NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

APR 16 2008

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 Roberts House

Other name/site number 173-5880-0364

2. Location

Street & number 235 N Roosevelt ☐ not for publication

City or town Wichita ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Sedgwick Code 173 Zip code 67208

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 Zellner DSHPO 2/29/08

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:)

Name of Property Roberts House | County and State Sedgwick County, Kansas

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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	total

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

Previously listed in the National Register
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 19TH EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN Movements:

MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Roof: ASPHALT
Walls: STUCCO
Walls Brick with limestone trim

Foundation: BRICK

Chimney: BRICK

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

Name of Property Roberts House | County and State Sedgwick County, Kansas

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1909-1910

Significant Dates

1909-1910

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ulysses Grant Charles - architect

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

Name of Property Roberts House County and State Sedgwick County, Kansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1

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

Zone	Easting	Northing
14S	650500	4172550

☐ 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 and Barbara Hammond

Organization City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office Date July 22, 2005

Street & number 455 N Main, 10 th Floor Telephone 316-268-4421

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 Scott and Donna Goltry

street & number 235 N Roosevelt telephone 316-652-7669

city or town Wichita state Kansas zip code 67208

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

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman Style

Architectural Description Overview

The Roberts House is a two-and-one-half story frame structure clad in stucco with wood trim and wood shingle details on the shed dormer. The house was constructed circa 1909-1910.

The front and rear entrances are located in non-intersecting cross gables at the north end of the structure. The frame structure is clad in stucco with wood trim, and wood shingle siding on the two shed dormers. The foundation, porch piers and single chimney are painted brick. The roof is composite shingle with wide, beaded board, eaves supported by triangular knee braces at the corners of the house. A non-contributing one-and-one-half story garage is attached by a one-story connector that is situated beneath the projecting window bay that contains the main staircase.

East Elevation

The two-bay garage has two gabled dormers, with a small one-over-one sash window in each. The garage is clad in stucco on the east and south elevations to match the house and composite siding on the north and west elevations. Storm windows are covered with white vinyl. The single-story connector room has a four-light glass and panel door. The walkway up to the house terminates in a dogleg stair accessing the front porch. The porch is formed with low, solid brick walls on the east and north sides and steps on the south. Supporting the front of the second floor room are two brick piers. A segmented arch spans the opening and attaches to brick pier pilasters. A stylized pergola provides a cornice break between first and second floor. A triple ribbon window is centered in the second floor projecting gable end. The center window is nine-over-one sash flanked by craftsman six-over-one sash windows.

Paired casement windows and a triple ribbon window on the first floor have the same glazing pattern with 3 small square lights over 3 tall rectangular lights. A shingled pent eave projects over the triple ribbon window and wraps around to the south elevation and joins into the south porch roof. On the second floor, where the south eave of the front gable joins the cross roof eave, is a small square nine-light casement window. A single large square 12-over-1 sash window is situated above the pent eave. The upper sash is divided into 6 small square lights over 6 tall rectangular lights.

South Elevation

The shingled pent eave joins the roof eave of the one-story screened porch. The roof of the screened porch is flat and serves as a deck for the 2nd floor master bedroom. On the lower level of the south elevation, from west to east, there is a window bay with two casement windows with 3 small square lights over 3 tall rectangles in each. To the west of the window bay, the shallow "L"-shaped porch projects outward, continues along the south elevation and wraps over onto a small portion of the west elevation. The steps and

door to the porch are on the short east wall. The porch is supported by four square brick pillars, three across the south face and one on the northwest corner. Above the shingled pent eave of the porch roof is a wood railing that encloses the second -story deck, accessed by two upstairs bedrooms.

Inside the porch on the south elevation is a pair of French doors, 5 lights in each door. Flanking the doors is a pair of square windows with 6 lights, 3 squares over 3 tall rectangles each.

On the second -story to the east of where the deck rail connects to the house is an 8-over-1 sash window, the top sash having four square lights over four tall rectangle lights. Just inside the railing is a single door with 6 rectangular lights. To the west of the single door is a pair of French doors with 5 lights in each. On the third -story, centered under the gable peak, is a window bay with a pair of 8-over-1 sash windows, the 8 lights in the top sash being equal rectangles. The wide eaves of the roof are supported by two triangular knee braces near the outer corners and projecting forward from the south wall.

West Elevation

The west elevation has projecting features at both corners; the turn of the porch partially wrapping around the southwest corner, and a two-story section with a front facing gable, and a single door in an enclosed stoop/porch with pyramid roof. To the north of the porch, on the first story, is a window bay with two 8-over-1 sash windows, the top sash having four square lights over four tall rectangle lights. Placed at the corner formed by the projecting two-story section is a small 3-over-1 sash window. On the second floor, offset to the south over the two-window bay, is an 8-over-1-sash window with the top sash having four square lights over four tall rectangle lights. Near the corner formed by the projecting two-story section is a single 8-over-1 sash window. On the third floor, centered on the entire west elevation is a shed dormer with three evenly spaced 6-over-1 sash windows.

The short south wall of the projecting two-story section has one 8-over-1 sash window on the first floor and one 8-over-1 sash windows, the top sash having four square lights over four tall rectangle lights. On the first floor of the west elevation of the two-story section is a small 6-over-1 sash window to the south and a single door, with 9 lights in the upper half, in an enclosed stoop/porch covered by a pyramid-shaped roof. Centered on the front facing gable on the second floor is a single 8-over-1 sash window with the top sash having four square lights over four tall rectangle lights. The wide eaves of the front gable roof are supported by two triangular knee braces near the outer corners and projecting forward from the two-story west wall.

North Elevation

The north elevation has the attached garage projecting from it to the north. The garage is connected to the main house by a single story room/hall under a projecting window bay that is centered on the elevation on the second floor. On the first floor to the right/west of the garage are two windows. The first, west-most window is a single 8-over-1 sash window with the top sash having four square lights over four tall rectangle

lights. The second, smaller window just to the right/west of the garage is a single 6-over-1 sash window with the top sash having three square lights over three tall rectangle lights. The projecting window bay, at the intermediate level, has a single 1-over-1 sash window with stained glass patterned in a stylized tulip-like row of flowers. The bay has a shed shingled roof.

On the second story of the north elevation are two dissimilar windows that flank the projecting window bay. The window to the west is a single 8-over-1 sash window with the top sash having four square lights over four tall rectangle lights. The window to the east is a smaller single 6-over-1 sash window with the top sash having three square lights over three tall rectangle lights. Centered under the gable on the third floor is a window bay with a pair of 6-over-1 sash windows, the top sashes having three square lights over three tall rectangle lights. The wide eaves of the roof are supported by two triangular knee braces near the outer corners and projecting forward from the north wall.

The front door of the house is a large, wood door in the Craftsman style with a single pane of glass in the upper third.

Interior

The front panel door is 36" wide with a single light at the top. It opens in to a foyer that accesses the living room to the left and the stairway up to the second and third floors. A hall leads into the kitchen from the foyer. Off the hall to the north is the stairway down to the basement, the laundry room and enclosed connector to the garage. All the floors have the original 4-inch wide hardwood. All trim is original varnished wood.

The original fireplace and inglenook have been replaced and only the fireplace with a non-original brick mantel and surround remain. A pair of solid wood panel pocket doors separates the living and dining rooms. The dining room has French doors that open onto the screened-in porch on the south side of the house. Between the dining room and the kitchen is the butler's pantry with original glass front upper cabinet and buffet. The kitchen has been modernized, but is the original floor plan with a door opening out to the back yard.

The basement has been finished as a family den and recreation room. The lath and plaster walls are painted and floors are carpeted.

There are four bedrooms on the second floor and two baths. The master bedroom and another bedroom open out on the south porch deck. The half-story is finished and has one bedroom and a bathroom.

Statement of Significance Overview

The Roberts House is being nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because it embodies the characteristics of the Craftsman style and is attributed to the work of a master architect, Ulysses G. Charles, one of Wichita's most prolific designers during the first decade of the 20th century.

Historic Context

This property, located in the College Hill Addition was platted in 1884 by Lucinda and M.R. Moser, Catherine and A.C. Payne, and Mary and Samuel Deneen. Roosevelt Street was originally named Moser, but was changed in 1904 to Roosevelt. The common belief was that it changed because of the popularity of Theodore Roosevelt. Moser came to Wichita in 1872 and purchased the quarter section where College Hill Addition was platted. He had a thriving farm and orchard until the area began developing.

This house was built in 1909 for Hugh Nathan Roberts (1876-1947), the vice-president of Big Jo Lumber Company in Wichita, Kansas. In addition to Big Jo Lumber Company, H.N. Roberts was associated with McGregor Bros. Co., Minneapolis; Yellowstone Lumber Co., Miles City Montana; Roberts Bros. Lumber Co., Wichita; and Yellow Pine Oil & Gas, Wichita. He was still residing in Wichita when he died and is buried in Old Mission Cemetery.

Early 20th Century Residential Architecture

In the 1880s, the Radford brothers of Oshkosh, Wisconsin were operating a lumber and millwork business in that city. William Radford moved part of it, the Radford Sash and Door Company to Chicago in 1890. In 1902, he formed Radford Architectural Company and over the next 24 years published catalogs of house plans, technical books, encyclopedias of construction and monthly trade journals. His catalogs included blueprints from original drawings by licensed architects and specifications for the building materials. Radford's first two catalogs focused primarily on Queen Anne style designs that were reminiscent of types made popular by Shoppell, Barber, and Palliser. In 1903, he developed a modest Queen Anne that was a simply boxy form with no stylistic trim. It was slightly more high style than a purely vernacular form with an optional projecting side wing, a Palladian window, and shingles in the gable ends. This economical version was a Radford favorite and played on the popularity of the Shingle Style of the 1880s. Radford's Shingle Style of 1903 incorporated a gambrel roof with a patterned shingle work filling the gable ends. It contrasted informal colonialism with the formal Colonial Revival of the early 1890s that employed classical columns, pediments, entablatures, and a hipped roof.

By 1903 another house type known as the American Foursquare had coalesced and Radford developed and popularized it. As the name implies, it was square or rectangular and exhibited compactness and geometric precision. One-story wings, full-width front porches and hipped dormers on one or more sides of the hipped roof balanced the mass of the central two-story form. The Foursquare emerged just as

Queen Anne style had reached its peak of fastidious detailing. The simplified cubic form of Foursquare was a radical contrast and appealed to such emerging architects as Frank Lloyd Wright and Gustav Stickley. It remained popular in mail-order catalogs for decades. Sears-Roebuck, Aladdin, Radford, and Home Builders Catalog all had a variety of the Foursquare into the 1930s.

The Arts and Crafts Movement began to influence architecture when Gustav Stickley published *The Craftsman* (1901-1916), a magazine with construction drawings that made his houses affordable. The Craftsman style, in many sizes and configurations, featured a nonsymmetrical façade and was typically sheathed in stucco, wood clapboards, or wood shingles. Low- to medium-pitch roofs with wide eave overhangs and exposed roof rafters were primary architectural details. Gabled or shed dormers were also common. Other plan books also sold this house type and it became the most popular dwelling style in the country at its time.[1] U.G. Charles used the basics of the Craftsman style to design the Roberts House.

Ulysses Grant Charles, Architect (1865-1947)

Documentation of U.G. Charles' work is found in the *Wichita Eagle and Wichita Beacon* newspapers, advertisements and listings in the *Wichita City Directories*, and Building Permit files at Wichita's City Hall. From these resources twenty-three residences, seventeen commercial structures, and fourteen public, fraternal, and church buildings have been identified to date as Charles designs. Twenty of these known fifty-four structures are extant. His house designs thus far identified were built principally between 1902 and 1910. He accomplished the thirty other identified buildings between 1905 and 1912 with three exceptions (1917, 1922, 1922) [see Continuation Sheets 7-8 of this section]. In addition to these structures it is possible that others are yet to be identified.

U.G. Charles (1865-1947) was born in Indiana and arrived in Wichita in 1887 with six of his adult family members. Information from the *Wichita City Directory* of that year and the 1900 Federal Census makes up this profile of the family:

Brothers Cassius M. Charles (age 51), Leonidas H. Charles (49), J.G. Charles (43), U.G. Charles (32) relocated in Wichita, Kansas from Illinois. All four men listed their occupations in the city directory as "Carpenter". Accompanying them were their sisters, Augusta Charles and Mary Charles, and Mrs. Susanna Charles who may have been a sister-in-law, or possibly their mother. The entire family resided together at 727 W. Central Avenue with the exception of J.G. Charles who lived a few houses away at 805 W. Central. Throughout the next 25 years, the Charles family members lived (often in the same household) and worked in close approximation to each other on the west side of Wichita. The women were employed as teachers and milliners; the men worked in the building trades as carpenters, painters, wallpaper hangers, cabinetmakers, and clerks in hardware stores. The family fluctuated in size in the city

[1] Harris, Cyril. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. Norton & Company, 1998.

directory listings from year to year. This may be due to errors on the part of directory interviewers, or it is possible that some of the men left Wichita briefly and others arrived. Also, children who became of age expanded the family listings in the directories. After 1915 they were fewer in number but still maintained a family presence. What remains, however, is a sketch of a close-knit family that probably sustained each other throughout their lives.

Ulysses G. Charles is the prominent example of the brother who left Wichita and returned later to make his mark on the city. During his first four years in Wichita his employment showed evidence of his enterprising personality. He began as a carpenter, and then listed himself as a "carver and cabinet maker". In 1890 he formed a small carpentry business with two partners.[2] These occupations developed from his boyhood apprenticeships in cabinetmaking and as a general mechanic of passenger coaches, where he had learned the importance of fine craftsmanship.[3]

Charles is missing from the *Wichita City Directories* during the years 1892 through 1900. The 1900 Federal Census locates him in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where his occupation was designated as "Architect". He was living there with his Kansas-born wife Rosa Yazel Charles and a young son Merlin Y. Charles, who was born in Illinois in 1893. The large gap in the Wichita directory combined with the Census information suggests that U.G. Charles married in Wichita in about 1891 and left soon after for Illinois. The employment leap from carpenter to architect suggests that he went to Illinois (possibly Chicago?) to study, work, and advance his credentials.

In 1894 after the birth of his son, Charles moved his family to Oshkosh to take employment as head of the design department for the Northwestern Car and Machine Works. He subsequently left Northwestern to open his own architectural office at which time he also gained a position with the Morgan Company, a nationally recognized sash and door manufacturer. He was engaged in design work at Morgan for five years, and then accepted a similar position at the Radford Company.[4]

In the second half of the 19th century it was common practice for carpenters, contractors, draftsmen, and trained architects to learn architecture from the printed word. At the time that the Charles brothers set up their trade in Wichita many established companies had published illustrated catalogs of plans to be purchased or studied. Most notable were Cleveland & Backus Brothers (1856), Cummings & Miller (1865), E.C. Hussey (1876), George Palliser (1876), Bicknell & Comstock (1880), and R.W. Shoppell (1881), and George F. Barber (1887). These pioneers developed the treatises, manuals, and pattern books that provided technical material for generations of American carpenters, builders, and architects. Such publications were an important basis of education for those who wished to improve their knowledge but

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[2] *Wichita City Directory, 1887, 1889, 1890.*
[3] Connelley, William. Excerpt from *A Standard History or Kansas and Kansans*, 1918. Online transcription, http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1918ks/bioc. Accessed 11/04/2004.
[4] Connelley, William. http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1918ks/bioc.

were unable to attend the schools of architecture that developed after the Civil War. It is quite possible that the Charles brothers made good use of them. By 1897 publications contained works in the dominant styles of Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Shingle Style, and Tudor Revival. In general, the plans were those that would appeal to upper-middle class or well-to-do homeowners, although smaller, more modest dwellings were also represented.

The years between the beginning of the twentieth century and the start of the First World War form a period of astounding American architectural creativity and growth. The Prairie School of architecture, Mission and Foursquare styles, and the American Arts and Crafts movement were placing emphasis on light, air, and space with easy flow between living areas. Non-functional decorative elements were minimized or eliminated as architectural lines were emphasized and took on the role of ornamentation.

Ulysses G. Charles' residential designs in Wichita indicate that Charles was strongly influenced by this new rectilinear style of domestic design. Sourcebooks such as Radford's *Portfolio of Scaled and Measured Drawings* included every conceivable architectural feature: framing, beamed ceilings, wainscoting, window seats, sideboards, fireplaces, inglenooks, stair railings, and even furniture.[5] Just at the time that Radford was opening his new architectural publishing company (1902), U.G. Charles left that company and returned to Wichita to take up work as an architect. It would have been an opportune time for Charles use his familiarity with Radford's collection of plans, plus other sourcebooks, and incorporate them into his own designs during the next 10 to 15 years.

Charles' residences, including the Roberts House, are all monumental in scale and the majority of them adhere to the American Foursquare style in both frame and brick, using simple massing with full-width porches and flared-eave dormers. In some designs he incorporated shingles within gambrel ends that impart the formal composition of the Dutch Colonial Revival style, and stonework that adds to the impression of weightiness.

The Roberts House design follows the non-symmetrical formula of the Craftsman style with its side-gabled central body intersecting with a front-gabled wing. The shed dormer and front entrance are both placed off-center and are balanced by a pent eave that projects over a left-of-center window and wraps around the south elevation, joining a characteristic sun porch on the south side. The stucco cladding overall unites the many elements of the two-story house.

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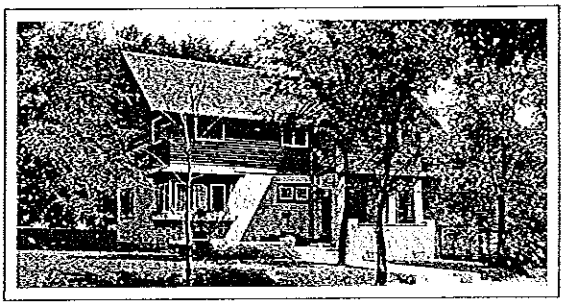
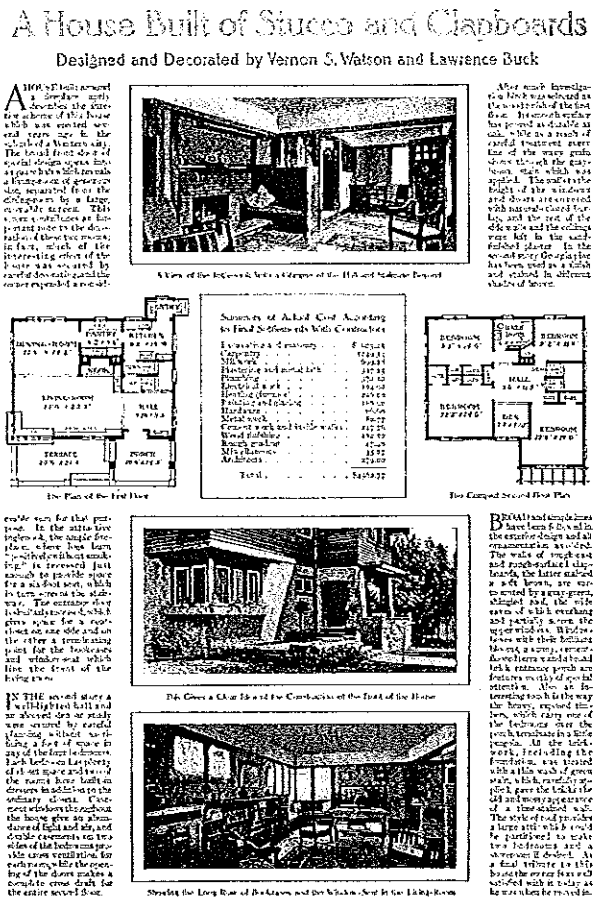
[5] Commentary on reprint of *Radford's Portfolio of Details of Building Construction*. Dover Publications http://www.mitchellspublications.com/rep/arch/radford/ohms/index.htm. Accessed 6/27/06.
Dover (1983) unabridged and unaltered republication of *Radford's Portfolio of Details of Building Construction*, originally published by the Radford Architectural Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1911.

There is a strong resemblance between the Roberts House and a house in Illinois designed by noted architect, Lawrence Buck (1865-1929) of Chicago. Buck was a member of a group of young progressive architects referred to as "The Eighteen" that gathered around Frank Lloyd Wright and espoused similar design philosophies.[6] He maintained an office at Steinway Hall from 1902 until the 1920s along with other noted architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Dwight Perkins, and Robert C. Spencer. Throughout his architectural practice, he provided measured drawings for other Chicago firms such as Dwight Perkins and George Maher. Buck is considered a regional architect and is known to have designed structures, mostly residential, in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, North Dakota, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and the Bay area of San Francisco. Many of his designs were published in House Beautiful and Ladies' Home Journal and were replicated throughout the country. Buck's own home in Ravinia was featured in a 1905 publication and reprinted in 1910.[7]





A House Built of Stucco and Clapboards

Designed and Decorated by Vernon S. Watson and Lawrence Buck

Prior to discovery that U.G. Charles is the actual architect of the Roberts House, Ronald Ramsay, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at North Dakota State University posited that the house is possibly a Lawrence Buck design.[8] Ramsay believes that the Roberts house is a modified design of the Charles Reeves house (1909) in Oak Park. This plan became popular after it was published in *Ladies Home Journal*, May 1909 (figure at right). Ramsay cites a story about the Reeves House that was also published in *House Beautiful* sometime in 1909. U.G. Charles' familiarity with Chicago architects and with Illinois in general creates speculation that he patterned the Roberts house on Buck's precedent design. The correlation of the dates of the published article and the housing stock of the College Hill neighborhood would

[6] Ramsay, Ronald. *Lawrence Buck, Architect*. Plains Architecture, Fargo, ND, 1992.
[7] Saylor, Henry H., editor. *Distinctive Homes of Moderate Cost*, pg. 143.
[8] Personal Correspondence, 30 December 1992, from Ronald Ramsay to Donna Goltry (current property owner).

support this thesis. College Hill is known for its number of quality homes designed by architects as well as for builders' houses whose designs can be documented as originating from magazine and pattern book publications.

All of his many designs demonstrate that Ulysses Grant Charles was an architect of his time, fully aware of up-to-date styles and trends. His identified body of residential work includes twenty-one houses and a pair of frame apartment buildings. He also created plans for many commercial and public buildings from 1905 to 1922.

Summary

The Roberts House is an excellent example of the Craftsman Style and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Architect Ulysses G. Charles trained as a cabinetmaker and worked as a designer of sash and door elements. He probably acquired the bulk of his architectural knowledge through the use of plan books and other publications, as well as by direct employment with William Radford of Oshkosh, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois. At the height of his career in Wichita, Kansas he, himself, contributed articles to magazines and periodicals and published his own monthly architectural magazine in the city[9] [no known copies].

To date, twenty-two residential structures, seventeen commercial buildings, and fourteen public, lodge, and church buildings (extant and non-extant) have been identified as his designs. However, in 1918, William E. Connelley, Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society and contemporary of Charles wrote, "In Wichita he has designed about 100 of the beautiful residences for which the city is noted and upwards of forty of the city's business blocks".[10]

Clearly, Ulysses G. Charles was a premier architect in Wichita during the first 20 years of the 20th century. He was fortunate to be well established prior to the growth that occurred in 1908 through 1910. That prosperity carried him into the next decade. The boom subsided and his documented projects tapered off in the late 19-teens. In 1924 Charles left Wichita for a few years. For unknown reasons, he moved to Topeka, Kansas to engage in patent work, leaving his architectural business in the hands of his son, Merlin Y. Charles. Ulysses' nephew Ellis Charles also carried on the family tradition and became and architect. He opened an office separately from his cousin Merlin. Ellis was the son of Leonidas H. Charles. Ulysses G. Charles returned to Wichita in 1930 and he and Merlin continued to work as patent attorneys. U.G. Charles died in Pawnee rock, Kansas and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita.

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[9] Connelley, William. http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1918ks/bioc .
[10] Connelley, William. http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1918ks/bioc .

Structures Designed by Ulysses Grant Charles
Wichita, Kansas and Surrounding Towns

Date	Property Owner	Address	Extant/Non-Extant
	Residences:		
c. 1901	James Allison	1227 University Ave	Extant
1903-1904	George Theis	1031 N. Emporia	Demolished
1902	F.A. Amsden	1230 N. Lawrence	Demolished
1909-1910	H.N. Roberts	235 N. Roosevelt	Extant
1903	G.T. Walker (Now known as Hypatia House)	1215 N. Lawrence	Extant (NRHP)
1904	J.W. Metz	1112 N. Topeka	Demolished
1906	Roland P. Murdock	1616 Park Place &	Extant
		1602 Park Place	Extant
1906	J.F. Baehr	1001 S. Main	Extant
1907	J.B. Blazer	120 N. Hillside	Demolished
1907	E.H. Middlekauff	1425 Park Place	Extant
1907	C.G. VanArsdale	1545 Park Place	Extant
1908	Fred G. Smyth	1216 N. Topeka	Demolished
1908	J. Arch Butts	1212 N. Topeka	Extant
1909	Otto Weiss	1045 N. Emporia	Demolished
1909	J.W. Edwards	1620 Park Place	Extant
1909	J.L. Evans	1054 N. Lawrence	Demolished
1909	Frank McMullen	1003 Faulkner	Extant
1909	C.A. Fees	427 N. Emporia	Demolished
1909	Apartment Building	345 North Market	Extant
1910	Robert B. Campbell	1255 N. River Blvd	Extant
1910	C.Q. Chandler	206 S. Clifton	Demolished
1910	H. VanArsdale	535 S. Fern	Extant
Prior to 1910	T.J. Crook	Unidentified Flat	Unknown
Prior to 1910	C.R. Miller	Unidentified Flat	Unknown
	Commercial:		
1905	Metz Lumber Co. Office	401-421 N. Main	Demolished
1906	Lawrence Block	501-503 E. Douglas	Extant (Contributing/NRH Dist)
1906	Hays Saddlery	115-117 W. William	Demolished
1906	Fred Farmer Building	903 W. Douglas	Ground floor extant (upper floor demolished)
1906	Western Biscuit Co. Factory	Wichita & William	Demolished
1907	Minnick Building	Lawrence & William	Demolished
1907	Martin Metal Works	130 N. Mosley	Demolished
1908	Mentholatum Building	1300 E. Douglas	Extant (NRHP)
1909	Dorsey Building	200 block, North Market	Demolished
1909	Cox-Blodgett Dry Goods (Addition to existing bldg)	217 S. Market	Demolished

1909	Brooks Tire Machine Co. Factory	Wichita & Lewis	Demolished
Prior to 1910	Antlers Hotel	Wellington, Kansas	Unknown
Prior to 1910	City Building	Wellington, Kansas	Unknown
Prior to 1910	Sedan Hotel	Sedan, Kansas	Unknown
1910	Hollicke Block	North Topeka	Unknown
1911	Remodel Unidentified Existing Bldg	209 N. Main	Demolished
1922	Unidentified Office Building	100 block, North Market	Demolished
	Lodges/Churches/Public:		
1906	Salvation Army	118 N. Topeka	Demolished
1907	Odd Fellows Hall	2857 N. Lawrence	Extant
1908	Albert Pike Lodge Room/Scottish Rite Consistory	First Street & Topeka	Extant
1909	German Methodist Episcopal Church	Lulu at Prince	Tower remains? (major part of original building replaced)
1911	Midland Valley RR Depot	West Douglas	Demolished
1912	North Riverside Park Comfort Station	900 block, Bitting Avenue	Extant
1917	Calvary Baptist Church	601 N. Water	Extant (NRHP)
1922	Engine House # 7	901 Porter	Extant
Prior to 1910	M.E. Church	Conway Springs, Kansas	Unknown
Between 1902 & 1910	M.E. Church	6th and School Streets, Augusta, Kansas	Demolished
Prior to 1910	First Christian Church	Wellington, Kansas	Unknown
Prior to 1910	Presbyterian Church	Caldwell, Kansas	Unknown
Prior to 1910	M.E. Church	Tonkawa, Oklahoma	Unknown
	Miscellaneous:		
1935	Flagpole Base, Engine House #2	Topeka at Lewis	Extant

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The legal description of the property is the South 125 FT of East 150 FT Lot 4, Block 6, College Hill Addition.

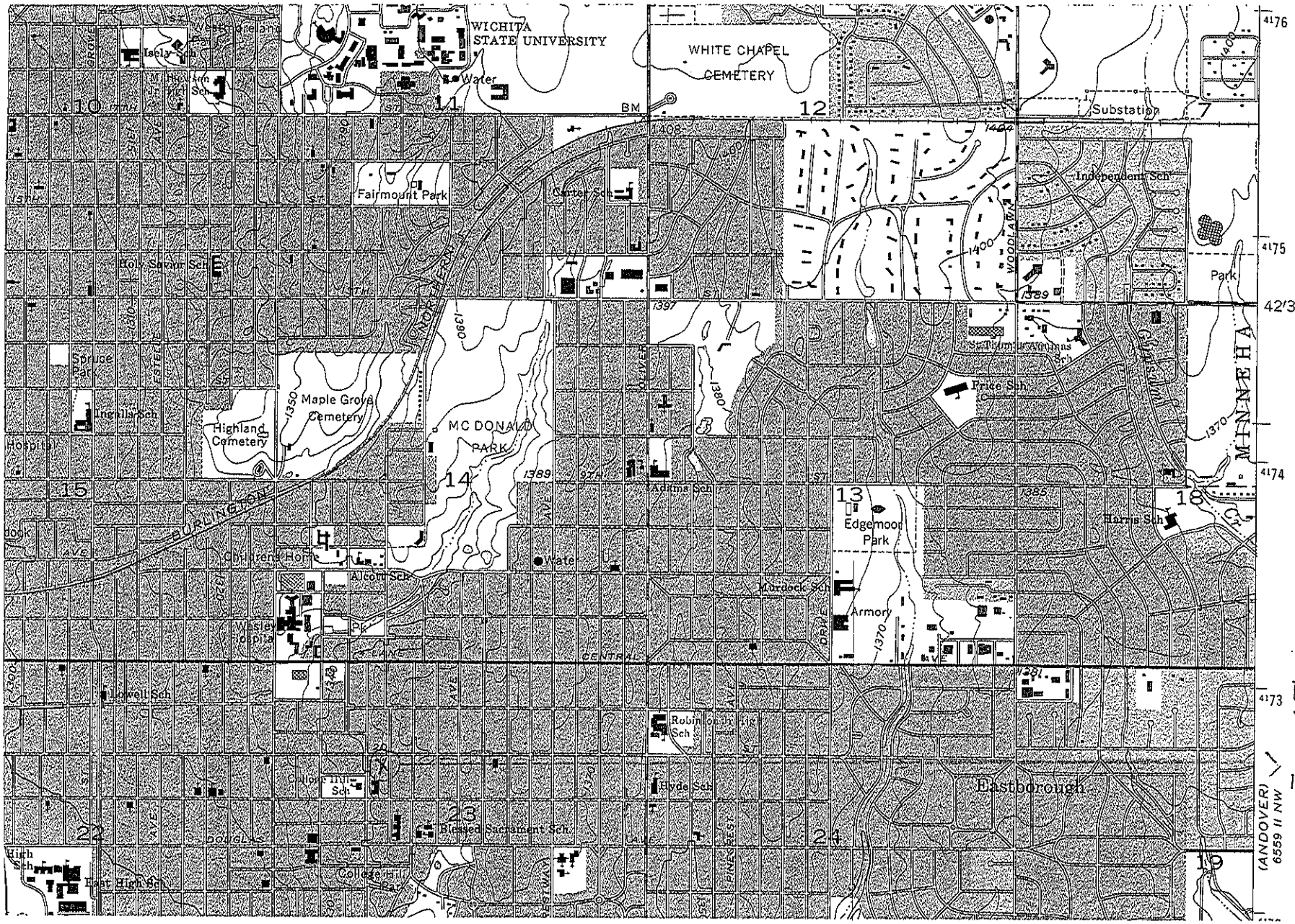
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This nomination includes the parcel of land historically associated with the resource.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Property: Roberts House
Location: 235 N Roosevelt, Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Photographer: Kathy L. Morgan
Date of Photographs: August 2004
Location of digital images: Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division

1. East (front) elevation, looking W
2. East (front) elevation entrance, looking WNW
3. South elevation, looking N
4. Southwest corner, looking NE
5. North elevation (showing side of garage), looking S
6. Living room, looking N into foyer
7. Living room, looking S
8. Dining room, looking S
9. Screened porch, looking E
10. Front stairway stained glass window, looking N
11. Bathroom
12. Second floor bedroom, looking E
13. Second floor bedroom, looking S
14. Second floor landing at top of stairs
15. Basement room showing arched entryway



Roberts House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Ks
14: 650500 E
4172550 N