NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10/90) 393

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 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 by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
Historic name: Republic County Courthouse	
Other name/site number:	
2. Location	
er et en en en e La companya de la co	
P.O. Box 429	not for publication
	not for publication
Belleville	<u>vicinity</u>
state Kansas code KS county Republic code 157	zip code 66935
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as	amended, I hereby
certify that this \underline{X} nomination $\underline{\ }$ request for determination of eligibility meets standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.	meets the procedural
In my opinion, the property X meetsdoes not meet the National Register criter	
I recommend that this property be considered significantnationally X statewide (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	elocally.
Signature of certifying official Date	
Kansas State Historical Society	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
<pre>In my opinion, the propertymeetsdoes not meet the National Register criter (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)</pre>	ia.
Signature of commenting or other official Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, Mereby, certify that this property	1 1
$\frac{V}{V}$ entered in the National Register $\frac{V}{V}$	Ulachas
See continuation sheet	7/20/02
determined eligible for the National Register.	1 (
See continuation sheet	
determined not eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	
Signature of Keeper Date of Action	

	USDI	/NPS	NRHP	Registration	Form
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Property Name Republic C	County Courthouse		
County and State Republic C	ounty, Kansas		Page 2
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resource	s within Property
private	X building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
X public-local	district	1	buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		objects
		_1	_0 Total
Name of related multiple pro Enter "N/A" if property is multiple property listing.)			ting resources previously ational Register:
Historic County Courthouse	s of Kansas	0	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from inst: GOVERNMENT: County C			s from instructions.) C: County Courthouse
GOVERIVIEW 1. County C	ourthouse	GOVERNMENT	. County Courthouse
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		<pre>Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)</pre>	
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco		Foundation <u>CO</u>	NCRETE
	4.4 480	Walls <u>CONCRE</u>	TE
		STONE: 0	Granite
		Roof OTHER:	Composite Material
		Other	

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

USDI/NPS NRHP :	Registration	Form
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Property Name Republic County Courthouse	 -	
County and State Republic County, Kansas		Page 3
8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" property for National Register listing.)	in one or more boxes for the cr	
X A Property is associated with events that hof our history.	nave made a significant contribut	tion to the broad patterns
B Property is associated with the lives of	persons significant in our past	
X C Property embodies the distinctive character or represents the work of a master, or postand distinguishable entity whose components	ossesses high artistic values, o	method of construction r represents a significant
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yie	eld, information important in pro	ehistory or history.
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the box	xes that apply.)	
A owned by a religious institution or used	for religious purposes.	
B removed from its original location.		
C a birthplace or a grave.		
D a cemetery.		
E a reconstructed building, object, or stru	acture.	
F a commemorative property.		
G less than 50 years of age or achieved signal G	gnificance within the past 50 year	ars.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	1939/40-50	N/A
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	1939140-30	IVA
TOLITICS/SOVERIMENT		
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
	11/41	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	Mann & Company, Archit	ects
	Peterson Construction Co	mpany, Contractors

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

name Republic County

street & number P.O. Box 429 telephone (785) 527-5691

city or town Belleville state KS zip code 66935

NPS Form 10-900-a

(8-86)

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

OMB No. 1024-0018

DESCRIPTION

The Republic County Courthouse is a three- to four-story, Art Deco style building that occupies the center of a full square block in the center of the Belleville, Kansas historic central business district [Figure 1: City Map of Belleville, Kansas]. The courthouse shares the square with a one-story, brick library on the southeast corner of the square and a one-story, brick and wood garage and storage facility on the northeast corner of the square. A parking lot, which serves the library and courthouse, is located immediately to the west of the courthouse, and a plaza fronts the primary façade along "M" Street. The courthouse is irregular in plan and measures approximately 120 feet wide by 90 feet deep by 45 feet high [Figure 2: Existing Site Plan].

The courthouse has seven bays on the east and west façades, and six bays on the north and south façades. The three recessed central bays of the east and west façades are four stories in height. The inside face of the recessed walls features rectangular groupings of twelve punched openings with rounded corners. The poured-in-place concrete building has a white rendering and features polished black granite detailing that defines the vertical strips of windows and spandrel panels which are carved with names and stylized motifs [Photographs #1, #2 and #3]. A concrete parapet with stylized scroll motifs screens the flat roof. The primary entrance on the west façade is set back and features window spandrels that are delineated by polished black granite and capped with projecting lintels [Photographs #2 and #3]. With the exception of the replacement of the original pair of center doors on the primary façade and the installation of acoustical ceiling tiles in the courtroom, the courthouse retains the majority of its original exterior and interior features and has excellent architectural integrity. Erected in 1939–1940 as a county courthouse, the structure continues to serve as a county courthouse.

The building retains its original metal frame windows. The primary entrance on the west façade features a three-story, three-bay window with metal grille work [Photograph #4]. The courtroom windows are multi-paned with a pair of central casement windows. Fenestration at the first and second floors of the central bays of the east façade consists of double-hung sash windows with sidelights with two-over-two lights [Photograph #6]. The remaining windows are four-over-four light, double-hung sashes with vertical muntins. Each window bay displays projecting concrete lintels at the second-floor window heads. The addition of window air-conditioning units somewhat compromises the exterior appearance; however, these are temporary additions that can be removed in the future without altering the original material and elements [Photograph #5].

The courthouse has two public entrances, with the primary entrance on the west façade and a secondary entrance on the east façade. Three recessed central bays that are four stories in height define both entrances. The primary entrance features a three-story, three-bay window with metal grille work [Photograph #11] and polished black granite trim, which emphasizes the building's verticality. Obscured behind the lettering above the three-story window that reads "Republic County Court House" are masonry openings that allow light to the fourth-floor jail. Access to the primary entrance is by a grand staircase flanked by stylized torcheres [Photograph #7]. The rear

According to the 1966 US Geological Survey Map of Belleville, Kansas, the city erected the Library prior to 1966 and the garage and storage facility after 1966.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

entrance is at grade level. A pair of handicapped accessible, metal frame doors replace the original metal doors at the primary entrance on the west façade; the rear doors appear to be original [Photographs #1 and #4].

The floor plan and space uses of the courthouse are typical of the majority of early twentieth century Kansas courthouses. Access to each floor is by the main staircase at the west side of the building, which empties into the main, north-south corridor [Photograph #8]. The first floor houses the primary administrative offices, such as the county clerk and registrar of deeds. The second floor houses the courtroom [Photograph #12], judge's office, jury room, and sheriff's office. Typical of the majority of Kansas county courthouses, whether revival or Modern Movement styles, a third floor, obscured from public view, houses the jail. In the Republic County Courthouse, there is a side staircase to the third floor from the sheriff's office and a second concealed staircase accesses the jail area.

The interior finishes are typical of those found in other Kansas courthouses designed in the Art Deco style. The staircase has marble treads and risers, and metal balustrades with stylized scroll motifs [*Photographs #8 and #11*]. The corridors feature terrazzo flooring, marble wainscoting, and plaster walls and ceilings. The original light fixtures and doors are also intact [*Photograph #9*]. The only alteration to the interior is the result of a renovation of the courtroom that included the removal of original light fixtures and the installation of wood paneling and dropped acoustical ceiling tiles [*Photograph #12*].

The Republic County Courthouse, despite the minor alterations, retains a high degree of architectural integrity. A pair of metal frame doors replaces the original doors at the primary entrance. However, the overall appearance of the exterior is not compromised, as the remaining exterior features such as the building form, materials, fenestration, window units, and ornamental details are intact. An interior renovation of the courtroom removed original light fixtures and obscured the original plaster ceiling; however, the original staircase, terrazzo flooring, marble wainscoting, doors, remaining light fixtures, and plaster walls and ceilings are intact. It is also in excellent condition because of the care and attention given to the maintenance of the structure by a succession of county commissioners. In addition to modifications to the entrance doors, alterations in the late 1980s for accessibility compliance included the construction of two handicapped accessible restrooms in the original women's lounge and the addition of an elevator in the janitor's closet that required the removal of original drinking fountains and a corner of the courtroom. Various landscape changes and the installation of parking, storage facilities, and a library impact the historic setting of the courthouse. The retention of a buffer of green lawn around the courthouse proper that is at grade with the street and paved parking areas mitigates the impact of the parking lots located in front of the primary elevation. The library building and auxiliary garage are on secondary elevations. These changes are reversible and if removed in the future, the original setting and spatial relationship of the Courthouse Square would be intact.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

PHOTO LOG

Photographer:

Date of Photographs:

Location of Negatives:

Dana Cloud

December 13, 1999

Kansas State Historical Society Cultural Resources Division

6425 S.W. 6th Avenue

Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

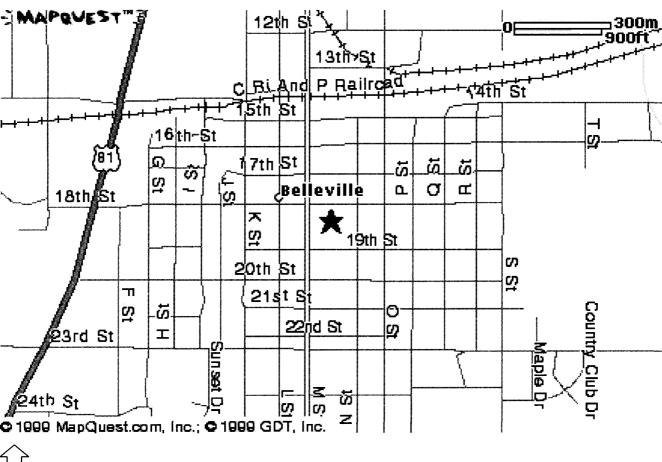
Photo #	Subject	Camera Direction
1		Б. /
1.	Exterior of Courthouse, West Façade	East
2.	Exterior of Courthouse	Northeast
3.	Exterior of Courthouse	Southwest
4.	Detail of West (Main) Entrance	East
5.	Detail of South Facade	North
6.	Detail of East Façade, Rear Entrance	West
7.	Torchere at West (Main) Entrance	North
8.	Main Staircase from Entrance Landing to First Floor	Southeast
9.	Main Corridor on First Floor	North
10.	Main Staircase, View of Courtroom Entrance Doors	Southeast
11.	Main Staircase Landing Between First and Second Floors	Northwest
12.	Main Courtroom on Second Floor	South

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

Figure 1: City Plan of Belleville, Kansas





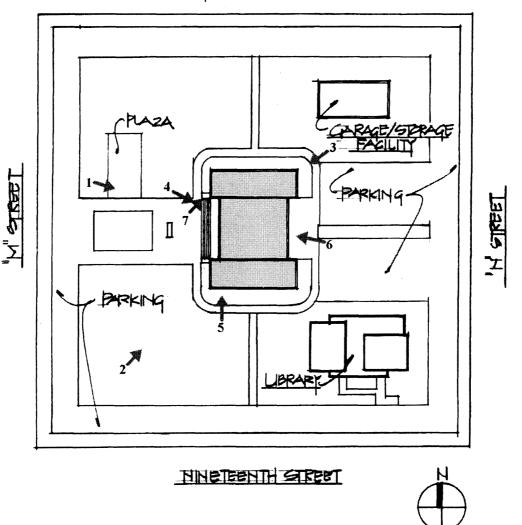
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

Figure 2: Existing Site Plan

EIGHTEENTH GREET





Approximate Scale: 1"=100'-0" - Boundary Line

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Republic County Courthouse, erected in 1939-1940, is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of POLITICS/GOVERNMENT and under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE for its associations with the development of county courthouses in Kansas and as one of the few Modern Movement courthouses in the state executed in the Art Deco style. The historic significance of the Republic County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses that are documented in the Multiple Property Form, "Historic County Courthouses of Kansas." In particular, the property has direct associations to the historic contexts established in the Multiple Property Form—"The Role of the County Courthouse in Kansas Communities 1856–1950," "Twentieth Century Kansas County Courthouses and Their Changing Use: 1900–1950," and the "Architecture of Kansas Courthouses 1861–1950." The property's association with the evolution of Kansas county courthouses and their design date to its construction in 1939-1940 and continues to 2000, the arbitrary 50-year cutoff date for determining eligibility of National Register properties. The property is significant for its association with public works projects funded under the Public Works Administration (PWA) in Kansas and is a rare example of the Art Deco style county courthouse in the state. The property reflects typical courthouse plans and siting of its period of construction, but its use of Modern Movement styling that came into common usage during the Great Depression is unique in the State's civic architecture. In addition to this property's retention of association and location, it has a high degree of architectural integrity and is a representative example of its property type. The property type and larger historic contexts relating to the significance of the Republic County Courthouse are fully documented in the Multiple Property Form. The following commentary expands upon these larger contextual themes as they specifically relate to the Republic County Courthouse and documents the property's significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Republic County is located in north central Kansas on the Kansas-Nebraska state line. It has 13 small towns including Belleville, the county seat; Munden; Republic; Scandia; Rydal; Agenda; Talmo; and Norway. Highway 36 runs east and west through the middle of the county. Highway 81 runs north and south through the middle of the county, as well as through Belleville.

In 1868, the Governor of Kansas declared Republic County as an officially organized county and named the town of Pleasant Hill as the temporary county seat. An election in 1869 determined Belleville to be the permanent county seat. In 1870, the southern portion of the county petitioned for another election. The election again determined Belleville as the county seat, with Belleville receiving 166 votes; Scandia, 76 votes; and Saltmarsh, 62 votes.

In 1872, the town site of Belleville donated \$2,000 in town lots for the location of a county courthouse. The county matched grants of \$1,000 to construct a two-story, 24 foot by 50 foot, wood, frame structure that served as the first county courthouse. In 1880, a third attempt to petition for another election to determine the county seat failed.

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In December 1885, a new, three-story, masonry courthouse replaced the original wood, frame courthouse. Architect George Ropes and the construction firm of Hulse, Moses and Ulrich Brothers designed and built the new courthouse for \$24,344.

In 1938, a fire destroyed this brick and limestone structure and the county commissioners submitted hastily assembled specifications for a new structure to the regional office of the Public Works Administration in Fort Worth, Texas for financing.

The agency approved awarding a grant for 45 percent of the construction cost. At this point, careful consideration of the county's present and anticipated needs led to the development of an Art Deco style courthouse erected at a cost of \$250,532. The architectural firm of Mann & Company of Hutchinson, Kansas designed the courthouse with L. S. Nelson serving as the architectural superintendent. Lawrence Peterson's Peterson Construction of Salina, Kansas received the construction contract. In order to provide the local share of the cost of the building, the county collected on the insurance for the burned structure. To avoid issuing bonds for additional funds, the commissioners went to the state supreme court to obtain approval of their proposal to issue three-year taxanticipation warrants. A one-mill levy was included in the county budget for 1939 and the county levied a similar tax during 1940 and 1941, at which time the building was paid for in full. The courthouse was dedicated on December 18, 1939. Funding sources included:

PWA Grant	\$ 112,936.00
Insurance Collected	48,662.19
County Levies	<u>88,934.76</u>
Total Funding	\$ 250,532.95

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Republic County Courthouse is a significant example of the second and third generation courthouses erected in the early twentieth century in Kansas. These buildings replaced aged, obsolete or damaged courthouse buildings erected in the state's earlier settlement period. It also has important associations with federally funded construction programs in Kansas during the Great Depression and reflects the typical PWA grant project that funded large construction projects that employed skilled workers and benefited the public.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Republic County Courthouse is architecturally significant as an example of the Kansas county courthouses designed by the architectural firm of Mann & Company. Arthur R. Mann was born in Sheffield England in 1877. His family migrated to the United States and Hutchinson, Kansas in 1879. He entered the University of Kansas School of Engineering in 1899 and graduated in 1906. He first worked as the Lawrence city engineer, and later as an assistant engineer on the Topeka division of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. In 1908, Mann associated with C.A. Kelso and T. M. Gerow in the practice of architecture and engineering. The following year,

Author Unknown, Handwritten Notes. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

² "Dedicatory Program of the Republic County Courthouse, Belleville, Kansas." (Belleview, KS: Republic County Board of County Commissioners, 18 December 1939), 1, 4.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

he took a correspondence course in architecture. Kelso left the firm in 1913 and Gerow in 1923; after which, the firm became Mann and Company, Architects and Engineers. In 1932, Mann's son, Robert, a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Architecture, joined the firm. The firm was noted for its work in the design of schools, churches, hospitals, and commercial and civic buildings.

Mann's firm designed and rehabilitated five Kansas county courthouses between 1923 and 1939–1940 [Figure 3: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by Mann & Company]. The rehabilitation of the Pratt County Courthouse, originally designed in 1909–1910 by George P. Washburn, was Mann & Company's first Kansas courthouse commission. A fire in 1923 destroyed the hipped roof and upper portion of the structure, which was similar in design to Washburn's Butler County Courthouse. Mann's redesign of the structure resulted in a hybrid Beaux Arts/Classical Revival style structure with a flat roof. This courthouse and the Scott County Courthouse (c.1924), also designed in a similar style, reflect Mann & Company's earlier work. The firm's later work reflects a shift from the classical design idioms to Modern Movement styles. Their work during this period includes the Stafford County Courthouse (1928–1929), Lane County Courthouse (1930–1931), and Republic County Courthouse (1939–1940). Each of these latter three courthouses are unique in design, yet reflect the transition from classicism to the Modern Movement.³ The Republic County Courthouse is the last Kansas courthouse the firm designed and is an important component to understanding the firm's evolution as designers of civic buildings.

Although streamlined versions of the classically inspired courthouses continued to be built throughout the 1930s, the Republic County Courthouse is significant as an example of the emergence at this time of courthouse designs inspired by the Moderne Movement in general and, in particular, the Art Deco style. As such, it is associated with the functional design of courthouses erected in Kansas and other states that included the use of linear, hard-edged compositions that accented verticality and featured stylized geometrical decoration. It also reflects the important role of state and federal relief programs in introducing and promulgating the simplified design and ornament that evolved from the streamlined Moderne style. As part of the employment and public work programs initiated during the Great Depression years, the WPA and PWA stimulated the spread of these modern architectural forms throughout the country. During this period, architects worked almost exclusively on government funded projects such as dams, bridges, parks, schools, stadiums, post offices, city halls, courthouses, and fire and police stations. The federal programs' use of simple and cost efficient designs based on the new modern style spread the style throughout the country, particularly in the Midwest—the area hit hardest by hard times and drought, and the recipient of the largest number of construction grants.

The Republic County Courthouse is also architecturally significant for its retention of its original floor plan configuration and hierarchy of space that is typical of many early twentieth century Kansas courthouses. Kansas courthouses of this period are generally defined by three or four floors, which have a hierarchy of functions that are located off a main corridor and accessed by one or more staircases. The ground floor is either at grade level or slightly sunken and houses the auxiliary functions such as the boiler room, facility manager's offices, toilets, and

³ Julie A. Wortman, *LEGACIES: Kansas' Older County Courthouses*, Kansas State Historical Society: Topeka, Kansas, 1981.

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storage. The finishes of this floor are often not as elaborate as the upper, more public floors. The first floor, which is the most highly utilized floor, is generally elevated from grade level and approached by an exterior grand staircase. The first floor houses offices frequently utilized by the public such as the county clerk, register of deeds, county treasurer, engineer, appraiser and county commissioners' offices. The second floor houses the courtroom, judge's office, jury room, and the sheriff and court clerk's offices. The courtroom is nearly always on the opposite side of the primary entrance, just opposite of the central grand staircase, and is 1½ or two stories in height. The third floor, which historically housed the jail, is typically not as obvious from the exterior and is occasionally part of the roofline. The Republic County Courthouse retains this hierarchy of space and the ground floor through third floor configurations; including the jail on the third floor, which is screened by the "Republic County Court House" lettering at the parapet on the primary façade.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Republic County Courthouse Belleville, Kansas

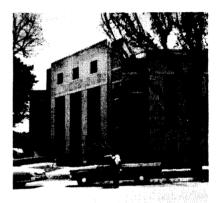
Figure 3: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by Mann & Company



Pratt County 1923



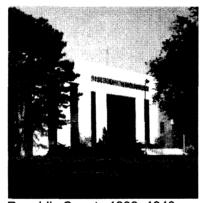
Scott County 1924



Stafford County 1928-1929



Lane County 1930-1931



Republic County 1939-1940

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Author Unknown, Handwritten Notes. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

"Dedicatory Program of the Republic County Courthouse, Belleville, Kansas." Belleview, KS: Republic County Board of County Commissioners, 18 December 1939.

Wortman, Julie A. LEGACIES: Kansas' Older County Courthouses. Kansas State Historical Society: Topeka, Kansas, 1981.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northwest Quarter of Section 2 in Township 3S of Range 3W of the 6^{th} P.M. of the County. The property is bounded to the west by "M" Street, to the North by Eighteenth Street, to the east by "N" Street and to the south by Nineteenth Street.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the property is defined by 18th Street on the north, H Street on the east, 19th Street on the South and M Street on the west. These boundaries define the historic dimensions of the courthouse lot, and although there have been changes and construction on the original courthouse lot, the size of the building and its central location continue to convey the original physical associations with the setting.