

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

56-1943



# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name A.S. Allen Buildings  
Other names/site number KHRI #009-2150-00039  
Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number 1401 Main St. & 2006 Forest. not for publication  
City or town Great Bend vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Barton Code 009 Zip code 67530

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Patrick Zollner 11-21-17  
Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

[Signature] 1-5-18  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>2</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

Commerce/Trade: Financial Institution

Health Care: Medical Business/Office (Drug Store)

Commerce/Trade: Business

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Work in Progress

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

Commercial/Trade: Professional

Domestic: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Classical Revival

Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt

other: Stone (details)

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Narrative Description

**Summary**

The nominated property includes two buildings at the northwest corner of Main and Forest streets in Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas (*Figures 1 & 2*). The most prominent, 1401 Main Street, was first constructed in 1875 as a two-story brick Italianate commercial structure (*Figure 3*). In 1921 the building underwent a complete design change, giving it the blond brick Classical Revival style that mostly is seen today (*Figures 5 through 7*). Adjacent to the west of the Allen Building is a two-story red brick Italianate structure built between 1884 and 1887 as part of a three-storefront block along Forest Street (*Figures 8 & 9*). This brick building at 2006 Forest Street is the only building of that block to retain its 1880s appearance today, as the remainder of this block underwent a complete design change in the 1930s. The two nominated buildings retain a high degree of integrity. Although constructed for different owners and at different times, the two buildings are nominated together due to being functionally-related and part of the same parcel today.

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**Elaboration**

**Setting**

The Allen Buildings are located on the 1400 block of Main Street in the heart of downtown Great Bend, (current population 15,840). The primary building faces east, towards Main Street and the Barton County Courthouse; the west building faces south onto Forest Street, and both buildings are surrounded by commercial buildings from various eras of Great Bend's development (*Figure 4*). Concrete sidewalks line the east and south sides of the buildings. The visible west side of the building is accessed via the mid-block alley.

**1401 Main St.**

Contributing Building

Built 1875, enlarged to the west between 1875 & 1884, overall design change ca. 1908

The primary Allen Building is a two-story blond brick commercial building located in the 1400 block of Main Street in the heart of downtown in Great Bend Kansas. When constructed in 1875, it was the first stone and masonry structure erected in the county and was the home of Allen's Drugs, owned and operated by Albert S. Allen. The rectangular building has seen many façade renovations through the years. The upper east façade and the south façade today retain the Classical Revival appearance of its 1921 design change to accommodate the Citizen's National Bank (CNB). Character-defining features include a decorative Neoclassical cornice and pilasters in the upper façades. The building has a flat/sloping roof with brick parapet. Except for the storefront, which dates to the 1960s, the one-over-one sash windows with transoms appear to be historic.

*Exterior*

The east façade measures 24 feet wide. The mid-century storefront is asymmetrical with a deeply recessed double door system. On either side of this door are aluminum-framed display windows with permastone bulkheads. To the north of the storefront is a non-historic aluminum door that leads to the second story. Separating the storefront from the historic upper façade is a temporary plywood cover. Above this the upper façade is highly intact from its early 20<sup>th</sup> century design. Centered in the façade is a three-window grouping. A single window is located on either side of the center grouping with brick between. At the corners of the façade are brick pilasters with classical capitals. The classical cornice and parapet rise above these.

The south façade is also highly intact from its early 1900s appearance. The main level, from east to west, is nine bays wide: mid-century storefront that wraps around the building's southeast corner, four historic and evenly-spaced windows, a historic entry (wood door with glass insert, sidelights, and transom), a second entry

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door (this replaced a historic window at some point), a vented opening, and an elaborate classical panel with cornice. The upper story contains a single window above each of the lower bays, except for Bay 8. The east and west windows have pilasters on either side. The classical cornice extends the length of the façade.

The building's north wall is completely hidden by the adjacent building. The west wall is mostly obscured by the Brinkman Bank Building to the west. A small portion of this west wall is visible at its northern end. Its condition and appearance are unknown at this time.

#### *Interior (Figure 11)*

The interior was constructed to house the Allen Drugstore. Later it underwent a major renovation when CNB occupied it. The main level was again renovated in the 1960's, most likely for McCoy's shoes. The basement and upper story retain excellent integrity of materials and design from its time as part of the bank.

The stairway to the second story is in the northeast corner of the building and is accessed solely from the Main Street façade. The stairway to the basement is also located in the northeast corner of the building; although, it is accessed from the main floor by a sharp right turn upon entering front doors. The main level's finishes are limited to plaster walls and sheetrock, a mix of carpeted floor, marble tile, and original hardwood. The main space, which is accessed upon entry from the east doors, is the former bank lobby. This large open room roughly measures 20 feet wide (north to south) to 54 feet in depth (east to west). This space has remnants of the CNB renovation that includes the marble floor, that has been severely damaged, and the south wall's windows. These windows still have most of their original wood trim intact. The marble floor covers approximately 540 square feet. The remaining space in the large open room is, what appears to be, the original Allen Drugstore hardwood pine floors approximately 800 square feet.

The former decorative neoclassical ceiling (*Figure 11*) was replaced by a particleboard tile ceiling in the 1960's redesign. The north wall is an interior wall and shared with the building to the north and has no windows. There is small room in the southwest corner of the space that is the utility closet that is approximately 8 feet by 5 feet. Directly south of the utility room is the main floor bathroom. It was framed out of what looks to be a bank teller box from when the bank occupied the space. It was recently disassembled and the bathroom has been expanded to be ADA compliant. To keep the integrity of the space and what once was, the bank teller box was used to rebuild the bathroom that now expands to 7 feet by 8 feet. At the rear (west end) of the original Allen Building is a carpeted office area that resembles a "U" shape. The space is in a U shape due to the basement boiler/chimney that runs from the basement to the second story. To the north of the U is space that is 16 feet in depth and 6 feet wide at its thinnest. It opens to roughly a 6 feet by 6 feet box in the northwest corner of the building. The width of the U is approximately 18 and half feet wide. In the west wall of the building is a roughly three-foot opening into the Brinkman Building.

At the foot of the basement stairs is wonderful walnut stained wood that outlines the stairs and encases the basement support columns. The basement was at one time used by CNB, and there were offices, two fireplaces, and two bank vaults in this space. It still has marble in one of the open yet sectioned areas of the basement. The basement used to have a street access entrance on the south wall that led to public restrooms inside the basement of the Allen Building. The City of Great Bend completed a city sidewalk renovation that closed off this access and the public restrooms. The stairs lead into the basement's northeast corner. At the foot of the stairs is an open room approximately 20 by 20 feet. In this space is a walnut encased support column and a white glazed fireplace on the south wall approximately six feet in from the east wall; the fireplace is approximately six feet wide. On the west side of the fireplace, moving west along the south wall another six feet there is a half-height wall, made out of brick and covered in a light marble, trimmed with walnut stained wood. The floor in this space is mosaic tiled and the walls around this space (approximately a 12 feet by 12 feet non-enclosed room) have light marble on the walls up to chair height. This open room is trimmed with dark marble. The north wall of this seemingly open room has three bank teller windows trimmed in walnut filled

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with opaque glass. To the north of this outlined room a small (approximately 10 by 10 foot) room that might have been an office. This room has two of the three bank windows in it. Moving directly west along the north wall is a slightly larger room, approximately 11 by 13 foot in size that is connected to the first bank vault. This room has a metal ceiling, painted white, however the paint is peeling. It also has one of the three bank windows that connect to the half-walled room in the main space of the basement. The half-walled room and the room with the first bank vault, previously mentioned, both have doors that connect to another large room. This room is approximately 20 feet long and 15 feet wide and has a fireplace in the southeast corner and additional doors where the street access used to exist. This room has a concrete floor and painted metal ceiling. At the most westerly portion of the basement is a staircase that has been enclosed. These stairs used to access the main floor at what is now the adjoining entrance to the original Allen Building and the Brinkman Building.

The entrance to the second story is a street entrance on front (east wall) of the Allen Building. The stairs open to a long 41-foot hallway along the north wall; along the south wall of the hallway are six offices. These make up the second story of the original Allen Building. All of the offices are connected via center walled doors; however, each office has an entrance from the hallway as well. Each office in the original structure has a radiator heater that is still there, but all have been cut from the original piping.

The east office was once an optometrist office. There are two rooms in this area; one was most likely the receptionist office and waiting area, and the other the actual room where the doctor cared for patients. The patient's room is above the entrance of the Allen Building on the main level and looks to east towards the Barton County Courthouse. Moving west along the south wall, connecting the doctor's office and reception area, there is a small washroom with a cabinet and sink. Directly south of the top of the stairs is what is marked as office number one, an attorney's office. This office is the first of the upstairs offices that has a beautiful, fully intact, white metal ceiling. It has two transom windows, hardwood floor, and a chair rail trim around the room, and is approximately 15 feet by 16 feet in size. Moving westward along the south wall are two additional offices that are identical in detail yet varying in size: one is 16 feet by 17 feet and one is 16 feet by 14 feet. The westernmost office is similar in detail, yet only has one transom window, 1960's tile ceiling, matching the main floor, water damaged lath, and peeling plaster. This room also has a second row of wood trim along the ceiling. This room is 16 by 15 feet in size, with the interior wall near the hallway, in the northwest corner of the room being shared with the communal restroom. The building's westernmost room is the communal restroom. It is nominal in size, only measuring 6 feet by 6 feet. It has a small corning sink and a very rare vintage, most likely first edition handle-flush toilet. At the west end of the hall is a four-foot wide opening into the Brinkman Bank Building.

### **2006 Forest St.**

Contributing Building

Built between 1884 & 1889

This building was one-third of a set of three identical buildings constructed in ca. 1885, according to Sanborn maps. Although similar in design, the three buildings functioned as three separate businesses. In the 1930s, the two western buildings received an overall design change, while this building retained most of its mid-1880s Italianate design. The roof is flat/sloped with a decorative cornice and parapet.

#### *Exterior*

The east and west walls are completely obscured by adjacent buildings. The north façade is accessed via the mid-block alley, but its appearance and condition are currently unknown.

The building's public façade faces south. The storefront is non-historic, although it retains a historic configuration with center door between two display windows. To the east of the storefront is a recessed door

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to the upper story. Again, this door system is non-historic, but it retains a historic appearance. A decorative brick pilaster separates the storefront from this door. This pilaster extends up to the decorative cornice and parapet. The east and west edges of the façade also have two-story pilasters. The upper story contains three historic one-over-one wood windows with rounded brick arch tops. A pair of windows is centered above the storefront; a single window is centered above the door to the second story.

### *Interior*

The main level of the Brinkman Bank Building is 40 feet (north and south) by 16 feet (east and west). The main space in this building is at the south end and measures 16 feet by 26 feet. Moving north in the space, it is connected by a 4.5 foot by 13 and a half foot hallway to a small kitchenette that is 8 feet 10 inches by 11 feet and moving directly north is the a second bathroom on the main floor that is currently nonoperational and is 4 feet by 11 feet. Inside the bathroom there is a latch lift door that opens to an unfinished basement.

The second story is accessed via the Forest Street stairway and through a door in the wall between the Allen and Brinkman buildings. A historic fire door is located on the Brinkman Building side of the wall and seals the opening between the two buildings. This door is noted on the earliest Sanborn maps. A small hallway (9 foot 6 inch 14 foot) is located at the southeast portion of the room that leads into a small room that connects to another attorney's office. This office is 16 feet 9 inches by 18 and half feet. This room has a chimney for a fireplace, but no fireplace is visible and the ceiling is a made of beautifully stained bead board. A six-foot wide hallway runs east-west through the center of this building. An office is located in the northwest corner of the building. It is 16 feet (east and west) by 14 feet (north and south). There are two windows that have been boarded up and in need of repair. This room has a buckling wood floor and falling 1960's ceiling tile. In the northeast corner of the building is an additional space that was at one time used to connect all second story buildings on the 1400 block of Main and also connects to the second floor of the adjoining building to the north. It is approximately 14 feet by 11 feet in size.

### **Alterations & Integrity**

Mr. Allen began improving and altering his building very shortly after he occupied the space. Citizens National Bank was responsible for the metal ceiling design, crown molding, white marble, and wood details. The current exterior storefront design of the building reflects a 1960's design. Bill McCoy managed a shoe store in the Allen building in the 60's and later became the owner of McCoy's Shoes.

Despite alterations to the storefront and the main level of 1401 Main, the building retains a high degree of integrity from its early 1900s design change into a bank. Similarly, the building at 2006 Forest retains a high degree of integrity from its construction as an Italianate commercial building.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

Commerce

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1875 to ca. 1945

**Significant Dates**

1875

1921

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Schaeffer, August

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Allen building is 1875 to the mid 1940's. This period begins with the date of construction and ends with the sale of the property away from Citizen's National Bank. Although the building has served the community's commercial needs for decades following this period and continues to today, the period of significance corresponds to the operating and ownership by Albert S. Allen and his direct impact on developing the city of Great Bend. This time period also encompasses the ownership of Citizens National Bank.

**Criteria Considerations (justification):**

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

## Summary

Located at the northwest corner of Forest and Main, the Allen Buildings are prominently situated in Great Bend's commercial core and represent a portion of the commercial development of the town. The store facing Main Street traces its beginnings to 1875 when druggist Albert S. Allen had it constructed. Over the following decades, the Allen Building expanded and received design modifications. The building facing Forest St was in place in the mid-1880s, serving a variety of commercial functions. Although physically connected, the two buildings originally housed different commercial functions. The two buildings are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for their association with Albert S. Allen of Allen's Drugs and its direct effect on developing the city of Great Bend. Further, as examples of the various design trends in Great Bend between 1875 and the mid-1940s, the two buildings are also nominated under Criterion C. Together the two buildings are significant as a cornerstone and relic to the city of Great Bend.

## Elaboration

### A Brief History of Great Bend<sup>1</sup>

Located in Central Kansas, Great Bend was initially home to the Plains Indians, even before Francisco Coronado began exploring the region in 1541. "Great Bend" acquired its name from the "big bend" in the Arkansas River and was located along the direct path of the Santa Fe Trail. The earliest settlers lived in sod houses or dugouts, as trees were sparse in the area. In 1867, the population had grown in the area enough that the region broke off from Ellsworth County to the north and became known as Barton County. In 1872, the city of Great Bend was incorporated. Although Great Bend had the potential of being rowdy, a "dead zone" was established 30 miles to the west of town, which limited cattle drives and cowboys, which helped to maintain a more peaceful community.

In 1882, Great Bend faced near extinction by a smallpox outbreak. For two months, the entire town was quarantined and all activity was cancelled as no travelers were allowed in or citizens allowed to leave. In the early 1900's Great Bend sustained a direct hit from a tornado. In the 1940s and 1950s Great Bend became an established oil town. And like the oil markets, has had its ups and downs. To this day, Great Bend continues to serve the commercial needs of Central Kansas, not unlike its humble beginnings as a stop on the Santa Fe Trail.

### Allen's Drug Store

From 1876 until 1904, the building at the northwest corner of Main and Forest housed the A.S. Allen Drug Store. Albert (A.S.) Allen arrived in Great Bend in May 1872 and "put up a building on the west side of the square in which he opened a drug store, and for three years there was no other drug store between his and the west line of the State."<sup>2</sup> A more permanent structure to house Allen's drug store was begun in 1875 by August Schaeffer. Stone was shipped in from Florence, Kansas, by train, and when completed in 1876, the Allen Building was "the first stone business house in Great Bend."<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Allen expanded his business and offer the rural area a taste of city life. Besides medicines, offerings included such things as a wallpaper and household decorations, and in June 1884 he unveiled his latest

<sup>1</sup> William G. Cutler, "Barton County," *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), n.p.; *A Biographical History of Barton County, Kansas* (Great Bend: The Tribune Publishing Co., 1912); Frank Blackmar, *Cyclopedia of Kansas History* Vol 1 (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912).

<sup>2</sup> Cutler, "Barton County, Part 3, Great Bend," n.p.

<sup>3</sup> "A.S. Allen Dead," *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (6 October 1911): 4.



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addition to the store, a soda fountain, that was said to be “a most elegant fountain.”<sup>4</sup> The upstairs of the building was used for offices: law, optometric, a sign painter, abstract and title company, etc. According to Barton County historian, Karen Neuforth, in the early years, the space was used by land agents, miscellaneous doctors, and lawyers.”

Allen continued to make marked improvements to the building; a year later he installed a limestone sidewalk—the first solid sidewalk constructed in town. Reporting in the April 17, 1885 *Inland Tribune*, the editor exclaimed:

Allen’s sidewalk will cost him \$1,000. This includes the pavement, a cellar beneath it the full leng[t]h of his drug store, iron railing for the stairways &c. This is certainly an improvement of which Great Bend will feel a just pride, and will award to Mr. Allen the praise he deserves for his spirit of progressiveness, and public enterprise to say nothing of his residence which is probably the finest in town.<sup>5</sup>

Other sidewalks were soon installed around the square.<sup>6</sup>

According to the 1886 city directory, Allen’s drug store was one of seven; however, having been established in 1872, Mr. Allen was the “first druggist” in Great Bend. During his tenure, his store at the corner of Main and Forest was known to be “one of the best equipped frontier stores to be found in the country.”<sup>7</sup> By 1886, Allen had also continued expanding his business ventures. One of these ventures included the construction of the Allen-Hubbard block to the west of the drug store.<sup>8</sup> The two-story brick block to the west of Allen’s drug store housed a number of specialty stores in the main level and offices above (*Figures 6, 7, 9, 10*).<sup>9</sup> In 1886 Allen’s drug store building and the eastern building of the Allen-Hubbard Block (2006 Forest) began to be sold together. Deed records appear to show that Mr. Allen used the building for collateral periodically over the years. According to a 1909 article in *The Great Bend Weekly Tribune*, “The Allen drug store was for many years the meeting point of most of our citizens. ‘I will see you at Allen’s after supper,’ was the regular saying. Most everyone came down to Allen’s to get a cigar and start for any place that they had in mind.”<sup>10</sup> In 1904 Allen retired and sold the drug store building to Citizens National Bank; although, for a few years after the sale, he continued to operate A. & A. Drug Store out of this building.<sup>11</sup> Allen kept his interest in the Forest Street building.<sup>12</sup>

### The Drug Store Becomes Citizens National Bank Building

As early as 1886, the western portion of Allen’s drug store housed a bank (*Figure 9*). J.V. Brinkman & Company may have been located here, as the 1886-7 city directory lists their address as Forest Ave between

<sup>4</sup> *Inland Tribune* (17 April 1885): 1 & (13 June 1884): 4. This was the precursor to the *Great Bend Weekly Tribune*.

<sup>5</sup> *Inland Tribune* (17 April 1885): 1.

<sup>6</sup> “A.S. Allen Dead,” 4.

<sup>7</sup> *A Biographical History of Central Kansas*, vol. I (New York & Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1902): 598 [digitized on-line]; Internet; available from Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/biographicalhistks02lewi> (accessed 30 May 2017).

<sup>8</sup> The “Allen-Hubbard Block” is referenced in several addresses in the 1886-7 city directory. According to the Barton County Register of Deeds, Hubbard owned several lots in Great Bend, including, at one time, lots 11 & 12; Allen’s drug store is located in the east half of lot 12, and the Allen-Hubbard block is located at the west end of lots 11 & 12.

<sup>9</sup> As seen in available Sanborn maps and the city directories.

<sup>10</sup> “Some Reminiscences,” *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (26 February 1909): 1.

<sup>11</sup> “Allen’s Drug Store,” *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (25 August 1905): 13. A. & A. stood for Allen & Allen. A.S. Allen’s son, A. C. (Charley), became a pharmacist and returned to Great Bend in 1896 to work in his father’s store (*Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (16 October 1896): 3).

<sup>12</sup> “Some Reminiscences,” *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (26 February 1909): 1.

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Main and William.<sup>13</sup> Brinkman's was a private banking establishment that started in 1874 with \$10,000 working capital. Successful from the start, Brinkman grew it to \$50,000 capital with half a million in deposits. The Citizens National Bank may also have located here after it was established in 1901.<sup>14</sup> Certainly from 1904 this bank was located at the northwest corner of Main and Forest streets.

Between 1905 and 1909, Allen officially retired from business and the drug store ceased to exist. During this time period, the bank appears to have expanded into the entire first level of the Allen Drug Store Building (Figures 5 & 6). The expansion also included an overall design change to modernize the façade and interior to meet the bank's demands. Offices continued to function out of the upper level. An advertisement in the August 22, 1921 *Great Bend Tribune* indicates the bank, "is enlarging and putting in the latest improvements, fixtures and furniture and installing the latest most secure bank vaults..." to meet the needs of the bank at the time (Figures 5 & 12).<sup>15</sup> The ad also indicates the basement rooms in the east portion of the building were updated for an investment company.

By 1947 only two banks were found in Great Bend: American State Bank and First National Bank. First National had been located at the southwest corner of Forest and Main, but the 1947 city directory gives its address as 1401 Main Street—the Allen drug store building. American State Bank occupied the old First National Bank. By 1954, the First National Bank had relocated to Kansas and Lakin streets, according to the city directory from that year.

### A Brief History of Albert S. Allen<sup>16</sup>

Albert Spencer Allen (1846-1911) hailed from Mansfield Ohio. In January of 1862 when he was 15, he enlisted with Company F, Eighty-second Ohio infantry. His first term was just over three and half years, he later re-enlisted as a hospital steward. Following the end of the Civil War he returned home and made his way to Cleveland, Ohio, where he pursued an education in business. Upon completion of his schooling and a bookkeeping apprenticeship, he returned to Mansfield and opened and operated a drug store between 1869 and 1872. Allen heard promising reports of the land in Kansas and visited several towns in the state before he set his hopes on Hutchinson. However, upon arrival he discovered there was already an established drug store there. While in Hutchinson he met a fellow by the name of D.R. Smith, who was traveling to Great Bend to homestead.

Allen poured his heart into the community, not only by entrepreneurial standards, but also by finding innovative ways to afford this little budding town more city-like opportunities. Mr. Allen launched the town's first circulating library and offered yearly subscriptions for a nominal fee. For a time this too was operated out of the Allen Building. He also hosted city events such as a grand balloon ascension and fireworks show. Mr. Allen never seemed to run short of ideas and always drew a crowd, which is a tribute to his innovative ideas and wonderful business skills. Allen was elected a city councilman in both 1872 and 1874, but he was city treasurer throughout most of the 1880s.<sup>17</sup>

In 1909, the editors of the *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* wrote of Allen:

Treasurer A. Allen, of Great Bend township, established Allen's Drug Store in 1872, and has lived in this city continuously since. He has probably sold goods to more people than any other man in the

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<sup>13</sup> The 1887 Sanborn shows one other bank on this block, at the southwest corner of Main and Forest, and this was the First National Bank.

<sup>14</sup> *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (3 May 1901): 8. Public notice authorizing the bank to commence business.

<sup>15</sup> *Great Bend Tribune* (22 August 1921): 10.

<sup>16</sup> "A.S. Allen Dead," *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (6 October 1911): 4; information also from the Barton County Historical Society.

<sup>17</sup> *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (29 June 1906): 6.

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county. Mr. Allen was here when the cattle trade came here. He has seen the town grow from the time when the cowboys and other people would put on a wild west show every day that would make the wild west show of Pawnee Bill look like 30 cents, to a time when it is one of the quietest and best behaved towns in the state. He sold the people medicine whether they had money or not, and a great deal of the time they had not. He was here early enough to buy buffalo meat right out of the wagon. ... Mr. Allen is perhaps better informed in regard to the first ten year settlers than any man in the town. He built the building known as Allen Corner, now occupied by the Citizens bank and Dawson & Zutavern's office, and still owns that part of the Allen block occupied by the A. & A. drug store. He retired from business a few years ago after being in the drug business continuously for 33 years. He owns and occupies a fine new residence in Great Bend now. This city has never had a more popular man than A.S. Allen.<sup>18</sup>

Allen's reputation as a generous man and a stronghold of Great Bend survived even his losses following the 1890s' financial crash.<sup>19</sup>

### **Builder August Schaeffer**

August Schaeffer was the builder of the A.S. Allen Building. He was well known for his industrial interests and his ownership of the Great Bend Ice Plant. Mr. Schaeffer was one of Great Bend's first settlers, and he, along with Albert S. Allen and a few other men, built the earliest structures and operated the first businesses in town. August Schaeffer built several structures in Great Bend and was highly sought after due to his amiable qualities like reliability and keen business discrimination.

### **Conclusion**

The two buildings at the northwest corner of Main and Forest represent the commercial development of Great Bend from 1875 when Allen's drug store was built to the mid-1880s when the Allen-Hubbard Block was constructed to 1921 when Allen's drug store underwent an overall design change to accommodate the Citizen National Bank.

---

<sup>18</sup> "Some Reminiscences," *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (26 February 1909): 1.

<sup>19</sup> *Great Bend Weekly Tribune* (17 September 1896): 3.

Allen & Brinkman Bank Buildings  
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

*A Biographical History of Barton County, Kansas.* Great Bend: The Tribune Publishing Co., 1912. [digitized on-line]; Internet; available from Google Books <https://books.google.com/books?id=hnYUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA3#v=onepage&q&f=false> (accessed 2017).

*A Biographical History of Central Kansas*, vol. I. New York & Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1902 [digitized on-line]; Internet; available from Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/biographicalhistks02lewi> (accessed 30 May 2017).

Blackmar, Frank. *Cyclopedia of Kansas History*. Vol 1. Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912 [digitized online]; Internet; available from Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/kansascyclopedia01blac> (accessed 11/3/2017).

Cutler, William G. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883. [transcription online]; available from Kansas Collection Books [http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/barton/barton-co-p3.html#GREAT\\_BEND](http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/barton/barton-co-p3.html#GREAT_BEND) (accessed 11/3/2017).

Sanborn Map Company. "Kansas Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Great Bend." Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1884, 1887, 1892, 1899, 1905, 1909, & 1914 [digitized online] The Kansas Collection, Kenneth Spencer Library, University of Kansas <https://lib.ku.edu/sanborn-maps>.

Sanborn Map Company. "Kansas Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Great Bend." Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1925 & 1943 [digitized online] ProQuest "Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970" <http://ezproxy.lawrence.lib.ks.us:2051/>.

Stoke's Episodes of the Early Days (1926)

Various newspaper articles, city directories, county records, etc.

*The Village Crier*, Barton County Historical Society September 2014, Volume 24, Number 4

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Allen & Brinkman Bank Buildings  
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

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 38.365567 -98.765133 3  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:  
2 4  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The following tracts of real estate situated in Lots Eleven (11 and Twelve (12, in Block ninety (90), in the City of Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas, according to the recorded Plat thereof, described as follows.

- 1. Commencing at the Southeast corner (Sec) of said Lot 12, thence West along the south line of said Lot 12, 86 feet to the point of beginning; thence North across said Lots 11 and 12, 50 feet; thence West along the North line of said Lot 11, 18 feet and 3.5 inches; thence South 50 feet to the south line of said Lot 12; thence East along the South line of Lot 12, 18 feet and 3.5 inches to the point of beginning.
- 2. Commencing at the Southeast corner (SEc) of said Lot 12,; thence West 80 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 28 feet and 5 inches ; thence West 6 feet; thence South 28 feet and 8 inches to the South line of said Lot 12; thence East along the South line of said Lot 12, 6 feet to the point of beginning.
- 3. The East 80 feet of said Lot 12, less and except the North 10 inches thereof.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the entirety of the two buildings associated with the Allen and Brinkman Buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chelsea Mitchell  
organization N/A date 5/10/17  
street & number telephone  
city or town state zip code  
e-mail chelsea@chelseamitchellphoto.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO )

name  
street & number telephone  
city or town state zip code

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Allen & Brinkman Bank Buildings  
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas  
County and State

---

### 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: A.S. Allen Buildings

City or Vicinity: Great Bend

County: Barton County State: Kansas

Photographer: Chelsea Mitchell, unless otherwise noted

Date  
Photographed: Spring 2017

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

- 01 of 10:** Looking WNW at east elevation (KSHS)
- 02 of 10:** East elevation of 1401 Main St.
- 03 of 10:** South elevation of 1401 Main St.
- 04 of 10:** South elevation of 2006 Forest St. (KSHS)
- 05 of 10:** Main level of 1401 Main, looking SW from NE corner of building
- 06 of 10:** Main level of 1401 Main, looking NW from the SE corner of building
- 07 of 10:** Main level of 2006 Forest, looking NNE from south portion of building
- 08 of 10:** Basement of 1401 Main, looking NW in the SE room
- 09 of 10:** Basement of 1401 Main, looking NE at Citizens National bank marble detail
- 10 of 10:** Upstairs of 1401 Main, looking SW into one of the offices

#### Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.



A.S. Allen Buildings  
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas  
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**Figure 1.** Google aerial image, showing location of building within context.



A.S. Allen Buildings  
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas  
County and State

**Figure 2 (Boundary Map).** 2016 Google aerial image of buildings.





A.S. Allen Buildings  
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas  
County and State

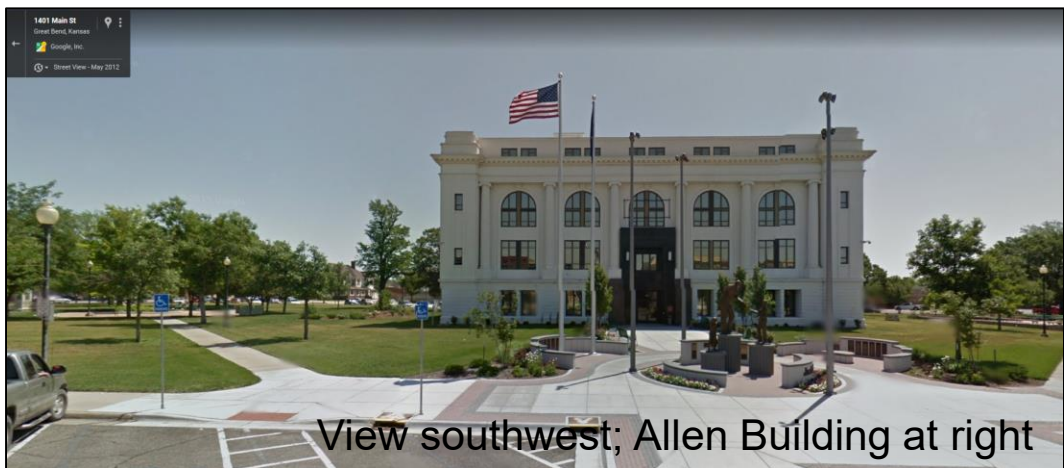
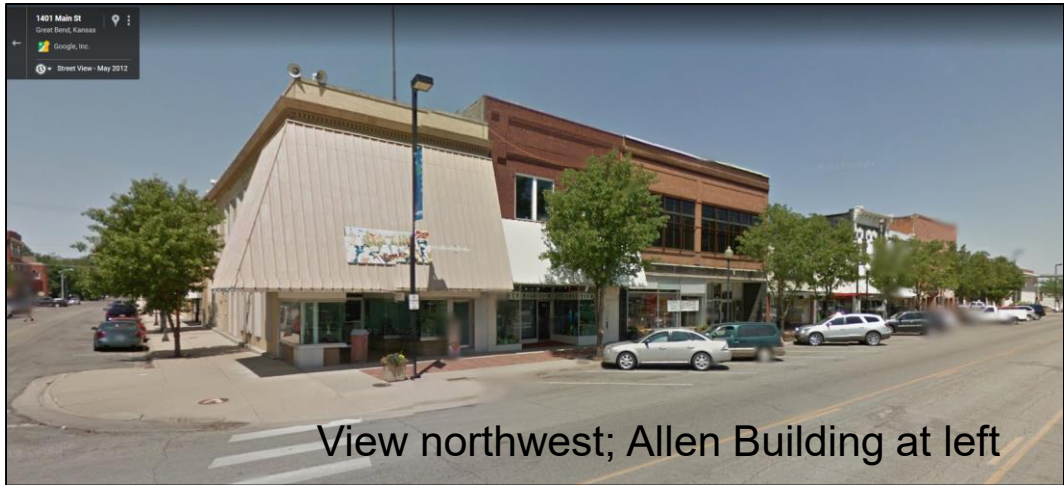
**Figure 3.** Undated pre-1884 images of the Allen Building. (Images from county historical society)



A.S. Allen Buildings  
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**Figure 4.** 2012 Google street views of the buildings' context  
Note: Photos taken prior to metal awning being removed on the Allen Building





A.S. Allen Buildings  
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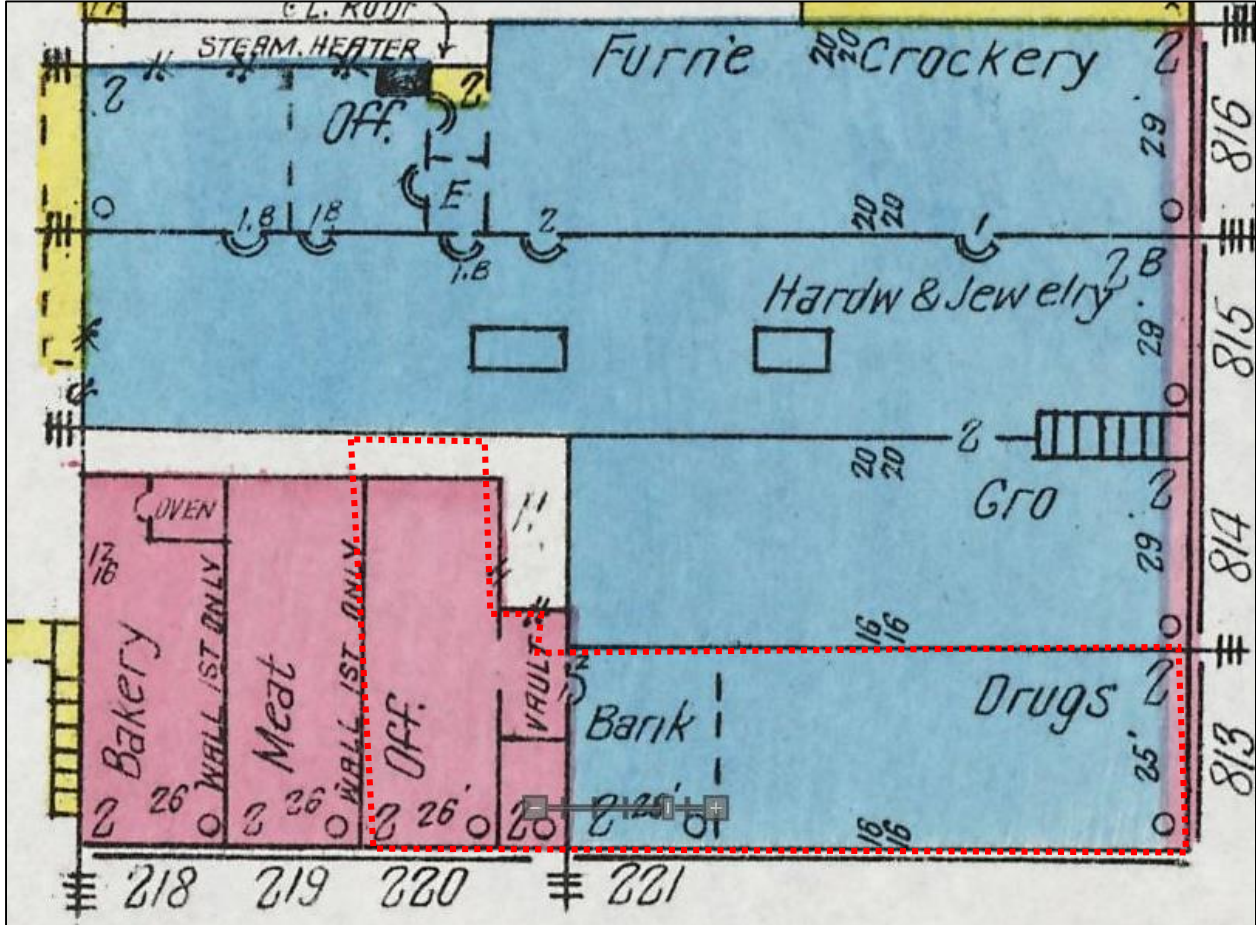
**Figure 5.** Undated photograph after the Allen Building was refaced.



A.S. Allen Buildings  
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Figure 6. 1905 Sanborn map image, showing nominated property (boundary is for reference).



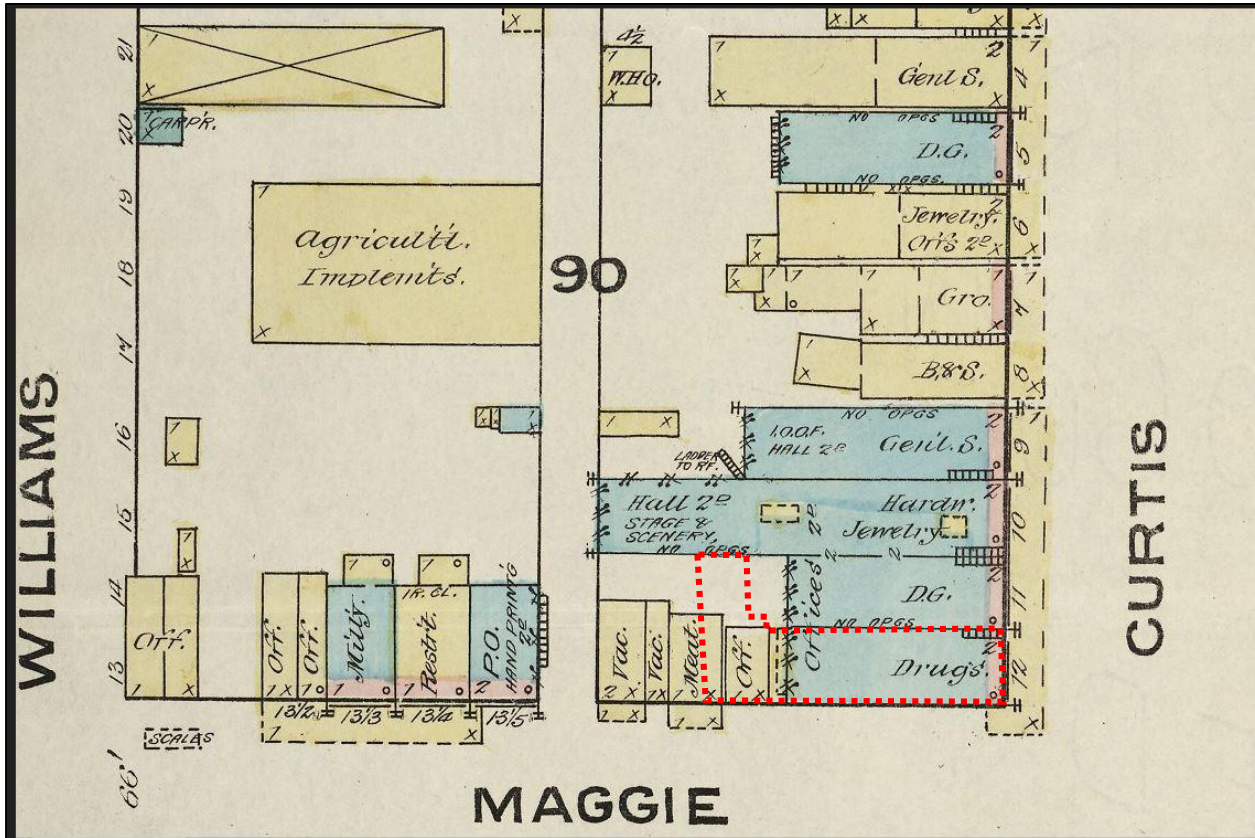




A.S. Allen Buildings  
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**Figure 8.** 1884 Sanborn map image, showing portion of nominated property (boundary is for reference).  
The brick block along Forest (formerly Maggie) was not yet built.











A.S. Allen Buildings  
Name of Property

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County and State

**Figure 12.** Historic interior of the Citizen's State Bank







NO PARKING  
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
MON - FRI











The Bank Room





The  
Back  
Room





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 11/21/2017      Date of Pending List: 12/15/2017      Date of 16th Day: 1/2/2018      Date of 45th Day: 1/5/2018      Date of Weekly List: 1/11/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      1/5/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



NOV 21 2017

6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka KS 66615

phone: 785-272-8681  
fax: 785-272-8682  
kshs.shpo@ks.gov

Sam Brownback, Governor  
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

November 21, 2017

Paul Loether, National Register Chief  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: National Register documents for Kansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:

NEW NOMINATIONS from Certified Local Governments (2)

- **William Inge Boyhood Home; Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas** (new nomination)
  - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
  - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and letter of support;
  - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **Santa Fe Depot; Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas** (new nomination under "Historic Resources of Lawrence" MPS)
  - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
  - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination;
  - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

NEW NOMINATIONS from non-CLG communities (4)

- **German Evangelical Church; Westmoreland, Pottawatomie County, Kansas** (new nomination)
  - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
  - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination;
  - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **Pottawatomie County Courthouse & Jail; Westmoreland, Pottawatomie County, Kansas** (new nomination under "Historic County Courthouses of Kansas" MPS)
  - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
  - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination, PDF with 44 letters of support, and PDF with 4 letters in opposition, including from the county commissioners (owner);
  - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

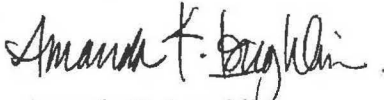
- **Big Brutus; West Mineral, Cherokee County, Kansas** (new nomination)
  - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
  - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and .kmz file;
  - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **A.S. Allen Buildings; Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas** (new nomination)
  - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
  - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination;
  - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

RELOCATION APPROVAL REQUEST (1)

- **Sand Creek Truss Leg Bedstead Bridge; Lenora vicinity, Norton County, Kansas – REDACTED NOMINATION**  
(NRIS #03000365) (additional documentation)
  - Physical, signed copy of the documentation;
  - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the documentation and PDF of REDACTED copy of documentation;
  - 1 CD (disk #2) with photograph.

If you have any questions about these enclosed items, please contact me at ext. 216 or [Amanda.Loughlin@ks.gov](mailto:Amanda.Loughlin@ks.gov).

Sincerely,



Amanda K. Loughlin  
National Register Coordinator  
Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236      Date \_\_\_\_\_

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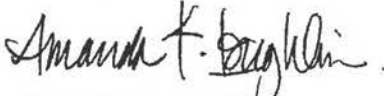
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Amanda K. Loughlin  
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