years. In 1872 a new judicial district was created which included Saline county. He was appointed as the first judge and was subsequently elected and re-elected for three full terms, serving a total of 13 years until he retired in 1885 because of poor health.

Prescott's large house was built toward the end of his political career. A local newspaper reported on May 1, 1884, that Judge Prescott planned to begin building his new residence within two or three weeks. The contract for the house was awarded to the local firm of Valin and Johnson for $7,370.75. On Aug. 21, 1884, the paper reported that the frame was up and enclosed with sheeting, and carpenters were working on the roof.

The following item appeared in the Saline County Journal of Dec. 4,1884:

> "Judge Prescott is just completing the most expensive residence in the city--valued at $10,000. It is charmingly situated at the head of Eighth street, and is a conspicuous object for many blocks away. The house is warmed by steam and furnished with all the conveniences of a perfect home....The Judge will soon be prepared to take 'mine ease in mine inn' with a great deal of complacency, after so many years of hard, active, public service."

After retirement from the bench, Prescott devoted his time to farming, stock raising and varied business interests. At the time of his death (July 5, 1891) he owned 1300 acres of Saline county farm land and a large amount of property in Salina. He had developed the Prescott Addition to the city of Salina, in which his large house was built

In addition to his contributions through elected political office, John Prescott was an active and generous worker for the growth of Salina. He was instrumental in helping the city to secure the location and estab-

lishment of Kansas Wesleyan University and St. John's Military School. He served on the board of the latter for many years.

After Judge Prescott's death, the house remained in the family for almost 50 years before it was sold. During World War II it was a boarding house. In 1957 the house was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. James Foley, who have restored much of the historical character to the house and plan further restoration work.

The John H. Prescott house was the home of one of Salina's most prominent nineteenth century public figures, and it is one of the city's few surviving landmark homes. It is an excellent example of late Victorian domestic architecture in Kansas. It expresses the opulence and exuberance of the boom days of Salina through a varied use of architectural motifs. It has retained its character, and as a Salina landmark, the Prescott house is worthy of National Register listing.

"Judge Prescott," Salina Daily Republican, July 7, 1891.

Official Atlas of Kansas (Philadelphia, L. H. Everts and Co., 1887), opp. p. 246.

Saline County Journal (Salina), July 5, 1877; May 1, July 3, Aug. 21, Dec. 4, 1884.

Salina Journal, June 25, 1891.

The United States Biographical Dictionary, Kansas Volume (Chicago, S. Lewis and Co., Pub., 1879) , pp. 428-430.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atherton, H.M., Glimpses of Salina, Kansas (Salina, Kan., Padgett's Printing House, n.d.).

Bramwell, Ruby Phillips, City on the Move (Salina, Kan., Survey Press, 1969), p. 174.

Connelley, William E., A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans (New York, Lewis Publishing co., 1918), pp. 1570-1571.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Long. 97° 36' 40"
Lat. 38° 49' 48"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Cornelia E. Wyma- Architectural Historian
Richard Pankratz - Director Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society

DATE January 2, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th

TELEPHONE (913) 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka, Kansas

STATE Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____ STATE X LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Nyle H. Miller

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historic Society

DATE January 20, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

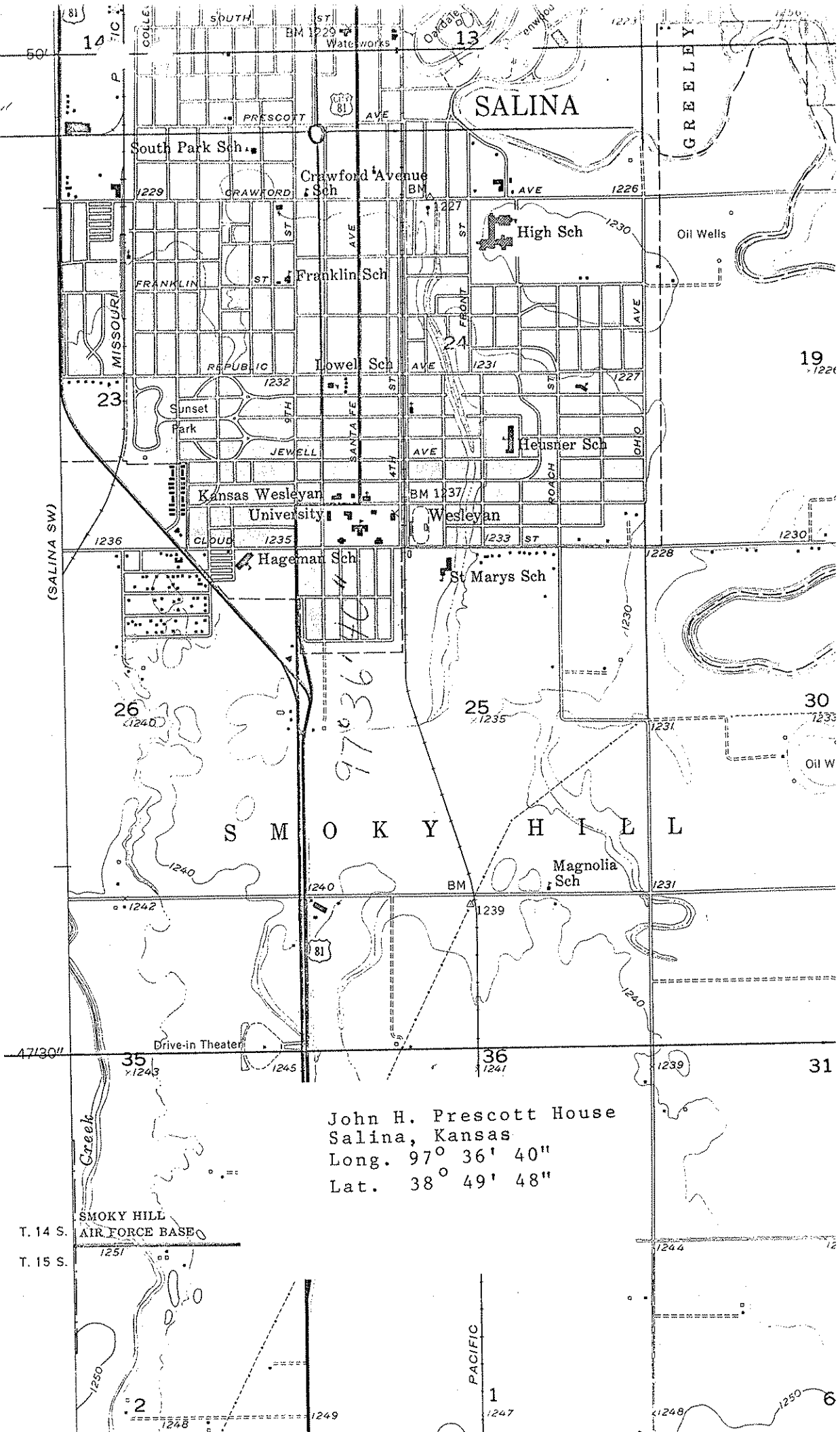
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER


SALINA
GREELEY
PRESCOTT AVE
South Park Sch
Crawford Avenue Sch
CRAWFORD
High Sch
Oil Wells
FRANKLIN ST
Franklin Sch
MISSOURI
REPUBLIC
Lowell Sch
Sunset Park
JEWELL
Heusner Sch
Kansas Wesleyan University
Wesleyan
CLOUD
Hageman Sch
St Marys Sch
(SALINA SW)
SMOKY HILL
Magnolia Sch
Drive-in Theater
John H. Prescott House
Salina, Kansas
Long. 97° 36' 40"
Lat. 38° 49' 48"
SMOKY HILL AIR FORCE BASE
T. 14 S.
T. 15 S.
PACIFIC
Creek