

George Hodges House (1892, altered 1921)
425 South Harrison Street – Olathe
Register of Historic Kansas Places



This 1996 photograph of the George Hodges House illustrates the Tudor style which was popular in the 1920s. *Johnson County Museum Collection.*

The George Hodges House, located at 425 South Harrison Street in Olathe, stands as a reminder of the self-made man whose business acumen and sense of civic duty won him election to the Kansas governorship.

George Hartshorn Hodges was born in Wisconsin in 1866. In 1869, his parents resettled the family, via prairie schooner, in Olathe. When his schoolteacher father died a few years later, George and his older brother Frank were

left to support their mother and sister. The two brothers joined forces in a number of ventures, first herding cattle, then lathing houses, and finally founding the Hodges Brothers Lumber Company in 1889. Although the business initially struggled, it eventually grew to include fourteen builder's supply yards in communities across Johnson County. The 1892 construction of the George Hodges House and the subsequent construction of Frank Hodges' home at 432 South Waters Street—the close-knit siblings built their homes on back-to-back lots—testify to their increasing affluence.

Throughout his political career, Democrat George Hodges was an advocate for progressive platforms such as the Good Roads Movement, education reform, and women's suffrage. At the age of twenty-one, he won his first public post as an Olathe city councilman. From 1904 to 1912, he served as a Kansas state senator. His 1912 defeat of Arthur Capper was the closest governor's race in the state's history. The following gubernatorial election, Capper defeated Hodges. Ill health eventually brought his campaigning days to an end, but George Hodges remained active in public life until his death in 1947.

The George Hodges House was listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places in 1990. Originally built in the Stick style—a predecessor of the more popular Victorian-era Queen Anne style—and finished with lap siding, the house was substantially remodeled in 1921 by the Hodges family. A stucco exterior replaced the wood siding, and half-timbering took the place of the original

stickwork. Enclosed porches, a new multiple-gabled roofline, and arched window and door openings reshaped the home's façade. These alterations all worked to remake the home in the Tudor style, which was enormously popular during the 1920 and 1930s. Divided into a duplex in 1951, the home was returned to a single family configuration in 1989 when it passed out of the Hodges family's ownership.

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