

P40088846

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Shawnee
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAR 31 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: **

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Thacher Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
110 East Eighth St.

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
no. 2, Martha Keys

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

COUNTY: Shawnee CODE: 177

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	TRANSPORTATION COMMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

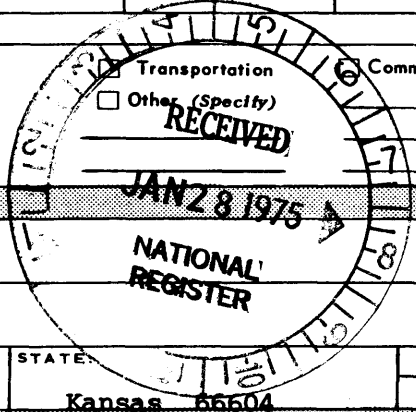
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Crane Holding Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
President, J. C. Frazer
1324 Campbell

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66604



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66603

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: April 10, 1974 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West 10th

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Shawnee

ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 31 1975

DATE: _____

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thacher Building is a three-story Romanesque-styled commercial structure facing south on Eighth street, approximately one-half block east of Kansas avenue, which is Topeka's primary commercial street. The rectangular shaped building measures 50 by 150 feet and has a basement, which is partially above ground level.

The front of the Thacher Building features an interesting display of cut and rough hewn Cottonwood limestone. The west exterior wall is of brick and the east and north walls of rubble stone.

The first story is composed of three Romanesque arches with engaged columns displaying ornate hand carved detail. Carved leaves are featured in the decoration on the arches. A flight of steps leads from the ground level to the first floor entrance which is recessed in the smaller center arched opening. Two carved stone heads, with a non-human appearance, are placed on either side of the center arch where it connects with the others. Under the two flanking arches are fan windows sitting over double sash divisions. Metal columns separate the windows within these arched openings.

The second and third floors are marked by four engaged circular stone piers, one located at each corner and one each to the left and right of the center axis. On the bottom of the stone piers are carved large bunches of grapes and leaves. Windows on the second floor, which are located in rectangular openings, are double hung and have one piece stone lintels. Separating the windows of the second and third floors is an alternating pattern of rough cut and dressed stone. The third floor windows, which are placed in Romanesque arched openings, are double hung. The transom openings on both the second and third floor windows have been covered with metal.

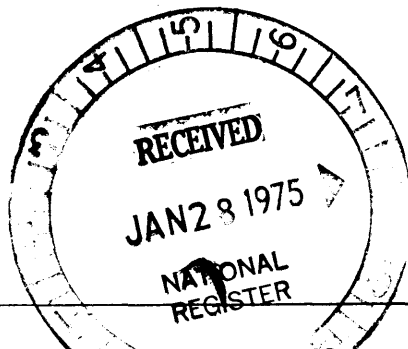
The top of the building in the front features a parapet with a balustrade. Directly below the parapet is a checkerboard pattern of rough cut and dressed stone running the width of the facade.

Two carved human heads are found on the third floor, nestled in carved leaves at the ends of the carved stone arch over the center window. It is not now known who these carved heads were supposed to represent.

The basement floor now serves as the main business area with the upper floors used for warehousing and storage. Various partitions have been added and considerable remodeling done to the basement.

Exterior changes include the removal of the finials atop the four engaged piers, covering the second and third floor transoms with metal, the natural weathering of some of the stone carving and the changes to the windows and doors on the basement level. Otherwise, the Thacher Building looks much the same as it did originally.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thacher Building was constructed in 1888 for Timothy Dwight Thacher at a time when Topeka was experiencing a great building boom. Various estimates placed the cost of the large commercial structure at \$30,000 to \$40,000. The architect was John G. Haskell, one of the earliest and most active professional architects in Kansas.

T. D. Thacher was a long-time Kansas newspaper man and a Republican politician. He had come to Kansas in 1857, published a free-state paper at Lawrence and was an instrumental figure in the formation of the Republican party in Kansas in 1859. He served one term in the state legislature in 1874 and was selected by the legislature to serve as the state printer from 1881 to 1887. Although he never held a major elective office, his voice was influential in the Kansas Republican councils.

Thacher erected the large structure for the use of the Hall and O'Donald Lithographing Company. That firm was established in 1887 but had prospered so rapidly that within one year it employed more than 100 workers and occupied most of the space in the Thacher Building. The fourth floor of the structure had a hall which was used by lodges and for other social and cultural activities.

In 1899 the building was purchased by Crane and Co., a printing and publishing house which had been established in Topeka by George W. Crane in 1868. The building interior was remodeled to meet the new occupant's needs. For a time some offices were rented to other concerns, such as George Palmer, undertaker, the Sanborn Map Co., and the Polk-Radges Directory Co., but by 1926 Crane and Co. was the sole occupant, as it is today.

The Thacher Building is one of a very few Topeka commercial structures whose facades have survived basically unaltered from the boom and expansion years of the 1880's. The Topeka Daily Capital of September 30, 1888, in describing the structure stated, "The style is a bold and artistic expression of the popular Romanesque, and embraces a combination of some of its choicest features, presenting a magnificent front." Almost 90 years later that assessment still stands. The Thacher Building remains one of the architectural legacies of 19th century Topeka architecture and craftsmanship. The building is also significant for its design by John G. Haskell, a prominent 19th century Kansas architect, and for the contributions its occupants (printers and office suppliers) made to the commercial development of the city.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Building Boom," Topeka Sunday Capital, July 1, 1888.
 Connelley, William, History of Kansas and Kansas (Lewis Publishing Co., New York, 1919), v. 3, p. 1274.
 Cordley, Richard, "Memorial on Timothy Dwight Thacher," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 6 (1900), pp. 83-891.
 "Crane and Co., Topeka's Oldest Printing House," Topeka Daily Capital, Aug. 25, 1928.
Historical and Descriptive Review of Kansas (n.p., Topeka, 1890), v. 1, pp. 32, 33.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

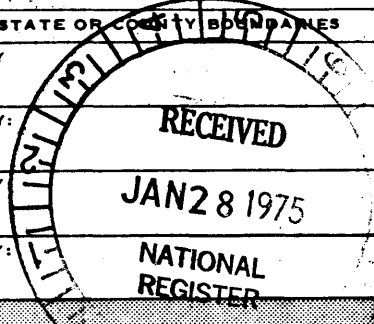
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 02' 56"	95° 40' 24"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

15/268
4325390

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one**

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

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard D. Pankratz, Historic Sites Survey**

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **Jan. 20, 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West 10th Street**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name Nyle H. Miller
 Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
 Date March 21, 1975

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

AK Montauzer
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/8/75

ATTEST:

WJ [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-28-75

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Shawnee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 31 1975

(Number all entries)

9.

Remembrances in Wood, Brick and Stone (Topeka-Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Topeka, 1974), p. 98.

"The Thacher Block," Topeka Daily Capital, Sept. 30, 1888.

Topeka City Directories (assorted dates and publishers).

Topeka Mail and Breeze, May 22, 1896 (Twenty-fifth Anniversary Historical Edition).

United States Biographical Dictionary, Kansas Volume (S. Lewis and Co., Chicago and Kansas City, 1879), pp. 529-531.

