NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

JUN 19 2009

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 Elizabeth McLean Residence

Other name/site number 173-11406

2. Location

Street & number 2359 N. McLean Boulevard ☐ not for publication

City or town Wichita ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Sedgwick Code 173 Zip code 67204

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.)

Patrick Zollner DSHPO 5-7-09

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:)

Elizabeth McLean Residence
Name of Property

Sedgwick 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		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2		total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Residential Resources of Wichita 1870-1957

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)

Modern Movement: Ranch

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete
Walls: Stone: Etowah Pink Marble
Wood
Roof: White Cloud marble gravel
Other:

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

Elizabeth McLean Residence
Name of Property

Sedgwick 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

- ☐ **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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1956

Significant Dates

1956

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Glenn E. Benedick(1915-2001), Architect

E.R. Parsons, Jr. (1890-1967), builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office

Elizabeth McLean Residence
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.33 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	642435	4176380
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 Kathy L. Morgan, Senior Planner

Organization City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office Date

Street & number 455 N. Main, 10th Floor Telephone 316-268-4392

City or town Wichita State Kansas Zip code 67202-1688

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 Julianne McLean

Street & number 2359 N. McLean Blvd Telephone 316-838-6739 unlisted

City or town Wichita State Kansas Zip code 67204

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

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The McLean Residence is located in the Benjamin Hills Estates, which is 138 acres of the 464-acre farm purchased by Benjamin F. McLean in 1908. Benjamin's daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Anna McLean, commissioned the house to be designed by Wichita architect Glenn E. Benedick (1915-2001) and was built by general contractor E. Robert Parsons, Jr. (1919-1991). Elizabeth worked closely with architect Glenn Benedick to add her personal touches to the final design of the home including the landscaping and the fleur-de-lis pattern used in the balcony railing and the sunken garden.

Elaboration

The exterior of the house is rock-faced Etowah pink marble quarried from the Georgia Marble Company quarry in Tate, Georgia, and sits atop a poured concrete slab foundation. The marble is laid in a random pattern with raked mortar joints. According to information provided by Elizabeth's daughter Julianne, their home was the third house built at the time using the Tate, Georgia marble in the United States; the other two houses were in Carmel, California and Grosse Point, Michigan. The house has a geometric configuration created by joining three rectangular elements. A fourth rectangular element was added in 1981 with the suite addition off the north wall of the garage. The addition is front gabled with an asphalt roof and painted diagonal wood siding. With the exception of the 1981 addition, the house remains in its original condition both interior and exterior.

The main entrance to the house is on the south elevation. The split-level ranch house is built into the rolling terrain. The house is actually four levels with 2 X 8 sill plates used to create different floor levels on the interior.

The east end of the structure has two stories. The first floor contains the family/recreation room and opens out to a sunken landscaped garden with a fleur-de-lis designed area with wading pools. The second floor contains the master bedroom suite and second bedroom suite, which open out onto the balcony. The one-story center bay contains the main entrance and the horizontal kitchen windows. This bay is recessed under the roof overhang providing a covered porch area. The west bay contains the two-car garage with a single garage door. The roofs are low-pitched hipped gable with wide eave overhangs. The roof is covered with White Cloud marble gravel providing heat reflection in the summer and thermal absorption in the colder months. A broad chimney, containing two flues, is located between the family room and living room and is built with White Cloud marble procured from the Georgia Marble Company quarry.

The windows are large fixed picture windows with smaller casement windows flanking the fixed window. Depending on the location, the picture window is flanked on both sides with a casement or a casement and door opening.

South Façade - The main façade has three changes in wall plane and transitions from one story on the west end into two stories on the east end. The architect's specification indicates two overhead garage doors, but the owner changed it to a single overhead door. The original wood panel garage door has an

applied curvilinear design in each panel. The eave line remains in the same plane to where the one- and two-story sections join. The wall is recessed to create a covered porch area for the entrance into the house. The entrance has a wide wood door with three square lights centered vertically and a wide stained glass side light. The stained glass sidelight is a replica of the stained glass lights in the basement designed by Elizabeth. Elizabeth's daughter, Julianne commissioned Beardon's Stained Glass in Wichita to make the front door sidelight after Elizabeth's death.

The second floor has a covered balcony accessed through doors located in the master bedroom and one in the second bedroom that are symmetrically placed with a single casement window and picture window inside the door. A single square window to the west of the door allows light into the bathroom and dressing room in the second bedroom. The wall at the west end of the balcony has a square-pierced opening with wrought iron bars like the balcony railing. The balcony railing is black wrought iron with a fleur-de-lis in the center of each section of the railing. The design is the same as the landscape design in the sunken garden. The fleur-de-lis wrought iron designs are all in good condition. The fleur-de-lis garden design remains recognizable, but the plantings and water features have not been maintained. The landscape design and use of the fleur-de-lis was collaboration between Elizabeth and architect Glenn Benedick.

The first floor has a small square window that provides light into the downstairs half-bath. A row of five windows is set between the two doors that open out to the sunken garden. Three narrow casement windows are separated by wider fixed windows.

West Façade - The west elevation contains the wall of the attached garage and the diagonal wood-sided 1981 addition. There are no windows in the garage wall. There are two fixed windows similar in size of the original casement windows.

North Façade - The north elevation contains the two-story wall of the split-level wing, the north wall of the living room, guest/studio room, kitchen wall and front gable end of the addition. The second floor of the split-level wing has two paired square casement windows that allow light into the bathroom and dressing room of the master bedroom.

East Façade - The east elevation contains the second story balcony, ground floor covered porch, marble two-story end wall, the narrow side of White Cloud marble chimney and the one-story wall of the living room. The window section of the living room is recessed five-and-one-half feet. The wall of windows has five sections configured in a narrow, wide, narrow, wide, narrow pattern. The narrow windows are casement and the larger windows are fixed.

Interior - The interior has the original finishes. The dining room, living room, guest/studio, upstairs bedrooms and hall have hardwood floors. The family/recreation room has asbestos tile floor and the kitchen has a glazed tile floor (not original). The front door opens into an entry hall with a polished Etowah pink marble 12-inch floor tile. To the right, split-level stairs lead up to the bedrooms or down to the family/recreation room. To the left is the galley kitchen with a breakfast area and a door that opens into the attached two-car garage.

The stairwell is cherry wood paneling leading up to the bedrooms and White Cloud marble going down to the family room. The cherry wood paneling is continued on the walls of the family room. The floor tile is dark pink and turquoise and has a "U" design, with turquoise tile on the perimeter; pink inside and a turquoise "U" in the center. The White Cloud marble wall has Etowah pink marble floating shelves on to the west of the fireplace. Another feature in the family room is four stained glass ceiling lighting fixtures. Elizabeth designed the fixtures after a water leak damaged the ceiling allowing for access to the plumbing. The family room has a bathroom with shower in the southwest corner and utility access on the west wall. The downstairs bathroom has the original turquoise and pink tile.

Both of the bedrooms are suites with full bathrooms and dressing rooms. The bathrooms have original colored tile and fixtures. The master bedroom has three cedar-lined closets and the second bedroom suite has one cedar-lined closet. The second bedroom has salmon pink tile with beige accent tiles. The master bath has light blue tile with salmon pink bathtub, sink and toilet. A long cedar-lined walk-in closet is situated along the backside of the broad chimney. A marble cross was laid into the chimney wall.

The entry hall extends north providing access to the dining room, living room and guest/studio. A butler's door opens into the dining room off the breakfast room to provide access from the kitchen. The living room and guest/studio are lower than the dining room and kitchen. A low partition shelf divider separates the living room from the hallway with two steps leading down to the living room floor. The hallway steps down into the guest/living room. Closet/storage spaces are located on the east and west wall of the short hallway. A solid door can be closed to provide privacy for the guest/studio room.

The White Cloud marble fireplace is at the south end of the living room. The hearth, mantle and the wall between the hearth and mantle on the east side of the fireplace are polished Etowah pink marble. In the northeast corner of the living room a dais was designed for the grand piano stage. Off the living room to the west and sharing the north wall of the dining room is the guest/studio room. This room can be closed off from the living room by a pair of sliding mirrored doors. The studio has its own bathroom with shower with peach colored wall tile.

The 1981 addition, built on the north side of the garage, was connected by an existing person door. The addition does not share a wall with the dining room. The door opens into a short hallway that accesses a large room now used for storage. A closet and full bathroom share the garage wall. The exterior marble wall can be seen in the bathroom. The addition has its own utility room with a washer and dryer and a cedar-lined closet.

Landscape – Contributing Site, 1956
The designed sunken garden immediately south and in front of the residence is historic and contributes to the significance of the property. The fleur-de-lis pattern used in the balcony railing of the home is mimicked in the sunken garden. The fleur-de-lis figure is outlined with plantings, stones, and two sunken concrete water features.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elizabeth McLean Residence is being nominated under **Criterion C** in the area of Architecture because it is an excellent example of the Split-Level Ranch style that was popular in the United States from 1955 through 1975. The house also represents the work of prominent Kansas architect, Glenn E. Benedick (1915-2001) and contractor E. Robert Parsons, Jr. (1890-1967). The McLean Residence is eligible for listing under the Residential Resources of Wichita 1870-1957 MPS.

The Ranch House, also known as the California Ranch House, has its roots in the Spanish Colonial architecture popularized in this country by Bertram Goodhue (1869-1924). The two architects most credited with incorporating modern architecture and Spanish Colonial ranch homes were Cliff May (1908-1989) of San Diego and William Wurster (1895-1973) of San Francisco. Cliff May, a self-taught architect and developer, designed and sold his first Ranch House in San Diego in 1931 during the height of the depression for $9,5001. *Sunset Magazine* was the main promoter of the Ranch House and Cliff May was the collaborative author for the editorial staff. This is possibly why May is given more credit for designing the Ranch House and its popularization, although William Wurster designed the Gregory Farmhouse (1928) that is touted as the first Ranch House by most scholars.

The Ranch House is distinguished by its livability, flexibility and unpretentious character. The key elements of a Ranch House are single story; long, low roofline with large overhanging eaves; asymmetrical rectangular, L-shaped, or U-shaped design; open, simple floor plans; large windows often decorated with shutters; vaulted ceilings with exposed beams; sliding glass doors that open out to a rear patio; exterior cladding may be brick, wood or stucco; cross-gabled, side-gabled and hipped roofs; attached garage; and simple or rustic interior and exterior trim. Ranch Houses do not have a raised foundation and the house appears to sit on the ground. They may or may not have basements. Split-Level houses retain the horizontal lines, low-pitched roof, and overhanging eaves of the Ranch house, but added a two-story unit intercepted at mid-height by a one-story wing.[1]

The Ranch House was popular in Wichita from the late 1930s through most of the 1960s, particularly the decade after the end of World War II. Between January 1937 and December 1960, 773 additions were platted.[2] Numerous subdivisions, including Forest Hills (1937), Indian Hills (1951), The Village (1952), Benjamin Hills (1953), Woodlawn Village (1956) and The Vickerage (1957), were developed with Ranch-style houses.

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[1] Giovanni, Joseph. "The Man Behind the Ranch House". *New York Times.* July 3, 1986. http://query.nytimes.com accessed 4/27/2007.

[2] Extrapolated from City of Wichita GIS listing of platted additions.

OWNER

Elizabeth Anna Mabry McLean[3] was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on November 17, 1897. Elizabeth's family relocated to Hutchinson around 1903.[4] At the age of 13, she took a full time job to support herself after her mother died. Elizabeth moved to Wichita early in 1919 and took a job as a cashier for Hudson Sales Company, an automobile dealership.[5] Through business dealings at the Fourth National Bank, Elizabeth met Benjamin F. McLean, president of the bank. Ben introduced his son Drew to Elizabeth and they were married October 21, 1919. They lived in New York during the "Roaring Twenties". Elizabeth became an accomplished artist attending the National Academy of Design in New York City. Elizabeth and Drew returned to Wichita in 1929 in anticipation of Ben's retirement from the Fourth National Bank. They had two young children, Benjamin F. McLean II born on January 20, 1921 and Julianne Drew McLean born September 12, 1928. Drew assumed a position as vice-president of the bank and before his father retired, Ben F. McLean died unexpectedly on October 13, 1930. Drew succeeded his father as the president of the Fourth National Bank. In addition to serving as Mayor of Wichita for three terms and his involvement in Wichita business matters, Ben had purchased 464 acres of farmland northwest of the city along the Arkansas River. Upon his death, Elizabeth and Drew inherited 138 acres of the farm and the remaining acreage remained in the ownership of his wife Julia. In 1953, the city incorporated the acreage of the farm into the city limit, which increased the property taxes significantly. Elizabeth was the executor of the 138 acres and decided to plat the area and sell lots for development in order to pay the taxes on the property. Elizabeth platted the property as Benjamin Hills Estates, named after her son who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in Henri-Chapelle, Belgium on January 7, 1945 during World War II.

Warren J. Oblinger (1924-) was a city planning department employee and worked with Elizabeth to lay out the lots and the streets. Not all of the area was served by city sewer, so some lots were platted as one acre to comply with zoning regulations for septic systems and the others as half-acre lots. Oblinger assisted with the street layout to take full advantage of the natural landscape resulting in the winding streets in Benjamin Hills. Elizabeth had restrictions placed on the development that required the native trees remain and all of the houses built in the development had to be reviewed by a committee composed of an architect, builder and layman. Oblinger left the planning department and eventually built a home in Benjamin Hills. Glenn, Warren and Lawrence Wolfmeyer served on the original architectural design committee. George Hartenberger, owner of Davidson Lumber, later served with Benedick and Oblinger.[6] Elizabeth named the streets for birds and flowers common to the area with the exception of Benjamin Street and McLean Boulevard, which the City named. The Architectural Review Committee remains in existence to protect the landscape and built environment consistent with the original platting document.

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[3] Elizabeth was known as Anna. She signed the platting documents for Benjamin Hills Estates as Mrs. Anna McLean. After 1952 she is listed in the City directory as Mrs. Elizabeth McLean.
[4] http://plaza.wichita.edu/heriones/Herione/biodisplay.asp, accessed March 18, 2008.
[5] 1919 Wichita City Directory, pg 328.
[6] Telephone interview with Warren Oblinger, June 3, 2008.

After Julia McLean's death, Elizabeth was appointed executrix of her estate. In 1956, Benjamin Hills Estates Second Addition was platted. Land was donated to the school board for the construction of McLean Elementary School to serve the growing population in the northwest quadrant of the city. Churches and a shopping center were also part of the Second Addition development plans. Elizabeth spent the next 30 years promoting the sale of the lots. Angela Addario, Elizabeth's granddaughter, recalls her grandmother telling her that she only had two lots left to sell in the early 1980s. Both Julianne and Angela remember Elizabeth giving a contractor back his money for several lots when his plan was revealed he was going to excavate the rolling hills to make flat lots on which to build.[7] After that, the contractor was not allowed to purchase lots in Benjamin Hills Estates. Elizabeth commissioned Glenn Benedick (1915-2001) to design her new home. Elizabeth was very hands-on in the design of the house and had the raised platform in the living room for her daughter's grand piano incorporated into the plan. Julianne was a concert pianist traveling the country at the time the house was built. Julianne recounts the reason for the sunken garden was that her mother had given someone permission to get fill dirt from the property before Elizabeth platted the land. The garden is where the dirt was taken from. The fleur-de-lis motif is in remembrance of Benjamin's death in the Battle of the Bulge.

Originally the house was designed with exterior brick cladding. Elizabeth had originally chosen a pink roman brick for the exterior walls. She went to Olive Quiring, Quiring Monument and Stone Company, to purchase the white marble for the fireplace. Olive struck a deal with Elizabeth to use marble from the Tate, Georgia quarry for the entire house. A new guillotine process had been developed[8] to cut the larger blocks of granite into building stone and Olive was interested in promoting the new product. She sold Elizabeth the marble for what brick would have cost. Julianne remembers that a man was sent from the Tate, Georgia Marble Company to oversee the masonry work. This person had also been involved with the construction of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., which also used Tate, Georgia marble. A portion of the fireplace had to be torn out and rebuilt because it didn't meet his craftsmanship standards. After the house was completed in 1956, it was a regular event for people to drive by and look at the pink marble house. At the time, only two other houses in the country had marble exteriors from the Tate, Georgia quarry; one in Carmel, California and the other in Grosse Point, Michigan. The same Etowah pink marble was used in the 1957 remodel of the Fourth National Bank building, located at the northeast corner of Douglas and Market in downtown Wichita.

In 1959 Elizabeth battled the Kansas Legislature to protect the developing subdivision. The Kansas State Legislature had designated the construction of Interstate 235 to go through the new subdivision. Armed with aerial photographs and rational argument, Elizabeth met with the governor and demonstrated that the state could save money by building along the riverbed removing right-of-way acquisition requiring demolition of homes. The engineers reconfigured the plans and the subdivision was spared. Elizabeth's 100th birthday was celebrated at the Wichita Art Museum and featured an exhibit of her original paintings

[7] Personal interview with Angela Addario and Julianne Drew McLean, May 30, 2008.
[8] http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiamarble/ accessed March 25, 2008.

from the 1920s. Elizabeth loved to travel and most of the time her companion was Onus Thomas, widow of Wichita Architect Glenn Thomas. After Onus died, Julianne and Angela became her traveling companions. They visited the Far East, Near East and Africa. During the last months of her life, Elizabeth lived in the downstairs family room. Elizabeth died at home on May 29, 2000 at the age of 102. Julianne McLean inherited the property from her mother and lives in the house. In October 2000, Julianne donated 49 architectural drawings of houses built in Benjamin Hills Estates to Wichita University Libraries Special Collections.

ARCHITECT

Glenn E. Benedick (1915-2001) was born in Plainview, Kansas September 19, 1915. He completed public school in Manhattan, Kansas and went on to attend Kansas State University. He graduated in 1938 with a degree in architecture and architectural engineering. The country was still trying to recover from the Depression so Glenn worked contract jobs for other architects and didn't stay in one place very long. He worked for architects in Topeka, Wichita and Salina. In 1941, William N. Caton (1895-1993) hired him as a draftsman. He had been with Caton for about six months when Tom Williamson, an architect in Topeka contacted him about a Corps of Engineer job in Utah. He met and married Betty Bevan in Utah in 1942. Glenn continued his association with Williamson and from Salt Lake went to Madison, Wisconsin as the field superintendent to build a radar school. He came to Salina and was involved with the construction of Camp Phillips. He also worked as a draftsman for Buckminster Fuller on the Dymaxion House for a brief period.

In 1949 he moved back to Wichita with his family and started his architecture firm. In 1952 Glenn hired John W. Hines as a draftsman and promoted him to Chief Designer in 1953. The firm became Benedick and Hines in 1954. Hines left the firm in 1959. Once again the firm became Glenn E. Benedick Architect and carried the name of Glenn E. Benedick Architect until his death in 2001. His nephew, Richard Kraybill worked in the firm and he inherited the business when Glenn died. Richard Kraybill Architect remains in business and retains the Benedick blueprints. He designed houses, churches and schools in Wichita and the surrounding counties in addition to the work he did in Utah and Wisconsin.[9] He was active in the American Institute of Architects and served a tern as the state president. Glenn also was past president of the Wichita AIA Chapter and the Community Arts Council.

Glenn was one of the first people to purchase a lot in Benjamin Hills Estates. He purchased a lot in 1954 and designed the house that stands at 3021 Bluebird Drive. Glenn, Betty and their family lived in the house from 1955 to 1985. Glenn retired in 1984[10] and oversaw the construction of the Benedick's new patio home in 1985. In 1972, Glenn took a wood-carving course offered by the City Park Board and taught by Orie Jones, a retired North High School woodworking instructor. The hobby became his

[9] Wichita Historic Preservation Office maintains a list of Benedick drawings from 1948 through 1981.
[10] *Wichita Eagle*. December 25, 2001, pg 2B. 11 Building Permit Card File, City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office.

favorite pastime. His carvings included birds, a clown, a ballerina, a bust of his daughter and numerous religious motif sculptures. Glenn died on December 21, 2001 and is interred at Kensington Gardens Cemetery in Wichita, Kansas.

CONTRACTOR

E. Robert Parsons, Jr. (1919-1991) was born October 28, 1919 in Kansas. Robert was living in Wichita working as a flight instructor before he enlisted in the Army Air Corps on December 13, 1943. When he came back from the war, he worked for Boeing. In 1952, he got his general contractor's license with the City of Wichita and maintained it until 196011. He was listed in the 1961 city directory living at 2519 Benjamin Drive in Benjamin Hills Estates, but no occupation. He was first listed at that address in 1959. In March 1955 he had five building permits for single family houses at 2221 Cardinal Drive, 2339 N. Richmond, 2615 Benjamin Drive and 2541 Benjamin Drive among the many other houses he built in Benjamin Hills Estates. Parsons died August 4, 1991 and is buried in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

SUMMARY

The McLean Residence is an excellent interpretation of an architect-designed Split-Level Ranch House and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its architectural significance. The house is nominated as part of the Residential Resources of Wichita 1870-1957 MPS because it meets the criteria established in Section E as an identified house type documented in the growth of Wichita housing. The McLean family has contributed greatly to the growth and economic development of Wichita. No other residential structure remains extant that is associated with the family. Elizabeth's foresight in stipulating the conditions of construction in the platting document was unique among the platting documents filed in Wichita during the post World War II era.

The execution of the design fits into its surroundings using broad expanse of horizontal planes interrupted with recesses creating porches and window bands and clustering of rectangular forms beneath the wide overhanging eaves of the low pitched hipped roof. The random coursed rock-faced marble is a unique material application to a house type that typically is clad in brick and wood. Glenn E. Benedick did an exceptional job interpreting the Ranch House with a Prairie Style influence seen in the expanse of windows and the manner in which the house becomes part of the landscape.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blueprints courtesy of Richard Kraybill Architect.

Building Permits, Metropolitan Area Planning Dept., City Hall, City of Wichita.

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997).

"Edward N. Tihen Notes" and assorted articles from the *Wichita Beacon*, *Wichita Eagle*, 1930-1970. State University Libraries' Department of Special Collections.

Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1998).

Miner, H. Craig, *Wichita, The Magic City*. Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, Wichita. 1988.

Morgan, Kathy L. and Barbara R. Hammond. MPD Residential Resources 1870-1957: Wichita, Kansas. City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office, 2007.

Personal interviews with Julianne McLean, daughter of Elizabeth A. McLean and Angela Addario, granddaughter of Elizabeth A. McLean.

Telephone interviews with Betty Benedick, wife of Glenn E. Benedick. March 2008. Telephone interview with Warren J. Oblinger, Benjamin Hills Architectural Review Committee, June 3, 2008.

Wichita City Directories, 1910-1965

http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiamarble/ accessed March 25, 2008.

http://plaza.wichita.edu/heriones/Herione/biodisplay.asp, accessed March 18, 2008.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the west side of North McLean Boulevard in Benjamin Hills Estates. The legal description is Lot 1, Replat of Block K, Benjamin Hills Estates Addition.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

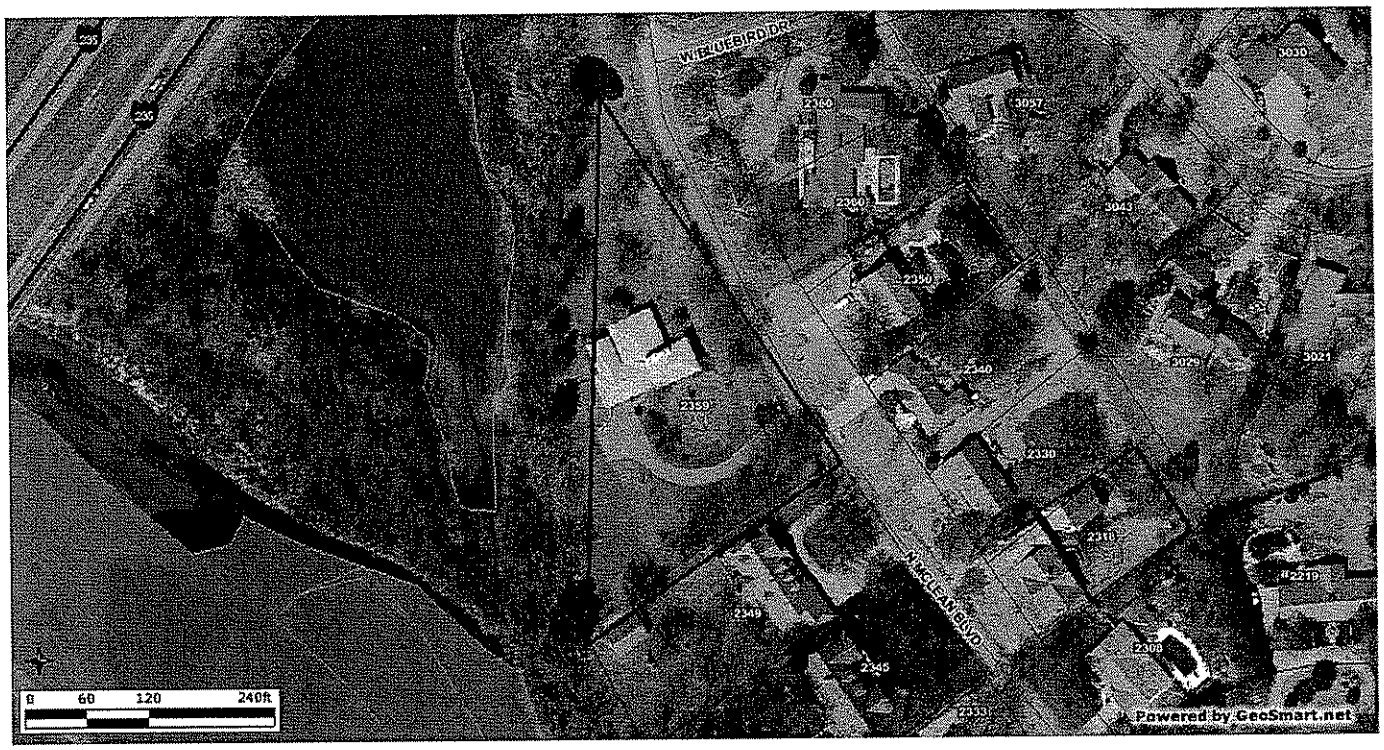
The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the McLean Residence.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: Elizabeth McLean Residence
Location: Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS
Photographer: Sarah Martin
Date: May 8, 2008

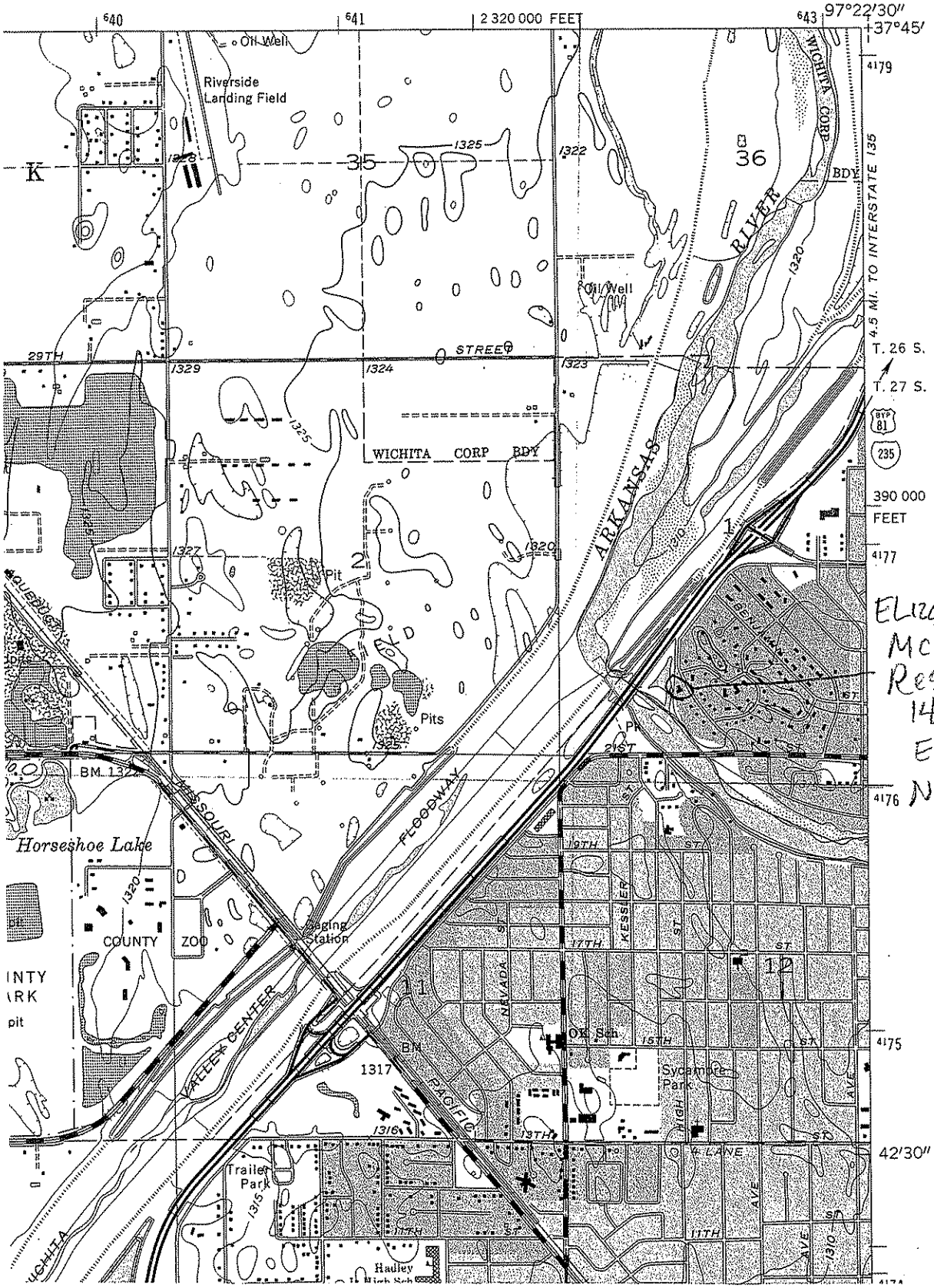
Photo 1: South (front) elevation and landscaped yard, facing NW
Photo 2: South (front) elevation showing attached garage, facing NE
Photo 3: East (side) elevation and north (rear) elevation, facing SW
Photo 4: East (side) elevation, facing E
Photo 5: Top floor exterior balcony showing fleur-de-lies pattern on railing and in garden, facing S
Photo 6: Interior, front door on south elevation, facing W
Photo 7: Interior, light fixture detail
Photo 8: Interior, main floor living room, facing SE
Photo 9: Interior, main entryway and adjacent staircase, facing E
Photo 10: Interior, main floor living room looking into office, facing N
Photo 11: Interior, top floor bedroom showing built in counter and drawers
Photo 12: Interior, bottom floor living room, facing W

Aerial Property Map



WICHITA WEST QUADRANGLE
KANSAS—SEDGWICK CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6559 IV SE
(VALLEY CENTER)



Elizabeth A
McLean
Residence
14S
E 642435
N 4176380