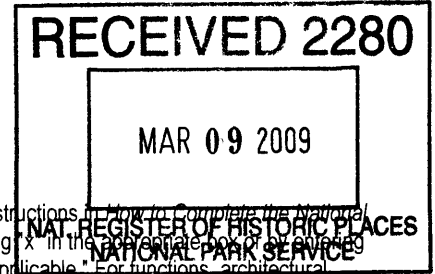


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Crawford County Courthouse
Other name/site number 037-2050-00037

2. Location

Street & number 111 E. Forest, Courthouse Square not for publication
City or town Girard vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Crawford Code 037 Zip code 66743

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Zelner DSHPO 2-27-09
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Eric Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Erson H. Beal 4.22.09

Crawford County Courthouse

Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
	3	objects
	5	total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete
Walls: Stone: Limestone

Roof: Asphalt

Other: Stone: Marble

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- 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 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922-1958

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tonini and Bramblet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Crawford County Courthouse
Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	3	3	7	0	9	3	4	1	5	3	1	2	2
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

1	5	3	3	7	2	1	6	4	1	5	3	1	2	2
Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

1	5	3	3	7	2	1	6	4	1	5	1	9	6	7
Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

1	5	3	3	7	0	9	3	4	1	5	1	9	6	7
Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Christy Davis

Organization Davis Preservation, LLC Date 10/15/2008

Street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 Telephone 785-234-5053

City or town Topeka State Kansas Zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Crawford County Board of County Commissioners

Street & number PO Box 249, 111 E. Forest Telephone 620-724-6115

City or town Girard State Kansas Zip code 66743

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas**

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

Setting

The Crawford County Courthouse is located in Girard, Kansas (pop. 2773), a southeast Kansas town sited on the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad. The courthouse is centered on Girard's public square, surrounded on all sides by commercial buildings lining Forest Avenue on the north, Prairie Avenue on the south, Ozark Avenue on the east, and Summit Avenue on the west. The nominated property includes the entire courthouse square, which measures approximately 400' X 400'. In addition to the courthouse, the square houses one structure - a gazebo - and three objects - a helicopter, veteran's memorial, and deer statue. These additional features are all non-contributing.

Non-Contributing Structure and Objects

Helicopter (object)

There is a helicopter and veterans memorial on the southeast corner of the square. The helicopter, which was flown by a Girard native in the Vietnam War, is a "Huey" Helicopter, known as the most successful military helicopter in history. Hueys were first manufactured in 1956 by the Bell Helicopter Textron Company based in Fort Worth Texas. Between 1963 and the end of the Vietnam War, 5000 Hueys were shipped to Asia. To date, the company has manufactured over 9000 of them. Hueys measure 57.3' in length and 14.9' in height. The Huey on Girard's square has a serial number of 64-13632.¹ It sits on a concrete and brick platform.

Veterans' Memorial (object)

Adjacent to the helicopter is a veterans' memorial, dedicated April 15, 1995. The memorial includes a granite wall that is a replica of the National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, DC. Inscribed on it are the names of the 777 Kansans who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. The granite wall is surrounded by flags.

Deer Statue (object)

On the southwest corner of the square is a bronze deer statue. The statue, dedicated on the occasion of the town's centennial in 1968, commemorates the legend of the town's founding. The story is told on a plaque on the statue's base:

Centennial Birthdate February 28, 1868-1968

Dr. Charles H. Strong was a native of Girard, Pennsylvania. Dr. Strong's dream came true when he decided to go deer hunting and possibly locate the geographical center of Crawford County, which had just been established in Southeast Kansas February 13,

¹ FAS Military Analysis Network, <http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/ac/uh-1.htm>. Bell Helicopter Textron.

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Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas

1867. While hunting, a deer jumped up out of the grass and was shot by Dr. Strong who drove a stake where the deer fell; on which he placed a card and a bunch of grass stating that he had taken the land and Girard was to be located thereon; naming it in honor of his home town Girard, Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by Major John Mason Chapter, Daughters of the American Colonists

Gazebo (structure)

A non-historic wood gazebo on the northeast corner of the square.

Courthouse Exterior

Overall

The courthouse, which is the only building on the square, is a three-story Classical Revival-Style building with cubed massing, constructed of reinforced concrete faced with stone. The building's footprint measures 123' X 97', with the wider sides on the north and south elevations, which house main entrances. It has a flat roof with stone parapet. The courthouse's principal Classical Revival feature is its symmetry. The north and south elevations are identical, as are the east and west elevations. Other Classical Revival features include Tuscan columns, pilasters and pedimented entries. The Classical Revival details are executed in carved, dressed and polished limestone. The field stones are laid in a regular pattern and create an overall smooth appearance.

The water table, which encompasses the building's first floor, is differentiated from the second and third floors. The stones on this level are cut in a drop pattern that creates the appearance of horizontal bands at each course. The water table is separated from the second and third floors with a band of stones carved in a Greek Key pattern, above which is a projecting horizontal band. For the most part, the openings in this level are without details like sills and lintels. The door openings on the north and south elevations, however, are accentuated with detailed pediments set on corbels.

The openings on the second and third floors match up with the openings on the first floor. However, these openings have more details, including sills, lintels, and carved stone details between windows. Columns and pilasters separate window bays. The building is topped with an entablature with cornice and parapet.

The principal changes to the building over time relate to its openings. All of the windows and doors, originally multi-pane steel, were replaced in 1994 with anodized aluminum windows and storefront-type doors. There were originally three entrance doors on each of the north and south elevations. Some of these have been filled. For instance, one of these entrances was filled in with architectural glass block in the ca. 1950s.

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***Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas***

North and South Elevations

The north and south elevations are each nine bays wide. The first and ninth bays house narrow window openings on each floor. These bays project from the main elevation plane. The second, third, seventh and eighth bays have wider windows on each floor, separated by pilasters perched on the entablature of the water table. The fourth through sixth bays are marked by a shallow four-column temple front that rests on the projecting entrances below. These narrow window and entrance bays are separated by Tuscan columns that support a projecting entablature and decorative parapet above. The entablatures in the temple fronts are carved with the words "Crawford County Courthouse."

East and West Elevations

The east and west elevations are seven bays wide. The first and seventh bays, which are recessed from the main wall plane, house narrow windows on each floor. Pilasters separate these bays from the bays on the main wall plane. These pilasters flank four columns that encapsulate the second through sixth bays. The window openings, on each floor of each bay, are square.

Courthouse Interior

Overall

The Classical Revival theme continues on the building's interior. Like the exterior, the interior is symmetrical, with a cross-shaped circulation pattern that stretches from the entrances on the north and south and opens to the main staircases on the north end. The most striking interior features are gray marble and the three-story atrium, lit with a colorful stained glass skylight. The walls have large matched panels of gray marble that rise from the floor to the picture rail level. The corners, bends and concrete piers are marked with the same marble to create marble pilasters and piers, which rise above the picture-rail level to "support" the entablature, topped by a plaster crown. The ceilings are coffered with plaster crowns. The floors are finished with marble rectangles. The floor is dark gray, with edges and other details in black. Other marble details include elaborate staircases and water fountains.

Although the interior public spaces, including stairs, corridors and the courtroom, have a high degree of architectural integrity, there have been some changes over time. For instance, in some interior offices, non-historic finishes, like paneling and suspended ceilings have been added. The most intrusive alteration to the interior, however, is the installation of an elevator in the northwest corner of the atrium, which rises from the first through third floors. The elevator shaft is covered with wood paneling.

Basement

The basement is an unfinished utilitarian space, which is divided into four principal spaces.

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**Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas**

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First Floor

The first floor is accessed via entrances on the north and south. There are large office spaces in each corner, with an appraiser's office in the northwest, county attorney's office in the northeast, zoning and inspection in the southeast, and motor vehicle in the southwest. A narrow stair in the southeast quadrant leads to down to the basement. Near the south entrance, in the spaces opposite the stairs on the north side, are men's and women's restrooms. An elevator rises from the northwest corner of the atrium. Small offices occupy the space on the east and west ends of the east/west corridor.

Second Floor

Like the first floor, the second floor is divided into quadrants. The register of deeds office is in the northeast corner. The county treasurer occupies the southeast corner. The county commissioners and county clerk have space in the southwest corner and south end. The northwest corner houses offices of the fiscal clerk, road and bridge department, and county counselor. The northwest corner has a small women's toilet. The southwest corner has a small men's toilet. A noticeable change on this floor is the addition of a non-original office space between the offices on the northeast and southeast corners. A non-original wall has been faux painted to create the appearance of marble.

Third Floor

The third floor is principally devoted to court-related uses. The courtroom, jury room, two toilets, and judge's office occupy the east side of this floor. Court offices, storage and restrooms fill the space in the southwest corner. And a computer room and GIS storage are housed in the northwest corner.

With its high degree of architectural detail, the courtroom warrants a detailed description. The courtroom runs north to south along the east side of the third floor. The judge's dais, jury box and rail are on the south side of the courtroom. The dais and jury box are constructed of marble. The jury box houses swiveling wood jury chairs. North of the rail are rows of wood benches. A marble wainscoting encircles the room – with marble trim surrounding door openings. Plaster Corinthian pilasters, arranged in pairs, sit atop the marble wainscoting and appear to support a plaster entablature. The entablature is topped with a dentiled cornice. Above this cornice is a cove that rises to a coffered ceiling.

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*Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas*

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Crawford County Courthouse is being nominated under National Register Criterion A in the category of Government and under Criterion C as an example of the Late Nineteenth Early Twentieth Century Revival Style. The registration requirements put forth in the Multiple Property Nomination "Historic County Courthouses of Kansas" are as follows:

To be listed under National Register Criterion A, the property must retain a strong degree of physical integrity of association, setting, original materials, and overall design to convey feelings and associations with its original appearance and function as a county courthouse ... To be eligible under National Register Criterion C, the property should retain a high degree of architectural integrity of setting, materials and workmanship for its period of significance, and should possess the distinct stylistic and functional characteristics that qualify the resource as a property type.

The Crawford County Courthouse meets the registration requirements in that it retains a high degree of architectural integrity that interprets its history as the center of county government in Crawford County.

A Brief History of Girard

Girard, Kansas (pop. 2800), the county seat of Crawford County, was sited and named by Dr. Charles Strong, a native of Girard, Pennsylvania. According to local lore, Strong marked as the town site the place where a deer he shot fell. Girard narrowly defeated Crawfordsville in a late 1868 election to become county seat. County-seat designation was critical to growing towns in the nineteenth century when county seats were centers of community life in an agriculture-based society.

By February 1870, the town was bustling with 5 hotels, 4 eating houses, 8 restaurants and saloons, 5 grocery stores, 1 wholesale grocery, 1 clothing store, 5 dry goods, 2 shoemakers, 1 saddleshop, 1 drug store, 1 printing office, 1 watch shop, 2 bakeries, 1 billiard saloon, 1 book store, 7 law and land offices, and 2 lumber offices and yards. In all, there were 72 homes and 140 buildings. Many of the town's 260 residents hailed from Fort Scott. Many others were Civil War veterans who populated the state's southeast region in the late nineteenth century.

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***Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas***

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Girard continued to grow after the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad brought passenger service on March 3, 1870. Railroads stimulated unprecedented growth throughout the state. Along with fair weather, they ushered in an unparalleled economic boom. By 1880, Girard boasted a population of 1292.² Brick buildings gradually replaced the temporary wood structures – and in 1886, the last wooden building was moved from the town square. Civic improvements included a waterworks in 1893 and interurban lines to Dunkirk and Arma. The town's population had doubled to 2547 by 1900.³

Like other communities in southeast Kansas, Girard became an industrial center, spurred by boosters who raised funds to lure investors. In 1884, Girard Foundry opened for business. A zinc smelting plant opened in 1888. More smelters came to town after the Girard Board of Trade raised \$11,000 to lure St. Louis investors. Mining and other industries attracted European immigrants, who were credited for giving the town a “radical” air and the region the nickname “Kansas Balkans.”

A progressive community, Girard was at the center of various reform movements. During the 1890s, the *Girard Press* featured a regular front-page column calling for women's suffrage. Industrial Girard was a seedbed for the organized labor movement. While Populist farmers were calling for “free and unlimited coinage of silver,” industrial workers called for state ownership of industry in the form of Socialism. Girard became a center of Socialist activity. The Girard Socialists were chartered in 1897, the same year that publisher J. A. Wayland moved his socialist newspaper, *The Appeal to Reason*, to town.

By the late nineteenth century, Girard faced serious competition from the nearby community of Pittsburg, Kansas. Established in 1876 as “New Pittsburg,” Pittsburg began as a coal mining camp located on the rail line that linked the industrial towns of Girard and Joplin, Missouri. Soon, industrialists eyed the region's coal for its potential to fuel other industries. By 1883, Pittsburg was home to three zinc selters and 4000 residents. In 1891, Pittsburg was home to 29 corporations. The town's population continued to grow in the twentieth century, expanding from 10,112 in 1900 to 18,148 in 1930.⁴

Over the years, Girard has successfully fended off calls to move the county seat to Pittsburg (pop. 19,243) by making concessions to their larger neighbor city. Although Girard's population remains steady at 2800, its economy is still tied to industry. Today, Girard is the self-proclaimed “printing capital of the nation,” home to five printing firms.⁵

² US Census, 1880.

³ US Census, 1900.

⁴ US Census, 1900; 1930.

⁵ James Shortridge, *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2004), 366.

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*Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas*

Early Crawford County Courthouses

The 1922 courthouse is the fifth or sixth to serve Crawford County. At the time of the county's organization in 1867, Governor Crawford designated Crawfordsville as the county seat. Shortly thereafter, a school in Crawfordsville became the courthouse. When Girard became the county seat after the 1868 election, James Hall built a 20' X 40' frame building to house the courtroom. Even after this building was completed, court offices were scattered throughout town. Probate Judge Baily and the district court clerk occupied his office building on the south side of the square. The county clerk officed in Nelson Sinnet's store, also on the south side of the square.

In 1870, citizens circulated a petition to fund the construction of a new courthouse. But competing interests interfered. When the petition failed, the county arranged to acquire a new stone structure that George Richey had reportedly constructed for a bank.

Crawford County took its first step toward completing a permanent courthouse in 1872. In February, the county commissioners advertised for bids for a 30' x 72' brick building with an iron front. The building was designed to be converted for commercial use after the county could complete a more elaborate structure. But the commission's hopes were dashed in August 1872, when a devastating tornado destroyed the nearly completed building. Between the 1872 tornado and the completion of a frame building in 1874, the county occupied a former saloon building.

The situation became more urgent in the late nineteenth century as Pittsburg gained prominence. In 1883, only eight years after the town's founding, Pittsburg's population was triple that of Girard's. Like other early county seats, Girard was held hostage by a convoluted state law that prohibited the construction of courthouses without a bond election. The law made it impossible for the county to obtain majority support for a new courthouse in Girard, where a small percentage of the county's population lived. To skirt the law, Girard retained architect A. Schmid to design a new brick "city hall" on the courthouse square. After the building's completion in 1889, the City of Girard promptly donated the three-story brick Gothic Revival building to Crawford County.⁶

Although the Gothic Revival courthouse was architecturally distinctive, it lacked structural integrity from the beginning. By the 1910s, just twenty years after its construction, the building was 8" out of plumb and bricks were popping off. The state law once again stood in the way of replacing the building. In 1917, the state legislature passed a law eliminating the bond-issue requirement, allowing county commissions to levy taxes for courthouse construction without a divisive bond election. In 1919, the state legislature passed a second law meant to pave the way for a new courthouse at Girard. The bill, which permitted the county commission to levy 1 ½ mills, was craftily written to apply "only to counties in which the court house or jail has been condemned by the State

⁶ "New' Courthouse Dedicated 75 Years Ago," *Pittsburg Morning Sun*, 31 December 1997;
"First courthouse was a school building," *Pittsburg Morning Sun*, 31 Dec 1997.

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***Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas***

Fire Marshall and Secretary of the State Board of Health” and permitted “one fourth of the amount so raised, to be used in constructing a court house in another city having a division of the district court.” The legislation opened the way for a new courthouse and jail in Girard – and a second building in Pittsburg.⁷

In 1919, the State Fire Marshal and Board of Health condemned the 1889 building and ordered its immediate evacuation. The Gothic Revival structure was demolished make room for a new building.

1922 Courthouse

For the first time in its half-century history, Crawford County was set to build its own courthouse. The county commissioners hired the Oklahoma-based architecture firm of Tonini and Bramblet to design both the courthouse and a new jail. Otto Hofman Tonini (1873-1971) was born in Kentucky to German immigrants. In 1920, he was living in Oklahoma City with his wife and daughter.⁸ Less is known about the firm’s second namesake. Although listed as an architect in the 1930 Census, Robert (Lorn) Bramblet was no longer with the firm in 1931, when the partners included Otto Tonini and T. Wyman Thompson.⁹ The Crawford County Courthouse is the only Kansas building known to have been designed by Tonini and Bramblet. However, the firm was prolific in the new state of Oklahoma (est. 1907), where they designed courthouses for Alfalfa, Cotton, Major, Okmulgee, Payne, and Tillman Counties.¹⁰ The Crawford County Courthouse bears a resemblance to the firm’s design for the Major County Courthouse. They had their offices in the Terminal Building in Oklahoma City, whose 1920 population of 91,000 made it the commercial and population center of Oklahoma.¹¹

In November 1919, when the Crawford County Commission began advertising for bids on Tonini and Bramblet’s courthouse, the estimated cost was \$200,000. The commissioners, who had demolished the old courthouse, insisted that “The building must be completed within a year from the date of the contract.” J. J. Rooney, a first-generation Irish American contractor based in Muskogee, Oklahoma, was the successful bidder.¹²

Ultimately, the building’s construction was both over-budget and well overdue. It was not completed until late spring 1922 – at a final cost of \$420,000. When the building was finally completed the *Girard Press* lauded it as “The County’s Pride.” The building was dedicated on

⁷ “Court House Bill is Now the Law,” *Girard Press*, 6 March 1919.

⁸ Social Security Death Index. US Census 1920.

⁹ When the firm sued Mayes County for payment in 1931 (Tonini and Bramblet v. Board of Commissioners of Mayes County), the partners were Tonini and Thompson.

¹⁰ National Register Information System and Oklahoma SHPO.

¹¹ World War I Draft Registration. US Census, 1920.

¹² US Census, 1920. *Girard Press*, 16 October 1919.

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*Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas*

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Thursday June 1, amidst great fanfare. State Supreme Court Justice J. S. West gave an address, followed by remarks by the passing of celebratory resolutions, an address by International Mine Workers Union representative Van A. Bitner, a reunion of Old Settlers, speeches by master of ceremonies B. S. Gaitskill, Pittsburg representative C. O. Pingry, and Topeka Judge J. S. West. Miss Rosa Lee Strong, the granddaughter of town founded C. H. Strong, christened the building with a bottle of Crawford County milk. The Boy Scouts hoisted a flag and bugled. The Presbyterian Church hosted a pipe organ recital. And a local history committee hosted a popular exhibit that included historic relics and photos. In the evening, there was a free dance at the Moose Hall.¹³

Summary

The Crawford County Courthouse has continued to serve as the seat of county government since its 1922 completion. The building retains a high degree of integrity from its original construction. The building is eligible for National Register listing under both Criterion C as an example of Late Nineteenth Century/Early Twentieth Century Revival Style and Criterion A for its association with Osage County government under the registration requirements identified in the Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Multiple Property Nomination.

¹³ "The County's Pride," *Girard Press*, 25 May 1922; "Court House Dedicated" *Girard Press*, 8 June 1922.

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Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas

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U. S. Census.

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*Crawford County Courthouse
Crawford County, Kansas*

Verbal Boundary Description

The courthouse is located on Block 13 in Girard's Original Town Plat.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the public square on which the courthouse sits.

Photo Log

All photographs were taken by Christy Davis on July 14, 2008 and September 12, 2008.

1. Exterior, North (Front) Elevation, Looking Southwest.
2. Exterior, South (Rear) and East (Side) Elevations, Looking Northwest.
3. Exterior, West (Side) Elevation, Looking East.
4. Interior, First Floor, Looking South.
5. Interior, First Floor, Looking Northeast at Grand Stair.
6. Interior, First Floor, Looking Southwest.
7. Interior, Closeup of Water Fountain.
8. Interior, Closeup of Marble Floors.
9. Interior, Vaulted Coffered Ceilings in Grand Stair, Third Floor.
10. Interior, Skylight and Elevator Tower in Atrium.
11. Interior, Second Floor, Looking Southeast at non-original wall (left) and historic wall (right).
12. Interior, Third Floor, Courtroom, Looking South at Judge's Dais.
13. Interior, Third Floor, Courtroom, Looking North from Judge's Dais.
14. Interior, Third Floor, Courtroom, Looking Southwest at Jury Box.