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SEDGWICK COUNTY

Hugh Amick, District Supervisor
W.P.A. FEDERAL PROJECT NO. 1
"THE AMERICAN GUIDE"

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Part of assigned topic covered in this report Women in History
Helen Houston

Questionnaire categories incomplete or missing: list below with reasons for omission, i.e. whether material is still to be covered or whether the questions are not applicable to your territory.

1 Manuscript of a series; perhaps a total of 30, balance to come

Signed Hugh Amick
~~Area~~ Supervisor

THE AMERICAN GUIDE - Growth and Development
NOTED PERSONALITIES, Women in Kansas History
by Philip Aherna

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Helen Houston

One of the most politically important women in Kansas is Miss Helen Houston, sister of Congressman John M. Houston, not merely because of her relationship to the young legislator, but because of the numerous strategic positions she holds in the state organization of her party.

Miss Houston was born in Formosa, Kans., the daughter of Samuel J. and Dora Neaves Houston, the latter a member of a prominent Kentucky family. During her early childhood, the Houstons lived in small towns in Kansas and Oklahoma, her father promoting and stimulating the lumber trade, a career to which he devoted the major part of his lifetime. She came to Wichita with her family at the age of nine, was educated in the Wichita public schools, Wichita High School and old Fairmount College.

Miss Houston is a well informed, widely read woman of divergent tastes, deeply interested in art, music, interior decoration, psychology and philosophy. At the close of the World War, she embarked on a business career, planning, building and selling a number of small houses and duplexes. Later she served as assistant to the receiver of a state bank. She abandoned her business interests in 1934, to assist her brother in his first congressional campaign, a service she rendered to him again in 1936. Both campaigns, incidentally, were successful and Houston gives his sister much credit for her aid. Since 1934, she has devoted most of her time and energies to politics, attaining a position of national importance.

In 1936, Miss Houston was vice chairman of the Democratic state central committee, vice chairman of the Sedgwick County committee, precinct committeewoman,

and state chairman of the Democratic Digest, a magazine published by the women's division of the Democratic National Committee. She had served on the board of directors of the Wichita Jeffersonian Club and, in 1935, organized the Women's Jeffersonian Luncheon Club of Wichita. She has been active in the League of Women Voters for years.

When in Wichita, Miss Houston makes her home with her parents at 1111 North Broadway. Her influence in political circles is particularly strong because of her strong, active mind, attractive appearance and magnetic personality.

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SOURCE: Wichita Eagle files; interview with Mrs. S. J. Houston.
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