

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Atchison
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 13 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Atchison County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Southwest corner, 5th and Parallel

CITY OR TOWN:
Atchison

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: (Martha Keys
No. 2, Bill Roy after Jan.)

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66002

COUNTY: Atchison CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Atchison County

STREET AND NUMBER:
5th and Parallel

CITY OR TOWN:
Atchison

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66002

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Atchison County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Atchison

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66002

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

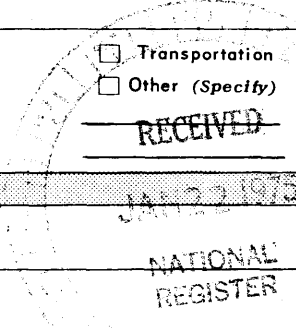
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West 10th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Atchison
ENTRY NUMBER	APR 13 1975
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Atchison County Courthouse is a rectangular three-story structure in a Romanesque-influenced style which faces east. The courthouse has both a full basement and an attic. It is located in what is basically a residential neighborhood several blocks north of Atchison's commercial district. A few feet from the northeast corner of the building is a boulder bearing a plaque commemorating a speech given at the site by Abraham Lincoln Dec. 2, 1859. The courthouse measures approximately 67 feet wide, 111 feet long and 112 feet to the top of the northeast corner clock tower. The dominant feature of the building is the clock tower which reaches seven stories in height, almost three stories higher than the towers at the other three corners. The clock has apparently been inoperative for a number of years.

✓ The courthouse is built of gray ashlar stone supplied by the Consolidated Stone Co. of Bedford, Indiana. A smooth cut stone belt course continues all the way around the building at the first floor level. The granite cornerstone was placed at the northeast corner of the building.

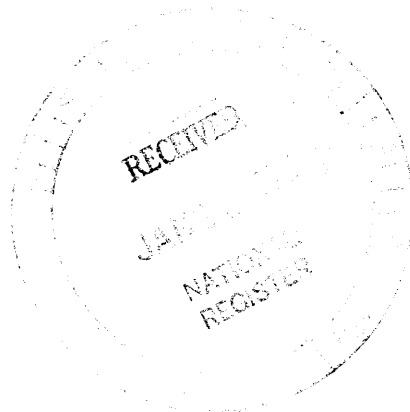
The main entry on the east is covered by a large porch with a massive arched opening. The doorway is situated in a similar arched opening. A second entrance is located at the north side under a flat roofed stone porch supported by four square stone columns.

The courthouse roof is basically hip in form, but there are large intersecting gable dormers on the north, east and south sides. The four tower roofs are pyramidal and all are presently covered with asphalt shingles. The roof is separated from the walls by a deep bracketed smooth stone cornice. This same type of cornice effect is repeated one story above the roof line on all corner towers and the large dormers.

Windows of the building are slender rectangles with smooth cut stone lintels and sills. Some semicircular arched windows are found on the upper levels, and some of the small third floor windows in the courtroom are of stained glass.

Attached to the courthouse on the west is a concrete areaway connecting the courthouse to the concrete jail structure.

In exterior appearance the courthouse looks very much like it did originally.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1896

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Atchison County Courthouse at Fifth and Parallel in Atchison was built in 1896-1897 to meet the need of a growing and prospering county for a new government center.

The first Atchison courthouse was built in 1859, and by the 1880's it had been outgrown. An election held on November 6, 1888, resulted in the voters' approval for a new courthouse not to exceed \$100,000. A tax was to be assessed to raise the money in a five-year period. A debate over the location of the new building delayed action for a number of years. After failing to obtain an offer of donated property in Atchison's commercial district, the county commissioners (William Bowman, I. B. Wilcox and George C. Butler) finally decided to build the new courthouse at the site of the old one.

In January, 1896, the county commissioners traveled to Ottawa, Topeka and Kansas City to view courthouses and other public buildings. The newspaper account of the tour indicated the commissioners favored a structure on the order of the Franklin County Courthouse at Ottawa. On February 7 and 8, 1896, George P. Washburn, architect of the Ottawa courthouse, met in Atchison with the county commissioners at their request, and, according to his diary, a verbal agreement was made for him to prepare the plans and specifications for four per cent of the building's cost. According to official county records Washburn was not formally employed until April 2, but it was common knowledge and reported at various times in newspapers prior to that date that he was designing the new courthouse. By April 15 his plans were filed in the county clerk's office, and bids were requested for May 4, 1896. The county commissioners received 15 bids on May 4, opened them and then adjourned until the next day when they awarded the contract to Latimer and Benning of Atchison for \$61,625. The agreement between the contracting firm of F. H. Latimer and Charles W. Benning and the county commissioners was signed in mid-May. The contractors' bond was guaranteed by six wealthy Atchison businessmen, and work was to begin soon on tearing down the old courthouse and preparing the site for new construction. The commissioners also decided at this time that the building should be of gray Bedford, Indiana, stone.

A. D. Clark of Atchison was employed as superintendent of construction, and A. Semple was in charge of the stonecutting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atchison Daily Globe, Jan. 24, Feb. 6, Mar. 3, 4, April 3, May 4, 5, 18, 20, July 6, Aug. 14, Oct. 5, 1896; Sept. 14, 1897.
 Byram, Jane Price, Two Public Buildings in Atchison, Kansas: An Architectural History (Unpublished Master's thesis, submitted to the University of Missouri, Kansas City, 1971).
 Garvey, T. E., "Compiles Interesting History of County Courthouse Here," Atchison Daily Globe, Nov. 6, 1949.
 Ingalls, Sheffield, History of Atchison County (Lawrence, Kan., Standard Publishing Co., 1916), p. 319.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		39 33 57	95 07 09	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard D. Pankratz, Administrative Officer I, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Oct. 4, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West Tenth St.

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date October 7, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

R. K. Mortenson
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/16/75

ATTEST:
W. M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 8 1975

15/1793
 42715

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Atchison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 100	DATE APR 16 1983

(Number all entries)

8.

In June temporary quarters were located for the county officials and demolition of the old building was begun. The plumbing and heating contract was let on July 6, 1896, to James Cotter of Kansas City for \$6,547.

The cornerstone was laid with appropriate Masonic ceremonies on October 5, 1896. At that time the stonework had already reached the top of the first floor windows on all but the east side which had been left pending the arrival of the cornerstone. For some reason there had been a considerable delay in the preparation of the engraved granite cornerstone.

After much discussion by the public the commissioners let a supplemental contract on May 4, 1897, to raise the northeast corner tower 12 feet at a cost of \$2,750. This was to permit installation of a town clock which would be readily visible in the main business area of Atchison. Later in the same month the courthouse furniture was purchased from the Art Metal Co. of St. Louis for \$10,983. The building was accepted by the county commissioners on September 13, 1897, and insured for \$67,000. The tower clock was installed on December 7, 1897, by the E. Howard Watch and Clock Co. of Boston for \$870. The total cost of the building and fixtures was placed at \$83,154.48.

The Atchison County Courthouse is significant to the history and development of Atchison county for its more than 75 years of service as the center of county government. The Romanesque-styled building is another of the Kansas courthouses designed by George P. Washburn, one of Kansas' most prominent early architects. It has been an Atchison landmark since its construction in 1896-1897.

9.

Von Achen, J. Kurt, Lives and Works of Early Kansas Architects (Unpublished Master's thesis, submitted to the University of Kansas School of Architecture, June, 1966).

