

CITY OF  
**TOPEKA**

**A G E N D A**

# **LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 12, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

**Zoom Video Conference**

---

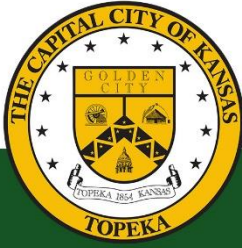
## **MEMBERS OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Melina Stewart (2022 Chair)  
Donna Rae Pearson (2022 Vice Chair)  
Mark Burenheide  
Dave Frederick  
David Heit  
Grant Sourk  
Christine Steinkuehler  
Cassandra Taylor

- 
- The Topeka Landmarks Commission holds a public meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.
  - The following agenda identifies and describes each proposal to be considered by the Commission.
  - Each item to be considered by the Commission will be introduced by the Planning Division Staff. The Commission will then hear and consider arguments both for and against each proposal.
  - Individuals wishing to address the Commission are requested to state their name and address for the official record.
  - Motions on all matters which require a decision by the Commission, are made in the affirmative. On a roll call vote, Commission members then vote yes, no, or abstain based on the affirmative motion.
  - The owner of the local historic landmark or property owner within the local historic district may appeal the Commission's decision to the City Council by submitting a notice of appeal to the Planning Director within 10 calendar days of the decision.



ADA Notice: For special accommodations for this event, please contact the Planning Division at 785-368-3728 at least three working days in advance.



CITY OF  
**TOPEKA**

# LANDMARKS COMMISSION

**Agenda for Thursday, January 12, 2023**

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2022**

**C. Announcement of Potential Conflicts**

**D. Action Items**

**1. Election of 2022 Landmarks Commission Officers**

i. Chair

ii. Vice-Chair

**2. NRHP Nomination for the US Post Office – North Topeka Station (935 N Kansas Ave),  
to be considered by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on February 3, 2023.**

**E. Non-Action / Discussion Items**

**F. Adjournment**



ADA Notice: For special accommodations for this event, please contact the Planning Division at 785-368-3728 at least three working days in advance.



CITY OF  
**TOPEKA**

**MINUTES**

## **Landmarks Commission**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**5:30PM**

**Members present:** Melina Stewart (Chair), Mark Burenheide, Dave Frederick, David Heit, Donna Rae Pearson, Paul Post, Grant Sourk, Christine Steinkuehler, Cassandra Taylor (9)

**Members Absent:** (0)

**Staff Present:** Dan Warner, Planning Director; William Sharp, Planner; Kris Wagers, Administrative Officer; Mary Feighny, Legal

**Roll Call** – Chairwoman Melina Stewart called the meeting to order with 8 members present for a quorum. Mr. Frederick logged in after the first vote.

**Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2022 - APPROVED (8-0-0)**

**Announcement of Potential Conflicts** – Mr. Frederick logged in late but announced that he would be abstaining from voting on CLGR22/24.

**CLGR22/24 by 900 Kansas LLC**, requesting a review under Kansas State Preservation Law Review [K.S.A. 75-2724] for the alteration of the interior office space within the first floor of the building located at 904 S. Kansas Avenue. This building is designated as a contributor to the historic integrity of the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Sharp presented the staff report and staff's recommendation for approval.

Ryan Sweat was logged in representing the applicant. He had nothing to add but was available for questions.

**Motion by Ms. Taylor, second by Ms. Steinkuehler:** Concur with staff's recommendation the proposed interior alterations on the 1st level of the Gordon Building, located at 904 S Kansas Avenue will NOT damage or destroy the historical integrity of the structure, or the surrounding South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District. APPROVED 8/0/1 with Mr. Frederick abstaining.

### **Non-Action/Discussion Items**

Mr. Post announced that his term is up this month and he will not be returning in 2023.

Mr. Sharp stated that so far, the only item for January will be a review and comment on a national register nomination. It was suggested that this could be done by email and Mr. Sharp said he would look into it and let everyone know.

**With no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.**

December 5, 2022

Will Sharp  
Planning Department  
Preservation Commission  
620 SE Madison  
Topeka, KS 66607

Re: US Post Office - North Topeka Station (935 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, Shawnee County)

Dear Will:

We are pleased to inform you that the *US Post Office - North Topeka Station* will be considered by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for nomination to the Register of Historic Kansas Places at its next meeting on Saturday, February 4, 2023. The Register of Historic Kansas Places, also known as the state register, is the state's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. All properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places are considered for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places. However, the state register also recognizes properties that are significant to our state's heritage yet do not meet the National Register eligibility standards.

You are being notified because the property is within the boundaries of Topeka, a Certified Local Government. Per the requirements of 36 CFR 60-61 and Section IV of the *Procedures for Implementation of Certified Local Governments in Kansas*, we are providing your historic resources commission the opportunity to comment on this nomination. We have included a supplemental checklist to submit with the report. **In accordance with Section IV (C), we request receipt of the commission's recommendation within 60 days or by February 3, 2023.**

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review meeting, please contact Jamee Fiore, National Register coordinator, at (785) 272-8681 ext. 216 or at [Jamee.fiore@ks.gov](mailto:Jamee.fiore@ks.gov).

Sincerely,



Patrick Zollner  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Jamee Fiore  
National Register Coordinator

enclosure

# Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name U.S. Post Office – North Topeka Station

Other names/site number NOTO Arts Center

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 935 N. Kansas Ave ☐ not for publication

city or town Topeka ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Shawnee code SN zip code 66608

## 3-4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria:   x   A    B    C    D

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Kansas State Historical Society  
State agency

## 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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	district
	site
	structure
	object
1	<b>Total</b>

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the State Register

N/A

National Register

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/post office

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/clubhouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

LANDSCAPE/plaza

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

REVIVALS/colonial revival

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

GLASS

roof: SYNTHETIC

other: WOOD

STONE

---

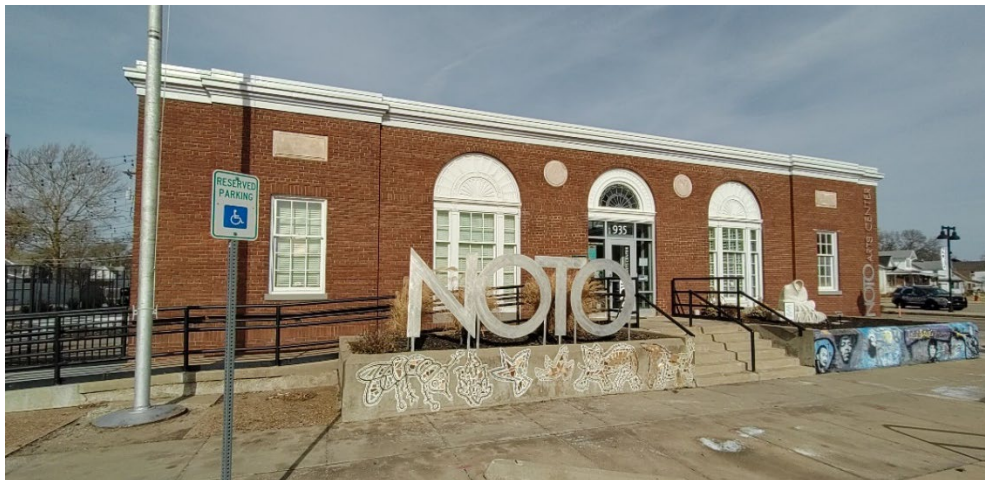
## Narrative Description

*(Describe the current physical appearance of the property.)*

### Summary Paragraph *(Briefly describe the overall characteristics of the property and its location, setting, and size.)*

The NOTO Arts Center, (formerly the U.S. Post Office, North Topeka Station) located at 935 N. Kansas Ave., Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, occupies the northwest corner lot of the 900 block of N. Kansas Ave. where it intersects with N.W. Gordon St. Its prominent location marks what once was the north entrance to the North Topeka Business District. It is a single-story, rectangular building constructed of red brick with a flat roof and large multi-paned windows. This Colonial Revival style was popular in early 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture. The structure is small in size, only about 3,300 square feet on the main level, but impressive in its symmetry and style. The east-facing facade has a centrally located, large, arch-topped front entranceway flanked by 2 equally sized and evenly spaced arch-topped windows. All windows are double-hung sash windows with small panes or lights, characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. Two outer bays frame the central entrance bay, each with a single rectangular window symmetrically proportioned and placed. The west façade mirrors the front but with less formal squared off windows of like size. The north and south facades are identical to each other, with 3 large windows each. Inside, the main level is subtly divided into 3 sections, east to west. The original terrazzo floors remain exposed in the front section or what was the public space of the post office. High ceilings, woodwork, and original built-in wall cabinets enclosed with glass doors, also remain here.

An art gallery has been added to the south of the public vestibule with a drop ceiling and display lighting. The center section divides the front customer space from the large working utility space in the rear. With lower drop ceilings, this central space contains an office, kitchen, restroom, and the original walk-in safe. Original concrete floors, high ceilings, and wide-open space make up the section at the rear. The basement is built of brick walls with concrete floors and lower concrete ceilings. This space is currently used as storage space. Outside, sidewalks provide a pedestrian area between the building and N.W. Gordon St. on the north and N. Kansas Ave. on the east. The entrance is marked by a raised slab front porch with steps leading down to the east sidewalk and a ramp sloping down to the south. Large concrete planters fill the space in front of the central bay and ramp. A matching red brick garage and loading dock, added post-1951, protrudes west from the original rear entrance vestibule and is centered on the back of the building. Two types of fencing enclose the property with a decorative black iron fence and gate dressing up the front façade and a chain link securing the back of the property from the alley to the west. A hand-painted paved pedestrian plaza has been created to link the open space to the south with the rest of the buildings on the west side of the 900 block of N. Kansas Ave. Considering the massive flood that damaged or destroyed many buildings in this area in 1951, the historic integrity remains, with the building looking unscathed and in remarkable condition. No longer used as a Post Office and re-named the NOTO Arts Center, it is now the northern cornerstone of the North Topeka Arts District called NOTO.



**NOTO Arts Center – 935 N.W. Kansas Ave., Topeka, Shawnee County, KS (3-14-2022)**



**Elaboration** *(Provide a detailed description of the building's exterior, interior, and any associated buildings on the property. Note any historic features, materials, and changes to the building/property.)*

### Setting

In 1865, the City of Topeka was incorporated in North Topeka. Originally called Eugene, this part of the city was split from the rest by the Kansas River. It quickly became annexed by the southern section in 1867. North Topeka continued to grow despite the annexation and became a showplace of Victorian-era architecture with its own sense of community. Businesses such as a grocery store, movie theater, hardware store, and auto-repair shop sprang up along both sides of the 800-900 blocks of N. Kansas Ave. Running southwest to northeast, this section became lined with late 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century and later commercial row buildings. In the 1940s and 1950s, the area became known as the thriving North Topeka Business District. Even residents from the south side planned special days to visit. It is bordered on the south by the Union Pacific railroad tracks and the adjacent Historic Great Overland Station, a fully restored, fine example of Neoclassical style. To the north, detached from the buildings on the west side, the former U.S. Post Office – North Topeka Station, stands alone, marking the entrance into the North Topeka Business District, with its Colonial Revival, 1920s red brick exterior and corner lot. Across the alley to the west stands the matching but slightly more formal red brick historic North Topeka Baptist Church, another restored example of this classic style built in 1921. In 1951, a devastating flood inundated not only the streets and blocks of downtown Topeka but also the North Topeka community, sending 35+ feet of water through the area. Buildings were heavily damaged or destroyed.



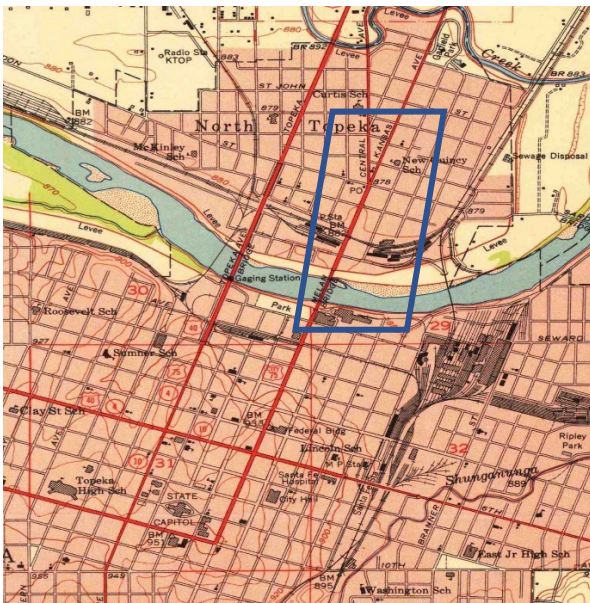
***View from the northeast corner of N.W. Gordon St. at N. Kansas Ave., looking southwest***

In 1965, the North Topeka Business District was confronted with another disaster. The Melan bridge that connected North Topeka to the Greater Topeka area to the south of the Kansas River collapsed. Then, the replacement Kansas Ave. bridge was built 1 block east, further isolating the business district. Many businesses could not survive these hardships and closed, allowing the buildings to fall into disrepair and for crime to settle in. The district remained in this state for decades.

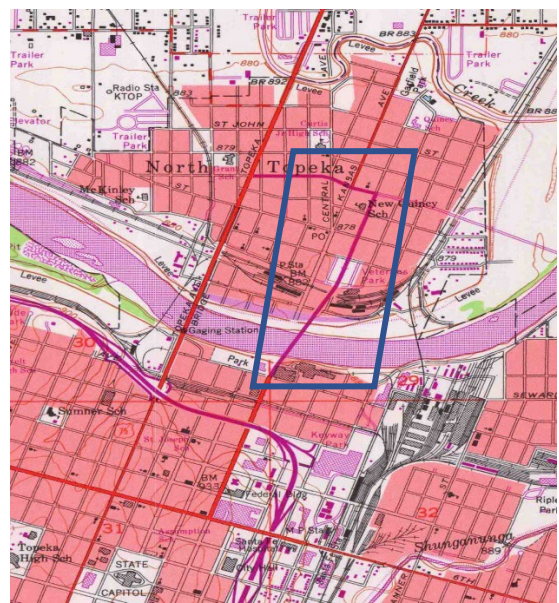




**1965 Melan Bridge Collapse (July 2, 1965)**



**Melan Bridge location to North Topeka (1951)**



**Kansas Ave. Bridge location to North Topeka (1976)**

In the early 1980s the U.S. Postal Service discontinued use of the North Topeka Station located at 935 N. Kansas Ave. From this point on, several businesses occupied the building until 2014 when it was purchased and donated to serve as an arts center. Investors began purchasing other buildings along the 800-900 blocks of N. Kansas Ave. These buildings are being repurposed into a growing arts and cultural experience for the Topeka community and its visitors.

## Exterior

The NOTO Arts Center's red brick Colonial Revival style exterior follows the rigid symmetry and classic proportions of this style. Between the raised basement and the first floor, a single soldier course of brick lines each elevation. The front façade has three bays, the outer two identical and less elaborate, and then the central bay, which boasts three large arched windows with the front door flanked by two large, equally sized, and spaced arched windows. These arched windows are exquisite examples of the Palladian style, which has a larger center section and is separated from the two smaller divided glass side sections with decorative woodwork resembling pilasters. Decorative, carved wood arches top the windows. The entrance door and side lights are not historic, but the original fine glass fanlight with wood molding remains above. This section of three arches is defined as the front entry due to the outer bays that are defined by a slight bump out equally spaced on both sides. The outer bays each contain a single, centered rectangular window. All windows are double-hung sash style windows with the rectangular windows in a 6 over 9 lights pattern with the six as the upper portion and the three arched windows on the front façade being 6 over 12 lights.

Cast stone sills and decorative soldier course brick lintels also adorn the windows. In addition to the symmetry of the windows and front entry, there are rectangular cast stone plaques centered above each rectangular window on the front and two sides. Two cast stone medallions centered between each Palladian window at the front entrance are symmetrically in line with the stone plaques. The perimeter of the flat roof is enhanced with a simple stepped wood molding that creates a low parapet. On the west side of the property stands a single-story brick garage of the same construction with a loading dock and an enclosed breezeway connecting the two buildings. This part of the building was likely added post-1951. The north side features two garage door openings and the west has one central garage opening that faces the parking lot on the west side of the property. Two ADA ramps have been added in recent years, and a combination of modern day fencing of wrought iron and chain link surrounds the lot. Contemporary metal signage marks the entrance into the district, and a sampling of art adorns the planter fronts. A 30' flagpole near the south end of the front façade stands as a reminder that this historic building once provided a service for its community as a post office and part of the United States federal government.

The ADA ramp descends to the south of the porch, and two equally sized, large concrete planters flank the center stairs leading to the front entrance. The planters are raised to the height of the porch, and one planter supports a large, horizontal metal "NOTO" sign. A smaller but identical NOTO sign is attached to the building, and rises vertically from a soldier course of brick at the north end of the front façade. The words "Arts Center" in neon lighting continue vertically to complete the building's signage, while a paved area surrounds the building on the north and west to provide off-street parking and delivery space. The other ADA ramp leads to the rear entrance.

## Interior

The basement remains intact with the exception of three brick-infilled windows on the north side. The three window wells associated with these windows have also been filled in with soil and incorporated as part of the landscaping. All walls and support columns are built of brick. Most of the interior door openings are arched with either two or three soldier courses of brick, depending on the opening width. Single-width doors are topped off with two courses of brick, while three courses accent double doors. The arches are filled with wood panels above the original 5-panel wood doors with brass hardware. The basement floors are concrete, and iron railings and handrails accompany the concrete stairs to the ground level. A three-part, double door on the west exits to a flight of exterior stairs leading up to the pavement. Made of wood, each door has a 12-light window, and each sidelight has a 6-light window. Cast iron, wall-mounted sinks, and floor-mounted urinals with chrome fittings can also be found in the basement.

The ground level floor plan is split into thirds from front to back. A large, central area occupies the front third as public space, much as it would have as the original post office. Today this area functions as a waiting area or a space for small gatherings. The classic features, such as the original marble and terrazzo floors and the high ceilings with large, painted crown moldings remain. Original display cases for public postings with glass locking doors are still in use and adorn the perimeter of this room above painted wainscotting. A "high water mark" plaque and historical photos of the building during the 1951 flood are at the entrance of this large central vestibule. To the north, a hall leads to two ADA restrooms that occupy the front and central thirds. Porcelain tile, drop acoustical ceilings, lighting, and modern day 6-panel doors were added during this required update. The front third, south of the main entrance, has been remodeled with the addition of drop acoustical ceilings, track lighting, and carpet. This space is The Morris Gallery, which spotlights local artists and their work. The large, original windows keep the classic style intact in this room. The rear third of the building functions as a multi-purpose room named Redbud Community Room. Formerly the back room of the Post Office, the original concrete floors are exposed, and the walls have been finished to the full height of the building's interior. New ductwork and electrical conduit are visible lining the ceiling and exterior walls. A three-section double door is equally flanked by two large historic windows on either side. This door is identical to the one described in the basement but with a large transom above. The central third divides the front and rear public spaces and provides space for an office, building utilities, storage, and a warming kitchen. A wide, centrally located open gallery with a mural connects the front of the building with the back. Aside from the original Post Office walk-in safe, which has become part of The Morris Gallery, this portion of the building has been completely remodeled using finishes consistent with the other remodeled spaces.

The building stands in its original location, which associates it as a local landmark to the original business district and now to the new arts district. The red brick and white windows give the property a visual impact and are some of the character-defining features that maintain the building's historical feel. The integrity of the Classical style remains on the interior through its character features as well as the exterior, which evokes a feeling of historical importance inside and out.



***“High Water Mark” Plaque and Photos, Historic 1951 Flood***

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for State 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**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1920

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation****Architect/Builder**

U.S. Treasury (Architect)

Lovell, W.D. (Contractor)

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The building was constructed in 1920, thus giving the property its historic significance for its architectural design in that year.<sup>i</sup> This building is a classic example of Colonial (US)(Georgian-UK) Revival style architecture. It was designed and owned by the federal government and operated as a U.S. Post Office from its completion in 1920 until closing sometime in the 1980s.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

<sup>i</sup> Wallace, Douglass W., *Historic North Topeka (Tour Map)*, shawneecountyhistory.org/north-topeka, Topeka, KS

---

## Narrative Statement of Significance

---

### Summary Paragraph *(Provide a summary paragraph that notes under what criteria the property is nominated.)*

The former U.S. Post Office – North Topeka Station, located at 935 N. Kansas Ave, acquired its historic significance in 1920 when it was constructed. Its significance meets relates to criterion C with its physical features and distinctive characteristics that define its architectural style as Colonial Revival, a popular style of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect, U.S. Treasury Department, this style was a “typical federal building design issued in mid-twentieth century America.”<sup>ii</sup> This building holds significant integrity and character of the time, despite many hardships that devastated this area between its construction in 1920 and 2022.

---

### Elaboration *(Provide a brief history of the property and justify why this property is locally significant.)*

The City of Topeka, Kansas, was established in historic North Topeka in 1865 by William Curtis and Louis Laurent. William was the grandfather of Charles Curtis, who served as the Vice President under President Hoover. Charles was born in North Topeka, and the city was formerly known as Eugene.

The U.S. Post Office – North Topeka Station, was built in 1920. One of the 1,700 architects working for the U.S. Office of the Supervising Architect, a part of the Treasury Department, designed the building. Under the McAdoo Classification of a “small post office,” the building would be designed using “brick with standard wood windows and doors” and would have an “ordinary” appearance.<sup>iii</sup> Its Colonial Revival style reflects an understated, yet impressive presence “typical of federal building design issued in mid-twentieth century America”. As the cornerstone of what once was the thriving North Topeka Business District in the 1940’s and 1950’s, the building and its function survived several hardships, including the flood of 1951, that other businesses in this 2-block area could not. Crime replaced commerce in the mid-1900’s<sup>iv</sup> and eventually the U.S. Postal Service discontinued use of this building in the early 1980’s. Several businesses occupied it over the years until 2014 when it was privately purchased and donated to become an arts center. The former Post Office became the home to the NOTO Arts Center with an art gallery for local art and space for artists and the general public to gather. A push for an arts and entertainment district followed and the once desolate 800-900 blocks of N. Kansas Ave. have become the bustling Historic North Topeka (NOTO) Arts & Entertainment District. Retail shops, salons, galleries, restaurants, entertainment and other businesses are moving into the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century row buildings and revitalization is taking place<sup>v</sup>. This classic building remains a cornerstone, but has a new function that is just as suitable as its original purpose. It has and will continue to contribute to the history of North Topeka.

---

<sup>ii</sup> Craven, Jackie, “*Post Office Buildings in the United States*”, [thoughtco.com/post-office-buildings-united-states-178502](http://thoughtco.com/post-office-buildings-united-states-178502), 2019/07/09, page 11

<sup>iii</sup> Lockley, “*James A. Wetmore*”, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_A.\\_Wetmore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_A._Wetmore), 2009/08/24, page 1

<sup>iv</sup> Childers, Brianna, “*From North Topeka business district to NOTO, the area has thrived on grit, community*” [cjonline.com/story/news/local/2020/09/06/from-north-topeka-business-district-to-noto-the-area-has-thrived-on-grit-community/114865492/](https://cjonline.com/story/news/local/2020/09/06/from-north-topeka-business-district-to-noto-the-area-has-thrived-on-grit-community/114865492/), Topeka, KS, 2020/09/06

<sup>v</sup> Author unknown, “*Relive NOTO History*”, [explorenoto.org/about/#history](https://explorenoto.org/about/#history), Topeka, KS





***Looking south from the intersection of N. Kansas Ave. and N.W. Gordon St.  
North entrance into NOTO Arts & Entertainment District, NOTO Arts Center on right***

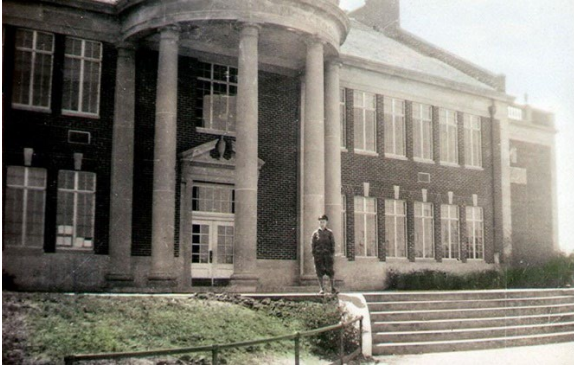
As of this date, the City of Topeka has many properties nearby the NOTO Arts Center and dotted around the city that represent the classic Victorian-era styles of architecture that includes the Colonial Revival style. Built in the 1920's and 1930's, these properties include: the restored, Historic North Topeka Baptist Church, built in 1921, in the Colonial Revival style; the fully restored, Historic Great Overland Station, built in 1925-1927, in the free Classical Style; Randolph School, built in 1927, a 2-story brick Colonial; Fleming Mansion, built in 1926 in the Colonial Revival style and the Alf Landon House, built in 1936 in the Colonial Revival style. Entire neighborhoods and developments were also built in the Colonial style. Some examples are: the Country Club Addition, developed in the 1920's and 1930's approximately 2 miles south of downtown, which includes the classic Fuller House residence built in 1937-1938 in the neo-Classical style and the Crittenton House built in 1930, a brick Colonial Revival home for unwed Mothers. The neighborhoods of Westboro, Collins Park, College Hill and Holliday Park were also developed in the Colonial Revival style in the 1920's and 1930's.



***Historic North Topeka Baptist Church (2020)***



***Historic Great Overland Station (2012)***



***Randolph Elementary School (ca 1927)***



***Fleming Mansion (2003)***



***Alf Landon Home (2017)***





***Fuller House, Country Club Addition (2018)***



***Florence Crittenton House, Country Club Addition (2018)***

**Conclusion:**

The NOTO Arts Center (formerly the U.S. Post Office, North Topeka Station), was built in 1920 and has maintained its architectural details as a fine example of Colonial Revival style. This building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for Criterion C under Architecture. The historic integrity has not been lost to the disasters and hardships the surrounding community has endured. Its architectural features of the Colonial Revival style are significant and remain remarkably intact.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

**Author** unknown, “*Relive NOTO History*”, [explorenoto.org](http://explorenoto.org), Topeka, KS

**Childers**, Brianna, “*From North Topeka business district to NOTO, the area has thrived on grit, community*” [cjonline.com](http://cjonline.com), Topeka, KS, 2020/09/06

**Craven**, Jackie, “*Post Office Buildings in the United States*”, [thoughtco.com](http://thoughtco.com), 2019/07/09

**Lockley**, “*James A. Wetmore*”, [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org) 2009/08/24

**Wallace**, Douglass W., *Historic North Topeka (Tour Map)*, [shawneecountyhistory.org](http://shawneecountyhistory.org), Topeka, KS

**Wentworth**, AIA, Bruce, “*Colonial Revival*”, [askthearchitect.org/architectural/styles/colonial-revival-architecture](http://askthearchitect.org/architectural/styles/colonial-revival-architecture), Chevy Chase, MD

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** .45 acres

**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)

1	<u>39.068892</u>	<u>-95.666389</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

OR

### UTM References

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

EUGENE ADDITION, Lot 97: N. 37.5 FT OF LOT 97 x 175 FT & ALL Lot 99: 75 FT X 175 FT. Bound on the north by N.W. Gordon St., on the south by 927 N. Kansas Ave. (row store), on the east by N. Kansas Ave., and on the west by an alley that runs between properties on the east side of N.W. Jackson St. and the west side of N. Kansas Ave.

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

The boundary selected is based on the lot lines for 935 N. Kansas Ave. found on [gis.sncoapps.us](http://gis.sncoapps.us) parcel, plat and property maps and the Tract Description on the associated property record.

U.S. Post Office – North Topeka Station

Name of Property

Topeka, Shawnee County

City and County

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janie Bartee, Consultant, Bryan Falk/Architect

organization Falk Architects, Inc

date 5/31/2022

street & number 308 SW Van Buren St

telephone 785-224-0352

city or town Topeka

state KS

zip code 66603

e-mail [janie@falk-architects.com](mailto:janie@falk-architects.com), [bryan@falk-architects.com](mailto:bryan@falk-architects.com)

### Property Owner:

name North Topeka Arts District Inc.

street & number 935 N. Kansas Ave

telephone 785-408-8996

city or town Topeka

state KS

zip code 66608

### Additional Documentation

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: NOTO Arts Center (935 N. Kansas Ave)

City or Vicinity: North Topeka

County: Shawnee

State: Kansas

Photographer: Bryan Falk

Date Photos #1 - 20: Taken 2017-02-23, Photos #21 - 27 Taken 2018-06-15, Photos #28 - 82 Taken 2022-02-23, Photos #83 - 91 Taken 2022-03-14

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

Photo #1	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 002, South opening to ADA Bath
Photo #2	KS_Shawnee County_935 N Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 002, North view
Photo #3	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 002, West view Double doors to Studio 001
Photo #4	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, West view Double doors to outside
Photo #5	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, West view Double doors and steps to outside

Photo #6	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, Northwest view into Studio 003
Photo #7	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 003, Southeast view into Studio 001
Photo #8	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Mech 008, Southwest view of Electrical panels
Photo #9	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Mech 008, Southwest view
Photo #10	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Mech 008, arched doorway to Studio 009
Photo #11	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Room 011, Basement stairs up to Ground level Multi-purpose Room
Photo #12	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Room 011, Northeast view through Room 012
Photo #13	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 009, west window
Photo #14	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement ADA Bath 010, Northeast view into Studio 002
Photo #15	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement ADA Bath 010, top of North opening
Photo #16	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Room 012, East view
Photo #17	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, Southeast view with sink
Photo #18	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, view of arched doorway to Nook 006
Photo #19	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Nook 006, Studio 001, view of Basement stairs up to Ground level Lobby
Photo #20	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Stor. 004, west wall
Photo #21	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Mech 008, Southwest view of Electrical panels
Photo #22	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, Northwest wall
Photo #23	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, East wall
Photo #24	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Mech 008, West wall Electrical
Photo #25	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Stor. 004, west wall
Photo #26	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement ADA Bath 010, Angled Northwest wall/West wall
Photo #27	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Room 011, West view
Photo #28	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Multipurpose Room, North view
Photo #29	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Multipurpose Room, South view
Photo #30	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Multipurpose Room, Southwest view Double doors to garage
Photo #31	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Multipurpose Room, East view Double doors to Lobby
Photo #32	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, East view of front entrance
Photo #33	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, North view
Photo #34	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, South view of Gallery entrance

Photo #35	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, South view of Gallery entrance
Photo #36	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, Southeast view
Photo #37	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, Southwest view
Photo #38	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, Northwest view
Photo #39	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, North view to Lobby
Photo #40	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, East view
Photo #41	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, Southeast view
Photo #42	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, Southwest view of Safe and Kitchen doors
Photo #43	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, West view of Safe door
Photo #44	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Gallery, Southwest view
Photo #45	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, North view from Gallery
Photo #46	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, North view
Photo #47	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, Northwest view
Photo #48	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, view of entrance
Photo #49	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, North view
Photo #50	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, South view
Photo #51	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Office, Southwest view
Photo #52	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Office, Northwest view
Photo #53	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, Hallway view
Photo #54	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, Hallway view
Photo #55	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, view of stairs down to Basement Nook 006
Photo #56	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, view of stairwell
Photo #57	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Janitor Closet, West view
Photo #58	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Men, Southwest view
Photo #59	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Men, Southwest view
Photo #60	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Lobby, North Hall West view
Photo #61	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Women, Southeast view from door
Photo #62	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Women, Southwest view from window
Photo #63	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Kitchen, South view from Lobby

Photo #64	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 HVAC, West view from Kitchen
Photo #65	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Level 1 Storage, view of stairs down to Basement Room 011
Photo #66	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Room 011, view from stairs to ADA Bath door
Photo #67	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 009, Northwest view
Photo #68	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Room 011, Southwest view from ADA Bath
Photo #69	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Room 011, Southwest view from ADA Bath
Photo #70	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement ADA Bath 010, East view
Photo #71	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement ADA Bath 010, Southeast view toward sink
Photo #72	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement ADA Bath 010, South view toward window
Photo #73	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 002, North view
Photo #74	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 002, South view
Photo #75	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Stor. 004, West view
Photo #76	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Stor. 007, East view
Photo #77	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 003, Northwest view
Photo #78	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 003, Northeast view
Photo #79	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, Northeast view
Photo #80	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Mech. 008, East view
Photo #81	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Studio 001, Southeast view
Photo #82	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Basement Mech. 008, Southwest view
Photo #83	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior South and East facade
Photo #84	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior East facade
Photo #85	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior North and East facade
Photo #86	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior North facade
Photo #87	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior North and Northwest facade
Photo #88	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior Northwest facade
Photo #89	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior West facade
Photo #90	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior Southwest facade
Photo #91	KS_Shawnee County_935 N. Kansas Ave. – Exterior South facade



U.S. Post Office – North Topeka Station

Name of Property

Topeka, Shawnee County

City and County

## Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.



*NOTO Arts Center* -  
formerly U.S. Post  
Office, North Topeka  
Station (ca. 1920)  
935 N. Kansas Ave,  
Topeka, Shawnee  
County, Kansas

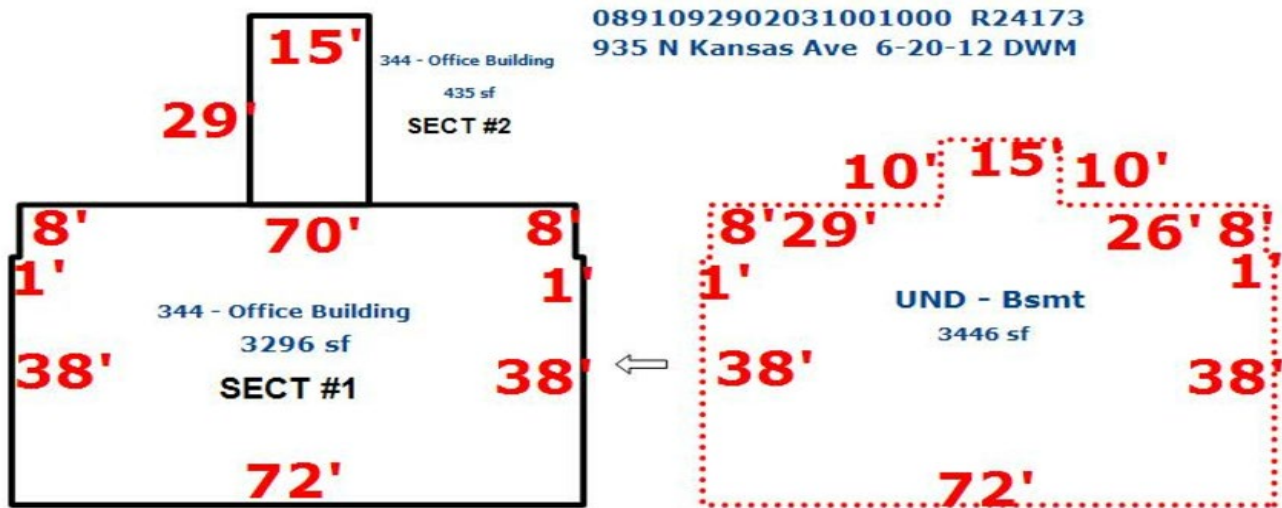


Garage/Loading Dock  
Addition (ca. 1961)

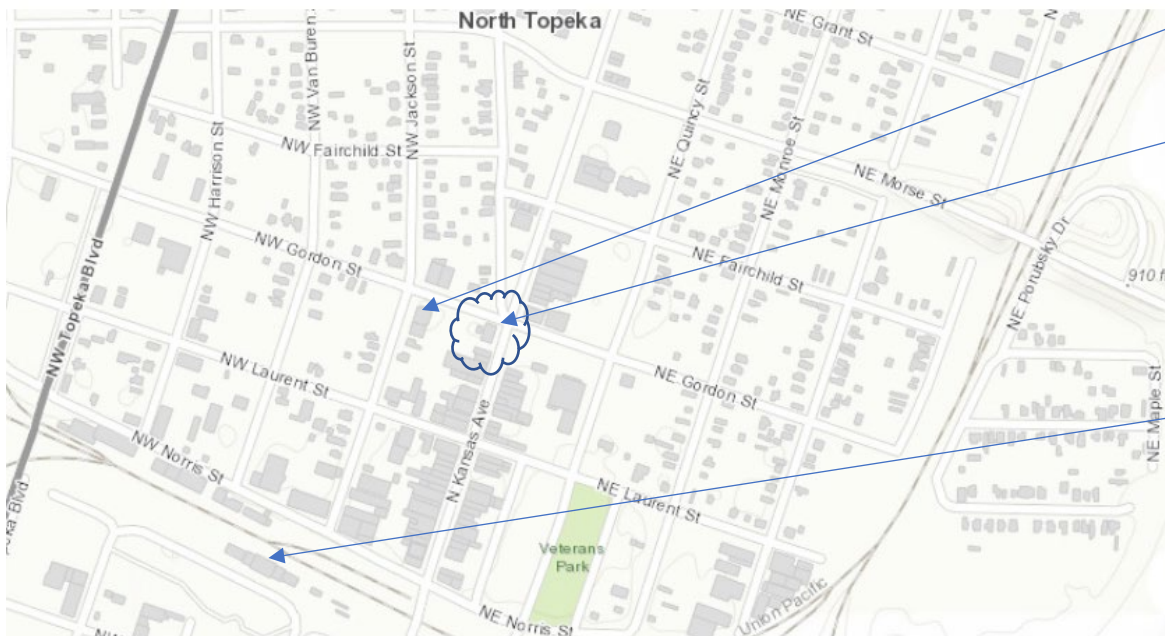
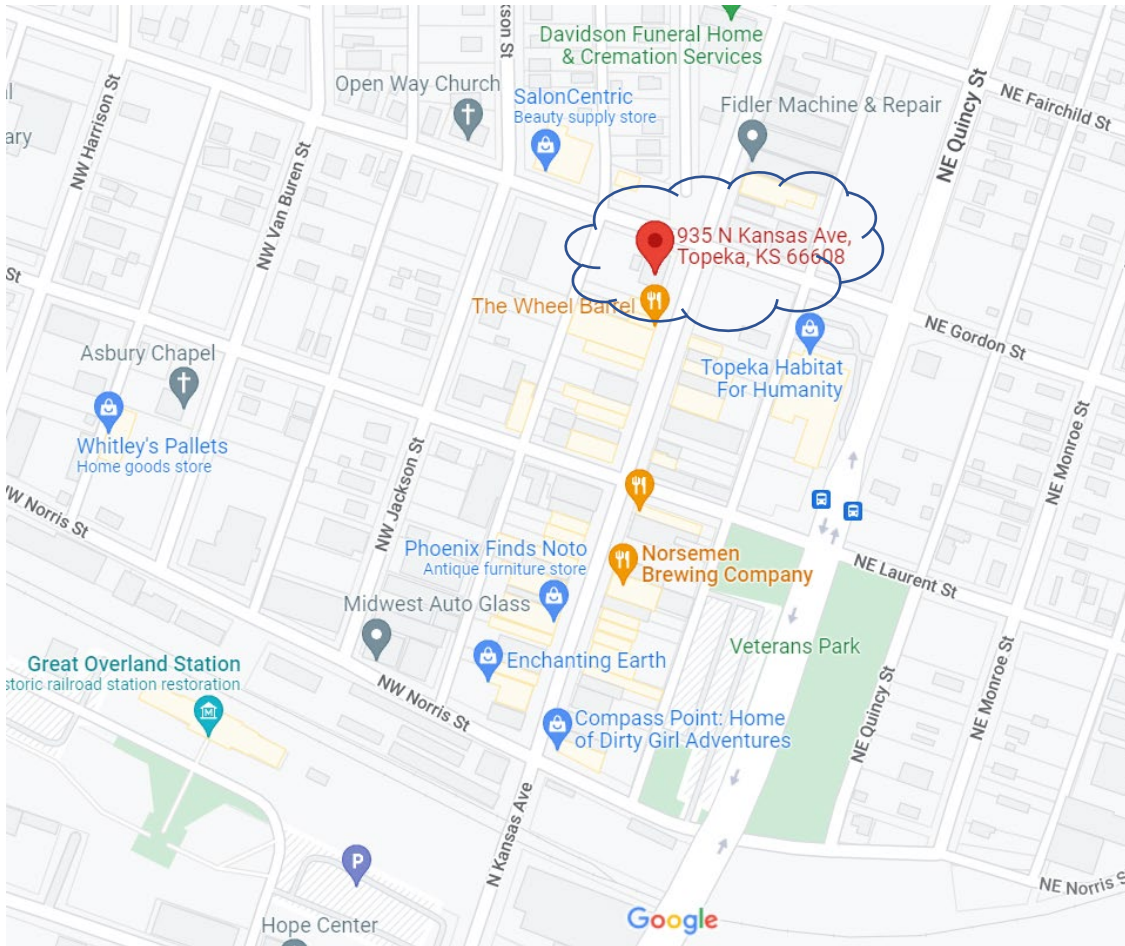
*NOTO Arts Center* -  
formerly U.S. Post  
Office, North Topeka  
Station (ca. 1920)  
935 N. Kansas Ave,  
Topeka, Shawnee  
County, Kansas

Pedestrian Plaza





NOTO Arts Center -  
formerly U.S. Post  
Office, North Topeka  
Station (ca. 1920)  
935 N. Kansas Ave.,  
Topeka, Shawnee  
County, Kansas  
Lots 99, 97 (partial)



Historic North  
Topeka Baptist  
Church

NOTO Arts Center -  
formerly U.S. Post  
Office, North Topeka  
Station (ca. 1920)  
935 N. Kansas Ave,  
Topeka, Shawnee  
County, Kansas

Historic Great  
Overland Station