

MP-1950

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900

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 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 Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Other names/site number KHRI #149-5770-00002 (courthouse) 149-375 (Jail)

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic County Courthouses of Kansas

2. Location

Street & number 106 Main Street not for publication

City or town Westmoreland vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Pottawatomie Code 149 Zip code 66549

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:)

Alexis Abernathy 1-9-18
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
1	2	objects
3	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: Courthouse

Government: Correctional Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: Government Office

Vacant:/ Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: Metal

other:

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary

The Pottawatomie County Courthouse was constructed in 1884 on a block designated the Courthouse Square at the west end of Westmoreland's downtown business district. Designed by a local citizens' committee and constructed by Manhattan contractor Hulse and Moses, the two-story limestone building was a simple rectangular form with a metal shallow hipped roof distinguished by tall corbelled brick chimneys at each corner (the chimneys were later removed). Distinguishing features, including tooled corner quoins and tall windows with arched hoods with projecting keystones along with the roof form and wide overhanging eaves, are characteristic of the Italianate style. The second oldest extant courthouse in the state, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse reflects the Late Victorian style in its simplest form, a style that distinguishes this courthouse from the popular elaborate Richardsonian Romanesque designs seen in the monumental courthouse designs built in nearby Riley and Geary counties around the turn of the century.

One block west of Westmoreland's business district, the courthouse was located on a city block donated to the County for that purpose. The Courthouse sits in the center of the block and is raised above grade with stone retaining walls along two sides of the site. The original 60' x 70' building is five bays wide on each side; each bay defined by a single window on each floor. The building retains its original wood windows which are tall 2/2 double-hung sashes with arched top. Arched window hoods are finely tooled with a dimpled body and fluted margins. The hoods have projecting keystones and label stops, the former being an identifying characteristic of the York Rite of the Masons. The building entrances were at the center bay on the north and south sides, also an arched opening with stone surround correspond to a wide central corridor through the building.

Five projecting bays reflect additions to the Courthouse, the last occurring in 1976. All except the last addition were built during the building's period of significance. A concerted effort was made with each addition to match the detailing of the original building down to the tooled detailing on limestone quoins and window hoods. All but the 1976 addition and a small undated one-story shed bay, have a hipped roof intersecting with the original building.

The building functioned as the primary offices of county government until 1994 when most administrative functions were moved one block northwest into the grade school that was renovated for that purpose. The Courthouse continued to serve the court functions until a new Justice Center was built immediately north of the courthouse in 2012. The second-floor courtroom is intact in the Courthouse and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Although covered by a suspended ceiling, the original ornate pressed-metal ceiling is extant. Plaster walls are lined with beadboard wainscoting and wood trim and the hardwood oak floor is exposed the courtroom gallery. Built-in wood features including the judge's dais, witness stand, court reporter's desk and jury area all remain as do wood pews in the gallery. Even with the building additions and upgrades, and remodelings with contemporary finishes throughout the years, the original building form is distinguishable. It retains its limestone facade with distinctive detailing and its historic wood windows – features that were duplicated on the various additions. On the interior, the basic plan configuration and courtroom are intact. Extant significant features include the open wood staircase and numerous historic vaults.

In addition to the Courthouse, the Old Jail ca.1885 is located immediately west of the Courthouse. The jail served the County until ca.1970 when a new jail was constructed. The one-story limestone building is an L-shaped footprint and a distinctive metal pan-tile roof. It is a contributing building on the Courthouse site. The limestone retaining wall extant along the perimeter sidewalks on the south and east sides of the block is a contributing object on the nominated property. A memorial plaza and two stone memorial/monuments are located at the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square. The memorials took their current configuration in modern times outside the period of significance and therefore, are non-contributing objects.

Elaboration

Setting

The Courthouse was constructed on a full block at the west end of the business district on land donated for that purpose. The block measured 240' by 320' defined as Block 42 - the Courthouse Square in the Rachel Armer Addition to the town site of Westmoreland. It was bounded on the south by Main Street, on the west by First Street, on the east by Second Street, and on the north by Armer Street. The Justice Center was constructed approximately 60' north of the courthouse, its site encompassing the south half of Block 43 north of the Courthouse Square. Upon its completion in 2012, Armer Street was vacated. Figure 3 illustrates the boundary for the nominated property is a 240' x 240' parcel which extends 45'

Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS

County and State

north of the Courthouse north facade and retains the original east, west, and south boundaries as defined by the bordering streets.

The Courthouse Square is elevated above the street level with a limestone retaining wall at the perimeter sidewalk on the south and east sides; the west side slopes gradually to the sidewalk (Photos 1-3). A grass lawn surrounds the building on the south, east and west with mature trees and foundation shrubbery. On-street angled parking is provided on these three sides of the block. On the north, a circle drive is located northwest of the Courthouse for the Justice Center with a concrete walk/drive running E/W between the two buildings. The wide concrete strip is flanked by a grass strip that extends to each building. See Figure 1 and Photos 1-5 for current views of site.

Additional Resources

The limestone retaining wall bordering the south and east sides of the Courthouse Square is a contributing object in the nomination. There is one additional building and two monuments that are also included on the nominated site. Immediately west of the Courthouse is a one-story limestone jail built ca. 1885 that houses two cells and a cage with a ceiling and floor made of ¼" chrome steel plate, which was constructed by Hall Safe and Lock Company.¹ By 1928, the jail was enlarged to provide a toilet. The building is an L-shaped footprint measuring approximately 20' x 32' x 11' with an open hipped entry bay with corner column at the intersection of the ell. Later used for storage, the windows have been boarded and the building reportedly has water damage and mold. The Old Jail Building is a contributing building; a primary distinguishing characteristic is its intersecting hipped roof that features a metal pan tiles and roof crest. See Photos 4, 8, and 9.

At the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square is a war memorial – a squat square obelisk with bronze plates listing Pottawatomie County Veterans that served during the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts. A circular stone kneewall surrounds the memorial framing a small plaza; the wall serves as seating area. A flagpole is located southeast of the monument and southwest of the monument is a Potawatomi County stone map. At the southeast corner of the square, this memorial area is raised with the grade slightly above the top of the perimeter retaining wall. The corner is accessed by a set of concrete steps from the sidewalk along Main Street at an opening in the south retaining wall. See Figure 1 and Photos 1, 2, 6, and 7 for views of the wall and memorials. The plaza and memorials took their current form ca. 1990 outside the building's period of significance and therefore are non-contributing objects in this nomination.²

The Courthouse

The limestone used to build the Courthouse was quarried locally at Mount Ephraim and the cornerstone was laid on 23 April 1884. The wood framed structure has stone perimeter walls and stone bearing walls framing the N/S corridor through ground floor. The foundation is rubble stone and a shallow crawl space lies beneath the first floor. The roof framing consists of heavy timbered trusses that are 10' high and spaced 10' on center spanning the 60' width between the east and west walls.

The building appears almost square but measures 60' x 70', each side having five bays defined by a single masonry opening in each bay, on each floor. A metal hipped roof features wide eaves and originally had tall corbelled chimneys at each corner (Figure 4). The chimneys were undoubtedly ventilation or heating flues which have been removed with modern system upgrades; round metal flues are now present on the north face of the roof. The existing roof is standing-seam steel installed in 2007. Except the last addition built in 1976, all of the projecting bays (additions) have intersecting hipped roofs with the same metal roofing. The 1976 addition at the SE corner has a flat/tapered roof with metal roofing to match the original building. The eaves are boxed with a simple 1x wood frieze below. The gutters are built into the eaves and fluted copper downspouts are extant. The roof and gutters are illustrated in Photos 4, 7, and 12.

The stone work is a defining characteristic with the walls being rock-faced limestone with beaded mortar joint. Corner quoins of dressed cut stone contrast the natural-faced stones on the body of the facade. The dressed stones have a subtle tooled pebble/ripple surface with perpendicular ribbed margins. The same tooled design is used on the water table and on the window sills and arched hoods. See Photos 11, 12, and 13. As seen in Photo 13, the arched hoods feature a

¹ "News 35 Years Ago This Week." *Westmoreland Recorder*, 5 Aug 1920, 1; *Westmoreland Recorder*, 20 May 1886 (sidewalk laid from Courthouse to Jail).

² The area includes some memorial plaques that date to earlier periods and were moved to the current location in the 1980s and 1990s, outside the Courthouse's period of significance.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Pottawatomie County, KS

Name of Property

County and State

projecting keystone and label stop that is recognized as a defining feature on buildings constructed by the York Rite of the Masons.³

There were matching arched entrances in the center of the north and south facades of the original courthouse. See Figures 4 and 6 for views prior to 1928 addition of entry bay. The north entry retains its original masonry opening with arched lintel and projecting keystone and label stops (Photo 12). The north door retains a paneled wood jamb. A metal replacement unit fills the entire masonry opening with a single door, sidelight and infill panel at the arched transom. One early view of the building provides a glimpse of a fan-light transom at the south arched entry. In 1928 a two-story bay was added to the center of the south facade with a new central arched opening enclosing an alcove to the original building entrance (Figure 7 and Photo 11). The now recessed opening in the original building continues to serve as the entrance but it was likely modified with the addition. The existing opening is rectangular and accommodates a pair of single-light over two-panel doors; there is no evidence of the original arched opening or arched transom above the door.

The building and subsequent additions retain arched 2/2 double-hung windows that are tall and narrow – a characteristic of the Italianate style (Photos 12-13). Wood-framed 2/2 light glass storms have been installed at some windows, aligning with the divisions of the original windows. On the interior, the original door and window openings have deep pockets given the depth of the masonry walls. In most second-floor locations, paneled wood jambs are extant and visible as is original window trim (Photos 22-23).

The new courthouse was presented to commission in August 1884 but the interior was not yet complete. A description of the interior spaces in the new courthouse was provided in the local newspaper *The Westmoreland Recorder* in May 1885:

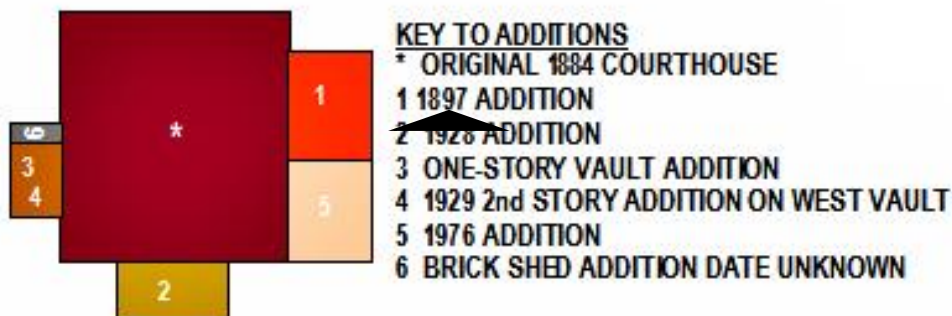
Entering the main entrances on the south, one finds himself in a broad hall confronted by a flight of stairs leading to the courtroom floor. On the left opens a door leading into the office of the register of deeds – one of the tastiest and neatest rooms in the building. A counter of convenient height divides the room leaving ample space behind for desks, safes, etc. A large vault for the record books opens from this room. This department as usual, is on the first floor, is finished off in hard pine.

Back of the register's office is a smaller room for the probate judge, also provided with a vault. Next in the rear with windows in both the west and north, is the office of the county superintendent. Across the hall is one of the largest and airiest rooms in the building, presided over by the genial and efficient county clerk. This room is well provided with desk room and a large vault. The treasurer's office fills up the remaining space on the east side and is like in finish to the rest of the lower floor.

Ascending the stairs, the first door at the top of the landing opens into the sheriff's office which has another opening into the courtroom. Turning to the right and passing along a short hallway, we enter the courtroom, a large well ventilated, splendidly lighted, and handsomely furnished room running the entire length of the building and opening on the east into the office of the clerk of the court and on the west into the jury room and sheriff's office. Across the east end extends the railing enclosing the bar and judge's bench. The finishing of all the upper floor is oak and is very handsome.⁴

The article closes noting that "the people of Pottawatomie County can be proud of their handsome courthouse, and proud of the enterprise which was built without expense to the county."⁵ While written shortly after completion in 1885, the basic plan configuration of offices and courtroom remains today. Primary alterations are detailed below.

Built in one of the smallest towns in the county after a contentious battle for the county seat, the simplicity of the Pottawatomie County's first permanent Courthouse was likely due to the limited budget of \$10,000 raised from private contributions and the



³ "About the Royal Arch Masonry." Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Washington, accessed online on 20 August 2017 at <https://grandchapterofwashington.org/about-royal-arch-masonry/>.

⁴ "The Courthouse," *Westmoreland Recorder*, 27 May 1885, 1.

⁵ Ibid.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS

County and State

absence of an architect on the project. By 1897, the courthouse was in need of additional secure storage and a two-story addition (22-1/2' x 29') was built off the northeast corner to house a vault for land records at a cost of \$2,253.⁶ This was the first of five additions; the last occurring in 1976. In 1928 at a cost of \$12,129, the second addition (10' x 32') was built on the front/south side of the building to house public restrooms on the ground floor and a jury room with restrooms on the second floor. The first floor restrooms framed a recessed alcove to the original building entrance in the center of the south facade. A one-story addition was built on the west side for additional vault space (no date was found for this addition); in May 1929 a second story was constructed on the west vault to provide a vault for court records (off the second-floor courtroom).⁷ The final addition - a two-story 24' x 32' bay built at a cost of \$25,000 off the southeast corner - was built in 1976 to provide space for the county assessor on the first floor and a chamber for the district court judge with a meeting room on the second floor.⁸ A small one-story brick bay with a shed roof is located on the west side, north of the vault addition (date and function is unknown).

The building survived excavation of a 25' by 45' basement to install a heating plant (date unknown)⁹ and an attic fire in December 1927. Caused by a defective furnace, the fire charred the roof beams and burned a hole in the wood-framed roof. A large turnbuckle was installed in the east to west walls for stabilization. There was also a lightning strike in the late 1970s that resulted in several broken water lines and damage to the latest (1976) addition. There have been no significant alterations and little maintenance in recent years. Figure 5 provides a 1984 view of Courthouse at its 100th anniversary.

There have been a variety of modern renovations and building upgrades through the years. The existing first-floor finishes include vinyl particle board, wood paneling, and sheetrock generally dating to ca.1960s-1970s remodelings over the original plaster (Photo 14). In 1999 a new heating system was installed in the courtroom. In 2005 central air-conditioning was installed in the courtroom and electrical upgrades were made. The existing suspended ceilings likely date to these upgrades as wiring, conduit and ducts are in place above the existing ceiling. The original pressed-metal ceiling is in place above the existing ceiling on the second floor and appears to be in fair to good condition (Photo 24). On the ground floor, plaster walls and ceilings are visible above the existing suspended ceiling but are in fair to poor condition.

The only known changes in the plan configuration of the building are the additions outlined above, the construction of partition walls in parts of the original building and the 1976 addition, and construction of a service counter in the central hallway at the southeast corner of the building in the treasurer's office. On the ground floor, most of the additions were small bays serving specific functions like vaults and restrooms. The basic configuration of offices flanking a wide central corridor with an open stair at the north end is intact and clearly discernible (Photo 14). Although a stair-lift has been installed, the open wood staircase with turned balusters and square newel posts is extant (Photo 14 and 18). In addition to the plan configuration, significant features include four historic vaults dating to at least three different construction dates (Photos 15, 16, 17 and 21).

The second-floor additions also include a vault, restrooms, a jury room and small court-related offices. The primary character-defining feature on the second floor is the courtroom with its original fixtures and finishes (Photos 19-21). That space is intact with the only known modifications being the installation of the suspended ceiling and building system upgrades. Although no longer in active use, the courtroom clearly conveys its original design and function with the original wood railing in place that separates the gallery from the bar. Built by a local carpenter, the historic courtroom furnishings are extant including the judge's dais, witness box, jury box, and stenographer desk as well as wood pews in the gallery. See Photos 19 and 20. On the west wall, the vault dating to the 1929 addition remains in place (Photo 21). Although covered elsewhere by carpet and tile, the original hardwood floors are exposed in the courtroom gallery on the second floor (Photo 20). Plaster walls are exposed with beadboard wood wainscoting and wood trim around the courtroom. The original ornate cast-iron steam radiators are in place throughout, covered by wood boxes in many locations but exposed in the courtroom (Photo 22).

Conclusion

The Pottawatomie County Courthouse is a rare example of an early 1880s courthouse in the state of Kansas. Designed by a citizen's committee and built with private donations at no cost to the county, the Courthouse is a modest building that has served the county for more than one hundred thirty years. With five additions spanning an eighty-year period, the original rectangular building remains discernible with each addition clearly defined as a bay projecting from the original

⁶ Maurice Cordell, *Struggle for the County Seat*. Self-published, 2013, 81-82.

⁷ "Courthouse Addition." *Wamego Reporter*, 23 May 1929.

⁸ Cordell, 81.

⁹ Or an opening in an original basement was excavated to install a new gas boiler. The original building was likely heated with coal and probably had a coal chute from grade.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS

County and State

building. That said, a remarkable feature is that these multiple additions (except the one-story brick bay) each repeated the notable stone detailing of the original building including arched hoods at the masonry openings with projecting keystones and label stops. Corner quoins, a water table and window sills and lintels all repeat the tooled stone detailing with a pebbled surface with ribbed margins. The additions, except the 1976 bay with a flat roof and the one-story west bay with a shed roof, each have hipped roofs that intersect with the original building's hipped roof and have matching metal roofing (2007 replacement). The Courthouse retains the key exterior features that characterize its classification under the Italianate style. Although the interior has contemporary finishes throughout the first floor, it retains significant features including the original circulation pattern, multiple historic vaults, the original open wood staircase, and the second-floor courtroom which has a remarkable degree of historic integrity. The courtroom retains plaster walls with beadboard wainscoting and trim, wood floors, its ornate metal ceiling although the latter is above a suspended ceiling and the original built-in court accoutrements. The Pottawatomie Courthouse retains sufficient integrity to convey key aspects of its original design and function.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

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

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1884 - 1929

Significant Dates

1884, 1897, 1928, 1929

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Hulsey & Moses, contractor Manhattan, KS

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance spans from 1884 to 1968. This period begins with the courthouse's date of construction as a means for Westmoreland to cement its county-seat status and ends in 1929 with the last historically-significant addition.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

None

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Pottawatomie County Courthouse is located at 106 Main Street in Westmoreland, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Erected 1884, the Courthouse is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of POLITICS/ GOVERNMENT for its associations with the development of county courthouses in Kansas and under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE as a representative of the Late Victorian: Italianate Property Type defined in *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas*.¹⁰ This courthouse is one of the few existing examples that date to this distinct period in the evolution of courthouse design in Kansas. In addition to its hipped roof, the use of locally quarried limestone enhances the building's Italianate design with subtle characteristics including the finely tooled limestone quoining and its tall narrow arched windows with prominent hoods. The projecting keystones are a symbol of the York Rite Order of the Free Masons.

The historic significance of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses documented in *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas*. In particular, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse has direct associations to the historic contexts – “The Role of the Courthouse in Kansas Communities 1856 – 1950;” “Nineteenth Century Settlement Patterns and the development of County Government: 1865 – 1900;” and the “Architecture of Kansas Courthouses 1861 – 1950.” The property's association with the evolution of Kansas county courthouses and their design guides its period of significance which begins with its construction in 1884 and continues to 1929 with the last historically-significant addition. Despite several additions and alterations, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse retains a moderate level of architectural integrity and is a representative example of the Late Victorian: Italianate Property Type. This Courthouse is a modest example of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century courthouse plan in Kansas that was designed by a local citizen's committee and constructed by Manhattan contractor Hulsey and Moses.

Elaboration

Pottawatomie County and Westmoreland

Pottawatomie County, formerly part of Riley and Calhoun counties, is located in northeast Kansas, positioned one county in from the Nebraska border between the cities of Manhattan and Topeka. The Kansas River forms the southern boundary of the county; the Big Blue River the western boundary. Comprised of twenty-three townships, the county takes its name from the Potawatomi Indians, whose reservation encompassed a large portion of the county until 1867 when most of the land owned by the tribe was sold to the railroad.¹¹ Due in large part to its western border lying within the Manhattan city limits, the county has experienced growth in population each decade since 1970, reaching just under 24,000 in 2015.¹²

In 1857, Pottawatomie County was organized by the territorial legislature. According to Frank Blackmar's book, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History*, Catholic missionaries were the first white settlers who moved into the area in the vicinity of the newly created Potawatomi Indian reservation in 1848.¹³ In 1853, the population had consisted of the Catholic missionaries, a few traders, five government employees, and approximately two dozen settlers.¹⁴ The county eventually became populated by many taking advantage of the opportunities of the Oregon Trail, Military Road and Pike's Peak Trail that passed northward through the area. The county seat originally was located at St. George, the first town in the county to be platted and moved to Louisville in the election of 1861. Louisville however lost the railroad to Wamego and efforts arose to move the county seat to Wamego. In a runoff election with Wamego, Westmoreland secured the county seat in 1882 and remains as such. Today Westmoreland is a community of approximately 800 centrally located in the county that encompasses 860 acres. Westmoreland is located 13 miles north of Wamego on Highway 99. The County Court System and Jail, the Westy Community Care Home and Assisted Living Facilities, and Unified School Districts are the town's

¹⁰Sally J. Schwenk. *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas* National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (2002) F-1 to F-2.

¹¹ William G. Cutler. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: A.T. Andreas Publishing Co., 1883. Kansas Collection Books accessed online at <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/pottawatomie/pottawcr.htm>; transcribed by Rosana J. Whitenight, 1997 (no page #s).

¹² Pottawattamie County, Kansas Official Website, accessed on 15 August 2017 at <http://www.pottcounty.org/306/Demographics>.

¹³ Frank W. Blackmar. *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc.* Vol. 2. Chicago: Chicago Standard Publishing Company, 1912, 490-492. Accessed online at http://www.ksgenweb.com/archives/1912/b/blackmar_frank_wilson.html; transcribed 2012 by Carolyn Ward.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS

County and State

largest employers. Wamego remains the largest community in the county (4,200), followed by St. Marys (2,200), both located on U.S. Highway 24 in the southern portion of the county.

Westmoreland was established with a post office in 1858. The town was platted in 1871 by Volney Baker and had been named for Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, the original home of the first postmaster, John McKimens.¹⁵ In 1883, Westmoreland contained three general stores, four hotels, two churches, one physician, one lawyer, a carpenter shop, restaurant, livery stable and butcher shop.¹⁶ Even in its early years Westmoreland had aspirations for growth and was seen by many residents as a good location for the county seat. This notion was challenged by the fact that no roads existed, except for those used as part of the westward trails. Like many counties, the location of county seat was not without contention as Cutler explains in 1883:

There has been a good deal of friction over county-seat matters in Pottawatomie County, and a suit in 1882 is pending over the permanent location of the county seat of Westmoreland, growing out of an alleged fraudulent canvass of the votes that were cast at the election for county seat, on the 23rd of September, 1879, when Louisville, Wamego, Laclede and Westmoreland were the candidates, Wamego and Westmoreland standing as the two highest from the available returns. Westmoreland won the runoff with 1877 votes.¹⁷

The win was a surprise to many Pottawatomie County citizens. Blackmar's history notes that Westmoreland was a comparatively new town and "one of the smallest county seat towns in the eastern part of the state."¹⁸

The first county offices in Westmoreland were established in the Methodists and Congregational churches and a small hotel; the United States District Court convened at Westmoreland in October 1882.¹⁹ A small frame building was built on Main Street to house the county offices. County residents complained about Westmoreland's mud roads and walks and there were again rumblings about moving the county seat. It became clear to Westmoreland residents that if they wanted to retain the county seat, a substantial permanent building was required. The Westmoreland Citizens Building Association (WCBA) was formed to organize construction of a permanent courthouse.

The County Courthouse

On January 14, 1884, two years after winning the county seat, the county commission granted permission to construct a stone courthouse on a block of donated land in the Rachel Armer Addition.²⁰ The WCBA rallied and the funds (\$10,000) and labor were donated by the citizens of Pottawatomie County.²¹ The WCBA was tasked with designing the courthouse and the County Commissioners soon approved plans for a 60' x 70' two-story courthouse of stone to be quarried nearby in the county. Native limestone was brought to the building site by horse and wagon. The Masons played a significant role in the building of the courthouse, with the indicative projecting keystone over each arched opening symbolizing their involvement. Amos E. Landon, a Freemason and Onaga resident, laid the cornerstone on April 29, 1884.²² One month later the *Leavenworth Times* reported that "Westmoreland was straining every nerve to have the new courthouse finished in time to hold the October term of the court within its walls, and have the roof on and floors in by the 4th of July."²³ The WCBA succeeded. On August 30, 1884, the WCBA presented the new courthouse to the county commission although the interior was reportedly not yet complete. The following month, the County Commission ordered the county offices to move their offices, papers, books and records belonging to the County into the Courthouse.

Westmoreland served as the center of county business with no threat to its status as the county seat for the next seventy-plus years. Since its construction, the Courthouse has undergone at least five additions throughout the years in attempt to meet the needs of the county government and court systems but the building had apparently not been well maintained.

¹⁵ Kansas State Historical Society (1916). *Biennial Report of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Historical Society*. Kansas State Printing Plant: Manhattan, KS, 262.

¹⁶ Cutler.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Blackmar, 902.

¹⁹ Cutler.

²⁰ Maurice Cordell. *Struggle for the County Seat*. Self-published, 2013, 52.

²¹ O.F. (Doc) Maskil. *The Early History of Pottawatomie County*. (Pamphlet, 1995) The original information was derived from W. F. Hill, "History of Pottawatomie County Kansas" *Westmoreland Recorder*, 1906-07.

²² Cordell, 52.

²³ Ibid.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS

County and State

Reports of falling plaster and peeling paint brought the Courthouse building to the forefront of the county once again. In the mid 1960s an editorial in the Wamego newspaper suggested that a new courthouse was needed and that consideration should be given to building the new courthouse in Wamego. This 1960 endeavor is the first known attempt to demolish the existing Courthouse. After a prolonged battle that included a court case, the Board of Commissioners ultimately chose to spend money on repairs of the existing Courthouse.²⁴ Repairs and upgrades were made to the building in 1970 and the final addition to the Courthouse occurred in 1976. Many of the existing finishes date to the ca.1970s projects. Few improvements other than upgrades to the building systems (electrical and HVAC) have been made since that time except a new metal roof was installed in 2007.

County government has expanded in the past fifty years and county offices are now located in a variety of locations in Westmoreland. A new building was constructed near Highway 99 to house the Public Works Department and County Extension offices. In 1994 following a remodeling to accommodate the new use, County administrative offices moved to the Westmoreland Grade School located a block northwest of the Courthouse. Planning for a new Justice Center commenced in 2010 and consideration was given to demolishing the Courthouse at that time. Completed in 2012, the Justice Center is a large new one-story facility constructed immediately north of the Courthouse; it now houses all court offices and functions. The future of the Courthouse has been a contentious subject. It stands minimally used with only three services remaining in the building: the Emergency Preparedness Office, the Maintenance Office, and offices of the State Probation Officers who come in from Topeka two days a week. The building is in need of maintenance and some feel that it cannot effectively meet the long-term needs of the county; in 2017 a group of local citizens have organized to save the 1884 Courthouse.

The Old Jail

Multiple sources report a ca. 1910 or ca.1920 date for construction of the old one-story limestone jail extant west of the courthouse. The earliest known reference to a county jail dates to a building in Louisville prior to Westmoreland becoming the county seat – “The jail in Louisville had been a small 12x16 stone building unable to fill the county’s needs necessitating the use of neighboring Douglas County jail at a cost of \$226 per year.”²⁵ No mention was made to an early or temporary jail when the courthouse used temporary quarters after Westmoreland became the county seat in 1882. It is possible that the county continued to contract with Douglas County until a permanent jail could be built in Westmoreland. Historic accounts of the construction of the courthouse in Westmoreland do not mention a jail until an 1886 reference to a new walk being built from the courthouse to the jail.²⁶ A second reference in a 1909 newspaper article pertained to capital improvements at the courthouse and jail (clearly documenting that a jail was in place prior to 1910).²⁷ These articles suggest a ca.1886 date for the existing one-story jail building that remains west of the courthouse.

The existing limestone building served as the county jail until the early 1970s. A 1970 newspaper article documents expenses of courthouse improvements that included new wiring, lowering ceilings, tiled floors, and air conditioning. The article notes that a new jail is under construction.²⁸ This new jail was located northwest of the courthouse, north of the old jail building. The 1970 building served the county for just over forty years; it was demolished in 2012 for construction of the new Justice Center. The old one-story limestone jail was reportedly used for storage (after it ceased to be used for the jail ca.1970) but the building is now boarded and unused. The building retains excellent integrity although it is in need of maintenance. The roof is a seldom-seen example of a metal pan-tile roof. The jail is a contributing building on the courthouse site.

Historic and Architectural Significance

The historic significance of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses documented in *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas*. The Pottawatomie County Courthouse is significant for its association with the first- and second-generation courthouses erected in the period between statehood and the First World War. Constructed in 1884 the Pottawatomie County Courthouse dates to the Late

²⁴ Doc Maskil, History of the County Seat cited in “County citizens pay tribute to 100-year-old courthouse,” *Wamego Times*, 4 October 1984, 12. The original information derived from W. F. Hill, “History of Pottawatomie County Kansas.” *Westmoreland Recorder*, 1906-07.

²⁵ Blackmar. Vol. II, 902.

²⁶ *Westmoreland Recorder*, 20 May 1886.

²⁷ *Westmoreland Recorder*, 2 Sep 1909.

²⁸ *Westmoreland Recorder*, 9 Jul 1970.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS

County and State

Settlement Period: 1880 – 1900. This was an optimistic time characterized by town building in the eastern half of the state and the organization of twenty-five new counties in the western half of the state – the final settlements in Kansas. The Pottawatomie County Courthouse is the earliest of the ten extant courthouses built during this period and one of five that are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Completed in 1873, the Chase County Courthouse (listed in the National Register in 1971) is the state's oldest extant courthouse.

The Pottawatomie County Courthouse is also significant as one of the few remaining Kansas courthouses reflecting the Italianate style. The Courthouse is a rare representative of the Late Victorian Property Type in the Italianate sub-type. According to the MPS, Italianate and Second Empire styles characterized courthouses built in the Early Statehood Period: 1861 – 1880. The Late Settlement Period: 1880-1900 saw the emergence of the Richardson Romanesque style.²⁹ Constructed in 1884, the Pottawatomie Courthouse dates to this latter period but stylistically it references the earlier period.

An example of the Italianate style in its simplest restrained form, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse is a rectangular form with Italianate detailing. It is one of the only known courthouses not designed by an architect.³⁰ The Courthouse is less ornate than most courthouses designed during this time and did not incorporate common prominent features such as a clock tower. The masonry structure features a low-pitched hipped roof with wide eaves. Limestone detailing including corner quoins and tall narrow windows with pronounced arched window hoods are characteristic of the Italianate style.

The siting of the Pottawatomie Courthouse in the center of a landscaped block adjacent to the commercial district was one of the two common practices in locating courthouses in Kansas communities. *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas* notes that once voters established the location of the county seat, the choice of a site for the courthouse was typically part of a plan by local boosters to ensure that flow of traffic to the courthouse would pass through the commercial district.³¹ The Courthouse's location in Westmoreland reflects this strategy with the building located at the west end of the town's Main Street setback from the street in the center of a landscaped green space aptly named Courthouse Square.

With a simple rectangular footprint, the Pottawatomie Courthouse was laid out on the common late-nineteenth century plan with the first floor containing those offices most frequently used by the public – the County Clerk, Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, Probate Judge and County Superintendent. The upper floor housed the courtroom and the court and sheriff offices. While many courthouses of this period were built with a jail in the Courthouse near the sheriff's office and courtroom, a separate one-story jail was built beside the Pottawatomie County Courthouse shortly after the Courthouse was completed.³² The relatively small size of the Pottawatomie Courthouse and the simplicity of its design can likely be attributed to the fact that it was funded with \$10,000 in private contributions at no cost to the County and that it was designed by a citizen's group with no documented involvement by an architect. The builder, Manhattan contractor Hulsey and Moses likely influenced the design and detailing of the building. These factors contribute to the rarity of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse. The second-oldest extant courthouse in the state, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse is one of the few remaining Kansas Courthouses executed in the Italianate style and the earliest of the seventeen courthouses built during the state's Late Settlement Period: 1880-1900.³³

²⁹ Schwenk, E18-20.

³⁰ Ibid, E-36 to E-38.

³¹ Ibid, E-16.

³² Ibid, E-17.

³³ Ibid, E-20.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

“About the Royal Arch Masonry.” Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Washington, accessed online on 20 August 2017 at <https://grandchapterofwashington.org/about-royal-arch-masonry/>.

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“County Citizens Pay Tribute to 100-year old Courthouse – History of County Seat,” *Wamego Times*, 4 October 1984.

“Courthouse Addition.” *Wamego Reporter*, 23 May 1929.

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Kansas State Historical Society (1916). *Biennial Report of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Historical Society*. Kansas State Printing Plant: Manhattan, KS, 262.

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Schwenk, Sally F. *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register*, 2002.

Spencer, Brenda. *Riley County Courthouse National Register Nomination*, 2005.

Westmoreland Recorder, 1 July 1885, 27 May 1885, 20 May 1886, 2 Sep 1909, and 9 Jul 1970.

Wortman, Julie A., and David Johnson. *Legacies: Kansas’ Older County Courthouses*. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1981.

Zabel, Michael J. *Go West More Land – The Early Years of Westmoreland, Kansas*, 2nd Edition. Self-published, 2015.

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.3

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 39.393590 -96.415270
Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The south 240' of Block 42 known as the Courthouse Square in Rachel Armer Addition to the Town Site of Westmoreland

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The above description reflects a 240' x 240' parcel on which the Courthouse and jail are location. The original site spanned to Armer Street on the north which was vacated when the Justice Center was built in 2010. The north boundary of the nominated parcel falls between the courthouse and the new Justice Center. The parcel also includes the stone retailing wall, one additional building – the old Jail, and two memorial monuments.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda and Michelle Spencer with Dorothy Campbell
organization Spencer Preservation date 20 August 2017
street & number 10150 Onaga Road telephone 785-456-9857
city or town Wamego state KS zip code 66547
e-mail brenda@spencerpreservation.com

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

name Pottawatomie County Board of County Commissioners
street & number 207 N. 1st Street telephone 785-457-3314 (County Clerk)
city or town Westmoreland state KS zip 66549

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.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
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: Pottawatomie County Courthouse

City or Vicinity: Westmoreland

County: Pottawatomie State: Kansas

Photographer: Brenda Spencer

Date Photographed: 17 August 2017

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

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Camera Direction</u>	<u>Description</u>
#1 of 24	NW	View of Courthouse Square from SE on Main Street with Memorial at SE corner and limestone retaining wall on south and east borders
#2 of 24	NW	Retaining wall at south site border looking toward primary building entry from Main Street
#3 of 24	N	View of Courthouse Square from SW corner on Main Street
#4 of 24	SE	Looking E on 1 st Street west of Courthouse with rear of old Jail in foreground
#5 of 24	W	Looking W on 2 nd Street east of Courthouse with new Justice Center on North (R)
#6 of 24	N	Memorials and flagpole at SE corner of Courthouse Square
#7 of 24	NW	View of Courthouse from memorial plaza at SE corner of square
#8 of 24	NE	View of Old Jail and Courthouse from lawn SW of Courthouse
#9 of 24	NW	Old Jail located west of Courthouse
#10 of 24	NE	Courthouse from lawn SW of building
#11 of 24	N	Main Courthouse entrance through entry bay (1928 addition) in center of S facade
#12 of 24	SE	North and west facades from 1 st Street NW of building
#13 of 24	SW	Detail of limestone detail on N facade of original Courthouse building
#14 of 24	S	Looking S in central corridor of first floor with open stair on left
#15 of 24	E	Extant vault on E side of 1 st floor – located in 1897 addition
#16 of 24	SW	Extant vault of W side of 1 st floor – located in 1929 addition
#17 of 24	E	Looking E inside vault on W side of 1 st floor (1929 addition)
#18 of 24	N	Detail of turned wood balusters at open wood stair at N end of first floor
#19 of 24	NE	Original built-in features in place at E end of courtroom, 2 nd floor
#20 of 24	NW	Original wood pews and wood floor at gallery on W side of courtroom, 2 nd floor
#21 of 24	W	Vault off W side of courtroom (2 nd floor added at unknown date to one-story 1929 addition)
#22 of 24	N	Detail of plaster wall with beadboard wainscoting and wood trim, wood window with paneled jamb, and cast-iron radiator along W wall of courtroom
#23 of 24	E	Paneled wood jamb and operable transom extant at original door opening to office off courtroom, 2 nd floor
#24 of 24	S	View of ornate pressed-metal cornice extant above suspended ceiling in 2 nd Floor courtroom

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

PHOTO KEY – Exterior

2017 Google Satellite View used as base plan



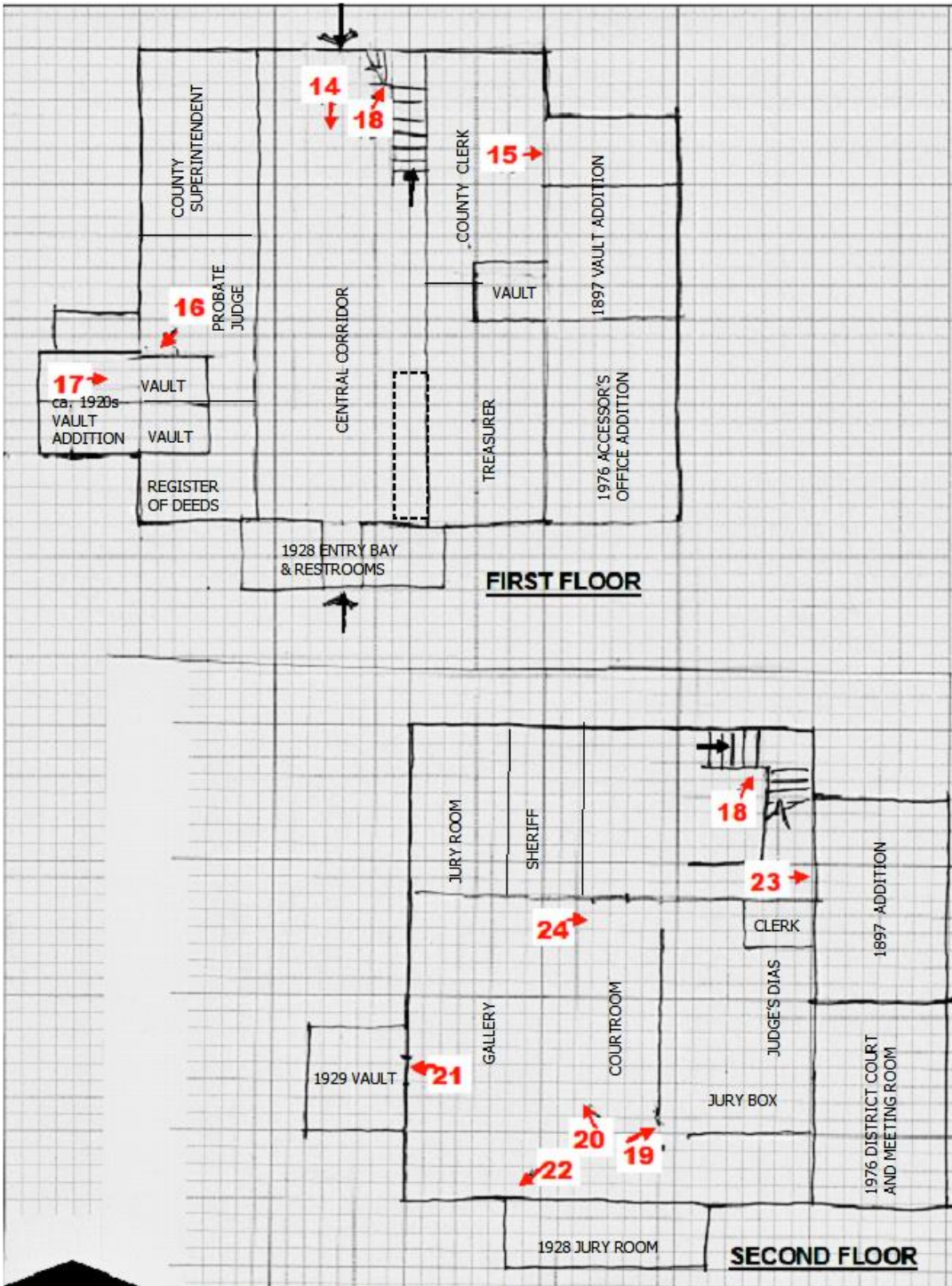
SITE

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
106 Main Street, Westmoreland, Kansas
Aerial Photo downloaded at Google.com 2017

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

PHOTO KEY – Interior



POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

106 Main Street, Westmoreland, Kansas

Sketch Plan Not To Scale

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

PHOTOGRAPHS

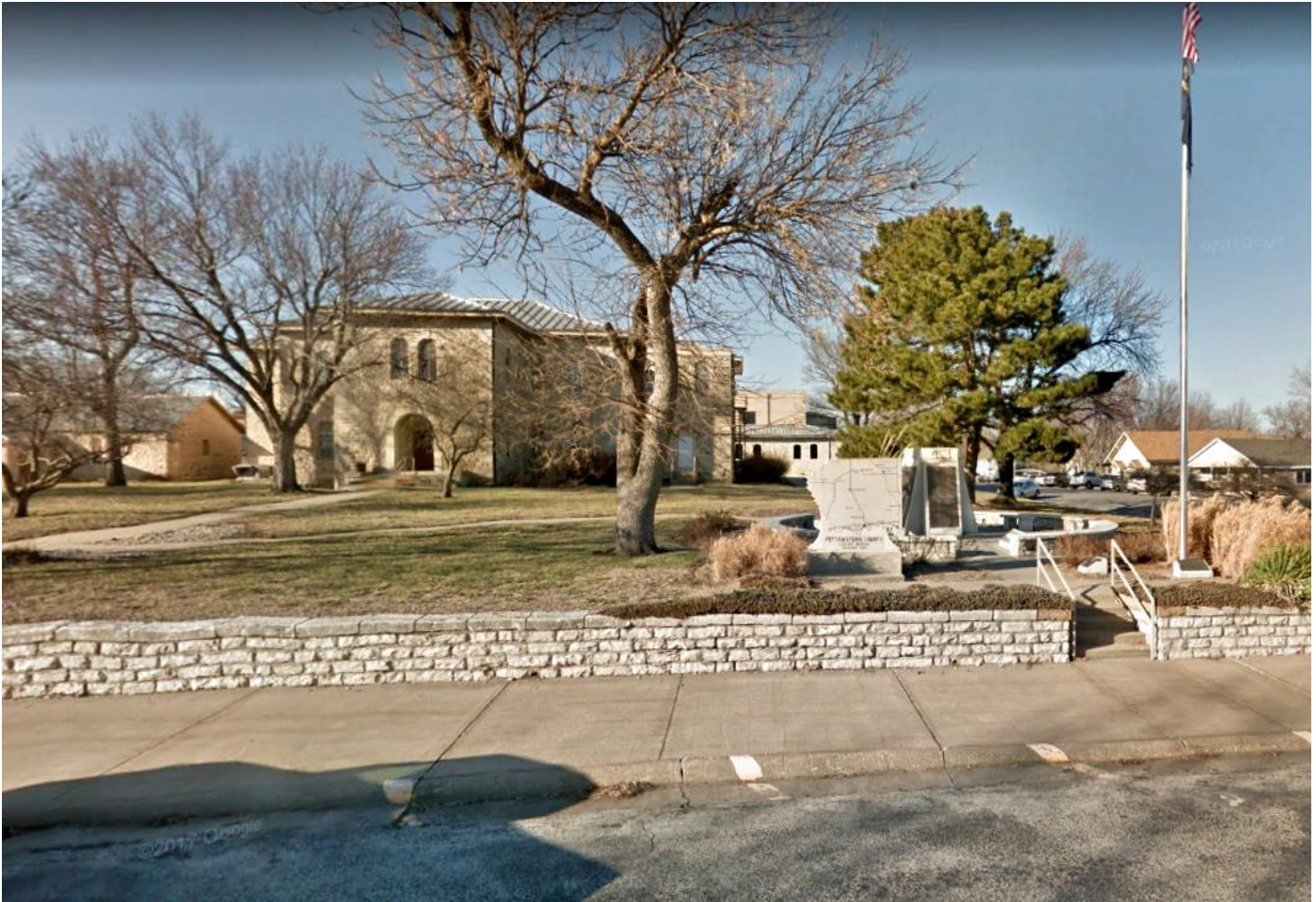


Figure 1 – “Current” View of Courthouse from Google Street view, downloaded 18 August 2017. Photo provides winter view of building without leaves on trees.

MAPS



Figure 2 - Aerial View of Context - Town of Westmoreland, County Seat of Pottawatomie County.

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

Downloaded at Google Earth 2017

Pottawatomie Co KS



August 18, 2017

- Divided Hwy
- Private Dr
- State Hwy
- Lake Rd
- Green: Band_2
- Blue: Band_3

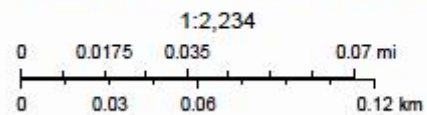


Figure 3 – Boundary Map of Site - downloaded at Pottawatomie County GIS website 18 August 2017
Purple border indicates approximate boundary of nominated parcel – 240' x 240' totally 1.3 acres
106 Main Street, Westmoreland, Pottawatomie County, Kansas; Lat/Long: 39.393590 -96.415270 Datum WGS84

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State

HISTORIC VIEWS

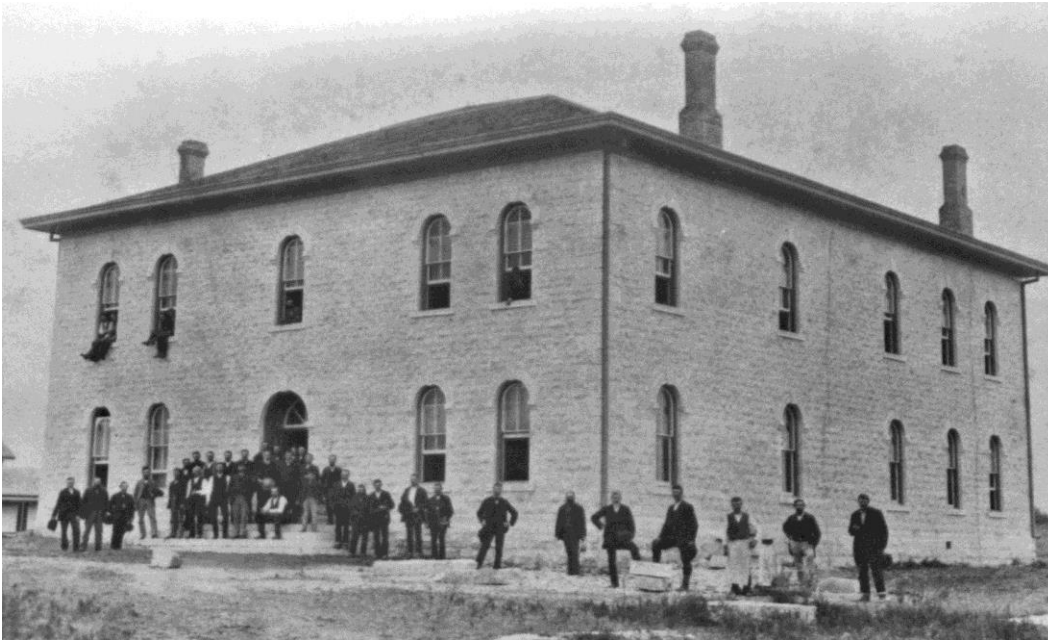


Figure 4 – Undated Early View of Courthouse with County Employees from SE, ca. 1884 – 1897 prior to first addition (taken from photograph hanging on wall in courthouse)



Figure 5 – Photo taken at the 100 year anniversary shows the courthouse with employees in a similar pose as the 1884 photo above. All names of the 1984 employees and positions held in the courthouse have been recorded. (Photo above taken from photograph hanging on wall in courthouse)

Pottawatomie County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS
County and State



Figure 6 – Postcard View of Courthouse from SE, dating to period after 1897 addition at NE corner and before 1928 addition on front of building (Provided by Ruby Zabel)



Figure 7 – ca.1930s Postcard View of Courthouse from SE, after 1928 front addition. Note one-story jail west of courthouse. (Provided by Ruby Zabel)











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POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
BUILT 1914

















DISCONNECT
"INSIDE"















American Safe Co.
Model 1000-1000











National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

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.

Letters of Support

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: DRU CLARKE <druc7810@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse historical registration

Dear Board of Directors:

It is with fervent urging that I and many fellow citizens of Pottawatomie County and others who care about meaningful historical structures support registration of our storied Pottawatomie County Courthouse located in Westmoreland, Kansas. Since we heard of the obviously biased study submitted by a consulting company we were appalled at the misrepresentation of the state of the building (e.g. stock photos of deterioration in other buildings instead of actual photos of the courthouse!) and the suggestion that one of the six scenarios they presented be adopted: i.e. razing it to build another costly office building. Further research by our group showed that registration would enable us to procure tax credits and eligibility for other funds (e.g. the Heritage Trust Fund) to restore and renovate the interior to make it functional and of beneficial use for county citizens in the future. We were further chagrined by the indifference of the commissioners to its intrinsic value, its rich history, and essentially stable structure (verified by a renowned preservationist architect who recently examined the building). Our group, Citizens for Courthouse Conservation, has formed a nonprofit under the auspices of the Rural Communities Foundation of Kansas and we are raising public awareness about the courthouse. The Broderick FCE (Family and Consumer Education under county extension) has taken the Pottawatomie County Courthouse issue as their year long community service project. Even employees of the county, fearful of their jobs, have quietly supported our efforts to save the courthouse. We urge you to accept it for state and eventual national registration and counter by this action the dismissive and careless attitude of our commissioners. We citizens OWN and choose to PRESERVE our cherished courthouse and want it to live on in a renewed and useful state for our future. Thank you! Sincerely, Drusilla Clarke (for Miek Clarke as well) 7810 Hopkins Creek rd., St. George, Ks. 66535 785-494-2419

10 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I am a lifelong resident of Pottawatomie County, and Westmoreland, Kansas, and embrace the historic significance of the 1884 Historic Pottawatomie County Courthouse. My family's ancestors helped finance and build this courthouse; its existence effectually created this community; it's where I worked my first real job; and it stands as the most recognized landmark in our community and county.

I, and many others, believe this historic building could and should continue to serve Pottawatomie County citizens. Pottawatomie County Commissioners appear apathetic to our suggested solutions to meet the future facility needs of the County, citing excessive costs to revitalize this historic Courthouse in comparison to a "modern" structure.

Listing on the Historic Register, which could provide access to financial incentives, may ultimately be a deciding factor in the forever fate of this historic Courthouse!

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Ruby Zabel
508 State Street
Westmoreland, KS 66549

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Dan Whiting <dan.whiting101@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION

Dear Ms. Loughlin,

I write to give my full support for preserving the Pottawatomie County Courthouse.

I lived in many places as I grew up, but I spent my formative high school years in Pottawatomie County while I attended and graduated from (then) St. George High School. After a few years at Kansas State I enlisted in the U.S. Navy in which I served for 26 years. I now live in southeastern Virginia within a 30-minute drive from the historic triangle of Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown.

One thing I learned in my lifetime is that old, well-built structures represent the best of a community's past. These buildings stand as a testament to the courageous fortitude of the settlers of America's frontiers and are monuments to the skilled architectural and engineering achievements of the artisans who brought these edifices to life. The Midwest's limestone establishments (particularly in Kansas) are beautifully constructed, venerable, nearly indestructible buildings. Only two forces threaten their survival: fires that weaken the limestone, and, more commonly, community leaders who fail to appreciate the historic and aesthetic value of their community's oldest, sturdiest, and most well-built structures. By registering the Pottawatomie County Courthouse as a historic building it can be protected from undeserved condemnation and preserved so it can remain a monument to the pioneers who settled Pottawatomie County more than a century and a half ago.

Thank you for your involvement in this worthwhile project.

Respectfully,

Dan Whiting
(757) 515-4811

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Susan Brown <spbrown@bluevalley.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 11, 2017 7:44 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie Co Courthouse

Amanda,

I am writing to express my support of listing the Pottawatomie County Courthouse on the National Register of Historic Places. We have lived in the Westmoreland area for 15 years and I am in support of saving the courthouse. It would be a shame if a building of such significance is torn down. History cannot be replaced.

We attend church at the Westmoreland United Methodist Church and sometimes after church, I look across the street and wonder about the people who built the courthouse and the people whose lives were affected by decisions made there. The courthouse is a part of Westmoreland and part of what makes Westmoreland and Pottawatomie County a nice place to live. A listing on the National Register would assist in protecting and restoring the courthouse and I encourage you to approve this nomination.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Susan Brown
10409 Bigelow Rd
Westmoreland KS 66549

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: L. Asbu <lcasblcr@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2017 12:59 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthous

Dear Amanda,

I would like to add my name to the list of people interested in saving this old courthouse. What a piece of Kansas History and especially Pottawatomie County. How many Courthouses were actually established at the hands of armed gunmen, who had to go in the dead of night and remove the legal records and return them to their rightful place. Not only is this a tourist attraction for the State, but for the town of Westmoreland and the County.

The continuing debate brought about by wanting to condemn it for it being made of limestone is just crazy. Look around this state, how many of those old barns, homes and structures are still standing.

The problem is not the limestone, it is the maintenance, which is lacking even in new structures. We have become such a throw away society that we forget that you have nothing with out taking care of it.

Thank you for letting me vent.

Linda C. Asbury

602 Main St.

Westmoreland, Ks. 66549



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November 12, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

My family have been residents of the area of Pottawatomie County, KS before its inception in 1857. My grandfather fought in the Civil War in Kansas/Missouri and we are immersed in history and preserving history. I have many ties to Westmoreland, KS as that was the city where I attended school and graduated from both Westmoreland Grade and High School, as well as being my present place of worship and participation in other civic events.

My family's ancestors helped finance and build this courthouse; its existence effectually created this community and it stands as the most recognized landmark in our community and county. Several of my family members were employed at the Pottawatomie County Courthouse thru the years. I worked in the Clerk's Office, Treasurer's office and served as Register of Deeds for four years. The courthouse evolved into the computer age during this time.

Pottawatomie County Commissioners appear apathetic to suggested solutions to meet the future facility needs of the County, siting excessive costs to revitalize this historic Courthouse in comparison to a "modern" structure. This historic building very efficiently served and should continue to serve Pottawatomie County citizens. This stately building is an Icon of the community and the county and has a very nostalgic history. Members of my family and many friends are members of the Masonic Lodge in Westmoreland and have participated in the dedication of the courthouse cornerstone. If it is razed, it will hurt the community tremendously.

Listing on the Historic Register, that could provide access to financial incentives, may ultimately be a deciding factor in the forever fate of this historic Courthouse! I hope you will make this happen on March 18, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Cheryl Anne (Godlove) Reves
14315 Huff Road
Blaine, KS 66549
785-562-7524

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Kay Russell <makrussell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2017 9:17 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse Register of Historic Places

13 November 2017
Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I am writing as a tax-payer in Pottawatomie County in support of the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This Courthouse is one of the few remaining 19th Century Kansas Courthouses and the preservation of this historic limestone structure is historically significant to the county and to the state. Historic Register listing will provide access to financial incentives that can help to reduce the costs of repairs to and rehabilitation of the courthouse.

The effort by the Citizens for Courthouse Conservation to have the Pottawatomie County Courthouse listed on the Historic Register is in attempt to counter efforts by the County Commission to support the demolition of the courthouse for a new county office building. Financial feasibility has been the Commission's primary objection to reuse of the Courthouse but has not been completely validated in my opinion.

I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register and recommend it for listing on the National Register.

Thank you.

Kay Russell
16696 Auburn Cir
Wamego, KS 669547

November 13, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

This letter is in support of placing the historic stone Pottawatomie County Courthouse located at Westmoreland, Kansas, on the National Register of Historic Places and the Kansas Historic Register.

After retiring three years ago, I became involved with the Onaga Historical Society and Museum. From my volunteer work at the Museum, it has become apparent to me there is a need to preserve places and buildings of local history. The Pottawatomie County Courthouse is one such building, place and time in history that needs to be preserved. As school children visit the Onaga Museum, I see them grow in connectedness to the history of the community. The Courthouse connects all Pottawatomians to our history, whether we are long-time residents or new to the county. The Courthouse has been the witness to the "roots" of our communities over the decades. As such, there is value in the preservation of the Courthouse.

I grew up in a stone home east of Wheaton. I married a man who also grew up in a stone home. We are now the fourth generation to live in his generational stone home. My maternal grandparents lived in a stone home and a son now lives in a stone home. There is something "solid" about rock structures. The thick stone walls provide a feeling of security. You come to appreciate the architectural feat of such a building, erecting walls without cranes, inserting doorways and windows without computer-generated models. The quarry markings, chiseling of the stones, laying of the stones and their chinking all tell a story in the stones. The stone masons who worked on the Courthouse will have left their unique signature on their work. By "reading" these markings, putting yourself in this frame of historical reference, you can almost hear the work being done on the building and the anticipation of getting to the "business" of the building. The Pottawatomie County Courthouse is a story of architectural structure and the business conducted that needs to be preserved and carried forward in the growing county.

By placing the 1884 Courthouse on the Historic Register, it provides another reason for the County Commissioners to restore the Courthouse for use in an appropriate way to meet the needs of county business. Not only could county business continue to be conducted in the Courthouse, but it could be marketed along with other historic sites in the area to attract tourists into the northern part of the county providing an economic benefit to the area.

Thank you very much for considering of my thoughts regarding this nomination.

Debbie Berges
20755 Hwy 16
Onaga, Kansas 66521

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Mary Beth Reese <mbrwildcat@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Cc: Ice John
Subject: Letter of support for Pott. Co courthouse

Hello

I am traveling and unable to do this properly . So I send below the sample letter in support of the Pottawatomie courthouse . My husband John Reese and myself Mary Beth Reese own two pieces of land in the county . We are also the proud owners of the 1857 McKimmons barn, the founder of Westmoreland. Our barn is on both the state and the national historic registry . We support the historical declaration for the courthouse . It is the second oldest in the state .

I hope you give it the title.

Sincerely

Mary Beth Reese
785-539-8540

November 13, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I embrace the historic significance of the 1884 Historic Pottawatomie County Courthouse. While not a resident of the county, my family has deep roots there and I have a strong desire to maintain history.

My family's ancestors helped finance and build this courthouse. Adam Scott, Sr. is my great-great-grandfather. He lived in Pottawatomie County from 1870 until his death in 1916. He was one of the original organizers of the stock company formed in 1882 to build a courthouse in Westmoreland. The stone which was quarried from Mount Ephraim existed on land owned by Adam Scott, Sr. In addition, my grandfather Erwin Scott worked in this courthouse as Register of Deeds from 1957 to 1986.

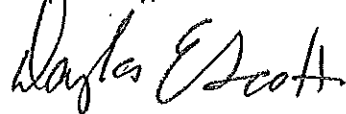
Last summer, my wife and I vacationed in Italy. One aspect of that country which we thoroughly enjoyed was the architecture of the buildings, especially churches and cathedrals, as they were quite unique and centuries old. The United States is a rather new country compared to those in Europe and we do not have the old, beautiful and historically significant buildings of those countries. As I read the "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form," there is a wealth of historical significance to the Pottawatomie County Courthouse which definitely warrants preservation.

My hobby is to restore and maintain Ford Model A Cars which were built from 1927 to 1931. I drove one of mine this past Saturday in the annual Veteran's Day Parade in Leavenworth, KS. Like other parades and tours, I get countless smiles, comments, questions and photo requests. American's do have an appreciation for history and I'm doing my part with Model A cars. You're in a position to do the same with the Pottawatomie County Courthouse. And remember, once it's gone it's gone forever and can *never* be replaced.

I, and many others, believe this historic building could and should continue to serve Pottawatomie County citizens. Pottawatomie County Commissioners appear apathetic to the suggested solutions to meet the future facility needs of the County, citing excessive costs to revitalize this historic Courthouse in comparison to a "modern" structure. Listing on the Historic Register, which could provide access to financial incentives, may ultimately be a deciding factor in the forever fate of this historic Courthouse!

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Respectfully,



Douglas Erwin Scott
13250 NW 61st Street
Parkville, MO 64152

13 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I am writing as a tax-payer in Pottawatomie County in support of the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Courthouse should be listed for its historic significance as one of the few remaining 19th Century Kansas Courthouses. The immediate effort is in attempt to counter misguided efforts by the County Commission to support demolition of the courthouse for a new county office building – a proposal that evolved from a 20-year facilities plan. Historic Register listing will provide access to financial incentives that can help to reduce the costs for repairs to and rehabilitation of the courthouse. Financial feasibility has been the Commission's primary objection to reuse of the Courthouse.

A recently formed organization – Citizens for Courthouse Conservation is working hard on a grassroots educational effort to inform county residents and encourage their active support of preserving the courthouse. The nomination is just one step in this process but an important one.

I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register and recommend it for listing on the National Register.

Thank you.

Gary Kolterman
25105 Havensville Road
Havensville, KS 66432

13 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I am writing as a tax-payer in Pottawatomie County in support of the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Courthouse should be listed for its historic significance as one of the few remaining 19th Century Kansas Courthouses. The immediate effort is in attempt to counter misguided efforts by the County Commission to support demolition of the courthouse for a new county office building – a proposal that evolved from a 20-year facilities plan. Historic Register listing will provide access to financial incentives that can help to reduce the costs for repairs to and rehabilitation of the courthouse. Financial feasibility has been the Commission's primary objection to reuse of the Courthouse.

A recently formed organization – Citizens for Courthouse Conservation is working hard on a grassroots educational effort to inform county residents and encourage their active support of preserving the courthouse. The nomination is just one step in this process but an important one.

I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register and recommend it for listing on the National Register.

Thank you.

Joan Kolterman
25105 Havensville Road
Havensville, KS 66432

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Donna Capps <donna1934@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 9:16 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Ks. Historic Site Board

Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Divixion
6425 SW 6th
Topek S,

Dear Board Members.,

I was born and raised in Pott. County and Wstmoreland, Ks. and embrace the Historic significance of the 1884 Pott. Co. Courthouse. My family's ancestors helped finance and build this courthouse, its existence effectually created this community, it;s where I worked my first real job in 1954 and it stands as the most recognized landmark in our community and county. I was saddened on my yearly visit to find the lovely stone gazebo gone to make room for the new addition now built.

I and many others believe the historic building could and should continue to serve Pott. Co. Pott . County commissioners do not seem to agree to our solutions to meet the future facility needs, siting excessive costs to revitalize this historic Courthouse in comparison to a modern structure.

Listing on the Historic Register which could provide access to financial incentives, may ultimately be a deciding factor in the forever fate of this **Historic Courthouse**.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Donna Capps
4480 Rolfe Rd.
San Diego, Co 92117

13 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I am writing as a tax-payer in Pottawatomie County in support of the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Courthouse should be listed for its historic significance as one of the few remaining 19th Century Kansas Courthouses. The immediate effort is in attempt to counter misguided efforts by the County Commission to support demolition of the courthouse for a new county office building – a proposal that evolved from a 20-year facilities plan. Historic Register listing will provide access to financial incentives that can help to reduce the costs for repairs to and rehabilitation of the courthouse. Financial feasibility has been the Commission's primary objection to reuse of the Courthouse.

A recently formed organization – Citizens for Courthouse Conservation is working hard on a grassroots educational effort to inform county residents and encourage their active support of preserving the courthouse. The nomination is just one step in this process but an important one.

I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register and recommend it for listing on the National Register.

Thank you.

Michael A. Kolterman
25105 Havensville Road
Havensville, KS 66432

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: michael clarke <mwc7810@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:28 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Cc: michael clarke; Dru
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse nomination for historical registration

Dear Kansas Cultural Resources Review Board:

I hope you will support the state and national registration of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse. The significance of this historic building include its age - the second oldest in the state -its association with the community as the anchor for not only the county but the city of Westmoreland and the region of the Northern Flint Hills of Kansas. The building has been the visible example of the character of the county, built by local masons, the stone quarried and moved by stone boat from the town's edge to its present site., The colorful history of the final siting of the courthouse speaks to the enthusiasm of our state's early leaders and their acknowledgment of the importance of the strength in structure to reflect the importance of local county governance. Supporting this historic registration not only honors the value and intent of past citizens but will signal a continuance of these desires in helping meeting the growing challenges of the state's fastest growing county. At a time of rapidly changing technology and societal trends I personally need to see such a structure knowing full well the physical labor, economic challenges and cultural judgements that were made to create the courthouse and its place in the larger community. If the structure is lost I fear one more reminder of community shared goals will be lost at a time when the county desperately needs a carefully planned focus for the future. Your consideration is greatly appreciated! Michael Clarke, 785-556-5537. Possum Hollow Ranch, 7810 Hopkins Creek Rd. St. George, Ks. 665355

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Pat Conk wright <patcon68@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:58 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse

November 15, 2017

Kansas Historical Sites Board of Review
C/O Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members

I am convinced that the education of our citizenry is the prime focus and mission of any community. A reasoning and thoughtful individual must be grounded in the concerns and traditions important to their extended neighborhood. That level of understanding can only be accomplished through a well established sense of the past struggles and future aspirations of the local community. Living within your history is the most effective way to accomplish this goal. For this reason, I strongly urge you to approve the listing of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse on both the state register and the National Register of Historic Places.

I have a lifelong connection to Pottawatomie County and the city of Westmoreland. I was born in the DeChairo Hospital across the street from the court house (as many Pottawatomie residents were). My formative years were spent on farms near Blaine, Louisville, and Wamego. In fact, my first home was located right beside the Oregon Trail. I have always felt fortunate that I grew up with a sense of the history and heritage in which I was immersed. I want that same experience for the children now living in Kansas. As a teacher of 38 years, I was active in the development of curriculum to enhance the understanding and appreciation of both local and state history. I now serve on the board of the Riley County Historical Society.

We have a unique opportunity to achieve an outcome which is both fiscally responsible and educationally sound. A number of years ago the Westmoreland and Wamego Communities came together to highlight the Oregon Trail sites in Pottawatomie County, including the development of the Oregon Trail Park near Westmoreland. The citizens involved in that endeavor could again activate to establish an Oregon Trail Museum in the historic Pottawatomie County Courthouse building. That would seem to be the next logical step and perhaps, through federal grants and financial incentives, allow access to additional funding.

A new courthouse building could then be funded through traditional means, providing the long term facility requirements needed well into the county's future. This solution could preserve the historical significance of the locale and provide for adequate governmental facilities looking into the future.

It is imperative that our community leaders take a long term view. The short-sightedness of the cheap and quick solution will deprive future generations of the history and heritage which is their due. A citizenry, well grounded in a sense of place and space, is the goal of education for Democracy.

I urge you to approve the nomination to approve the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing on both the State and National Historic Register.

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, Ks. 66615

Dear Board Members and Patrick Zollner:

I have already sent a letter by email to Amanda Loughlin, but felt that, after Monday's Pottawatomie County Commission meeting, I need to update the information regarding the status of support for the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse.

A letter from John D'Aloia was distributed at the meeting in an apparent effort to show that citizens did not favor support of the courthouse's nomination. I spoke to Mr. D'Aloia earlier this summer after this issue became public, and he related to me that he had been involved closely with the renovation of a building on a campus where he worked (Michigan) that had become a cultural center, hosting speakers and other events. He was very proud of that accomplishment. His only objection (at the time) to our support for listing of the courthouse was "the use of taxpayer money" and he felt that individuals should be responsible for its preservation (and renovation). What has changed that attitude is puzzling to me as it is clear that registration as an historical structure will NOT prohibit accessing funds other than taxes, and that a citizens' group can be helpful in that process.

One of our commissioners, at this same meeting, said that 'studies' showed an alternative to preservation was a cost-effective avenue, but we (Citizens for Courthouse Conservation) closely examined the figures and were able to come up with a saving of over half a million dollars for effective renovation (the consultants had erroneously included the exterior of the building, not the interior, evidently relying solely on a computer to do their work). Another study, which this commissioner artfully neglected to mention, from 2009 said that the courthouse was in remarkably good condition despite the lack of maintenance. Several of the issues the building had at the time had been addressed and corrected.

Tomorrow (Wednesday, November 15) we have two architects – Bruce McMillan and Jerry Berggren with experience in preservation coming to assess what needs to happen to the courthouse to make it a viable structure for contemporary and future use. We are hopeful that they will provide us with solutions that will work to everyone's satisfaction and budgetary concerns. Pottawatomie County has a considerable kitty of c.d.'s (over 14 million) in various banks that they could access for some funds to restore this historic structure. The Dean of Architecture at KSU, Tim De Noble, is also interested in this building and hopefully will become involved in the future as well.

Another commissioner said that he had not received the letter that the review board had sent last month, although the third commissioner acknowledged that it had been sent and received, disputing the other commissioner's claim that he had not been notified. As a result, they voted to not support its listing; the third commissioner has been amenable to suggestions and even attended an initial meeting with McMillan to explore possibilities. He attended that meeting as a citizen, not as a commissioner.

It is important that you as director of the review board be aware of the machinations going on in our county's governing body and that you listen carefully to the valid reasons to save this historically

important structure. There are 14 other historic structure listed in Pottawatomie County. The Pottawatomie County Courthouse should be the icon and landmark for that group of sites.

Thank you for your attention. I anticipate that you will share these comments with your board.

Sincerely,

Dru Clarke
Citizens for Courthouse Conservation
7810 Hopkins Creek Road
St. George, Ks. 66535

785-494-2419

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: lenaueroverkamp@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]; jennim56@gmail.com
Subject: Courthouse and church in Westmoreland KS

Dear Amanda,

I am writing to you concerning the Pottawatomie County Courthouse. I am not only a local business woman I also own a 1890 limestone building in Westmoreland. I own Rock House Antiques 1880. I have spent the last three years renovating my beautiful and structurally sound limestone building. I have two rentals upstairs and house my Antiques store on the first floor. In addition, I have a whole basement for future ventures. I started my renovating in 2014 when I purchased my building at 321 Main st. I spent a year, and with a lot of my own labor and finances, opened my store in June of 2015. Since then 3 others have come to Main Street and renovated other historic buildings and turned them into antique stores too. We are on our way to making Westmoreland a destination location. The reason I am giving you all this background is to say why I am so adamant about saving our beautiful and historic courthouse from demolition. The reasoning behind the demolition, in my opinion, isn't sound. To tear down this landmark to make room for an office building doesn't make sense from the perspective that it IS an office building. To spend 1 million dollars to demolish and not save the 2nd oldest courthouse in the state seems like a slap in the face to all the hard working locals of the time. I can think of plenty of other places in town to tear down dilapidated buildings to build there tin, office building. Those of us who have worked so hard to preserve our Main Street and downtown feel this is the opposite of what our hard earned tax money should be spent on. I also feel that the commissioners have no respect for our heritage in even making this suggestion. Once the Courthouse is gone there is no going back. Very respectfully, Jill Lenauer-Overkamp
Sent from my iPhone

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Linda Overkamp <linda.overkamp@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:05 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie county courthouse

Dear Board Member:

As a tax - payer in Pottawatomie County I'm writing in support of the nomination of the County courthouse for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Demolition of the courthouses by the County commissioners is not acceptable . This historical building needs to be used by the county employees, county commissioners and the county citizens .

I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register.

Thanks you . Linda L Overkamp
620 E Campbell St.
Westmoreland , Ks. 66549

Sent from my iPad

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Judy Glowiak <jglowiak@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 7:26 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Historic Pottawattamie courthouse/jail

To whom it may concern,

Please don't destroy the historic site of Pottawattamie courthouse and jail. You can never replace an old structure and my children's children need to SEE history to make it come alive. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy and Rick Glowiak

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Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: John Reese <jreese@ksu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Cc: John Reese; mbrwildcat@yahoo.com; Kathy Dzewaltowski
Subject: Pott. County Courthouse

I am in favor of preserving the Pott. County Courthouse. It is a beautiful and historic building, and has been kept up very well, so I do not understand why they would consider demolishing it. And, as further information about my involvement, I own the John McKimmons barn, right there on Hwy 99, very close to the southeast corner of Westmoreland, so I pay property taxes in Pott. County.
John Reese

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Kathy Dzewaltowski <dzewk@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Cc: Kathy Dzewaltowski; Zollner, Patrick [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse and Jail

Dear Ms. Loughlin,

I'm writing to express my support of the nominations of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse and Jail for the National Register of Historic Places and request that you pass my comments along to the members of the Historic Sites Board of Review. Both properties' nominations are scheduled to be reviewed during the Nov. 18 meeting.

As identified in the Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Multiple Property Document, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse is the second oldest courthouse in the state, making it a significant cultural resource and worthy of registry listing. In the county's early years, communities battled to become the county seat until Westmoreland was finally selected. A potential challenge to Westmoreland's claim loomed in 1884, which spurred residents to take action. Funds were raised, and a local citizens' committee designed the building. The courthouse, made of locally quarried stone, was quickly constructed in hopes that a solid, physical building would thwart any future attempts to move the county seat. The beautiful courtroom retains its original features, and while additions have been made to the building over the years, the original portion of the building is still readily identifiable. The courthouse is an excellent example of an early county government building from a time when the location of county seats fluctuated, and citizens worked together to ensure their community retained its status as the county seat.

The adjacent jail is similarly an important historic resource. Built approximately 1885-86, the jail serves as a contributing structure to the courthouse site and helps to inform our understanding of courthouse and jailing functions in Kansas prior to 1900.

While I'm not a resident of Pottawatomie County, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance and served as president 2010-14. The City of Manhattan straddles the county line, and part of Manhattan is located in Pottawatomie County, which makes the future of the courthouse and the jail a concern to me. Pottawatomie County has been working with a consultant to evaluate the county's facilities and space needs, and earlier this spring, the consultant recommended that county commissioners pursue a facilities option that would demolish the courthouse and jail. A number of Pottawatomie County citizens objected to the proposed destruction of the courthouse and jail and have formed an organization with the goal of preserving the historic courthouse and jail. The Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance has worked with these citizens to provide help and advice. County commissioners have indicated that they would consider retaining the historic courthouse and jail if citizens helped identify funding sources that could be used to update the buildings. Citizens have worked to craft a PSIQ and a register nomination because the courthouse and jail are worthy of historic registry listing, and also because historic registry listing would make the structures eligible for tax credits and other funding options.

I believe that both the Pottawatomie County Courthouse and Jail are significant cultural resources, and I would like to strongly encourage the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review to support the nominations.

Sincerely,
Kathy Dzewaltowski

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Gloria Raney <gogo@kansas.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 12:14 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie Co. Courthouse nomination

Dear Amanda,

I support the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The courthouse should be preserved, it is historically significant. Please approve the nomination and help to protect this portion of our Kansas history.

Thank you.

Gloria Juhl Raney
815 Sunset Ave.
Manhattan, KS 66502

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: nfanda2@bluevalley.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie County KS Courthouse

The Westmoreland Courthouse and old stone jail built in 1884 need to be put on the National Register. The county commissioners are opposed to it but they are not speaking for the people. We want our Courthouse saved and put on the National Register.

11 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1090

RECEIVED
NOV 15 2017
CULTURAL RESOURCES

Dear Board Members:

I have been a resident of Pottawatomie County for 55 years, having married a resident. My wife's farm provided the quarry for the stone for the Historic Pottawatomie County Courthouse. Subsequent to the completion of the courthouse, the farm home where I now reside was built with stone from that same quarry.

This historic building stands as a recognized landmark and a testimony to the founders and settlers of Pottawatomie County. The very existence of this historic building is due to the efforts of many pioneers.

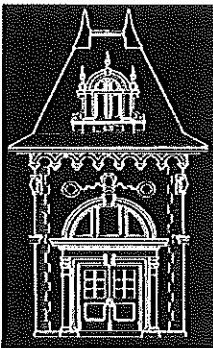
I, and numerous others, believe this historic building, a building that has stood for 133 years as a symbol of Pottawatomie County's founding, should continue to serve the citizens of Pottawatomie County. The Board of Commissioners of Pottawatomie County seem apathetic to suggested solutions to their future facility space needs. They cite the excessive cost of revitalization as their reason to build a "modern" structure.

By listing this Historic Structure, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse & Jail, on the Historic Register it will provide access to financial incentives and may be a deciding factor in the fate—forever—of this historic Courthouse.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.



James E. Bradley
13840 Highway 99
Westmoreland, KS 66549-9707



MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

PO BOX 1893, Manhattan, Kansas 66505-1893 • www.preservemanhattan.org

M/RCPA

Preserving
Manhattan and
Riley County
since 1994

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12 November 2017

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2017

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I am writing as President of the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance in support of the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As part of the City of Manhattan lies in Pottawatomie County, our organization has a vested interest in preserving the Courthouse, one of the few remaining 19th Century courthouses in Kansas. We are also committed to furthering preservation efforts throughout the state. We believe the 20-year facilities plan endorsed by the County Commission is short-sighted, proposing the demolition of the Courthouse and replacing it with a new county office building. A far better use of resources would be to preserve the existing historic building, which has served the County well for over 130 years. With an historically-minded long-range plan, the Courthouse can be saved and adapted to serve the County into the next century, lasting far longer than the proposed replacement. Financial concerns have been the Commission's primary objection to reuse of the Courthouse, and Historic Register listing will provide access to incentives to assist with repair and rehabilitation costs.

We support the efforts of Citizens for Courthouse Conservation to inform Pottawatomie County residents of the significance of their Courthouse and to encourage their active support in preserving it. While only a part of the process to save the Courthouse, this nomination is an important one.

On behalf of the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, I urge you to approve the nomination for listing the Pottawatomie County Courthouse on the State Register and recommend it for listing on the National Register.

Sincerely,

Alyn Pennington West
President, Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Loran Scott <lscott2725@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 10:48 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]; Benda@spencerpreservation.com
Cc: Scott, Loran E.; Bradley, Jim & Marian; Scott Doug
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse at Westmoreland, KS --

Brenda Spencer
brenda@spencerpreservation.com

November 15, 2017

Brenda —

First, an introduction — I am the brother of Marian Bradley and the son of Erwin Scott of Scott Farm on Hwy 99 south of Westmoreland. I graduated from Westmoreland Rural High School, Dist. #10, in May 1946, so you could say I have been around for a little while!

I grew up on Scott Farm and the Pottawatomie County courthouse stories were many and interesting in our family stories. I am sure that my great grandfather was involved in the late night move of the courthouse from Louisville to Westmoreland. I know that he served as a judge, maybe I remember it being a “county judge”, like our probate judgeships in years since then. I remember that he had been elected a judge when they discovered that he had never taken out his citizenship papers after arriving from Hawick, Scotland in May 1870. So, he was loaded into a buggy immediately (he and three other men, I remember.) and taken to Topeka — because the State Legislature was in session. That meant that the Legislature could pass a ruling that made him a citizen immediately and thereby saving their judge. Of course, there were stories of his valued work as a judge for which he earned high credentials. Working on the farm involved many days when I investigated those old rock quarries up on the tops of the hills east of Westmoreland from whence some rock was obtained earlier. The rock quarry and the buffalo wallows were side by side up there! Oh, yes, the Legislature was delighted to make him a citizen “on the spot” — and they recessed so that all could congratulate him and welcome him to citizenship!

You are probably much more informed about my father’s tour of duty as Register of Deeds while that courthouse was still in solid condition. Dad would have taken office about January 1, 1954, I believe and I remember that he served for thirty years for which I have been told he served longer in that position than any other Register of Deeds ever had in the State of Kansas! His final election would have been when he was 86 years of age and his hearing had gotten so bad that even dual hearing aids could not keep him as sharp as he would have liked. He lost that election — you know, the electorate merely said, “Erwin, you have served long enough!” — and he was so honored!

During those thirty years, the courthouse was of value to the Methodist Church across the street south — Dad was the church treasurer and after church each Sunday he walked across the street and up that long sidewalk, unlocked the door, went in and left the church’s offering in his safe until Monday morning when he could take it down to the bank for counting and deposit — and someone always stood in the doorway of the church and watched Dad to make sure no one surprised him on that trip with money! Dad had been treasurer to most of the organizations around town and that part of Pottawatomie County. I was always aware of the respect the community held for my father!

The Class of 1946 comprised 22 members. Today there are at least four of us still living and in contact with one another. There is one member whose status is unknown as we cannot find a record of him! Tom Hart was our class sponsor and he was at our class reunion at the age of 103 yrs. when I was there for my 70th reunion. So, I have some memories of that courthouse and would encourage you and your supporters in the effort to effect a salvation for that valuable asset that was a mainstay in the economy of Westmoreland through many decades!! And, yes, I must comment on the jail — we kids wondered why there was a jail attached to the courthouse — no one was ever in it!! — so, why did we need one??

Speaking specifically to the application for this courthouse to be placed on the Historical Register, perhaps my years of being involved in the lives of people is to comment upon our ability to forget — especially to forget lessons learned previously. As a nation, we are currently adrift for which many of the lessons learned during the early, and mid-, part of the last century should provide some foundations and some leadership. If we loose — that is, destroy — many of the artifacts and/or the places where we grew as a society and/or culture, then we are condemned to make the same kind of mistakes for which we have already paid too high a price! The value of the study of any kind of history is to avoid repeating the mistakes we have already identified as mistakes. When we destroy that which reminds us of those experiences, we have no recourse but to repeat the errors of that previous era — and any growth that we knew earlier is soon eroded from our minds along with the lessons upon which we grew and were made stronger! We need the evidence of those lessons learned. Properly restored and managed, the Pottawatomie County Courthouse can tell, again, the lessons regarding values, ethics, goals once learned! Having lived for “a while”, I can say that we desperately need some way of identifying that which we once knew!

A final comment, Brenda — your information regarding the history of the building itself is most authoritative as well as interesting. There were some items of interest that were new to me! I have enjoyed many memories because of your fine story of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse in Westmoreland, KS.

Gratefully — (Rev.) Loran E. Scott lscott2725@att.net 316-734-1944
3075 Willow Grove Blvd., McKinney, TX 75070

November 15, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

Do I believe in historic preservation? Yes. Do I want to see the Pottawatomie County Courthouse preserved? Yes. I myself preserved my grandfather's five room frame house that had not been lived in for several years. I wanted to continue the family tradition that my grandfather started. He taught me many things about life as I was growing up. As my family grew, I added on to accommodate the five additions to my family. I have continued to preserve it for my grandchildren.

When County Commissioners are elected, they should follow the wants of the voters instead of going by their own ideals. They don't seem to want to preserve the courthouse as it is now and restore it to its original condition. To them it is a waste of money. However, they favor building a newer modern structure to replace the courthouse, that will be in less than ill repair should they not continue to maintain the new structure as they have not continued to maintain the original structure.

The town has suffered drastically from the consolidation of schools and the building of a new high school seven miles from Westmoreland, in the middle of nowhere. Should the courthouse be razed, that too will lend to more destruction of the town. In foreign countries and the U.S., stone structures have served for centuries and are still being used.

Listing the Pottawatomie County Courthouse on the Historic Register, that could provide access to financial incentives, may ultimately be a deciding factor in the forever fate of this historic Courthouse! I hope you will make this happen on November 18, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Harold Armstrong
8920 Parallel Rd
Frankfort, Pottawatomie Co., KS 66427
785-562-6780

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Dixie West <dlwest@ksu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pott County Courthouse

Dear Review Board,

I understand that the Pott County Courthouse will be nominated for the National and State registers on Saturday in Topeka.

I live at 2668 Blue Ridge Drive, Olsburg, KS in Pott County and I fully support the nomination of this important historic landmark.

As the second oldest standing courthouse in Kansa, it is important that this building be preserved and receive recognition.

I hope that the review panel agrees with me.

Thank you for your time.

Dixie Lee West
2668 Blue Ridge Drive
Olsburg, Kansas

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Deborah Plummer <damp1972@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 11:46 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Supporting the Westmoreland Court House / one of kind in Sandstone ...

Hello Ms Loughlin ...

If we can't appreciate our land, our history, those who toiled before us .. then we're not worthy of much ..

I hope that isn't true and the decision to register the Courthouse will go through as a Historic Monument so repairs will be made and she'll remain as a "workable / livable building" for Pottawatomie County citizens.

Thank you for your time ..

Deborah Plummer
St. Marys, KS 66536

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Ron West <rrwest@ksu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 7:02 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Dear Review Board,

As one who owns property in Pottawatomie County with a cabin at 2668 Blue Ridge Drive, I understand that the Pott County Courthouse will be nominated for the National and State registers on Saturday in Topeka. I **fully support** the nomination of this important historic structure. As the oldest standing courthouse in Kansas, it is **very important** that it be preserved and recognized.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. West
2668 Blue Ridge Drive
Olsburg, Kansas

16 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dear Board Members,

I am writing as a tax-payer in Pottawatomie County in support of the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This structure is one the few original Kansas County Courthouses remaining that was constructed in the 19th Century.

A recently formed organization—Citizens for Courthouse Conservation is working hard on a grassroots educational effort to inform county residents and encourage their active support of preserving the courthouse.

Far too many historic, impressive and long lasting structures in Kansas have already been destroyed. I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register and recommend it for listing on the National Register.

Thank You.

Eugene H. Harter
14115 West Union Rd.
Westmoreland, KS 66549-9838

RECEIVED
NOV 16 2017
CULTURAL RESOURCES

10 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Ave.
Topeka, Ks. 66615-1099

Dear Board Members:

I am a lifelong resident of Pottawatomie County and Westmoreland, Kansas and embrace the historic Significance of the 1994 Historic Pottawatomie County Courthouse. My family's ancestors helped finance and build this courthouse. Its existence effectually created this community and it stands as the most recognized landmark in our community and county.

I, and many others, believe this historic building could and should continue to serve Pottawatomie County citizens. Pottawatomie County Commissioners appear apathetic to our suggested solutions to meet the future facility needs of the County, siting excessive costs to revitalize this historic Courthouse.

Listing on the Historic Register, which could provide access to financial incentives, may ultimately be a deciding factor in the forever fate of this historic Courthouse.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.


Kay Tanner Smith

P.O. Box 366
Westmoreland, Ks. 66549

10 November 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Ave.
Topeka, Ks. 66615-1099

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Dear Board Members:

I am a lifelong resident of Pottawatomie County and Westmoreland, Kansas and embrace the historic Significance of the 1994 Historic Pottawatomie County Courthouse. My family's ancestors helped finance and build this courthouse. Its existence effectually created this community and it stands as the most recognized landmark in our community and county.

I, and many others, believe this historic building could and should continue to serve Pottawatomie County citizens. Pottawatomie County Commissioners appear apathetic to our suggested solutions to meet the future facility needs of the County, siting excessive costs to revitalize this historic Courthouse.

Listing on the Historic Register, which could provide access to financial incentives, may ultimately be a deciding factor in the forever fate of this historic Courthouse.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

*Rose Marie Hamilton - Flies
20970 Spring Creek Rd.
Westmoreland, Ks. 66549*

Please help us !!

November 14, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615

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NOV 16 2017
CULTURAL RESOURCES

Dear Board Members:

A gem, one of only two left in Kansas, exists in Pottawatomie County: a courthouse built in 1894. An amazing structure, the second oldest in continuous operation in Kansas, it can continue serving future growth with skillful updating.

This treasure, made of locally quarried limestone, represents a unique time historically; our ancestors, skilled artisans, built a quality structure for posterity. Pottawatomie County Courthouse should be listed for its historic significance in the National Register of Historic Places; this will honor the gift of our forefathers as restoring the 12,000 square feet of space can become a reality. Such listing will help provide access to financial incentives that will aid cost factors in renovating the unique courthouse. There is nothing political in saving a courthouse; it is simply common sense to preserve a gift that is structurally sound and merits updating by architects utilizing today's technology.

I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register and recommend it for listing on the National Register. This part of our county's history cannot be replicated by our forefathers....it should not be destroyed.

Thank you.



JoAnn Mayer

4100 Hopkins Creek Rd

St. George, Ks 66535

November 12, 2017

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

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NOV 16 2017
CULTURAL RESOURCES

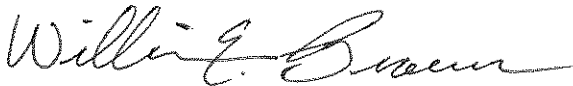
Dear Board Members:

I am writing as a tax-payer in Pottawatomie County in support of the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Courthouse should be listed for its historic significance as one of the few remaining 19th Century Kansas Courthouses. In fact, it is said to be the second oldest courthouse in the state of Kansas, and has been in continuous operation since its construction in 1884. The facility displays beautiful architecture, showcasing native Kansas limestone that is so prevalent in the region. Furthermore, its location on the route of the Oregon Trail adds to the historic importance of the structure.

A recently formed organization – Citizens for Courthouse Conservation is working hard on a grassroots educational effort to inform county residents and encourage their active support of preserving the courthouse. The nomination is just one step in the process to achieve future preservation.

I urge you to approve the nomination for listing on the state register and recommend it for listing on the National Register.

Thank you.



William E. Brown
3935 Forrest Ln
Manhattan, KS 66502

11/16/2017

To: Amanda Loughlin

Our Pottawatomie county courthouse is preservation worthy to the people of our area and of Kansas. It is the ghost of accomplishments past that inspire the ambition of the future. Our great-grandfathers built this building with enthusiastic community cohesiveness and Westmoreland won the county seat for their efforts. Tearing down a building so pivotal in our county history is disrespectful at the very least. The fact that our commissioners are posed to erase this part of our history reveals their lack of wisdom.

Fabulous features become commonplace when one lives among them every day. Imagine coming back to this area in 30 years without stone structures among the landscape. Would it feel like home? Would it be as beautiful? Stone structures are not kept because they are practical (though they can be if maintained). They are kept because they tell the story of those who came before us. They are kept for their artistic contribution to our everyday surroundings. The Pottawatomie County courthouse would be notable for these two purposes even if it were empty. It is our duty to preserve it for generations to come.

It is easier to start with a clean canvas and more challenging to incorporate the past with the present. We need more minds working on this project. In this region there are architects experienced in restoration of stone buildings. We are fortunate to have access to this expertise. We are also fortunate to live near one of the best architectural colleges in the country. These expert minds are interested in putting in their time to present a more acceptable alternative to the current plan of razing the court house. If restoration does not happen here, then where will it?

Our grand courthouse building can have significant purpose if our county commissioners will learn from those they represent. That is, to learn to appreciate the story of the Pottawatomie county court house and that preserving our county history is one of the commissioner's fundamental responsibilities to the current and future people of Pottawatomie County.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Yeager, Pottawatomie county resident

5614 Bayers Hill

Manhattan, KS 66502

From: Susan Blackford [mailto:reddog225@outlook.com]

Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 3:20 PM

To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS] <Amanda.Loughlin@ks.gov>

Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Dear Ms. Loughlin:

I support the inclusion of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse on the Historical Register and the preservation of the Courthouse. It is a unique structure of locally quarried limestone and of further historical importance as the second oldest courthouse in the State. It adds to the character of Westmoreland and is an important symbol of it's past especially as an integral part of Westmoreland's historical interpretation. We lose more historical structures every day. We need to preserve those important ones that are still here.

Sincerely,

Susan Blackford

2504 Rogers Blvd

Manhattan, KS 66502

From: tishpos@aol.com [mailto:tishpos@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 6:14 PM

To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS] <Amanda.Loughlin@ks.gov>

Subject: Potawatomie Courthouse

Ms.Loughlin:

I am writing to advocate for preserving the Potawatomie County Courthouse which is the 2nd oldest courthouse in Kansas as its provenance with a wealth of stories about Kansas to tell if it could talk. It is sound with no structural deficits that I know about. Its "sin" to be on the replacement list is that its old! Some Kansas history would be lost if this building is razed. Limestone is indigenous to Kansas and was the material of choice to build the most important buildings in young, developing Kansas. I am sending you pictures of the Manhattan Episcopal Church on Poyntz . I drive by every day and have watched the love and careful attention to its restoration of cleaning and repointing the giant stone hand carved out of a quarry. It is beautiful ! Erected in 1858 and now restored, it could stand another 159 years! It, like the Potawatomie Courthouse was an important building. Please consider these remarks in your decision.

Respectfully,

Tish Simpson

1920 Poyntz Ave

Manhattan, Kansas 66502

From: sfowler@bluevalley.net [mailto:sfowler@bluevalley.net]

Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 1:50 PM

To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS] <Amanda.Loughlin@ks.gov>

Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse

Importance: High

To Whom this may concern,

I feel it is doing a great injustice to our current and especially our founding fathers to destroy such an important piece of Pottawatomie County's historical history! This building has seen our county and it's citizens through many years of service, and I feel it can reach a lot more into our future. It was built to last and stand through time and the elements of nature. Buildings that are built now do not stand for the distant future as one day (and it will be long before 133 years have passed) commissioners then will want to tear down the fancy new buildings you are building now!, their usefulness will have faded away or simply fallen to time and the elements. Please save this wonderful building for our future, you need only look to Europe to see the wonderful possibilities.

Sincerely life long citizen of Westmoreland,Kansas, voter and taxpayer

Sandra Burkman Fowler

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: jimlob@bluevalley.net
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 7:23 PM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Save Pottawatomie County courthouse

Dear Amanda

Please help save our courthouse by declaring it a National Historical Building. It would be a travesty to let that building be destroyed.
Thank You for your help.

Sincerely

Jim and Linda Brinkman
309 Quail Rd
Westmoreland, Ks.

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Nola <wilkerln@bluevalley.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: Pott Co Courthouse

Amanda,

Thank you for your interest in helping to preserve our historic Courthouse. Since moving with my husband and children to Westmoreland in 1975 I have been fascinated with that old stone building and became even more interested as I learned the stories of how Westmoreland came to be the County Seat and the history of events surrounding the building. Local citizens collecting money to provide for the building of the Courthouse and personal donation of land was apparently part of the attraction to some voters who chose to have the County Seat here. Early trials held in the building and weddings performed there by a judge are memories retained by members of early citizens as well as more recent events.

Stone buildings built as they were in the 1800's are becoming less and less a part of present times; it would be a real shame to lose this monument to our long ago and more recent past. Tourists come through town especially to see and take pictures of that Courthouse. Pictures of it can be found by a search of the internet. Our Commissioners are apparently not aware of how much of an attraction the building is. Citizens of this community are donating money toward the project of preserving the Courthouse and stand ready to donate more toward the special expenses required to restore and maintain it. Others have come up with many ideas of ways to use the building which would contribute to the economy and life of our town and county.

Please help us save our history for future generations!

Thank you for your interest,
Nola E. Wilkerson

To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS] <Amanda.Loughlin@ks.gov>
Subject: Regarding Pottawatomie County Courthouse

TO: KSHS National Register Coordinator: Amanda.Loughlin

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017

Dear Amanda,

My name is Penny Hasenkamp and I live in Nemaha County and have for about 25 years now. However my families long history is centered in the Westmoreland and St. George Communities in Pottawatomie County. Amanda, some one in my family has lived in Pottawatomie County for 153 years now.

Both of my Great-Grandfathers Smart and Evans came to Kansas in the early 1860s. Both settling in what is now Pottawatomie County; one in the St. George and Louisville areas at first and the other (Evans) on Darnell Creek just south and East of Westmoreland. Part of the homestead stone fence on the Evans' home place is still there.

My Great-Grandfather Robert Evans helped to construct the hand-dug well at Westmoreland. He and my Great Grandfather Brazil Smart both helped to construct the county courthouse. Robert Evans was also instrumental (and I do mean instrumental) in bringing the courthouse to Westmoreland. He and several other area residents made the trip to Louisville one night by horse and wagons and literally retrieved the county records from the then Pottawatomie County Courthouse in Louisville and took them back to Westmoreland. There the court records have stayed for close to 140 years now.

My Grandfather, Charles Washington Evans for many years maintained the roads in the are for the state and some for the county. He too had strong ties to the courthouse. My own father, William B. Evans served in WWII and has his name on the plaques inside the courthouse hall.

As for me, I grew up in St. George where my Dad and Mom had built a house when I was born, back in 1956. I am proud to say it is now the same house where my two grandsons, Jed and Kiptyn Zeller are now being raised.

I spent many, many hours in the courthouse back in the early 1980s and then again in the late 1980s and early 1990s as staff reporter and editor of the Wamego Smoke Signal, a regional paper then owned by Montgomery Publications of Junction City. My office was based in Wamego and I covered both the Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee County Commissions.

One of my very favorite times of year to come into Westmoreland is Christmas time. The courthouse is all decked out in white lights that show just a tinge of yellow as they gleam off the stone. I usually come in from the south along the county paved road known best as the Flush Road. As I round the curve at the top of the hill and make my way into town, there she stands in all her lighted glory.

If that sounds a bit flowery, let it...that old building holds a lot of meaning not just for me but for many other families in the area with similar histories as my own. However this ludicrous idea of tearing her down came about it is just simply a very bad idea.

Due to Jeffery Energy Center, the highway 24 corridor and several manufacturing plants located within the county, Pottawatomie is one of the richest counties in the state for being what is considered still a "rural" county. Growth of the county in business, housing, and residents has grown exponentially over the past 20 years. Of all the counties that would have the funds and resources to save the second oldest courthouse in the state, it would be Pottawatomie! If a new courthouse is needed due to antiquation, there should be no trouble in relocation of records or employees to a more suitable place, land in not a problem to find as the Westmoreland Economic Development Corp. has many acres just on the southeast edge of town. Plus parking would be much easier out there or somewhere else. The idea that a new courthouse has to be built on the same exact location as where the current building stands is just ridiculous. Other Counties I am familiar with have built new buildings and have preserved their historic courthouse, so why not Pottawatomie.

I truly hope that those with no real ties to the area will not succeed in their endeavor to take away the icon of Pottawatomie County's deep seeded history. I for one, would find it unforgivable. Please accept the 1884 Pottawatomie County Courthouse to the Kansas State Historical Registry. To not do so would be a true tragedy.

Sincerely, Penny Evans Hasenkamp
261 124th Road
Baileyville, KS 66404
pennyone@bbwi.net
phone: 785-294-1940

To the Editor:

On April 29th, 1884 a band of gentlemen met in the offices of the Westmoreland Period newspaper to garb and form in procession to the construction site of the new Pottawatomie County Courthouse. These men were Freemasons, largely of Onaga Lodge #188 A.F. & A.M. supported by brothers from other lodges and jurisdictions in the state of Kansas. The Right Worshipful Simeon Fox under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Kansas and Amos Landon as Senior Warden were the principal officers of this procession and when assembled at the site proceeded to masonically lay the corner stone for the building. On September 30th, 1984 Most Worshipful Lawrence Winegardener Grand Master of the Kansas Grand Lodge assisted by six Right Worshipful Grand Officers and numerous appointed masonic delegates assembled at Westmoreland Lodge # 257 for the self-same purpose as their brethren one hundred years hence. In both instances the ceremony performed, as was noted at the rededication in 1984, was the same one performed by no less personage than George Washington at the construction of the nation's capital September 18th, 1793.

The ceremony itself contains an invocation exhorting the almighty to, "Incline thine ear and hear the voice of our prayer, and may our labors rest in your everlasting arms, and our waking be the grand summons of thy children to the joy and triumph of the Lion of the tribe of Judah, in the City and Temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." The corner stone is then tried with a plumb, square, and level to find that it will give rise to a true and lasting structure. Offerings and libations of corn, wine, and oil are poured upon the stone to symbolize peace, health, and plenty to all who labor to construct the edifice and carry out the functions that it houses. The ceremonial words being, "May the Grand Architect of Heaven and Earth, bless this work and crown this splendid edifice with every success; and may it be considered, for time immemorial, a model of taste and genius and serve to transmit with honor to posterity the names of the artists engaged in it." A benediction is then read which finishes with, " And may returning anniversaries find a grateful, prosperous, heaven blessed people, prompt it cherish the memory, and if need be imitate the noble virtues and patriotic devotion of those Brethren who came before us."

These ceremonies are designed to inspire the eternal in all of us and in the works we do while residing in our respective places of abode. Twice they have been performed on our Pottawatomie County Courthouse to match that inspiration and instill pride in the citizens of Pottawatomie County. Now a committee of three county commissioners chosen to represent to pride of our county and to keep its best interests at heart; wish to tumble down this noble structure and the achievements of our forefathers in the ruthless march of so-called progress. I wonder if they were in charge of making a similar decision with our nation's capital if they would be of such a consensus. I admonish them to remember that what we do in life echoes in eternity and also in the proceeding election cycles as well.

The men of Westmoreland Lodge #257 A.F. & A.M. of Kansas humbly ask you as citizens of Pottawatomie County to help halt the county commission in their ill-conceived aspirations. Please call the commissioners with your concerns over this issue. Contact historicpottcountycourthouse@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/HistoricPottawatomieCountyCourthouse to lend assistance in saving this wonderful building and repurposing it

for more noble and glorious purposes. It already ornaments the new Pottawatomie County Justice Center which echoes the historic building in its facing façade. There is also discussion of razing the historic stone jail at the site of the courthouse and the historic stone school house a block away that houses county offices. Please don't let three people demolish three historic structures without making your wishes for the welfare of our shared cultural history known. To quote our Worthy Brother George Washington, "If Freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Reves Worshipful Master

Westmoreland Lodge #257 A.F. & A.M. of Kansas

Letters of Objection

Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]

From: Zollner, Patrick [KSHS]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Loughlin, Amanda [KSHS]
Subject: FW: Pottawatomie County Courthouse and Jail Nomination

We need to print this email for the board member packets.

Thanks!

--
Patrick Zollner
Director, Cultural Resources Division
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099
785-272-8681, ext. 217
Patrick.Zollner@ks.gov

Your Stories Our History

From: Robert Reece [mailto:rreece@Pottcounty.org]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Zollner, Patrick [KSHS] <Patrick.Zollner@ks.gov>
Cc: Dee McKee <dmckee@Pottcounty.org>; Travis Altenhofen <taltenhofen@Pottcounty.org>
Subject: Pottawatomie County Courthouse and Jail Nomination

Patrick

Thank you for returning my call this morning. As you can appreciate often times this issues can have opposing views and beliefs.

At this time I want to inform you that the Pottawatomie County Board of County Commission voted unanimously, (3-0), today to oppose the nomination of the Pottawatomie County Courthouse and Jail to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Additionally at least one of the County Commissioners and possibly myself will attend the hearing on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 9:00 to present arguments against this nomination.

Would you please forward this email to the Kansas Historic Site Board of Review for their consideration.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Robert E. Reece
County Administrator
Pottawatomie County, Ks

785-457-3455

rreece@pottcounty.org

Please give to the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review. For meeting on November 18, 2017.

Please read during the public comments when considering the Pottawatomie County Courthouse and Jail. If you feel there is a more appropriate time to present this, feel free to do so.

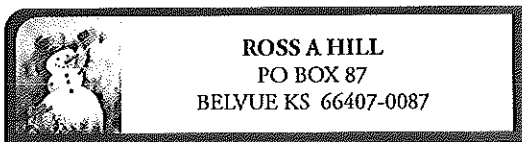
KHRI #149-5770-00002 & 149-375

Thank You



Ross Hill

RECEIVED
NOV 08 2017
CULTURAL RESOURCES



Ross Hill

5175 Broadway Road
Belvue, KS. 66407

Home 785-456-7364

Cell 785-564-9142

1

Good Morning

Due to health issues I am unable to attend the hearing on Nov. 18, 2017. I would like to put forth some thoughts on the old Pottawatomie County Courthouse.

This building has been around for many years. It has been added onto 5 times over the years. So, this is not a completely historical building. Some additions are not that old in years. It has seen major structural damage due to fire. Not only wood structure damage but, also damage to the rock walls. If you go inside you can readily see issues with the floors. The original ceilings are several feet taller than those now used in buildings. Then the interior layout is not what is needed for

today's functions. Which would mean major moving of interior structural walls. So, by the time you remake it into a building for use today you have erased the historical value of it. We have not even addressed the other changes needed. New windows, insulation, new roof, up to date wiring both electrical and communications, then address the heating and cooling. Making the building ADA compliant. Adding an elevator, no one had heard of putting in such a thing when the building was built. No area was set aside for this purpose. Then the article said that the second floor could be used for public meetings, the county already has such a facility. They further said the building could be used for

low volume offices such as Extension Dept. They already have a very good location in one of Pott. Co.'s newest buildings.

At the present time one office is used by Emergency Management and the county Fire Supervisor. They are scheduled to move to Wamego with Pott. Co. taking over the running of the ambulance service this will happen early 2018. One small office is used by the Supervisor of buildings and grounds he will most likely soon be moving to another building. The other is used but, not on a daily basis. The whole purpose of the planning was to make the most efficient use of property already owned, bring as many as possible of county offices to one location to make county services easier for

citizens to use, and the best way to allocate funds. The suggested changes to the old courthouse fulfill none of those needs. Then if the building is listed as historical the cost will be much higher and much more involved. Over 20 years, the county would pay about \$3.6 million to repair the courthouse. About \$1.9 million of that would be spent to bring the building to the standard it would be at if it was maintained over the last few years. An additional \$1.7 million would be needed to modernize the building's electric, IT and other infrastructure. This could go even higher when dealing with unknowns when you open up an old building, also needing to remediate asbestos and lead paint. It

would cost \$70,000 to raze the building and \$2.3 million to replace with a similar sized building of modern construction. This was one of several options put forth by the engineering firm.

This is not the original Pott. Co. Courthouse. The 1st was in St. George and is still standing. The 2nd was in Louisville and the jail from there is now at the Wamego Historical Assn. location in the Wamego City Park.

In any article I have seen or heard about has the jail ever been mentioned. This must be a low flying item on the plans they have or is an item of little interest.

The County has already offered the Courthouse and jail to both the city of

Westmoreland and the Westmoreland Historical Assn. both declined to accept them. Even their Association name is save the Court House not save the Courthouse and jail.

So, there is no great out pouring of local sentiment to save them.

Yes, there is a small vocal group that wants to save the old building. There are also a large number that want it torn down. (You could call those people the silent majority.) There has been suggestions made to use parts of the old building into the design of the new building.

Whatever decision is arrived at someone will be unhappy.

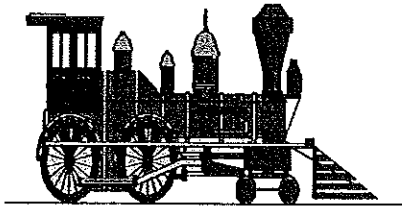
The County Commissioners have to do what is best for the overall good of the county. You have the same responsibility.

I like to make the analogy of comparing this to a person's life. The building has had a good life, but now we need to let go, move on and let a new life (building) be born to replace this one.

I respectfully request that you not approve the historical listings and let the elected officials do what they feel is best without adding extra unneeded costs to securing needed office space for the residents of Pott. Co.

THANK YOU

The article referred to was a Topeka Capital Journal article from Luke Ranker dated from late August, 2017 .



Trackside

John D'Aloia, Jr.

311 West Alma Street • St. Marys, KS 66536 • Phone/Fax 785-437-3723

12 November 2017 AD

sawseerr@gmail.com

Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review
c/o Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

RECEIVED
NOV 15 2017
CULTURAL RESOURCES

Dear Board Members:

I am a resident of Pottawatomie County.

You are considering listing the old county courthouse in Westmoreland on the Historic Register.

I oppose the listing.

The building does not have intrinsic historical significance in Kansas history beyond its immediate surroundings.

The building no longer serves the needs of the county and should be replaced by a modern building constructed to current standards to meet current and projected county needs.

That listing in the Register would provide access to financial benefits should not be a listing factor as the listing does not diminish bottom-line costs, it just shifts costs to others.

Please deny the listing.

Sincerely,


c: Pottawatomie County Commission

Andrew Bunel

506 North 6th Street
Saint Marys, Kansas 66536

November 16th, 2017

Patrick Zollner, Director
Cultural Resources Division, KSHS
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Mr. Zollner,

Just a quick note to let you know that I am NOT in favor of adding the Pottawatomie County Courthouse as a historically designated building.

What would be of more significance would be a beautiful picture/s and/or some type of plaque remembering the building.

This would be more beneficial to all.

Thank you for listening.

Andrew Bunel



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.

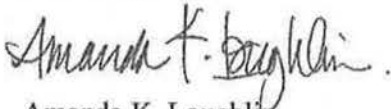
- **Big Brutus; West Mineral, Cherokee County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **A.S. Allen Buildings; Great Bend, Barton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

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures