

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Boundary*  
*Journal*  
*7-1*

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS.

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Farmers and Drivers Bank and Indicator Building

AND/OR COMMON N/A

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 201 and 203 West Main N/A

CITY, TOWN Council Grove N/A VICINITY OF No. 5 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Bob Whittaker

STATE Kansas 66846 CODE 20 COUNTY Morris CODE 127

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

N/A

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Farmers and Drivers Bank

STREET & NUMBER 201 West Main

CITY, TOWN Council Grove N/A VICINITY OF Kansas 66846

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Morris County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Council Grove Kansas 66846

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None

DATE N/A

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS N/A

CITY, TOWN N/A

STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first building described is the Farmers and Drovers Bank which was listed on the National Register June 21, 1971. The following statement is taken from the original nomination form:

The Farmers and Drovers Bank building is situated at the southwest corner of Main and Neosho streets in Council Grove. It has a 25 foot frontage on Main street and a 75 foot length on First street.

The primary building material for the bank was red brick with hand hewn stone trim. The stone water table is painted white.

The windows on the first floor are capped with a semicircular limestone arch while the second floor windows are rectangular with stone sills and brick lintels. The upper part of the arched first floor windows and the top panel of the second floor windows are colorful stained glass. The second story windows are separated into pairs by semicircular protruding limestone trim which terminates at the roof level in a turret.

The rectangular building features a corner entrance raised several steps above sidewalk level. A heavy stone arch with a superimposed bay window further emphasizes the corner entrance. A false roof pediment is located above each narrow facade; a large dominant roof turret is above the entrance. Wood shingles painted white comprise the cornice. A full basement with arches windows in window areaways completes the building. The building is in an excellent state of repair.

The original Farmers and Drovers Bank nomination is being amended to include the adjoining Indicator Building. The description of the latter follows:

The Indicator Building, located at 203 West Main Street in Council Grove, Kansas, is a two-story red brick structure with contrasting limestone trim. It has an ell-plan with the main facade facing north on Main Street, and a one-story section extending behind the Farmers and Drovers Bank to Neosho Street. The two-story section is 29 feet wide and 126 feet deep; it has a full basement. The one-story wing, also constructed of red brick, is 20 feet by 25 feet. A square one-story lean-to, constructed of rubble stone, was added to the rear of the building at a later time providing an alley entrance.

In the main facade there is an original decorative metal cornice above the first story store front. Three evenly spaced windows featuring limestone arches and half round windows over double-hung windows with stone sills dominate the second story. Above the windows there are decorative brick panels and applied metal ornamentation divided into three bays by pendant brick and stone pilasters.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE

1

The facade is crowned by a metal cornice with the date of construction (1902) in the center.

The first floor interior of the storefront on Main Street is one large rectangular room. The second floor was "fitted up" for a lodge hall. It has original anterooms with peek-holes in the doors and a large hall with a raised platform at the north end. The hall has a pressed tin ceiling.

An outside stairway located at the rear of the corner bank building between the bank and the one-story wing of the Indicator Building provides access to the second floors of both buildings.

**Alterations**

A major change in the appearance of the Indicator Building was the replacement of wood-framed doors and windows in the first floor storefront facing Main Street. Aluminum-framed doors and windows were installed in the 1950's. Brickwork below the windows is not original. An awning and decoration above the first floor windows has also been removed. The storefront of the one-story wing facing Neosho Street has been covered with rough wooden siding and a wood shingle awning.

On the first floor of the Indicator Building, an interior partition wall has been built to divide the store room fronting on Main Street and the one fronting on Neosho Street. The interior of the one-story wing facing Neosho Street has been further subdivided into two rooms and a hallway. This area is now used as office space by the Farmers and Drovers Bank.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1892--Farmers and Drovers Bank** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Unknown**  
**1902--Indicator Building**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following statement is taken from the original nomination of the Farmers and Drovers Bank, which was listed on the National Register June 21, 1971:

The Farmers and Drovers Bank was organized January 26, 1882. One of the principal stockholders and the first president of the bank was W. H. White. (His family continues to manage the bank's affairs.) In 1887 when the West, as well as Council Grove, was booming, the bank's directors acquired and cleared the site at 201 West Main with the intention of constructing a new and larger building. However, the bottom dropped out of the boom and for several years hardly any new structures were being built, not even by a bank in as solid financial condition as the Farmers and Drovers.

Ground was finally broken for the new building in May, 1892, and by mid-June the basement was excavated. The construction contracts were let to local people as much as possible. Lewis Paterson had the contract for bricklaying, Jack Jones for the stone work, and F. Rooselot and his son, Joseph, for the woodwork.

The Farmers and Drovers Bank occupied its new quarters during the week of February 24-March 3, 1893, and remains there to the present. The two-story building with a full basement cost an estimated \$20,000. Since the bank at that time required only the first floor, the basement was rented to one of the local newspapers, the Council Grove Guard, while the second floor contained offices of two dentists and a law firm.

The Farmers and Drovers Bank building is a well preserved and distinctive work of architecture. It is an interesting mixture of many architectural traits typical of the Eclectic style in Kansas, including minarets, bulbous tower, and arches.

The original Farmers and Drovers Bank nomination is being amended to include the adjoining Indicator Building. The description of the latter follows:

From the time of its construction in 1902, the Indicator Building has been associated with the Farmers and Drovers Bank. It is characteristic "commercial palace" design, and is related to the adjoining corner Bank building by the use of similar facade details and construction materials. Historically, the Indicator Building is associated with the most important period of commercial growth in

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brigham, Lalla Maloy, The Story of Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail (n. p., 1921), pp. 64, 93, 152.

Council Grove Courier, February 17 and 24, 1893.

Council Grove Guard, February 19, 1887; June 10, 1892; January 27, February 17 and 24,

UTM NOT VERIFIED

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle Name Council Grove

Quadrangle Scale 1:24,000

A 14 71183710 421819010  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                    
D                    
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property occupies Lot 1 and East 15 feet of Lot 2, Block 9, original City of Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas.

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

STATE N/A CODE    COUNTY    CODE   

STATE N/A CODE    COUNTY    CODE   

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Julie A. Wortman, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

10-1-80

STREET & NUMBER

120 West 10th

TELEPHONE

913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Executive Director, Ks. State Historical Society

DATE

10-25-81

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-19-82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Council Grove. Not only was it a prominent retail location, but the second floor hall served for many years as a popular public meeting room.

Beginning in the 1850's, Council Grove was a trading outpost on the Santa Fe Trail. After the Civil War when railroads became the principal means of transportation instead of wagon trains, permanent settlement of the area around Council Grove sustained its commercial activity.

Eventually, early store buildings of log and frame construction were replaced by more substantial brick and stone structures. Almost all of the major commercial buildings in the downtown area of Council Grove were built during the years from 1880 to the turn of the century. The Indicator Building was the last of these buildings.

An admiration for European models influenced the commercial architecture of the period and resulted in countless retail districts made up of what the Victorians called "commercial palaces." Such "palaces" had bold projecting cornices and window moldings. Elaborate facades were intended to invoke a rich and prosperous atmosphere that would delight the shopper and encourage confidence in the quality of goods sold within each establishment.

In 1902, ten years after the construction of the Farmers and Drovers Bank, the Bank's board of directors voted to "erect an addition to the Bank Building and purchase 30 feet of ground on the west side of the Bank." During construction the addition was identified in several newspaper articles as "the new Bank Building" and "the Indicator Building of the Farmers and Drovers Bank."

Another article in 1902 reported "work commencing on the \$10,000 two-story building adjoining the Farmers and Drovers Bank on the west. The new building runs back to the alley and has an addition out to Main Street over the now vacant space at the rear of the bank." Street names have been changed so that the present-day Neosho Street is the "Main Street" referred to in the article. As it stands, the Indicator Building has an ell plan with the main two-story facade fronting on present-day Main Street and the foot of the ell fronting on Neosho Street.

The Council Grove Courier-Guard reported March 14, 1902 that "Contractor Peterson (Louis) has begun work on the foundation of the new building adjoining the Farmers and Drovers Bank." In the same paper the Farmers and Drovers Bank published a "Notice to Contractors" asking for sealed bids, presumably for work on the Indicator Building. The addition was completed by the fall of 1902.

September 26, 1902 the Courier-Guard reported that the Indicator was in its new building. Lloyd and Hubbard owned the business which gave the building its name. Their store offered dry goods, clothing, notions, general furnishings,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE 2

cloaks and shoes in the main section and groceries in the area fronting on Neosho Street. An article in the Council Grove Republican October 2 praised the Indicator as "A Brilliant Store--Lloyd and Hubbard, proprietors of the Indicator, have added another great step to their already successful movements in the mercantile line by their entrance into their big store, which entrance has been carried out and followed elaborate enlargement on an excellent scale. In beauty and variety of decorations, the quantity and quality of the new goods and new store and general arrangement of the same has probably not been equaled in this section of the country." The store boasted a Doran lighting system and a Barr Cash system which were regarded as progressive features by the local observers.

Apparently, the Farmers and Drovers Bank was proud of the new addition because the Courier-Guard reported January 2, 1903 that the bank was "putting out pretty photo calendars of their completed building."

On May 27, 1903, however, a disastrous flood caused extensive damage in Council Grove. The Smith Lumberyard behind the bank caught fire. Uncontrolled, the fire spread to the back of the Indicator Building causing much damage to the building and stock. The loss put the Indicator out of business.

The bank's board of directors voted to repair the building anyway, and six months later the store was rented to Loy and Raley, another commercial partnership. This business occupied the location for many years, selling dry goods, clothing, general merchandise, and groceries. As before, the storefront on Main Street offered general merchandise; the one on Neosho Street offered groceries.

Another dimension in the use of the building began in 1903 when the bank's board of directors ordered that the second story of the Indicator Building be "fitted up" for a lodge room and that a stairway be built in back of the Bank. This hall was rented in 1904 to the Knights and Ladies of Security, a fraternal beneficiary society. The organization later became Security Benefit Life Insurance Company, a large modern corporation with headquarters in Topeka, Kansas.

The fraternal society was attractive because it provided insurance protection to working people at rates they could afford. Local lodges were also important social centers in small towns such as Council Grove. Lodge meetings presented an opportunity for individuals to gain proficiency and experience in public speaking and participation in community affairs.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

1

March 3 and 24, 1893.

Council Grove Courier-Guard, Mar. 14, Aug. 1, Sept. 26, 1902.

Council Grove Republican, Mar. 21, Oct 2, 1902; Sept. 18, 1903; Jan. 23, 29,  
Feb. 5, 19, 1904; May 21, June 18, 1908.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Annual Meeting.-Farmers and Drovers Bank  
(1882-1918).