

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register  
Listed  
June 29, 2018

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home

Other names/site number Independent Service Station; Emporia Fruit Market; KHRI #111-159 (station) & 111-541 (house)

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Roadside Kansas

## 2. Location

Street & number 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 526 N Exchange Street

--

 not for publication

City or town Emporia

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 vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Lyon Code 111 Zip code 66801

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  statewide  local      Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

See file.  
Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_

Kansas State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
3	1	buildings
1	-	sites
-	-	structures
-	-	objects
<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/specialty store

DOMESTIC/hotel

DOMESTIC/single-dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

DOMESTIC/single-dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals:

    Tudor Revival

Other: Rustic

Other: Domestic Style (House) Gas Station

Free Classic Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone & Concrete

walls: Wood

Stone

roof: Slate

Wood

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Narrative Description

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**Summary**

The Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home is located at 413 E 6th Avenue and 526 Exchange Street in Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas. The nominated complex is comprised of a circa 1930 gas station, a circa 1934 service bay—along with its associated parking lot/former pumps sites—and a circa 1894 Free Classic Queen Anne residence that was repurposed as a tourist home as part of the road-related complex (*Figure 1*). The complex is prominently situated on US Highway 50 (which is known locally as 6th Avenue) four blocks east of downtown Emporia (*Figure 2*).

The 1930 gas station has a high-pitched slate shingle gable roof with lower cross gables indicative of Tudor Revival style stations in Kansas. The rectangular service bay, connected to the east side of the station by an eighteen-inch masonry hyphen, has a flat/sloped roof with high masonry parapet. Although constructed a few years apart, the two buildings share the same rubble masonry wall cladding. With the exception of covered and replaced windows and doors, the two service station buildings retain good integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The residence at 526 Exchange retains a high value of historic integrity and exhibits nearly all of its historic character-defining features, the exception being many of its windows, which were formerly replaced.

The setting of this road-related complex remains fairly intact, as the buildings remain along a main commercial corridor and continue to be surrounded by residential development to the south. As a whole, the Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home meets the registration requirements for a Domestic Style (House) Gas Station described in the *Roadside Kansas* multiple property submission, while the tourist home exhibits a unique form of lodging in the Midwest for its time period.<sup>1</sup> The two parcels are being nominated together, as the three buildings were purchased by Snowden S. Mouse at the same time and all three buildings contributed to Mouse's original conception of a tourist-related business along US Highway 50.

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**Elaboration**

**Site**

The nominated property lies at the southeast corner of 6th Avenue and Exchange Street. The two buildings composing the service station are oriented north, facing 6th Avenue, at the east end of the parcel. To the west of the buildings is a concrete-paved area, which previously served as the gas-filling area (contributing site); a small patch of grass is located at the northwest corner of the site. There is access to Exchange Street at the west end of the property and access to 6th Avenue on the north end of the property.

The third building lies on the lot directly adjacent to the south of the service station (*Figure 1*). This building is the former tourist home at 526 Exchange. Today, this lot and the lot on which the service station lies are separated by a wood privacy fence. The house at 526 Exchange faces west towards Exchange Street, and there is driveway access from Exchange Street. The rear side of the lot faces the alley, which the east building of the service station also faces. A non-historic one-story, hipped-roof garage sits to the east of the house on the alley.

On 6th Avenue, heavy commercial development is found to the east and west of this station. Just four blocks to the west is the Historic Downtown Emporia District.<sup>2</sup> A liquor store with architectural features similar to the service station is located one block to the west of this site. To the west and south on Exchange Street, the property is surrounded by residential development. Photographs showing a residence directly to the south of the property indicate that the house provided lodging for travelers passing through Emporia on US Highway 50 (*Figure 3*). Photographs from the 1930s show that much more of the property was covered in grass than is visible today.

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Rosin and Dale Nimz, *Roadside Kansas*, National Register multiple property documentation form (2011): F-54.

<sup>2</sup> This district was listed in the National Register in 2012.

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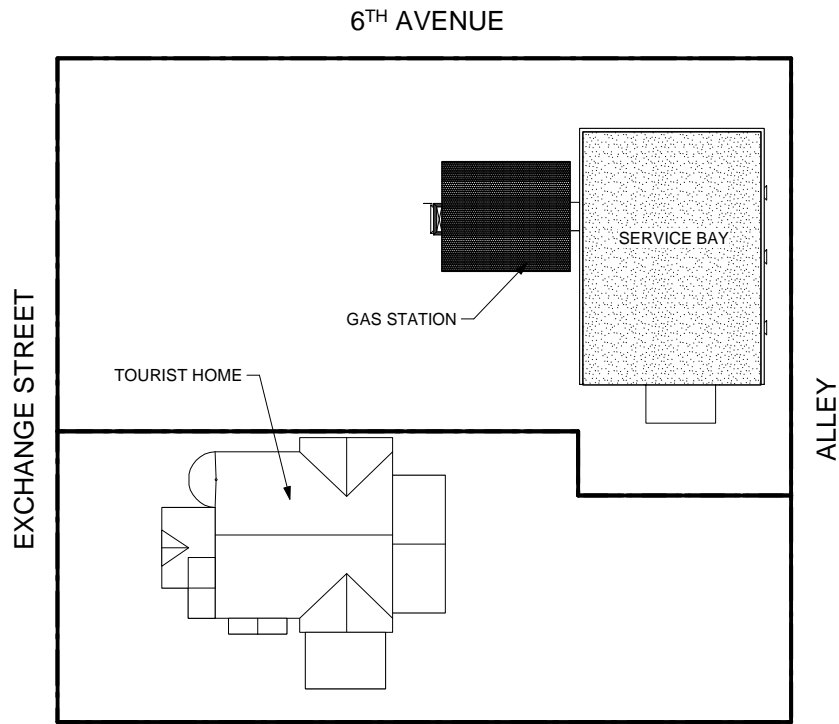


Figure 2: Sketch plan of nominated property.

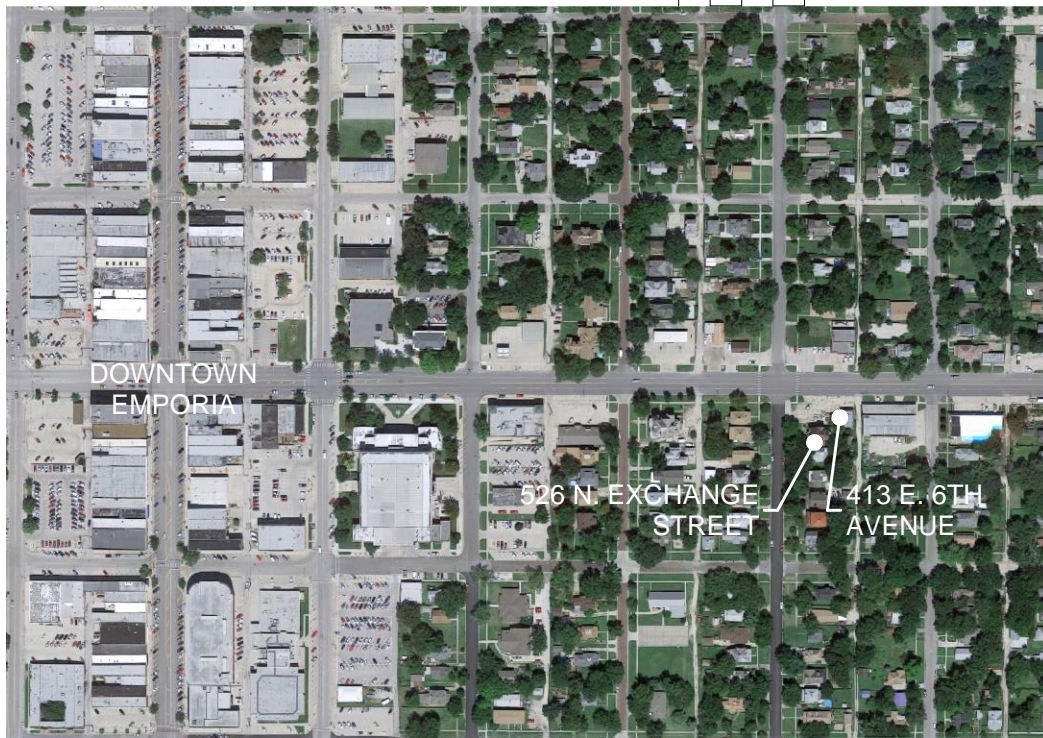
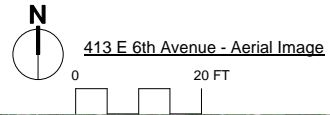


Figure 2: Contextual aerial image.

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There are trees that provide shade for the buildings and the parking lot. In addition, there were three gas pumps that serviced people driving by (*Figures 3 & 4*).

### **Service Station – West Building**

### **Contributing Building**

Built in 1930, this building has a rectangular plan with a high-pitched cross-gabled roof. It retains much of its historic character, including the original stone walls and slate roof shingles. Two large masonry openings look onto 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Historically, these openings each were filled with large single-hung 27-over-one windows (*Figure 4*). The north façade's masonry openings now feature plywood and two smaller fixed pane windows (date unknown). Early photos show light-bulb sockets adorning the fascia of the gable facing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue providing a bright ornament for the gas station; no evidence of these sockets exist in the current fascia. A metal stovepipe projects from the roof to the east of the center gable.

The symmetrical west façade is partially obscured by vines. Centered in the elevation is a chimney. On the interior in the same location, there is a small opening at floor level that can be assumed to be the former location of a fireplace or stove. To the north of the chimney is a masonry opening; a wooden door with centered glass pane. A masonry opening to the south of the chimney is covered with plywood that hides a former 8/1 window.

On the south façade, a small stone water table is noted beneath stucco cladding; this is the only façade with stucco. It is unknown if the stucco was original to the building or if the south façade was parged at a later date. There are two punched window openings on the south façade. The opening to the west is smaller and has a higher sill plate than the east opening. The sill of the east opening rests on the stone water table and is taller and wider than the west opening. Both openings in the south façade contain historic windows that have been covered with plywood for protection. The west window is an eight-over-one wood unit; the east window is an 18-over-one sash unit, as is shown on the north elevation in historic images.

The east façade of the building is clad rubble masonry and includes the masonry hyphen connecting the west building to the east building. There are no openings in the east façade, other than the internal connection between buildings. The exterior door on the east side into the pitch-roofed structure is non-historic, replaced at an unknown date.

The west building is comprised of three rooms, one larger primary space and two smaller rooms. The larger primary space spans the length of the building on its north side, while the two southern rooms to the south of this room were used as a storage space and a restroom. An opening connects the west building to the east building with a small enclosure spanning the 18" gap between the two structures.

Original structural elements and members remain stable and intact today and there is no evidence of major settling issues. The west structure is supported by a concrete, slab-on-grade foundation. The roof is supported by roof joists on masonry walls supporting the two cross-gables. The ceiling is supported by flat ceiling joists spanning from north to south on the north masonry wall and the south concrete wall. Car siding covers the masonry structure from the interior of the building, and the date of the car siding is unknown.

The roof of the west structure still maintains the appearance of the original slate shingles. Overall observation of the roof shows its condition to be poor. On the north side, there are chipped and damaged shingles in a few areas, but there are no exposed areas. In contrast, the majority of the roof shingles on the south side are damaged and there are three areas where the wood roof structure beneath is exposed. Gutters and downspouts around the perimeter of the building are all in poor condition. Two penetrations were made in the roof to accommodate the addition of mechanical systems in the building. The wooden roof fascia is in poor condition today and is non-existent in some places where it has rotted away.

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**Figure 3:** Taken from northwest of the property near the intersection of 6th Avenue and Exchange Street, looking southeast, ca 1930.

### **Service Station – East Building**

### **Contributing Building**

The east building is assumed to have been built around 1934, as evidenced by historic photographs (*Figures 3 & 4*). There is a small masonry hyphen connecting the two structures internally. On the interior of the hyphen, the walls are painted concrete.

The east building exhibits four masonry walls clad in the same rubble stone as the west building. Laid within the stone is false timbering above the windows on the north, east, and west façades, mimicking the steep centered gable of the west building. The false timbering above the door in the north façade accentuates the entry point. All original masonry openings are intact, but the doors, windows, and plywood infill are from later periods. Historic photos show the two large openings on 6th Avenue fully-glazed with four panes of fixed glass from the slab to the head of the opening. An “S” above the east opening and an “M” above the west, inconspicuously laid in the masonry and reflective of the initials of the property’s owner, Snowden Mouse.

Early photographs show this structure directly abutting a ca. 1900 wood-framed carriage house, which has since been demolished (*Figure 5*). Today, a lean-to structure remains in the former location of the carriage house. From the interior, there is a large opening into the lean-to structure, which may have been an opening into the carriage house.

The structural system of the east building are similar to those of the west building. It is built on a concrete slab-on-grade foundation, supporting masonry bearing walls and a wooden roof structure. The roof joists are sloped from the north wall to the south, making a shed roof and the joists and roof decking are currently exposed. The east, west, and north masonry walls serve as roof parapets. Mechanical systems were added to the building at some point in time, creating penetrations in the roof and exterior walls.

On the interior, the concrete slab and walls are exposed. Paint is currently peeling off of the walls. This structure is one large, open room with a small opening to the west building and an alcove where a lean-to can be found from the exterior. In the south wall of the structure, there is a large opening that opens up to this lean-to structure. Early photographs show a carriage house directly abutting the structure. It appears that the east structure

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**Figure 4:** Taken from north of the property on 6th Avenue, looking south, ca. 1935.

received an addition matching the original style of the building after the carriage house was demolished. In the portion of the addition, an 8/8 single-hung window can be observed from the interior at the south end of the wall. From the exterior, this window is covered with plywood. The date of the south addition is unknown.

### **Tourist Home**

### **Contributing Building**

The tourist home at 526 Exchange Street still retains much of its original character on the exterior. The house, which is a Free Classic Queen Anne with some Shingle-style details, was completed in 1894. The two and a half story residence is wood frame over a limestone foundation.

The cubed mass features front-gabled roof with lower cross gables, a roof form common among Queen Anne homes. However, the pent roofs on the main front gable, cross gables and porch—along with Doric columns and streamlined ornament—are indicative of the Free Classic subtype. The front gable houses a bay ribbon window that, along with bands of shingle cladding, evokes the Shingle Style homes that would have been its contemporaries on the east coast. Each roof has a small ornamented entablature at its bearing height. There are two south- and north-projecting bays below the cross gables. The front porch has a shed roof with a centered gable with pent roof. The porch roof is supported by eclectic columns, but similar to the Doric style. There is a low guardrail with tapered shingle bases supporting the columns and thin spindles adorned with wood spheres between the columns. There are five wood risers leading up to a wide, double-door entry that appears to be original to the residence. Over the entry is a wide, single-pane transom window. On either side of the entry doors is a square, single-pane window.

To the south of the entry doors is a rectangular bay that rises up to the lower front gable. To the north of the entry doors is a radiused turret rising up to the roof. On each floor, the turret has three double-hung windows.

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The majority of the original wood windows have been replaced by metal windows. A few remain extant and are of the Shingle style. For example, the two square windows on the second floor, directly above the entry doors, have twelve panes of glass. Exterior cladding on the residence is a combination of wood lap siding and wood shingles. Both alternate going vertically on each façade, creating a horizontal datum of each around the house.

At the side porch on the north façade, there is a large opening with curved sides looking to the east with the same ornamented guardrail as the front porch. The opening of the porch to the south exhibits the same curved sides as the east opening. This porch has a double-hung window into the house and a non-original entry door with a transom.

Much of the interior of the residence remains intact. All window trim, door trim, millwork, and the fireplace mantels are historic. The trim at windows and doors has a corner block at each of the top corners of the openings. Throughout the house are historic hardwood floors, though the date is not exact.

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**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1930-1970

**Significant Dates**

1930

1934

1970

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

Architect – Residence: Charles W. Squires

Builder – Service Station: Snowden S. Mouse

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home is significant for its association with transportation commerce in the early twentieth century, with the re-location of the residence in 1930 and the service station's construction in 1930. Although the guest house was closed by 1962, the gas station remained until 1970 when I-70 was completed across Kansas and US-50 became less traveled.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

### Summary

Located a few blocks east of Emporia's downtown, the service station at 413 East 6th Avenue and the tourist home at 526 North Exchange Street witnessed the history of Highway 50 through this town. This history is exemplified in the property's different uses over the years. The tourist home was moved from its original location at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Exchange by Snowden S. Mouse in 1930, and the first gas station structure was built shortly after to accommodate automobiles on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. When 6th Avenue was announced to become Highway 50, the second structure was built and the tenants evolved to accommodate high volumes of traffic and transportation across the highway. Around 1970, traffic on Highway 50 became less high-volume. As a result, the businesses in the property once again evolved. The structures were no longer occupied as a service station, but as taverns, salons and hobby shops over the years. The nominated property is eligible under Criterion A for its association with Emporia's transportation commerce in the early twentieth century and under Criterion C as a good local example of a Domestic Style (House) Gas Station described in *Roadside Kansas*. The period of significance, 1930 to 1970, was selected because this was the period that the Independent Service Station served as a gas station during the peak of US Highway 50's prominence.

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### Elaboration

#### CRITERION A: COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home is historically significant because its use over the years follows the history of Highway 50 through Emporia. Its history reflects the evolution of travel in through Kansas in the early 1900's, especially in Emporia.

Emporia, Kansas was founded in 1857 as a business venture of G.W. Brown. At the time, Kansas Territory (1854-1861) was caught in an arduous struggle over slavery. Undeclared as a slave state or free state, Kansas Territory was the site of bloody battles, "Bleeding Kansas," which took place in and around Lawrence, Kansas. G.W. Brown was an editor at the *Herald of Freedom* in Lawrence and saw the founding of a new settlement as an opportunity for himself and to give emigrants a better place to live. With four other men from Lawrence, together they formed the Emporia Town Company. These men were General G.W. Deitzler, Lyman Allen, Columbus Hornsby, and Preston B. Plumb. Plumb became the only permanent resident out of the five men and began the town's newspaper tradition with the creation of *The Kansas News*. The town attracted growth and trade immediately after its founding. According to Jacob Stotler, who wrote an early town history of Emporia, two thousand settlers came to the Emporia area and Lyon County in its first year. Building stone and timber were in abundance in the area and, as such, sawmills and timber mills were erected very quickly in order to support new structures being built in Emporia; sawmilling quickly became the main industry in the town. The commercial hub developed on Commercial Street, which remains the primary commercial district in Emporia today. The first structure built in the new town was a boarding house. Soon, a hotel, general store and a newspaper printing office followed.<sup>3</sup> In 1860, the M.K. & T. Railroad reached Emporia with the Santa Fe reaching in 1870.<sup>4</sup>

With new railroads and the rich agricultural land of the region, the Emporia Town Company was in a prime condition to become a ranching and farming center. Because of its strong agricultural industry, the town experienced prosperity for years up until the national recession during the 1880's.<sup>5</sup> The town did not recover until

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<sup>3</sup> Catherine Cooks, *Doing the Town: The Rise of Urban Tourism in the United States, 1850-1915* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), 6-7

<sup>4</sup> William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago, IL.: A.T. Andreas, 1883), n.p [digitized online] *Kansas Collection Books* <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/>.

<sup>5</sup> Christy Davis, "Emporia: Downtown District Survey," *Downtown Emporia Survey Documentation and History* (2011): 7

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**Figure 5:** Taken from northeast corner of property looking southwest, ca. 1935.

an abundant harvest in 1899. In the early 1900's, the downtown area on Commercial Street experienced a boom in development. Many commercial buildings were constructed that can still be seen today. The town gradually grew east and west with residential neighborhoods. Automobiles became more prominent in town after their invention and development. With 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue being a large thoroughfare connecting the east side of Emporia to Commercial Street, it became a prime location for a gas station. When 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was established as US Highway 50 in 1934, even more automobiles traveled the street traveling through Emporia across the state of Kansas.

Before 1915, tourism had been only a luxury for wealthy citizens, as the cost of travel was too expensive for many Americans to afford.<sup>6</sup> As automobile technology grew, however, the cost of owning a car became less, and travel became available to more and more Americans by the 1930's. Emporia's Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home follows these trends of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond, as the demand for gasoline on highways grew with the rise of automobiles in the United States.

Deed records show that Snowden S. Mouse purchased the two lots on the southeast corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Exchange in 1929. The house that resides at 526 Exchange today was originally built at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Exchange (*Figure 6*). Shortly after purchasing the lots, Mouse moved the house, known as the Ballweg Residence, 30 feet to the south to accommodate the gas station at 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>7</sup> The two structures found at 413 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue today were built a few years apart. An article published in *the Emporia Gazette* names the

<sup>6</sup> Davis, "Emporia: Downtown District Survey," 7.

<sup>7</sup> "New Service Station Open," *The Emporia Gazette* (June 26, 1930): 2.

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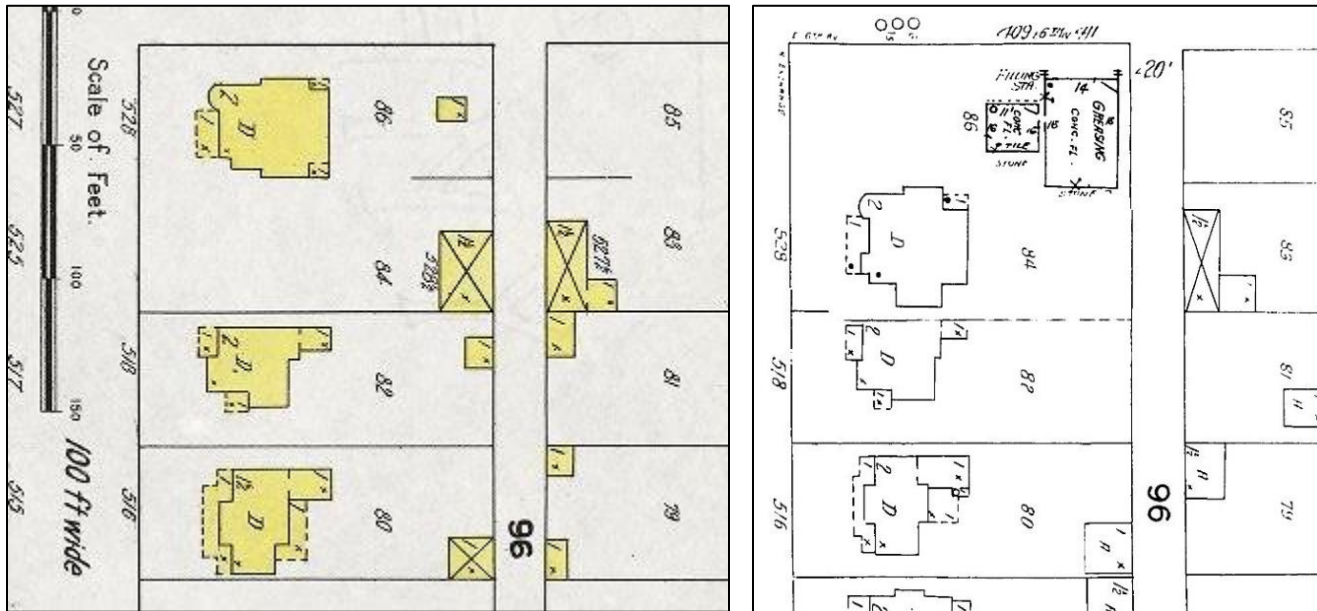


Figure 6: Snippet of 1911 Sanborn (left, page 13) and 1946 Sanborn (right, page 24), showing house in relation to station. North is up.

property the “Independent Service Station” and claims it as the “best looking filling station in Emporia.”<sup>8</sup> Early photographs show gas pumps and the recently remodeled Ballweg Residence, which became a “Tourism Home” as part of the project that created this road-related business (Figure 3). Photos show a bucolic scene at the site after the construction of the two buildings. Trees shade the parking area and there are grass islands in various areas of the concrete pad surrounding the buildings. It is obvious that Mouse made an effort to make the service station and its site more attractive than the average gas station. After the 1920s and the rise of curbside pumps and lean-to filling stations, there was a push with the City Beautiful movement to make the many roadside gas stations built across America more aesthetically appealing.<sup>9</sup>

Besides being the owner and proprietor of the Independent Service Station, Snowden was a prominent businessman and real estate developer in Emporia.<sup>10</sup> He developed the complex as one of many of his business ventures. In 1934, when it was announced that 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was to be planned as Highway 50, many Emporia residents protested, as they believed it would make the area around 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue a high-traffic zone and would endanger the children living in the area.<sup>11</sup> In the end, the highway prevailed and the property owned by Snowden S. Mouse was further developed with the addition of a second structure. It is presumed from an article in *The Emporia Gazette* that the second structure was built by 1934.<sup>12</sup> Although it is likely the second structure was intended to be a service garage, the same article indicates that the structure was leased to the Emporia Fruit Market and A.T. Grant’s meat market, which can be seen in Figure 5. In 1933, the Texas Company leased the first structure from Mouse.<sup>13</sup> Although the first structure was leased by the Texas Company, Campbell & Collins filling station remained as the filling station until 1935. By the end of 1934, the fruit market and meat market moved out of the second structure and a service garage moved in.<sup>14</sup> In 1936, city directories list the Texas Company filling station and Harold’s Super Service occupying the property. It is likely the Texas Company

<sup>8</sup> “New Service Station Open,” 2.

<sup>9</sup> Chester H. Liebs, *Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture* (Baltimore and London: John Hopkins University Press, 1985), 98.

<sup>10</sup> “Man of the Week,” *The Emporia Gazette* (October 8, 1960): 9.

<sup>11</sup> “School Board Acts,” *The Emporia Gazette* (January 12, 1934): 7

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> “Fruit Market Is Leased,” *The Emporia Gazette* (October 30, 1933): 2

<sup>14</sup> “Rush Work on New Building,” *The Emporia Gazette* (November 15, 1934): 5

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invested in the property at 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in anticipation of increased traffic volume with the planning of US Highway 50. Although the date of the carriage house demolition is unknown, it is assumed that when the second structure changed hands from a fruit market to a service garage, the carriage house was demolished and the structure expanded to accommodate service procedures within the building; the building is gone by 1946 (*Figure 6*).

Highway 50 served as a major route across Kansas after its establishment. With its eastern end in the state at Kansas City, the highway meanders southwest through Emporia, west to Hutchinson, and then southwest to Dodge City where Highway 50 combines with US Highway 400. The highway then runs northwest to Garden City and west into Colorado.

The property at 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue likely served many travelers and tourists passing through Emporia as they traveled across the state. In addition to providing gas, the complex also offered a lodging option with the tourist home on the adjacent lot at 526 Exchange Street. In Figure 3, a sign indicates the tourist home on Exchange. City directories indicate that Mouse operated the home until at least 1935, at which point Mrs. Effie Petty took over operations. After Petty, John Wiley operated a guest home, known in 1960 as the Norman Guest House, until 1962 when directories show the house as vacant. Tourist homes became prominent around the time of the Depression, as homeowners searched for ways to leverage devalued properties to make ends meet.<sup>15</sup> With the automobile, there was also a shift in home building trends. People left their homes for entertainment, rather than staying in. As a result, houses began to be built smaller and less space for entertainment was devoted in the home. Perhaps the tourist home rose to prominence also because homeowners searched for ways to utilize the space in their homes. In addition, various sources encouraged widows to stay busy by opening parts of their houses up as tourist homes, as an article from the *Emporia Daily Gazette* cites.<sup>16</sup>

From the years between its construction and around 1970, the gas station changed hands more than once. The Lyon County Register of Deeds shows leases to the Texas Company in 1935, Standard Oil Company in 1949, and the American Oil Company in 1961. The property served as a gas station up until the 1970s as travel on Highway 50 dropped off. This can likely be attributed to the Highway Act of 1956 signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the completion of the 424-mile stretch of Interstate 70 through Kansas.<sup>17</sup> Interstate 70 allowed travelers and tourists to move across Kansas much faster and much more directly, making smaller highways, such as Highway 50, less traveled. Since the 1970s, the two structures have housed a variety of services, including a tavern, a number of beauty salons, and an arts and crafts retail business. The tourist home returned to the occupation as a single-family residence and, later, a bed and breakfast. Meanwhile, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue as Highway 50 evolved into an arterial for residents within Emporia traveling across the city.

Although the buildings on 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> and 526 N Exchange are significant together because of their roles as a service station and tourism home for travelers, the couple who commissioned the building of the house, originally known as the Ballweg Residence and addressed 528 N Exchange, are significant to Emporia as well. Carl Ballweg was a wealthy banker and lumberman who held posts both at the First National Bank and Ballweg Lumber Company. Mrs. Ballweg had an impressive life herself. In the 1880s, soon after her marriage, she opened a millinery business, which she operated until her death. When she died, 1000 people came to pay their respects at her funeral.<sup>18</sup> An 1894 newspaper article dates the construction of their residence at 528 Exchange to that year.<sup>19</sup> The design of the residence is attributed to Emporia architect Charles W. Squires. Squires' commissions included major civic projects such as courthouses. However, he also designed a number of residences in the area, including the H.C. Cross House (NRHP), Keebler-Stone House (NRHP), Dr. Moore House, Colonel David

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<sup>15</sup> John A. Jakle, Keith A. Sculle, & Jefferson S. Rogers, *The Motel in America* (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1996) 35-36.

<sup>16</sup> "Advises Widows to Forget Age, Go to Work, Be Cheerful," *The Emporia Gazette* (February 14, 1941): 2

<sup>17</sup> Kansas Historical Society, *Kansapedia*, Web-based Encyclopedia (2011).

<sup>18</sup> "Deaths and Funerals," *The Emporia Gazette* (September 19, 1927): 1

<sup>19</sup> "City Improvements," *The Emporia Gazette* (June 7, 1894): 2

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Taylor House, and Sergeant House. The design for the Ballweg House is attributed to Squires in part because of its resemblance to these other homes and also because Squires lived less than a block away. In 1929, following the death of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ballweg, Ernest C. Ballweg sold the property at 528 North Exchange Street to Snowden S. Mouse.

Of additional significance is the builder of the two structures at 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue himself. Snowden S. Mouse, pictured in Figure 4 with his son Scott, contributed greatly to the community of Emporia, according to the *Emporia Gazette*. In October 1960, Mouse was named "Man of the Week" by the newspaper, which stated:

This dean of Emporia real estate agents has always been one of the strongest supporters of the community, and has helped it grow and prosper. His support of the town is best indicated by his donation of the Mouse cabin for many years as a community center for northeast Emporia. This cabin was used by churches, civic groups and political parties until Mr. Mouse built a new home on the site a few years ago.<sup>20</sup>

According to the obituary of Snowden's son written in 2010, the family lived continuously in Emporia contributing to its growth and development.<sup>21</sup> Two of Snowden's granddaughters live in Emporia to this day. Mouse's Independent Service Station at 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue stands as a testament to the history of a prominent family of Emporia, their contributions to the community, and the development and evolution of Emporia.

### **CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The two structures on the property at 413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue were built within a few years of each other. The building to the west was built in 1930 and the east building was built in 1934. As 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue was a prominent thoroughfare through Emporia, this was a good location for entrepreneur Snowden Mouse to build the first structure, a gas station. He then developed the property further and added a building, which served first as a fruit and meat market, then as a service garage. He likely chose the native stone cladding to be aesthetically pleasing and to blend into its surrounding neighborhood. This was common for gas stations of this type during the period, and the type became the domestic-style gas station. As the second building was of the same construction and only slightly larger, it also blended in well with its surroundings, and the skill of craft used in building the second structure allows the two buildings to blend together seamlessly as if they were built at the same time.

Neither building was based on an established plan by an oil company, as the buildings were built for an independent gas station. However, there were similar domestic-style gas stations during the same time period as shown in *Roadside Kansas*. In 1927, Phillips Petroleum developed a standardized style for their gas stations in the Tudor Revival style.<sup>22</sup> This may have been a source of inspiration for the design of the Service Station. Other gas stations of the period also included a service garage that provided space to repair and maintain vehicles. The carriage house mentioned before that abutted the fruit market in 1934 is assumed to have been demolished when Harold's Super Service occupied the building to accommodate a service garage in conjunction with the gas station.<sup>23</sup> During the Great Depression, there was a need to expand services and inventory in businesses, and the provision of a service garage with a gas station reflects this trend.

One example of a domestic-style gas station in Kansas, similar to the service station and tourist home, is the Westside Service Station and Riverside Motel in Eureka, Kansas. This historic resource housed a gas station, motel, office and café as one business. During the Depression, it was common for business owners to try to make the most profit from their operation, and as such, they would combine services under one roof, such as gas stations and lodging facilities. The Westside Service Station and Riverside Motel building is a domestic-style

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<sup>20</sup> "Man of the Week," 9.

<sup>21</sup> "Scott Austin Mouse," *The Emporia Gazette* (April 8, 2010): n.p.

<sup>22</sup> Rosin and Nimz, *Roadside Kansas*, E-19.

<sup>23</sup> Harold's Super Service is located at the address in the 1935 city directory.

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station in the Ozark Giraffe style. It is clad in rubble-patterned limestone, similar to Mouse's service station, in order to match with the surrounding vernacular. The Riverside Motel was a more common lodging type for the Midwest during this period, as tourist home style lodging was more common in Eastern states.<sup>24</sup> In the Midwest, Kansas specifically, it was more typical to find cabin camps as lodging. The Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home are significant in that the gas station began as an independent company and the tourist home was a unique form of lodging during its period and in its place.

In addition, the architecture of the tourist home, formerly the Ballweg Residence, should be noted. With a design attributed to Charles W. Squires, it stands as a unique form of architecture, although it still boasts signature Squires design elements. As a prominent architect from Emporia, he designed dozens of buildings throughout the Midwest. A few of his most notable are the Dodge City Public Library, Eureka's Greenwood Hotel, Emporia's Anderson Memorial Library, and the Lincoln County Courthouse, which are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. His obituary from the *Emporia Gazette* stated that he designed over 2,700 buildings throughout Kansas. As Emporia grew east from downtown into the suburbs in the late 1800's, Squires designed the construction of dozens of residences in the residential area east of town and resided at 613 N Exchange, which he designed. The work of the Ballweg Residence is a combination of Free Classic Queen Anne and a slight influence of the Shingle style. Many of his other residential works in Emporia were of the Free Classic Queen Anne style, including the H.C. Cross House. The intricate ornament on the exterior facades is indicative of the work of Squires, as well as the detailed woodwork on the interior of the home. A quote from William Allen White, also of Emporia, states, "Charley Squires put his mark on this town; the mark of a generation. He built with absolute verity to the inner spirit of his day."<sup>25</sup>

The two structures served as a gas station between the years of 1930-1970. The oil & gas company that occupied the property changed a number of times during that time period. Coinciding with the time that the stretch of Interstate 70 across Kansas was completed was the period when the tenants of the property evolved into retail and grooming services. Since 1970, a number of businesses have occupied the buildings, such as taverns, salons, a barber shop and a few hobby and crafting shops. These patterns show the evolution of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Highway 50 as a major route for people crossing Kansas, as well as the evolution of the property at 413 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue itself. Although the uses of the three structures at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Exchange have turned over since their period of significance, their original character remains intact and the three buildings stand as a testament to the craft and skill of their builders and designers.

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<sup>24</sup> Jakle, Sculle, & Rogers, *The Motel in America*, 35-36.

<sup>25</sup> Ross MacTaggart, "Looking for Mr. Squires," *Restoring Ross* Blog, August 7, 2014.  
<https://restoringross.com/looking-for-mr-squires/> (Accessed April 2, 2018).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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"School Board Acts." *Emporia Daily Gazette* (January 12, 1934): 7.

"Scott Austin Mouse." *The Emporia Gazette* (April 8, 2010): [digitized online].

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property** Less than one

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Service Station 38.404760 -96.174560

Latitude: Longitude:

Tourist House 38.404658 -96.174696

Latitude: Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

413 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Legal Description:

EMPORIA (O.T.), S15, T19S, R11E, LT 86 & N20 E30 LT 84 EXCHANGE ST (50.0 X 130.0)

526 N Exchange Street Legal Description:

EMPORIA (O.T.), S15, T19S, R11E, LT 84 EXC N20 E30 EXCHANGE ST (50.0 X 130.0)

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries provided above are the legal description of each lot provided by the Lyon County Appraiser and are historically associated with the service station and tourist home.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Kristy Johnson, Assoc. AIA

organization Ben Moore Studio, LLC

date Spring 2018

street & number 513 Leavenworth Street Suite A

telephone 785-560-3111

city or town Manhattan

state KS

zip code 66502

e-mail kristy@benmoorestudio.com

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**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

---

name Tommy Lee and Patsy A. Secord

street & number 526 N. Exchange Street

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Emporia

state KS

zip code 66801

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

#### Photograph Log

Name of Property: Snowden S. Mouse Service Station and Tourist Home  
City or Vicinity: Emporia  
County: Lyon State: Kansas  
Photographer: Ben Moore (Service Station) & Ross MacTaggart (Tourist Home)  
Date  
Photographed: August 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 01 of 24:** Taken from north side of property looking south at the junction of the east and west structures.
- 02 of 24:** Taken from west of building looking east. Privacy fence hides the back of the property from view today.
- 03 of 24:** Taken from north side of property looking south at east structure.
- 04 of 24:** Taken from north side of property again looking south at the junction of the east and west structures.
- 05 of 24:** Taken from southwest of the two structures looking northeast.
- 06 of 24:** Taken from south of the two structures, looking towards the junction of the two.
- 07 of 24:** Taken from south of the two structures, looking north towards the west structure. A short stone water table is noted at the bottom of the wall.
- 08 of 24:** Looking south on the interior of the east structure.
- 09 of 24:** Looking west from inside the east structure.
- 10 of 24:** Looking east in east structure. An 8/8 single-hung window can still be seen from the interior.
- 11 of 24:** Looking west from inside of west structure. The opening in the west wall is assumed to be the original fireplace serviced by the chimney on the exterior.
- 12 of 24:** Looking west from inside of west structure.
- 13 of 24:** Looking east towards front porch of Tourist Home.
- 14 of 24:** Looking east towards front porch of Tourist Home.
- 15 of 24:** Looking east towards front porch of Tourist Home-tapered column base with low guardrail and spindles.
- 16 of 24:** Looking east towards Tourist Home, sleeping porch on south.
- 17 of 24:** Taken from south of the Tourist Home, a bay window.
- 18 of 24:** Taken from south of the Tourist Home, side porch and entry, the opening has curved sides.
- 19 of 24:** Taken from the side porch of Tourist Home looking east, another opening with spindled guardrail and curved sides.
- 20 of 24:** Interior photo of Tourist Home showing detailed and highly skilled woodwork.
- 21 of 24:** Interior photo of Tourist Home showing radiused turret.

The following photos were taken by KSHS in November 2017.

- 22 of 24:** Looking SE at service station, showing an exposed display window on the 1934 building's west façade.
- 23 of 24:** South façade of the 1930 service station building, showing exposed historic windows.
- 24 of 24:** Looking SE at non-historic garage associated with the house.

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## Figures

**Figure 01:** Sketch plan of nominated property, sketch by author.

**Figure 02:** Contextual Image, Google map modified by author.

**Figure 03:** Taken from northwest of the property near the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Exchange Street, looking southeast. This photograph shows three young boys standing in front of the first structure built on the property, the filling station. It is assumed to be taken around 1930, since the second structure on the property cannot be seen. A sign stating, "Tourist Home" indicates that a property down the street provided lodging for travelers. Photographer is unknown, photo courtesy of Lindy Mouse Whetzel.

**Figure 04:** Taken from north of the property on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, looking south. Two men can be seen in this photo, showing the addition of the second structure on the property, housing the Emporia Fruit Market. It can be seen that the Texas Company occupies the property in this photo, and as such, the date is presumed to be at least 1935, as records from the Lyon County Register of Deeds show that the property was leased to the Texas Company in 1935. The two men in the photo may be the builder, Snowden Mouse, and his son, Scott. Photographer is unknown, photo courtesy of Lindy Mouse Whetzel

**Figure 05:** Taken from northeast corner of property looking southwest. It is presumed that this photo was taken at the same time as Figure 4. It provides a different angle of the fruit market, and the carriage house that directly abuts the structure can be seen. This carriage house no longer exists today. Photographer is unknown, photo courtesy of Lindy Mouse Whetzel.

## Photo

**Key:** Produced by author

## Boundary

**Map:** 2012 ESRI aerial image, Lyon County, Kansas Appraiser GIS.

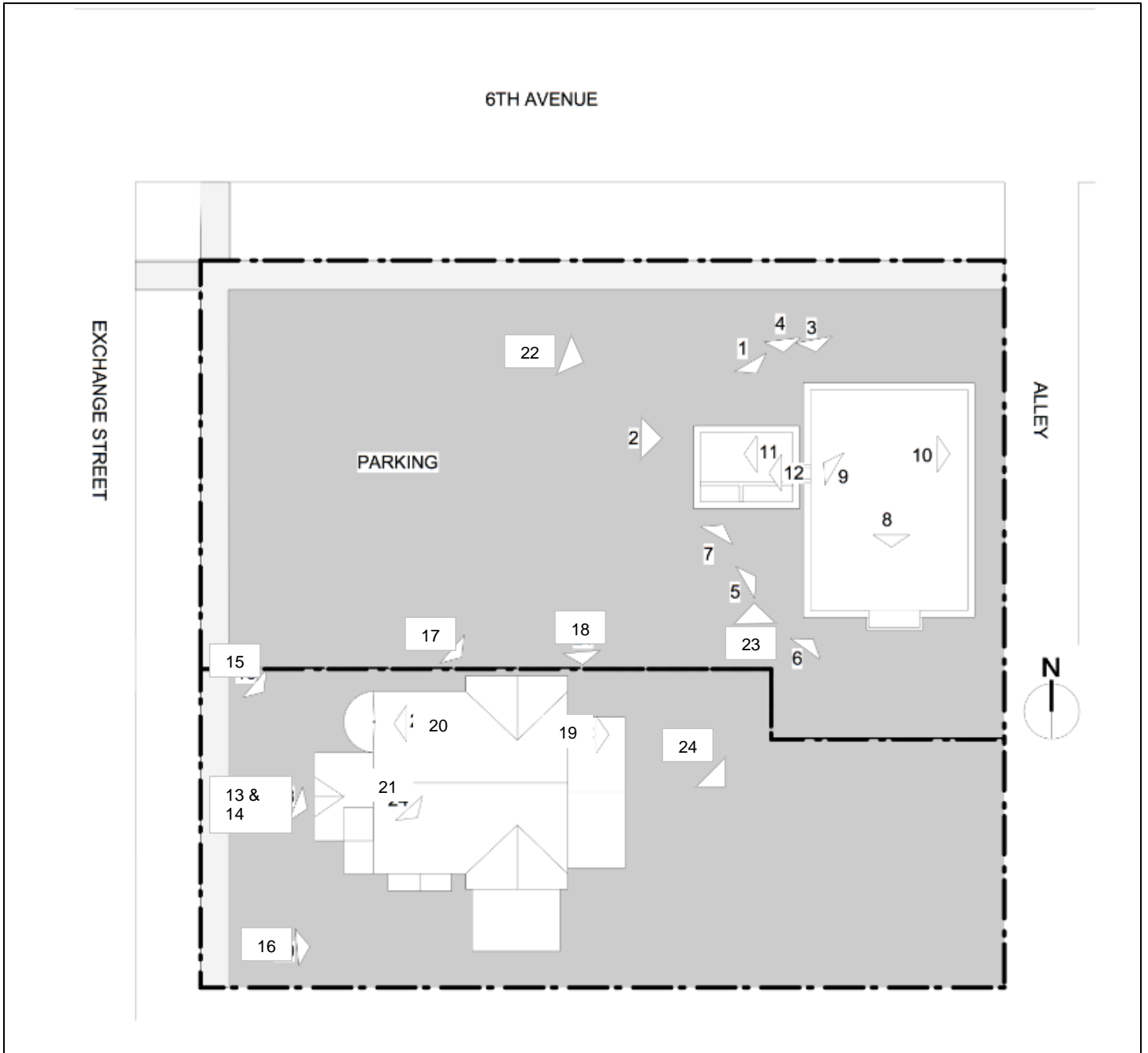
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Photo Key Plan.**



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**Boundary Map.**

