

**HOLLIDAY PARK:
SPIRIT OF THE CITY**

by *Douglass W. Wallace*

Named after Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad founder Cyrus K. Holliday (1826-1900), the Holliday Park neighborhood centers on a 1 1/2 acre triangular park at 12th and Western Ave. An error in the first plat of the townsite led to its distinctive shape. Topeka founders, among them Fry Giles who later developed part of the district, laid out the streets using crude tools. Soon afterwards they discovered their mistake and corrected it with the newer streets and plats paralleling federal survey lines. Thus, where subdivisions and the original townsite meet: a street jog and, as well, left-over spaces like Holliday Park.

Popular legend relates that gypsies once camped in this area; most certainly early Topekans used the future park ground to graze their live-stock and/or dump building debris. Beginning in the late 1880s, however, houses started to fill up the prairie as Topeka commenced its first big expansion or "boom." Responding to such rapid growth, on April 20, 1895, nearby residents formed the Holliday Park Association to beautify the triangular plot which soon became the Kansas capital's fourth public park.

A forest in the middle of a bustling city, at an early date neighbors carefully nurtured young trees and plantings while a ladies group raised funds through ice cream socials and band concerts for an ornamental park fence. More recently, 1983, the Holliday Park NIA moved a granite boulder and bronze tablet honoring C.K. Holliday from the former Santa Fe depot to the park. In 1994 the newly formed Society for the Preservation of Holliday Park--with financial assistance from its annual Christmas home tours, Blue-Cross/Blue-Shield of Kansas, and supporters -purchased and switched on ten period Victorian light standards adding greatly to the Park's charm.

The surrounding turn-of-the-century neighborhood boasts of a myriad of distinctive houses from all periods and styles: Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Bungalow, Prairie, Tudor. Here resided (and resides) a diverse community: working class to business executive--bankers, educators, journalists, and more; from railroad treasurer to railroad conductor, widow of an Episcopal Bishop of Kansas to Jewish merchant. Like most older, urban districts, it experienced decline following World War II--the rise of bland suburbia--but recent years have witnessed a revival as more and more young people (and not so young) restore and repaint their Victorian/Edwardian homes.

A special place amid busy streets, Holliday Park embodies all the images of the traditional American neighborhood: children playing in a shady park, oaks and elms towering over brick sidewalks, white picket fences embracing family homes, columned churches beckoning all to

enter, train whistles sounding in the distance, and nourishing the spirit, a great Gothic tower rising majestically into a blue sky.

Neighborhood Tour

Centrally located, in the shadow of the Statehouse dome and Topeka High School's Gothic tower, a walking or driving tour is a simple exercise. The neighborhood encompasses Fillmore, Western, and Taylor streets from 10th to 13th--its Historic District the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Fillmore, 1100 and 1200 blocks of Western, 1200 block of Taylor, plus parts of the 800 and 900 blocks of Munson Ave. (formally King St.). While the eastern most area lies within the original Topeka townsite of 1855, the remainder are incorporated in the later King's and Young's Additions along with the small Giles subdivision.

The quintessential urban neighborhood--elegant and gracious--it possesses several of the Kansas capital's finest vistas: the Victorian row of 1000 Fillmore (looking NW from Munson & Fillmore); the T.H.S. tower rising above the roof tops of 1000 Western (NE from Munson & Western); and Topeka High School at the head of Taylor St. (N from the Park).

Since Holliday Park is, with a few exceptions, a residential district, houses and buildings may only be viewed from the public right-of-way, the sidewalk or street. The privacy of residents must be respected. While one may travel any direction, the route below goes counter clockwise beginning at 10th and Fillmore.

Note: Keyed to the map by number or letter, each description begins with the historic name(s) of the structure, address, year constructed, brief historical and/or architectural description, and in parenthesis its architectural style. (MAP COMING SOON)

1) **Snyder Residence.** (WREN), 1001 Fillmore (1906). Many details are hidden, except unique semi-circular bay, by bland, new siding. Built for George Snyder, Pres. Topeka State Bank, it is best known as home, from late 1950's to 1987 of pioneer radio station WREN. Owner Alf Landon had his office here; on air personalities included KU sportscaster Max Falkenstien and DJ Lou "Louie, Louie" Constantino. (Colonial Revival)

2) **Macferran Residence.** 1015 Fillmore (1887). Three 2-story porch columns and other details highlight this early 1900's home of State Savings Bank cashier Horace Macferran and family. (Italianate)

3) **Residence,** 1019 Fillmore (1891). Modified (recent porch alteration), it no doubt resembled the Macferran residence to north;

note low hip roof and bay, characteristic of the Italianate style (Italianate)

4) **Wellcome Residence**, 1021 Fillmore (1892). Current owner (1997) helped area revitalization as early NIA leader and by being one of the first to remove later siding and then painting house in Victorian hues rather than white. William Wellcome was a real estate broker and in the mortgage business. (Queen Anne)

5) **Merriam-Miller Residence**, 1025 Fillmore (c. 1890). Though altered, house has intriguing internal arrangement plus several handsome fireplaces. C.B. Merriam came from a prominent Topeka banking family while subsequent owner. William Miller was a partner in Lyon County's famed Miller Ranch. (Queen Anne)

6) **Griswold Residence**, 1031 Fillmore (1886). Interior features include elaborate staircase and woodwork; exterior, note the "eyebrow" attic story window of this typical Victorian mansion. Josiah Griswold was President of Shawnee Milling Co.; step-son the sculptor Robert Merrill Gage created the "Seated Lincoln" statue on the Kansas Statehouse grounds in a barn that once stood in back of the house. (Queen Anne)

7) **Smith Residence**, 1035 Fillmore (1887). J.B. Parnham, Supt. of Construction on the Statehouse, presumably built this house as a speculative venture; owner in 1900, George W. Smith, was Supt. of Machinery in the vast Santa Fe machine shops. Its various gables and dormers, along with art nouveau beveled glass windows and interior oak woodwork, distinguish this Queen Anne. The porch, however, is an obvious early 20th century modification. Now The Elderberry Bed & Breakfast. (Queen Anne)

8) **Residence**, 1170 Fillmore (c. 1925). One of Holliday Park's few Airplane Bungalows, a style identified with Topeka. Long and narrow, a rear 2nd-story bedroom or sleeping porch section gives the type its unique character and, presumably, the name--resembling the fuselage and tail of a plane. (Bungalow)

9) **Felix Residence**, 1174 Fillmore (c. 1924). The classic Colonial, Holliday Park's only true Georgian house, it was briefly home of clothier Isaac Felix. Subsequent owner Mrs. Sarah Hamblen Thomas, step daughter of an Episcopal Bishop of Kansas, engaged in local charity work. (Colonial Revival)

10) **Lindsey Residence**, 1178 Fillmore (1911). The classic bungalow, its estimated cost in 1911 was \$5,500. First occupants were artist Katherine Lindsey and her father Henry Lindsey who had been a liveryman, Topeka Chief of Police, Col. of the 22nd Kansas Infantry, an "Indian fighter," and as a teenager a drummer boy during the Civil War. In 1935 the home of state architect Raymond Coolidge. (Craftsman bungalow)

11) **Lewis-August Residence**, 1181 Fillmore (1909). Such 2 1/2 story front gable houses go by many names--Craftsman, Prairie, Homestead--and is probably the most common style built in Topeka from 1900 to 1920. Lower story features brick veneer siding, upper narrow clapboard, a common occurrence. Porch columns and oval window Colonial Revival elements while interior possesses art nouveau elements. Builder "Ike" Lewis was Superintendent of Insurance; David J. August was a colorful downtown merchant and a leader in the Jewish community. (Craftsman/ Homestead)

12) **Bullene-Endlich Residence**, 1185 Fillmore (1909). Prominent Kansas City architect Walter Root designed this bungalow for K.C. Star reporter Fred Bullene; later owner Harry Endlich, whose woman's clothing store catered to city's elite, was August's brother-in-law. Interior excellent example of the Gustav Stickley Craftsman style. (Bungalow/ Craftsman)

13) **Jarrell Residence**, 1186 Fillmore (1911). Jarrell family were all writers: father Frank AT&SF Railway. publicity director and editor; mother Myra (who grew up across the street at 1195 Fillmore) a playwright; and son Jack a Washington and foreign correspondent who covered D-Day for the INS (International News Service). (Craftsman/Homestead)

14) **Lucas Residence**, 1191 Fillmore (1909). Another excellent 2 1/2 story Craftsman but with side gables; eaves on gables and dormer have a slight flare, a trademark of this type. Albertus Lucas' real estate and insurance office in 1910 was located in the Crawford Bldg. at 5th & Jackson. (Craftsman)

15) **Residence**, 1192 Fillmore (1887). Small late Victorian cottage, typical of its day; no doubt the front gable once sported decorative gingerbread work. Porch also changed but probably follows the original shape. Parlor bay the other exterior feature. John S. Dawson, a native of Scotland, resided here in 1935 while a Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court. (Folk Victorian Queen Anne)

16) **Williams Residence**, 1195 Fillmore (c. 1880). Oldest house in Holliday Park, possibly pre-1880 (depicted in 1880 Topeka "bird's-eye view" lithograph). A.L. Williams was elected Kansas Attorney General in 1870 and also served as attorney for the Kansas Pacific R.R. and then the Union Pacific, Kansas Division, as well as other corporations. (Folk Victorian)

17) **Shakeshaft Residence**, 1197 Fillmore (1910). Excellent example of a shingle bungalow, built by clothing merchant Ilif W. Felix who later built 1174 Fillmore. Long time resident was E.J. Shakeshaft, born in England, who first worked for the Union Pacific but then became the Santa Fe's General Passenger Agent. (Bungalow/Craftsman)

18) **Jewell Residence**, 1216 Fillmore (1914). Mrs. C.W. Jewell, who came to Topeka as a bride in 1864, built this unusual Prairie style apartment house at the age of 81. Her husband who died in 1901 was a capitalist and founder of the National Bank of Topeka. To many she was known as "Mother Topeka." (Prairie)

19) **Akers Residence**, 1221 Fillmore (1913). Unique Prairie style house with a distinctive Colonial Revival dormer window; interior eclectic--one of Topeka's more important Prairie houses. Benjamin Akers was a traveling freight agent for the Santa Fe Railway. (Prairie)

20) **Central Presbyterian Church** (2nd United), 920 Huntoon (c. 1905, 1923, & later). It began as a simple, stone Gothic chapel, an off-shoot of the United Presbyterian church. Thomas Williamson designed the 1923 addition which blended-in nicely with the original sections which may still be discerned; modern addition less successful. (Gothic)

21) **The Brick Flats**, 923-929 Huntoon (c. 1890). Greatly altered remnants of late 19th century rowhouse; the east half was destroyed in the 1966 tornado. East unit the most original while the corner tower resembles the contemporary Hicks Block at 6th & Tyler. (Second Empire)

22) **Neil Residence**, 1257 Fillmore (1886). Fish scale siding and unusual arch porch are among the notable features of this, the home in 1907 of George Neil, vice president of the Topeka Woolen Manufacturing Co. (plant at north end of Oakland, building later used for the Longren Airplane factory). (Queen Anne)

23) **Woodward Residence**, 1272 Fillmore (1923). Walter Root designed this Tudor mansion for financier Chester Woodward: world traveler, book collector, and author. A towering figure in Topeka's cultural history, as School Board President he was instrumental in planning for the new Topeka High School. Its two-story library with hammer-beam ceiling is a special feature of Topeka's grandest Tudor manor. Now a Bed & Breakfast--The Woodward. (Tudor Revival)

24) **Parnham-Keizer Residence**, 1269 Western (1887). J.B. Parnham, Supt. of Construction for the Statehouse, built and briefly lived here (probably a speculative venture during the city's building boom). Dell Keizer, son-in-law of Daily Capital founder Gen. J.K. Hudson, lived here while he was the Capital business manager and later when President of the short-lived Herald. By early 1940's, house was renovated into the Belvedere Apts. (Queen Anne)

25) **Gleed Residence**, 1263 Western (c. 1892). Like many grand Topeka mansions, by the 1950's this large home was carved into apartments (called The Cedars). James Gleed was one of the city's eminent attorneys and businessmen; at the time of his death in 1926 general attorney for Southwestern Bell in St. Louis. He remodeled the Bennett Flats into The Devon in Holliday Park. (see below). (Queen Anne)

26) **Knox-Lindsay Residence**, 1256 Western (1885). Realtor/minister John D. Knox built the house as wedding present to son William Knox who erected (1889) the Columbian Bldg. downtown. Next owner, Dr. William Lindsay, was a local pioneer in treatment of mental illness. Pattern of vertical and horizontal boards plus exposed rafters and gable trusses define this as a Stick style of Victorian house. (Stick)

27) **Robbins-Lewis Residence**, 1234 Taylor (1900). Built for real estate broker A.D Robbins and later home to Alfred G. Lewis, President Arkansas Valley Town and Land Co., this house demonstrates the transition from elaborate Victorian to the simpler structural masses of the early 20th century homes--less gingerbread, plainer wall surfaces. Note Palladian window in front gable. (Colonial Revival)

28) **Van Petten Residence**, 1228 Taylor (c. 1895). Other than new porch, house has been beautifully restored; interior features ornate stairway and wainscotting, parquet floors, 12-foot ceilings, oak and walnut finish, etc. A.E. Van Petten was President of the Pioneer Mortgage Co. (Queen Anne)

29) **Brown Residence**, 1224 Taylor (1902). Topeka architect Theodore Lescher designed house for State Printer Thomas Brown whose family lived here for nearly 70 years. Like the Robbins-Lewis house, Brown

Residence shows the change from the Victorian era to the Colonial Revival and Homestead styles. (Homestead/Colonial Revival)

30) **Bowman Residence**, 1220 Taylor (1901). A transitional house, a forerunner to the Foursquare style, its near square plan and hip roof are the special features though it retains the 3-sided parlor bay (on south) of the older pre-1900 houses. W. Walter Bowman was an officer of several financial institutions, including National Bank of Topeka, and served as Secretary to the Kansas Bankers Association. (Foursquare/Colonial Revival)

31) **Drum Residence**, 1218 Taylor (1903). New siding hides extensive Colonial Revival details around windows and bays of this very late Queen Anne Victorian. Builder William Drum was an insurance agent; 1930's resident George Rigby was member of the Rigby Candy Co. family and a brother, William, was a Topeka mayor. (Queen Anne/Colonial Revival)

32) **Residence**, 1200 Taylor (c. 1901). Its hip roof and lower cross gables indicate a Queen Anne style house though the flat, front facade is indicative of the plainer houses of the first two decades of the 20th century. (Queen Anne)

33) **Christian Science Church** (former), 1239 Western (1938-39). Topeka architect W.E. Glover designed this simple but classically inspired church. Material for the ionic columns is Silverdale limestone from Silverdale, Kansas. (Greek Revival)

34) **Culver Residence**, 1213 Western (1887). Hardware merchant William Culver was active in the first Holliday Park Association. An amateur photographer, he converted the carriage house into his studio. Important in depicting life in turn-of-the-century Holliday Park, the photo collection is now in the University of Kansas' Spencer Library. Modest Queen Anne, its porch is the only major exterior change; interior, slightly altered, still possess small reception hall, two parlors, and dining room. A homey touch, a picket fence unites the houses of the 1200 block Western. (Queen Anne)

35) **Stanton Residence**, 1211 Western (1886). House built for attorney S.L. Seabrook (Seabrook district in SW Topeka named for family), later it was home of State Architect (1899-1909) Frank Stanton who was first associated with pioneer Kansas architect John G. Haskell; Stanton oversaw Statehouse decoration and completion. (Queen Anne)

36) **Lux Residence**, 1207 Western (c. 1900). Samuel Lux was a major Topeka produce wholesaler. In 1918 he sold the business to partner O.A. Fleming; this later became the Fleming Cos., the nation's largest food wholesaler. Like the Culver house, it boasts a more recent porch and like 1200 block Taylor in transition from the Queen Anne style. (Queen Anne)

37) **The Devon Apts. (Bennett's Flats)**, 800-808 W. 12th (1888 & 1906). Architecturally this is the largest and most important structure in Holliday Park with an excellent view of the Park and from upper apartments of the downtown skyline. For its history, see below. (Prairie)

38) **Residence**, 1135 Western (1910). Overlooking the Park, this 2 1/2 story side-gable Craftsman house features extensive oak woodwork. Turn-of-the-century Sanborn fire map shows site to be livery stable; photographs c. 1912 also show Western Avenue not cut through to 12th St. at the time. In mid-1990s this was the Holliday Park Bed & Breakfast. (Craftsman)

39) **Residence**, 1133 & 1131 Western (1908). Permits for these twins--the model Homestead style of the 20th century's first decade--were issued only weeks apart in fall, 1908; no doubt built by same contractor: permit #13879 (1133) and #13975 (1131). Note same simple oriels for back parlor/dining room (south) and stairway (north), side dormers, dentil molding above 3rd floor windows, etc.--in contrast to similar but year older neighbor 1119 Western (1907) that has cross gables rather than dormers. Estimate cost for all three 1907-8 houses \$3,500. Jewelry store owner Mrs. Frances Wardin resided in 1131 in 1930; A.T.&S.F. tax commissioner Edward Cartlidge was long time occupant of 1133. (Homestead/Craftsman)

40) **Brewster Residence**, 1101 Western (c. 1890). Kansas Attorney General Sardius M. Brewster lived here, 1915-19; later he became famous as one of the prosecuting attorneys in the infamous Finney Bond Scandal that rocked Kansas government in the mid 1930s. House may have been moved to this site in 1891; rear kitchen addition added in 1900. Undergoing thorough restoration, it was saved from demolition at the last minute. (Queen Anne)

41) **Residence**, 1100 Western (1905). Time warp; extremely late but good example of Queen Anne style: hip roof with lower cross gables--contrast with its transitional contemporaries in 1200 block Taylor.

In 1930s this was home of William Lorts, a conductor on the Rock Island Railroad. (Queen Anne)

42) **Glick Apts.**, 808-810 W. 12th (c. 1920). Four unit apartment house typical of several built in this district after World War I in the so called California Mission style (stucco, etc.). Adam Glick, who lived around the corner at 1035 Taylor, may have erected it; one resident in 1924 was Adj. General of the Kansas National Guard. Building well documented in early photos. (Mission)

43) **Pratt Residence**, 1118 Taylor (1907). Contractor Edward Murphey built it and may have briefly lived here before selling it; H. Fuller Pratt was a physician. Quasi-Homestead house, it has atypical interior. (Craftsman)

44) **Copeland Residence**, 1031 Fillmore (c. 1884). Edward L. Copeland rose from a modest job in the auditor's department. to become Secretary Treasurer of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway; he also served on its Board of Director's 1928-31. A 1911 book on Topeka houses shows that it originally possessed elaborate decorative "gingerbread" woodwork on gables. The photo also shows its south neighbor: Knowles Residence, 1035 Taylor (1884); now an altered Italianate which then sported a square tower (Knowles was a banker). (Folk Victorian)

45) **Guild-Dean Residence**, 1032 Western (1907). "Bankers' Corners;" residents included George A. Guild (1916), cashier and later Chairman of the Central National Bank, and W. Laird Dean (1935), President Merchants National Bank. Daily Capital ad January 19, 1908, described the nine room house: "Genuine oak finish downstairs, double hardwood floors, both floors; beam ceiling in dining room; gas, grate, furnace, paved cellar, cistern, walks all in; nicely decorated...50 foot front with fine old large shade, block either way to Tenth or Twelfth street [trolley] car line, excellent neighborhood. (Homestead/Craftsman)

46) **Morrow Residence**, 1028 Western (1907). Marco Morrow was Assistant Publisher of Capper Publications and President Topeka Broadcasting Association; he oversaw Arthur Capper's newspaper empire when latter was away in Washington as United States Senator. Three houses in a row--1024, 1028, and 1032 Western--were all built at same time by contractors Lytle & Murphy; additions and fireplace only significant exterior alterations. (Homestead)

47) **Peppmeyer-Patten Residence**, 1025 Western (1905). Distinct for gambrel roof and odd gambrel dormers. Elerman Peppmeyer was President Topeka Coal Co. in 1907

(one of over 20 fuel and coal companies in town, chief source of home heating then), and Albert Patten in 1912 headed the street railway system and later a President of KP&L.
(Colonial Revival/Craftsman)

48) **Bennett-Swan Residence**, 914 Munson [King] (1902). Newly widowed Belle Swan took out permit #10724 for \$2,250 house which undoubtedly her father, contractor Henry Bennett, built. Bennett lived here, too, and also used it as office. His firm erected the Crawford and Columbian Bldgs. in downtown Topeka, Grace Cathedral, the old Governor's mansion (now razed), and remodeled the Kansas capitol's East Wing. This residence, with its square plan and hip is precursor to the Foursquare style; note fluted porch columns and ornate capitals. (Colonial Revival/Foursquare)

49) **Giles-Nellis Residence**, 915 Munson [King] (1887). Topeka pioneer and founder Fry Giles erected this--along with Residence, 927 Munson (1886), a Folk Victorian/Queen Anne to west--as a speculative venture in his small subdivision. First owner Daniel Nellis established early Topeka insurance agency; a subsequent owner operated the famed Akey Bakery near Topeka High. Converted into a rooming house, it stood vacant for many years. Only days from the wrecking ball, two enterprising young Topekans saved and restored it to its High Victorian glory; now The Sunflower Bed & Breakfast as well as a private residence. Ornate fireplaces and plaster ceilings highlight the interior, one of Topeka's most important restorations and a focal point in the renaissance of Holliday Park. (Queen Anne).

The Devon

An aura of mystery surrounds this, Holliday Park's most prominent landmark. Unlike any comparable place in Topeka, it seemingly belongs in Chicago or some other eastern urban center--certainly not on the Kansas prairies. Traveling from the east or north, it suddenly leaps into view from behind trees and the neighborhood's older homes. The Devon, one senses, is a place imbued with history.

During Topeka's 1888 building boom, contractor Henry Bennett erected the original structure, two stories plus attic, for \$30,000. Various businesses, among them groceries, meat markets, bakeries, etc., occupied the ground floor and apartments upstairs; hence, its name: Bennett's Flats. Unfortunately little is known about the place in the 19th century; there are no known, good photographs. Those photos that exist hint at a very picturesque roof-line.

In 1906 businessman and attorney James W. Gleed purchased the building (which may never have been completed), remodeled it by adding a third story, and renamed the place The Devon. Possibly familiar with "the Chicago School" of architecture popularized by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, Gleed recast it the Prairie Style,

notable for its horizontal lines or courses and massive round arch entrances, as found here.

Apartment houses were relatively rare in Topeka at that time, the Devon--and Bennett's Flats--being one of the first built as such. It contained (still does) 22 units plus, on the first floor, a drugstore in the southeast corner and a grocery on the southwest. The apartments vary in size, most possessing decorative moldings, transoms, and, in several instances, French and/or pocket doors; some of these details may date from the 1880s. An attractive scale-and-plate stair winds around to reach some apartments on the east side. Light or air courts and skylights are scattered throughout.

It was (still is) a "fashionable" residence for those who did not need or want a detached house like those found in the vicinity of Holliday Park. For that reason many Topeka High School teachers like Drama Coach Gertrude Wheeler lived here as did single, widowed, or retired individuals. They found an added bonus or convenience with the corner drugstore (first Joslin's, later Rowland's Crescent Drugstore) and corner market (numerous grocers over the years with Morgan's the last, and one of the last neighborhood stores in Topeka, closing in 1985) just a few steps away. Figuratively and literally, The Devon is the heart of Holliday Park.

Adjacent historic sites

The following buildings and residences are located near or on the fringes of Holliday Park and are of high interest.

A) **Holy Name Roman Catholic Church**, 10th & Clay (1925). Handsome Renaissance church with a slight Greek look, notable for its high altar and other interior details.

B) **St. John's Lutheran Church**, 901 Fillmore (1938). Attractive stone, Gothic church, it would be home in the English Midlands as some village parish church.

C) **Clay Street Market**, 1035 Clay (1907). Wonderful example of the neighborhood market; unusual for Topeka with the living quarters above the store, most local groceries only a single story.

D) **Central Congregational Church**, 1248 Buchanan (1890 & 1909). Stone Gothic church complemented by its Collegiate Gothic Community House next door; unfortunately its interior has been modernized. This was the parish of Dr. Charles M. Sheldon, author, among other works, of *In His Steps*. Church was active in the Tennesseetown neighborhood, to the north, and its black kindergarten.

E) **McClintock Residence**, 1313 Fillmore (c. 1895). Massive Queen Anne house, Dr. John C. McClintock

was first Chief of Staff of Christ's Hospital (now Stormont-Vail). Apartments.

F) **Residence**, 1314 Fillmore (c. 1923). Beautiful fieldstone Colonial Revival home; the 1920's was the highwater mark for this type which here gives the Kansas prairie the look of sophisticated Connecticut. In '20s home of Oscar Cropper of Aetna Insurance Co.

G) **Residence**, 1407 Western (site). Briefly in mid 1930's this was the residence of illustrator Harold Foster who drew the "Tarzan" comic strip and while living here created what some believe to be the most beautifully crafted of all strips: *Prince Valiant."

H) **Franklin L. Crane Jr. High School** (former), 1620 Tyler (1929). Impressive Collegiate Gothic building from the 1920's, Topeka architect Thomas Williamson designed it, one of the last surviving Jr. high schools. Now KBI head quarters. Modern stair/elevator tower blends well with original structure.

I) **Crosby Residence**, 1109 Topeka (1910). Frank Squires designed this \$17,000+ residence for local department store magnate William T. Crosby (Crosby Bros.). At heart a Foursquare type house, Colonial Revival and classical details (e.g., art nouveau leaded glass windows) add to its elegance--one of the last grand mansions along Topeka Blvd.

J) **Hilson-Redden (Curtis) Residence**, 1101 Topeka (1878 & 1888). Eclectic. The south half Italianate dating from 1878 and built by J.C. Wilson; north section remodeled for the Redden family by Seymour Davis, the premier architect of Topeka's 1888 boom. Sen. Charles Curtis, future U.S. Vice President, purchased it in 1907.

K) **Fowler Residence**, 1021 Polk (1902). A late Queen Anne house, its art nouveau leaded glass windows plus the highly decorated gable window flanked by classical columns are the special exterior features. First owner Woodford Fowler was variously described in city directories as capitalist, cigar maker, and co-proprietor of the Chesterfield Hotel on lower Kansas Ave.

L) **Tyler St. Apts.**, 900-1000 Tyler (c. 1928-30). A row of two, three-story apartment houses line Tyler St., a fashionable parade of brick Tudor or Spanish style residences among them the Senate & Curtis (now an elegant apartment hotel), Stanleigh Hall, Lamoine, Lexington, Pendennis, and Gem (latter between Topeka and Tyler and once housed the Gem Market). Several were designed by early Kansas City woman architect Nelle Peters who also designed similar apartments on the Country Club Plaza.

M) **KSTA Bldg.**, 715 W. 10th (1955). Modern office set back from street, its red brick and sandstone facade compliments rather than clashes with the traditional architecture of Topeka High School across 10th. Certainly not great, but unlike most '50s architecture has not aged all that badly.

N) **Frost Residence**, 935 Western (1888). Single style mansion designed by Seymour Davis, Santa Fe R.R. land agent. Along with the 800 block of Western, it was one of a row of grand homes that lined Bethany Square.

O) **The Topeka High School, Bethany Square** (1931). The Oxford of Kansas, T.H.S. is (excluding the Statehouse) Topeka's most important landmark, one of the finest public schools in the nation. Also on the Square are the two extant Gothic Revival Bethany College Bldgs. (1875) and Grace Episcopal Cathedral (1911 & later). The Topeka High School tower is modeled after that of Magdalen College, Oxford, and the Library wing after Henry VIII's Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace. Thomas Williamson and Ted Greist were the architects. Flag pole is the lower foreyard from U.S.S. Constitution, "Old Ironsides."

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN TOPEKA

The Shawnee County Historical Society seeks to promote the preservation of Topeka's historic neighborhoods, buildings and sites through education and advocacy. Volunteers have rallied to save countless historic properties in the city, and have sponsored special events, publications, tours, lectures, preservation awards, and fundraising for projects such as the restoration of the 1880 Ross Rowhouses, acquired by Historic Topeka, Inc. in 1993. HTI merged with the Shawnee County Historical Society in 2003.

Shawnee County Historical Society,
P.O. Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601-2201