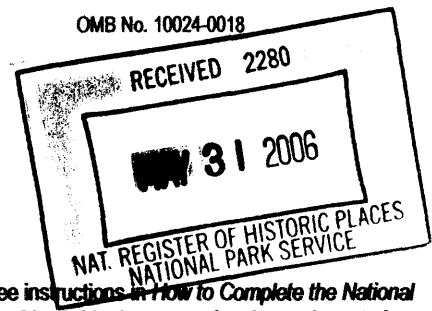


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Insurance Building
Other name/site number Wellington and Brundage Building, #053-1610-0020

2. Location

Street & number 115 N. Douglas Ave. not for publication
City or town Ellsworth vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Ellsworth Code 053 Zip code 67439

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.)

Patricia Zolner DSHPO 5/25/06
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

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Linda McClellan Date of Action 7/11/06

Insurance Building
Name of property

Ellsworth County, KS
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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
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)

Commerce/ Trade: business, financial institution, professional, restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Eclectic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Brick

roof Other: composite

other

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property Insurance Building County and State Ellsworth County, KS

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance

1888- 1912

Significant Dates

1888, 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Easterly, Frank

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:

- Checkboxes for documentation status: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by survey, recorded by engineering.

- Checkboxes for repository type: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Ellsworth County Historical Society, Ellsworth, KS

Name of Property Insurance Building

County and State Ellsworth County, KS

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1										3												
1	4	5	6	6	8	8	7	4	2	8	6	7	8	0	Zone	East	ing	Zone	East	ing	North	ing
2										4												
0																						

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 Martha Hagedom-Krass

Organization Gray Grace Solutions Date September 2, 2005

Street & number 8901 S. E. Ratner Road Telephone 785-836-3401

City or town Berryton State KS Zip code 66409

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 National Drivers Hall of Fame Association

street & number 210 N. Douglas Ave. telephone 785-472-4659

city or town Ellsworth state KS zip code 67439

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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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

The Insurance Building (Wellington and Brundage Building) (c. 1887- 1888, 1929) is located at 115 N. Douglas Avenue in Ellsworth, Kansas. The two-story, brick, Victorian eclectic commercial structure stands on a Warrensburg limestone block foundation. The façade is composed of a cast iron storefront on the first level, supporting a recessed paneled brick wall on the upper level. A three-quarter, circular oriel window projects from the southwest corner of the second level. A parapet roof rises above the building, attenuating its form and offering a visually compatible anchor for the oriel window. Maintaining a northwestern façade orientation, the building measures 26.5 feet from the north to south and 80 feet from the east to west.

The two-bay building was modified in 1929. The first floor was lowered four feet, which involved the physical lowering of the ceiling, floor, door and windows. The seven-step staircase that led up to the triple-door entry-way was eliminated, bringing all doors down to street level. The basement ceiling was lowered and the above grade windows that had lit it were blocked in, effectively eliminating the use of the basement for functional office space. Additionally, the first level windows along the southern elevation were dropped down within their existing width space three feet, a distance dimensioned by the lighter blond brick used to fill in the upper space.

The façade is composed of two bays on each level. A cast iron storefront defines the first level of the façade. Manufactured by Christopher and Simpson of St. Louis, Missouri the storefront is a three-pier unit. Designed to be structural, the piers are fluted and stand on plain, elongated pedestals. Classical capitals surmount each pier, with an architrave rising above each one. The three-pier unit supports a rounded cast iron fascia with rosettes. The manufacturer's seal is cast on the southern most pier, at the top of the elongated pedestal. The cast iron piers divide the storefront into two equal bays.

The door and fenestration treatment on the first level of the facade is comprised of a triple door arrangement in the northern bay and a full window space in the southern bay. The three doors consist of a single, wooden paneled door with a small, plate glass window on the north, and a pair of aluminum framed glass plate doors on the south. Both door units are transomed and are surmounted by an additional colored, art glass transom. The art glass transoms are comprised of a center rectangle encased by a surround of smaller square panes of glass. The single door leads

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

to the staircase that accesses the second level. The double doors provide access to the first floor. The entire door configuration is recessed.

Prior to the 1929 remodel the recessed doors were also elevated by about four feet, with seven steps leading to the doors. In the renovation the door unit was lowered, retaining both sets of transoms. While the door configuration remained recessed, its depth was lessened. The open space above the doors was covered over with a cement panel. The original doors appear to have been wooden frame, with a plate glass upper half surmounting a recessed wooden panel below it. All three of the doors may have been in place as late as 1971, now it appears that only the single door leading to the staircase is intact. (KSHS photo, 1971)

The southern bay containing the façade fenestration for the first level was also altered in the 1929 remodel. When constructed, the bay was filled with a large, floor length, plate glass window that spanned the width between the two cast iron piers. The G. A. Avenarius photo-gravure of the building taken in 1898 shows "Central National Bank" painted on the center of the plate glass. Above the window stood a colored glass transom, configured with two rectangles encased by a surround of smaller square panes of glass. The plate glass window surmounted a set of above grade windows. In the 1929 remodel the plate glass window and its surmounting transom were lowered about four feet and the above grade windows were bricked over. The open space above the transom was covered with a cement panel like the treatment used above the doors. Over the years the plate glass window was replaced. Currently plywood covers the art glass transom and part of the window opening, while a newer, ten pane wooden window frame fills in the remaining space.

The upper level of the facade is constructed mainly of red brick and employs recessed arched panels and linear corbelling to achieve its textural composition. A center brick pilaster divides the second level of the building into two, equally dimensioned bays. A corbelled brick square pinnacle projects from the center pilaster, rising above the building's roof line. A pyramidal copper capping surmounts the pinnacle. The northern corner of the building expresses an identical pinnacle. A pressed metal entablature spans the southern bay, a companion feature for the northern bay is non-extant. The northern bay originally contained a pressed metal pediment

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

flanked by the two brick pinnacles. The pediment was textured and contained a fanlight feature in the center with the words "Insurance Building" imprinted in the arch. A corbelled brick architrave underscores the upper level, a non-extant cast iron feature rose from the northern cast iron pier to accentuate the architrave's northern edge.

Compound segmental arches span the face of each bay on the second level. The compound arches are corbelled and form a recessed plane above the second level's fenestration groups. Two sets of segmentally arched double hung windows fenestrate the upper bays. These windows were 1/1 double hung, wooden sash. Three windows define the northern bay and two windows define the southern bay. Brick lintels terminate in limestone impost, limestone sills underscore the fenestration.

A three-quarter circular oriel window projects from the southwestern corner of the second level. This feature is wooden framed and sheathed with decorated pressed metal. The oriel window contains openings for five windows, its original wooden sashes were 8/4 double hung. The conical roof is wooden shingled and maintains its original metal finial. Original roofing material was polychromatically banded wooden shingles, vestiges of this material remain. The base of the cantilevered feature was sheathed with a pressed metal fan of connecting teardrops, many of these have fallen out, exposing the wooden framework underneath.

The secondary, southern elevation stands on an above grade, rusticated limestone block foundation capped with a limestone water table. The wall is built with both red and blond brick, the main wall plane is primarily blond brick while the corner bays and a strip after the seventh upper level window are constructed with red brick. A corbelled and dentilled entablature surmounts the wall.

Fenestration is comprised primarily of segmentally arched window openings containing 1/1 or 2/2 double hung, wooden sash. The four, lower level windows were lowered in the 1929 remodel, leaving the red brick, segmentally arched lintel three feet above each window opening. The space was filled in with a slightly lighter blond brick. A door on the east side of this level was also affected, but not dropped as much. These windows and the door rest on the limestone

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

water table. Below them, above grade window openings covered with blond brick represent another modification from the 1929 remodel.

Red brick lintels surmount and limestone sills underscore the seven windows on the second level. These windows are covered over. A pedimented, wooden bay containing three windows projects from the rear bay of this elevation's second level, this feature appears to be original. A modified side entrance and fenestration arrangement stands below the window bay.

The eastern, rear elevation of the building was constructed of lesser brick and contains several doors and windows of various dates. On the upper level, a double door with segmental arch pierces the southern corner. A one-bay door with a blocked over transom pierces the northern corner of the building. A small arched window with a limestone sill stands to the left of this door. On the ground level, two doors pierce the northern side of the rear elevation. A covered over, arched window from the pre-1929 period stands above the northern-most door.

The building's northern elevation wall stands above a one-story, early twentieth century commercial structure that abuts it. The wall has been painted or coated and does not reveal any evidence of fenestration. A heightened parapet rises above the already high parapet from the center of the northern elevation wall. The parapet wall appears to have been decorated with corbelled pinnacles that defined its corners. These pinnacles may have been surmounted with copper pyramidal caps similar to those extant on the building's façade. (KSHS photo, 1971) The building's chimney pots are still visible above the parapet wall on both the north and south elevations; the flues have been capped.

The building's interior maintains a large office space on the first level. Original paneled, pocket doors, wood trim and wainscoting are retained. The staircase leading up to the second level is intact, along with tongue and groove wainscoting. Office space on the second level was remodeled into apartments in the 1930s and 1940s. The basement office space was essentially eliminated in the 1929 remodel.

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Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS

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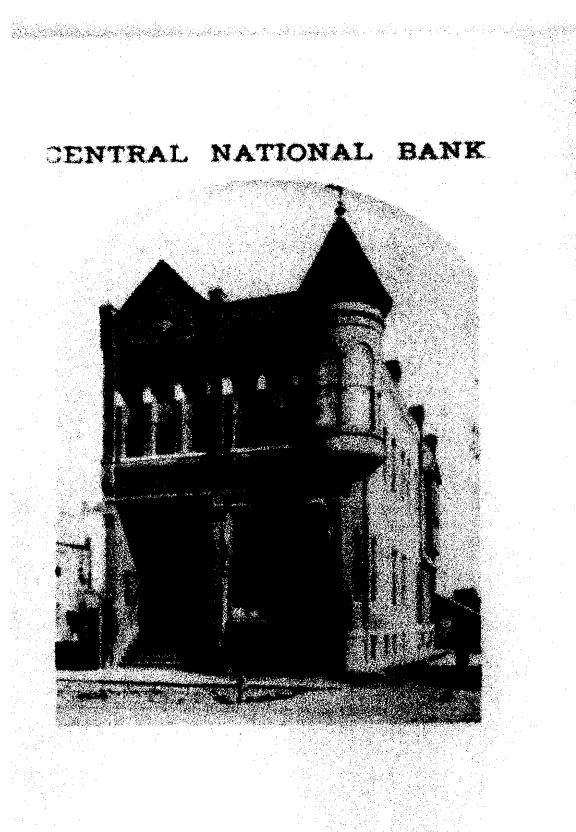
Figure 1: Insurance Building (c. 2005) west façade, south elevation

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**Insurance Building
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**Figure 2: Insurance Building (c. 1898) G. A. Avenarius,
Ellsworth, Kansas: photo-gravures. 1899.**

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

The Insurance Building (Wellington and Brundage Building) (c. 1887-1888, 1929) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its historical association with the growth and development of Ellsworth, Kansas and under criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of Victorian eclectic commercial architecture. The construction of the building occurred during a period of economic growth and prosperity for the community.

Ellsworth was established in 1867, with the Kansas Pacific Rail Road building its line through the village that year. Incorporated as a third class city in 1871, Ellsworth became the northern terminus of the Texas cattle trail by 1873. Between 1871 and 1874 more than three million head of cattle were trailed through Ellsworth, representing thirty-percent of the market shipped by the Kansas Pacific Rail Road.

The boom and expectation that followed an excellent shipping season in 1872 positioned Ellsworth as a major cattle distribution center. In May 1873 D. W. Powers & Co. opened Ellsworth's first bank, establishing itself to fund the merchants, stock dealers and cattle trade. By June 1873 over 140,000 head of cattle had trailed through the community, although only 30,000 head were shipped out along the Kansas Pacific Rail Road that year.

The financial crash of September 1873 handed heavy losses to most of the drovers, traders and shippers in Ellsworth. With a weakened market, Wichita worked to attract the larger share of the cattle trade from Ellsworth. In 1874, only 18,500 head of cattle were shipped from the Ellsworth terminus. Despite the vigorous efforts of several larger stockmen to keep the shipping terminus in Ellsworth, Wichita claimed the larger share of the market and by 1875 Ellsworth ceased to be an important shipping center for cattle.

Although many lost their investments, the newly established D. W. Powers & Co. bank did not close and over the next decade assisted in the commitment to build the city of Ellsworth. The community transitioned during the mid-1870s, enduring several fires, rebuilding each time. By the 1880s Ellsworth had established itself as a commercial center and the county seat.

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Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS

The decade of the eighties saw the establishment of flour mills in 1880, the Ellsworth Sugar Works Co. in 1881, the discovery of coal in 1882, the establishment of roller mills in 1885, and the establishment of the salt mining industry in 1887. These industries, in conjunction with the growing farming population in the country, helped to secure Ellsworth's economic stability and laid the foundation for its commercial growth. During this decade the population grew steadily, exceeding 2,000 in 1885 and reaching its zenith of 2,775 in 1889.

The city's two newspapers, *The Ellsworth Democrat* and *The Ellsworth Reporter*, chronicled the community's growth during these years. In the summer of 1886 *The Ellsworth Democrat* noted that the city's new waterworks system was finished, that the sewers were almost completed and that gas and electric lights would be installed soon. (TED; 24 June 1886, 12 August 1886) Immigrants and entrepreneurs crowded the city's hotels by mid-decade, investing money and settling in and around the community.

In 1888, the year that the Insurance Building was completed, Ellsworth's citizens reinforced their commitment to the city and its county seat status by pledging to build a new courthouse within three years. Strong efforts by the newly established town of Kanopolis to usurp Ellsworth's county seat status did not come to fruition. Ellsworth invested \$25,000 and completed the new county courthouse in 1892, retaining and solidifying its status as the county seat.

The Insurance Building was constructed for Edward W. Wellington and M. K. Brundage to house their insurance business. Wellington was an entrepreneurial investor from Boston, Massachusetts who established a sheep ranch in Ellsworth County in 1879. By 1887, Wellington and his New England-based investment partners owned 7,000 acres of grazing land and 9,000 sheep. In 1887, Wellington began a real estate partnership with M. K. Brundage, a former Kansas Pacific Rail Road agent based in Ellsworth.

Erected by Ellsworth builder Frank Easterly, the Insurance Building was constructed of pressed brick and Warrensburg, Missouri limestone. A cast iron façade was prominently featured on the first level storefront. Manufactured by Christopher and Simpson Architectural and Iron Foundry Company, St. Louis, Missouri, the cast iron storefront was

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

shipped by the Kansas Pacific Rail Road to Ellsworth. In the summer of 1887 *The Ellsworth Reporter* noted that, "The Wellington and Brundage building is being moved forward rapidly as men can do it.....it already shows that when completed it will be a handsome building." (TER, 28 July 1887)

The building integrated the principles of Victorian eclecticism, incorporating solid brick massing with pressed metal and cast iron architectural features. The cast iron store front, projecting pressed metal sheathed oriel window and pressed metal entablature created the impression of lightness and strength. As the cast iron storefront supported the brick building above it, the pressed metal entablature and oriel window seemed to float effortlessly above and beyond the building itself.

Using the lexicon of patterned masonry walls, the building utilized recessed arched panels and linear corbelling to achieve its textural composition. This vocabulary is rooted in the Romanesque Revival styles of the late-19th century although by itself the building is not Romanesque. Elements of classical design were interwoven into the metal architectural features. Designed to be structural, the cast iron façade was also decorative, incorporating fluted piers, classical columns and rosettes into its features. Dentil courses were imprinted into the metal entablatures and decorative pediment gracing the building's façade. The pediment was textured and contained a fanlight feature in the center with the words "Insurance Building" imprinted in the arch.

From a commercial standpoint, the building utilized various window forms and shapes to attract attention. The large plate glass window in the bank offered a perfect venue for advertisement. The G. A. Avenarius photo-gravure of the building taken in 1898 shows "Central National Bank" painted on the center of the plate glass. Small panes of colored art glass were used to outline transoms, attracting visual attention to the doors. The building's oriel window prominently projected its mass over the sidewalk above, becoming a landmark feature in the community. Referred to as a "seven days wonder," its five, curved-glass windows with 8/4 fenestration served as excellent advertisement for the building and its businesses. (TER, 11 April 1929)

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

Wellington and Brundage located their offices in the basement of the Insurance Building, conducting business in this location for ten years. The Avenarius photo-gravure captures the building in 1898 with a sign above the basement windows reading "Wellington and Brundage Real Estate and Loans." The pair also served as agents for the Washington Life Insurance Company of New York.

In 1898, Wellington and Brundage moved their offices from the Insurance Building into the newly constructed Wellington Block. This structure was across the street and up the block to the north from the Insurance Building. Over the years Wellington invested heavily in Ellsworth, building many commercial, residential and civic structures. A strong supporter of public improvement, he is credited with building, owning and operating the city's sewer system. After his partnership with Brundage dissolved he established a loan and insurance firm with his son called E. W. Wellington and Son.

Initial tenants of the Insurance Building include the Central National Bank, which occupied the first floor from 1888 until 1902. The offices of G. W. Clawson Farm Loan Department were also on the first floor. Lawyers Ira E. Lloyd and Theodore Sternberg occupied an office on the second floor from 1888 until 1889.

Established as the Farmers and Merchants Bank in November 1884 by Michael Gray and James Whitehead (J.W.) Powers, the bank was reorganized as the Central National Bank when it received its national charter in February 1886. The bank had its roots in Ellsworth's first bank, D. W. Powers & Co. When the Salina branch of David Whitehead Powers' Leavenworth banking establishment moved its offices to Ellsworth in 1873, Powers' nephew, J. W. Powers, managed the bank. Although the Powers Bank was dissolved in 1884, J. W. Powers maintained a presence in the Ellsworth banking community for several more years.

The principal owners of Central National Bank were C. F. McGrew, president; J. W. Powers, cashier; and G. W. Clawson. Clawson replaced McGrew as president later in 1886 and served until 1889. When Powers left the bank in 1887, M. K. Brundage became its cashier until 1889. In addition to their involvement with the Central National Bank, both Clawson

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

and Brundage maintained separate business offices in the Insurance Building, with Brundage also holding an ownership stake in the building.

During the bank's tenure in the Insurance Building it was led by Clawson (1886-1889), M. P. Westfall (1889-1891), H. Rammelsberg (1891-1894), B. A. Westfall (1894-1908). Often, the bank's cashier would succeed a president, as was the case with Westfall, who served as cashier from 1889 until 1894, when he assumed the presidency, and with George T. Tremble, who became president of the Central National Bank in 1908, after serving as the bank's cashier since 1894.

Strong leadership under both Westfall and Tremble positioned Central National Bank as one of the largest banks in Kansas by 1912. Central National Bank moved its offices from the Insurance Building to the site of the former First National Bank in 1902. The bank moved again in 1915 to a new, classically styled building constructed specifically for the institution. By 1918 the bank had assets in excess of \$1.3 million. Central National Bank continued to operate under its original 1886 national charter until it failed in 1931.

The Sanborn Insurance map of 1899 noted that a lunchroom, a bank and two offices were in the Insurance Building. In 1897 Dr. Henry O'Donnell and Dr. H. Z. Hissem opened medical offices on the second floor of the Insurance Building. Drs. O'Donnell and Hissem established the Ellsworth Hospital Association in 1897 and later established the Ellsworth County Hospital. Both doctors were prominent physicians and surgeons in Ellsworth; they two moved their practice from the Insurance Building in 1902. During these years Dr. Lewis maintained a dental office on the second floor, the projecting oriel window served as his waiting room. W. C. Babb established a restaurant in the basement space vacated by Wellington and Brundage, occupying this location until 1920.

Following the relocation of the Central National Bank in 1902, Wellington and Brundage sold the Insurance Building to Maier Arnold. In 1905 Arnold attracted a new bank as the primary tenant for the first floor, the Citizens State Bank. The bank was organized in 1900, with H. McManes as president; Robert Allan as vice-president; J. B Handy as cashier, and

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

W. J. Stevens as assistant cashier. Of the first floor banking house *The Ellsworth Messenger* noted that, "The rooms have been repapered and painted throughout, a handsome sign adorns the large French plate glass window in the west side of the building, the fixtures are of golden oak, with chipped plate glass, and grilles in electro-bronze." (TEM, 13 July 1905) The Citizens State Bank occupied the Insurance Building until 1912 and remains in business today.

The decades of the 1890s and 1900s saw Ellsworth strengthen as a commercial center and as a community. Ellsworth's population fluctuated over these years, with 2,338 residents in 1890; 1,651 residents in 1900; and 1,836 residents in 1910. (Kansas Biennial Reports) The population fluctuation during these twenty years appears to have been a natural adjustment to current markets and economies.

During these years the community maintained its important economic connection with flour milling, grain elevators and salt mining. In the late 1890s a telephone company was established and the Ellsworth Bottling Works was founded. Two newspapers, *The Ellsworth Reporter* and *The Ellsworth Messenger*, covered the events of the day.

Although neither institution was housed in the Insurance Building any longer, the Central National Bank and the Citizens State Bank continued to serve Ellsworth as the city's two banks. The Central National Bank was the larger of the two concerns and in 1912 held the position of Kansas' fifth largest bank. In 1914 the combined deposits of the two banks were \$1.25 million. In 1917 the Ellsworth State Bank was established, offering the prospering community additional banking options.

The Insurance Building itself entered a period of transition after the Citizens State Bank relocated its offices. The basement restaurant operated as the only tenant until 1920, when the building was sold to W. E. Woods. Woods established an insurance office in the former bank rooms. In 1929 Woods hired Frank Easterly, the original contractor, to remodel the building.

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

Easterly lowered the first floor by four feet, dropping the ceiling, floor, doors and windows by that measure. The staircase that led up to the former bank's entry-way was eliminated, bringing all doors down to street level. The basement ceiling was lowered and the above grade windows were blocked in, eliminating the use of the basement for functional office space. Additionally, the first level windows along the southern elevation were dropped down three feet. The office space on the second level was remodeled into apartments in the 1930s and 1940s.

Western Auto and Dryden Furniture occupied the former banking rooms in the 1950s and 1960s. A self-service laundromat, Tanton Laundry, utilized the first floor space from 1971 until 1987. In 1987, one hundred years after it had been constructed, Doug and Mervyn Harms purchased the Insurance Building. The Harms had hoped to restore the building, but it was used for storage instead.

In 2003 the National Drivers Hall of Fame Association was formed to restore the Insurance Building. The non-profit organization's mission statement is, "The National Drivers Hall of Fame Association seeks to build a cornerstone of commitment, dedication and loyalty within our community, state and nation through the restoration of the Insurance Building and the establishment of The National Drivers Hall of Fame." Subsequently the organization received title to the building and has been engaged in fundraising efforts to preserve it.

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

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Ellsworth Democrat, 24 June 1886; 12 August 1886; 17 March 1887; 12 April 1888.

Ellsworth Messenger, 13 July 1905; 4 April 1929.

Ellsworth Reporter, 11 March 1880; 17 February 1887; 28 July 1887; 14 December 1887; 29 December 1887; 2 February 1888; 10 June 1897; 21 April 1989; 28 July 1898; 1 September 1898; 22 September 1898; 20 October 1898; 26 January 1978; 2 March 1989.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

Jelinek, George. 90 years of Ellsworth and Ellsworth County History. Ellsworth, KS: Messenger Press, 1957.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Ellsworth, KS. 1899, 1920.

State of Kansas. Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Topeka, KS. 1881-1882; 1885- 1886; 1887- 1888; 1889; 1891; 1893; 1895; 1899; 1901; 1903; 1905; 1911.

Streeter, F. B. "Ellsworth as a Texas Cattle Market." Kansas Historical Quarterly. November, 1935. V. 4, No. 4. pp. 388- 398.

Svaty, Patricia. "Insurance Building." National Register nomination draft. 2004.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property stands on Block 29, Lot 19 in the original Ellsworth townsite, Ellsworth County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the west by N. Douglas, the south and east by alleys, and to the north by a adjacent property line.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property contain all land historically associated with it.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**Insurance Building
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

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Photographs

**Insurance Building
115 N. Douglas Avenue
Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, KS**

**Photo 1: Martha Hagedorn-Krass, photographer
October 2004, date of photograph
KSHS, location of negative
East view, west façade, south elevation**

**Photo 2: Ronald Svaty, photographer
October 2004, date of photograph
KSHS, location of negative
West view, first level**

**Photo 3: Ronald Svaty, photographer
October 2004, date of photograph
KSHS, location of negative
West view, second level hall**

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06000595

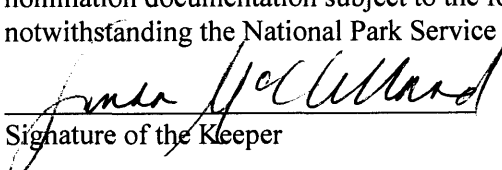
Property Name: Insurance Building

County: Ellsworth State: Kansas

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

July 11, 2006
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8 Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance is hereby extended to "1929," the date when the original architect remodeled the former bank, modifying changing the interior configuration and street front entrance.

The Kansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)