

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Morton Albaugh House

Other name/site number 177-5400-1248

2. Location

Street & number 1331 SW Harrison Street not for publication

City or town Topeka vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Shawnee Code 177 Zip code 66612

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.)

Richard D. Parkhurst 5 March 2004
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.	_____	Signature of the Keeper	_____	Date of Action	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____				

Morton Albaugh House
Name of property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- 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
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Prairie

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT
other BRICK

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property Morton Albaugh House County and State Shawnee 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 its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1910-1918

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Morton Albaugh

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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): Primary location of additional data:

- 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 #

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

Name of repository:

Name of Property Morton Albaugh House

County and State Shawnee County, Kansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	5	2	6	7	9	3	0	4	3	2	4	6	4	0	3	
	Zone	Easting		Northing							Zone	Easting		Northing			
2																4	

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Melissa Fisher Isaacs, National Register Intern

Organization Kansas State Historical Society Date 3 December 2003

Street & number 6425 SW 6th Avenue Telephone (785) 272-8681

City or town Topeka State Kansas Zip code 66615

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 Evelyn M. Cook

street & number 1331 SW Harrison Street telephone (785) 235-9667

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

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

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Morton Albaugh House
Topeka, Kansas

Description

The Morton Albaugh House, located at 1331 Harrison Street in Topeka, Kansas, is a two-story American Foursquare with a hipped, asphalt-shingled roof and hipped dormers. The house is clapboard clad on the first floor; the second-floor exterior is shingled. Brackets accent the cornice line under the wide eaves of the main roof and the dormers. The window and door surrounds exhibit the simple style that is a hallmark of the American Foursquare.

The front, east-facing facade is symmetrically arranged. The front door is flanked on each side by a large window centered between two narrow two-over-two windows whose top sash glazing features a leaded glass quartered diamond surrounded by an oval. The large windows' smaller top sashes are decorated with leaded glass arranged in a crossed diamond pattern. The full-width, one story porch that shelters the front entrance features wrought-iron supports standing on stone-capped brick pillars; the distances between these supports are spanned by wrought-iron railings. Four poured-concrete steps, curving graciously outward as they descend, lead to the front porch.

The second story is punctuated by a small, centrally positioned window underscored by a wide wooden lintel that is supported by a bracket. A large one-over-one window is located on either side of this center window. The attic dormer is fenestrated by a ribbon of four single-pane windows.

The south-facing elevation features a brick chimney. On either side of this chimney, a one-over-one window positioned between two half-length single pane windows provides illumination to the ground floor. A bay window with decorative leaded glass also punctuates this level of the house. The second floor receives light through two single one-over-one windows, a pair of casement windows, and a single one-over-one window. The attic dormer features a ribbon of three windows.

A latticework enclosure shields the ground floor entrance on the north end of the rear, west-facing elevation, while a staircase provides access to the enclosed porch on the second floor. The south end of the west elevation features a ribbon of four windows fenestrating the lower story and a single window providing illumination to the upper floor. The hipped-roof attic dormer has two windows.

The north elevation exhibits a variety of fenestrations. Four small square windows punctuate the basement level. The ground floor features a ribbon of three small square windows, a door that is no

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longer in use, a one-over-one window, and a center one-over-one window between two adjoining, narrow one-over-one windows.

The second-floor fenestration is comprised of a single one-over-one window, a grouping of one center one-over-one window bounded on either side by a narrow one-over-one window, a small one-over-one window, and a second single one-over-one window. The attic dormer is characterized by a ribbon of three windows.

The interior of the house retains the original charm and dignity of its craftsman design. Throughout the house, original dark wood moldings surround the windows. The dining room is entered through a colonnade and features a beamed ceiling. The living room is graced by a pair of arched French doors and a large arched dark wood panel, and features a brick fireplace with dark wood mantel. The parlor is entered through large, functioning pocket doors. The kitchen retains its vintage cast-iron sink, and features two pantries. A restroom is located between the kitchen and the dining room.

The upper floors of the house are accessible via two sets of stairs. The first is visible from the foyer and retains its elegant woodwork. The second opens to the kitchen. The second floor has painted woodwork and carpeting. Three bedrooms and a bath fill the front portion of the second floor. The bedroom in the northeast corner has been divided into two parts by a temporary partition. A second kitchen and an enclosed porch are located in the rear of the house's second floor. The third floor of the house is a storage area.

The property on which the Morton Albaugh House sits also includes garage of recent construction. This garage, a non-contributing feature, is a one story structure with a shed roof and synthetic siding. A walk-through door on the east facade provides access to the garage.

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Statement of Significance

The Morton Albaugh House (c. 1910) is historically significant under Criterion B for its association with Morton Albaugh (1862-1918), an important figure in late 19th and early 20th century Kansas politics. The house is also significant under Criterion C as an example of the American Foursquare.

Morton Albaugh rose to statewide prominence in the 1880s as an astute political organizer for the Kansas Republican party, and remained an important figure in Kansas politics until his death in 1918. In the course of his career, he managed three gubernatorial campaigns and was the chairman of the Kansas Republican state central committee for six years. He also served as state bank commissioner and was appointed to the post of clerk of the United States district court in Topeka.

Historical background and significance:

Morton Albaugh was born in Shoals, Indiana, on February 10, 1862, to Samuel and Mary Albaugh. He was educated at the Southwestern Normal College in Mitchell, Indiana, and as a young man taught five terms of school. In the early 1880s, Albaugh came to Kansas to serve as the principal of the Kingman, Kansas, public schools. After two years at this post, he got his start as both a newspaperman and a politician when he moved to Saratoga, Kansas, and launched the *Saratoga Sun*. Using his newspaper as a tool for boosterism, Albaugh avidly backed Saratoga against the town of Pratt in the fight for the county seat of Pratt county. The two communities became embroiled in a bitter struggle for the title which, according to a September 28, 1910, article in the *Topeka Journal*, involved "gunplay, queer elections, [and] bad language..." In the end, Saratoga, which had grown to a population of nearly 2,000, lost the title, and shortly thereafter faded away.

Soon after Saratoga's defeat, Albaugh gave up the *Saratoga Sun*. He returned to Kingman, Kansas, and purchased the *Kingman Leader*, and eventually the *Kingman Courier* as well. He combined the papers into the *Kingman Leader-Courier*. It was here that Morton Albaugh began his rise to political power. When the Republican party in Kansas recognized a need for a representative organization in Kingman, Albaugh stepped up to create it. His efforts in this endeavor were so notable that in 1888, Albaugh was elected chairman of the Republican state central committee. In all, he served on the committee for eighteen years, and was its chairman for an unprecedented three terms. In 1895, Albaugh was appointed to the State Board of Charities by Governor E. N. Morrill, whose

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election campaign he had supported. It was around this time that he moved his family to Topeka.

Morton Albaugh and Eula L. Houghton of Loogootee, Indiana, were married on September 28, 1890. They had two children, Houghton and Kathryn. Eula came to be well known in Topeka's social circles as a talented pianist. She wrote and performed original piano compositions, and was a charter member of the Music Study Club. She often held recitals at 1331 Harrison Street. When the family moved to Topeka, they first made their home at 1024 Harrison Street. On October 18, 1909, a building permit for the house at 1331 Harrison Street was issued to Morton Albaugh. The cost of the house was \$5360, and by July 1910, the Albaugh family had moved into their new home.

The American Foursquare plan that the Albaughs chose, which had come out of the Prairie School of architecture, was extremely popular at the time the house was constructed. In *The Field Guide to American Houses*, the McAlesters characterize the "hipped roof, symmetrical, with front entry" subtype, of which the Morton Albaugh House is an example, as "the earliest Prairie form [which] developed into the most common vernacular version."

The American Foursquare is an indigenous domestic design that was built in cities, suburbs, and the countryside between 1900-1925. Foursquares were popularized by speculative developers, plan book designers, and mail order houses. Mail order catalogues such as Radford, Sears, Ward, and Alladin all offered variants of the Foursquare plan. Like the bungalow, the Foursquare offered a reliable, affordable, well-planned house for the burgeoning American middle class.

In its simplest form the Foursquare is a two-story house with the same four-room floorplan on each floor. The cube form is surmounted by a hipped roof which may be pierced with dormers on all four slopes or only on the front. Deep overhanging eaves accentuated with large brackets define the Foursquare. A front porch spans the entire facade, supported by classically styled pillars or columns. Frame, narrow clapboard sheathing is the most common treatment for Foursquares but brick and stone examples are also found.

Foursquares are adaptable and can wear the stylistic attributes of the Colonial Revival, Prairie, Mission, Craftsman, and Italian Renaissance styles. Elegant window, porch, and roof treatments

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serve to distinguish an otherwise straightforward domicile. Palladian windows, pantile roofs, multi-paned upper sashes, double-hung windows, beltcourses, and elaborate beveled-glass front doors were all components of an upscale Foursquare interpretation.

The Foursquare was meant to offer the appearance of massiveness and stability. Massiveness was achieved through shape and reinforced by heavy rooflines and eaves. Additional mass could be gained by adding additional porch columns or using thick pillars in their stead. A popular, pervasive, yet understated building type, the Foursquare continues to actively house families throughout the state.

That the Albaughs chose to construct their new home on the 1300 block of Harrison Street marked them as members of Topeka's elite society. At the time, the most fashionable street of all was Topeka Boulevard, located one block west of Harrison Street. A building boom in the 1890s and early 1900s pushed the growing upper middle class neighborhood outward to encompass adjacent streets as well. Just a few blocks south of the State Capitol, the Albaughs' neighborhood was one of newly built, fashionable Foursquares inhabited by the families of successful business owners, railroad agents, and physicians. In the succeeding years, this neighborhood and its fine homes have suffered a reversal in fortune. While some homes were destroyed by the tornado that wrecked havoc on Topeka in 1966, many others have fallen prey to neglect and the wrecking ball. Many of the gracious homes that once stood along Topeka Boulevard have given way to the commercial strip. A parking lot stands on the site of 1024 Harrison Street, Albaugh's first Topeka home. 1331 Harrison Street is one of the few homes in the area which still conveys a sense of the prestigious neighborhood of which it was once a part.

Morton Albaugh's most notable accomplishment, according to political observers of the time, was in organizing the 1898 campaign which pushed the Populist governor and representatives out of power and returned Republicans to these offices. Although this election has been retrospectively characterized by historians as "a dull affair between a dispirited Populist organization and a slate of lackluster Republicans" (Peterson, 252.), Albaugh's contemporaries praised his renowned ability to transform acquaintances into supporters and then to organize those supporters into effective political blocks. One summed up his influence this way: "Mr. Albaugh's fame rests chiefly upon his unerring political instinct and his genius for organization."

In 1901, Morton Albaugh received a reward for his efforts on behalf of Governor W. E. Stanley's election campaign in his appointment as the State Bank Commissioner, a post he served until 1904.

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In 1902, he fell down the steps of the State House and broke his leg. Unwavering in his devotion to the Kansas Republican party, Albaugh managed Willis J. Bailey's successful bid for governor from his bed. In 1904, Judge John C. Pollock named Albaugh to the clerkship of the United States District Court in Topeka, a position that he held until his death in 1918.

In addition to his work in politics, Morton Albaugh never forgot his early interest in education, and used his influence to lobby for funding on behalf of the University of Kansas and other state educational institutions. He also distinguished himself during World War I as the head of the Shawnee County Red Cross. William Allen White remembered that "[Morton Albaugh] was instructed to raise \$8,000. He raised \$25,000." He also served on YMCA and Liberty Bond drives.

Morton Albaugh's unexpected death from pneumonia at his home at 1331 Harrison Street resulted in an outpouring of public recognition and tributes from prominent Kansans. The *Topeka State Journal* reported the "Home of Dead Political Leader Jammed This Morning," as scores of Topekans and political dignitaries, including supreme court justices and former governors, visited 1331 Harrison Street where Albaugh's body lay in state. During his funeral, in honor of the man one journalist had dubbed "the master mechanic of the old machine," the state house closed for an hour. William Allen White, who despite their sometimes divergent views on political issues had been Albaugh's longtime friend, eulogized him in the *Topeka Daily State Journal*.

After Eula Albaugh's death in 1947, the house changed hands several times. Later owners converted the second floor into an apartment and added a kitchen on that floor. Despite these changes, the Morton Albaugh House has retained the charm and dignity that made it worthy of the family of one of Topeka's most prominent citizens. Although Morton Albaugh never sought elected office himself, his tireless effort on behalf of the Republican party in Kansas at the turn of the twentieth century was influential in determining the course of Kansas politics.

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Bibliography

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“Friends Pay a Final Tribute to ‘Mort’ Today,” *The Topeka State Journal*, 11 February 1918.

“Injuries in Fall Fatal for Mrs. Morton Albaugh,” *The Topeka Journal*, 29 April 1947.

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Kline, Kathryn Albaugh. “Mort Albaugh—Politician.” *Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society* (December 1963), p. 45-46.

“Morton Albaugh Dean of Politics Dies Early Today,” *The Topeka State Journal*, 9 February 1918.

Peterson, John M. “The People’s Party of Kansas: Campaigning in 1898.” *Kansas History* (Winter 1990-1991), p. 235-258.

“Prominent in Music Circles,” *The Topeka Journal*, 16 June 1936.

The Topeka Journal, 28 September 1910.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 497 and 499 on Harrison Street in Block 10 of the Huntoon Addition of the City of Topeka. The property is bounded on the east by Harrison Street, on the west by an alley, and on the north and south by adjacent property lines.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains all land historically associated with it.

Photographs

The following information is common to all photographs:

1. Morton Albaugh House
2. Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas
3. Melissa Fisher Isaacs, photographer
5. Original negative located at Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is specific to individual photographs:

4. 24 July 2003
6. View of east-facing facade
7. #1

4. 24 July 2003
6. View of north-facing facade
7. #2

4. 24 July 2003
6. View of west-facing facade
7. #3

4. 17 December 2003
6. View of living room, camera facing east
7. #4

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4. 17 December 2003

6. View of dining room, camera facing west

7. #5

4. 17 December 2003

6. View of living room fireplace, camera facing south

7. #6

4. 17 December 2003

6. View of woodwork and formal staircase, camera facing south

7. #7

4. 17 December 2003

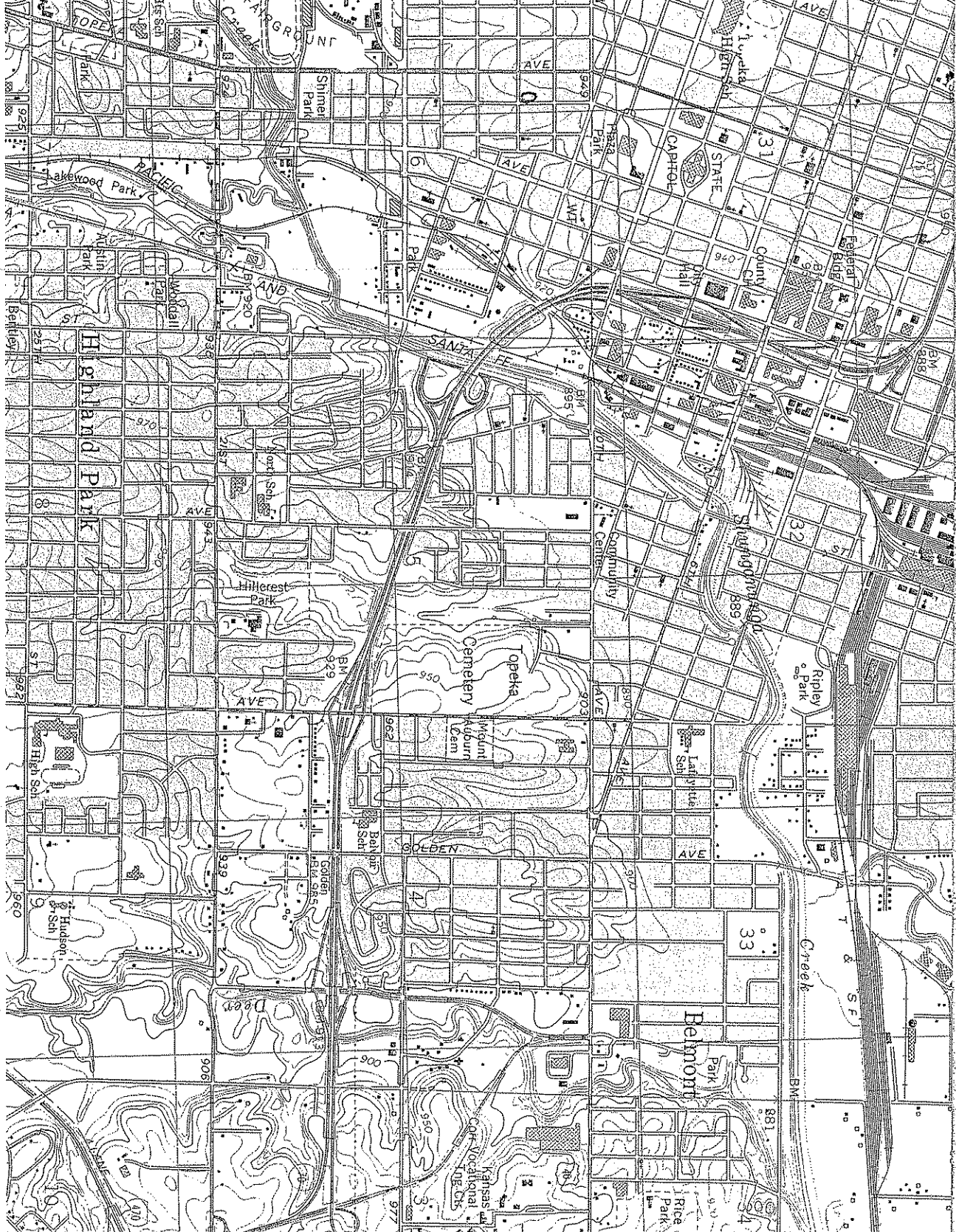
6. View of first floor kitchen, camera facing north

7. #8

4. 17 December 2003

6. View of pantry, camera facing south

7. #9



INTERCHANGE 20 MI. N.
 J.S. 69 & 169) 57 MI.

EAST TOPEKA INTERCHANGE 0.3 MI.

MORTON ALBARCHI
 HOUSE
 TOPEKA, SHAWNEE
 COUNTY, KANSAS
 UTM REFERENCE:
 15/267930/4324640

230°
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4326