

PH0672404

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 10 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 19 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Central National Bank (preferred name)

AND/OR COMMON

Topeka Bank and Trust

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

701-703 Kansas Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2, Martha Keys

STATE

Kansas

-- VICINITY OF

CODE

20

COUNTY

Shawnee

CODE

177

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Topeka State Bank and Trust Co., John Finden, President

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P. O. Box 56

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66603

-- VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

June 26, 1974

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

The Central National Bank building, now the Topeka Bank and Trust Company building, was designed in the Neo-Classical style. It is a two story structure with a basement and measures 50 feet along the Kansas avenue facade, 150 feet along Seventh street and is 41 feet high. The building was constructed of re-inforced concrete and steel and faced with a buff colored Bedford stone. The building which faces east and fronts on Kansas avenue is located in the banking district of Topeka and is on a traditional site. The portico of the east facade is supported by four Ionic columns and two piers on a granite base. The entablature is unorthodox with a decorated frieze; there are rosettes on the half module points on the uppermost cyma recta below which are the ovolo, dentils, cyma reversa and astragal. Above the cornice is a solid balustrade decorated with festoons in relief and a cartouche. A recessed facade stands behind this portico. The main entrance which is located on this facade is centered between the columns. Above the door is an entablature embellished with a fascia, ovolo, fascia, cyma reversa, and astragal. The entablature is supported by consoles and underneath on the architrave are four rosettes. Surmounting the entablature is a carved stone eagle. There are plate glass windows centered on either side of the door. Above these windows are roundels with the symbols of the two original occupying financial institutions. The three windows on the second story are aligned with the openings on the first floor. Below their sills runs a continuous band of Greek fret moulding.

The north facade on Seventh street has also been finished with the Bedford stone. There is a fairly steep grade on this part of the site, allowing a light well for part of the basement floor. Two wide Doric pilasters indicate the first bay of this facade. A window has been centered in this bay and the moulding details are continued from the east facade of the building in the balustrade and entablature to the end of this bay. The end of this bay is marked by a fluted Roman Doric pilaster which begins a new module. There is a series of seven fluted Doric pilasters separating six large windows on each floor. The balustrade above the cornice reflects this change in the bays with a solid balustrade above the pilaster alternating with balusters above the windows. The final bay of this facade is again defined by two wide pilasters but contains two windows on each floor. There is also an entrance into the basement level in this bay.

The Bedford stone facade continues around the corner to the west facade which backs onto an alley. The stone facade stops after several feet and the wall is continued with a pale yellow brick. The window lintels and sills and an indication of the cornice height are defined with plain, dressed stone. There are three windows on the second story, five on the first and four windows and an entrance on the basement floor. The south facade is a shared wall and has been constructed of brick.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

7.

The interior lobby is trimmed with Travertine, which is also the flooring material. The second vestibule is trimmed with Tennessee tavenell marble. The stairway on the right in this vestibule leads up to two offices. The stairway on the left leads down to the safety deposit vaults in the basement. The balustrades of these stairways are of tavenell marble alternated with bronze balusters.

The banking room measures 45 feet by nearly 100 feet in depth. The ceiling at its highest point is 35 feet high and has a slight vault decorated with coffered hexagonals in which are set rosettes of gold and cream. The walls of this room are Zenitherm, a special composition material that is resistant to heat and cold and sound absorbant. High up on the walls are medallions of golden veined St. Genevieve marble. The counters in the middle of the room are also made from this marble. The frieze in this room reads, "The Bank is the Promoter of all Industry;" "The Bulwark of Agriculture and Manufacturing;" "The Distributor of Funds for all Enterprises;" "The Bank is the Guardian of the Home;" "Accepts and Executes the Sacred Trusts of Firms and Individuals and Encourages Thrift." Lighting comes from three chandeliers of wrought iron and bronze. Looking toward the front of the building from the banking floor, two pillars of St. Genevieve marble support a small balcony that is flanked by candlelights.

Another room is entered from the back of the banking room through pillars of St. Genevieve marble which support a balcony that is a duplicate of the one over the main entrance to the banking room. In back of the balcony is a large clock set in marble with bronze hands and numerals. On the other side of the pillars are bronze and glass doors on either side of which is heavy bronze filigree work. On the left of this entrance is a stairway to the clerical department on a mezzanine floor. This floor looks out over the banking floor and has a balustrade of bronze, French grey and light blue, the metal bars of the balustrade being set in St. Genevieve marble with alternating bars of that stone. Lighting the forepart of the mezzanine floor is a chandelier similar to but smaller than those in the main banking room.

The exterior of the building was floodlighted in 1939 with a strip of neon tubing above the cornice. Architect W. D. Wight of the Kansas City, Missouri, firm of Wight and Wight, supervised the project. The north side was lighted with five floodlights mounted below the sidewalk level. The front of the building was lighted with four lights mounted high behind the columns.

In 1974-1975 the building underwent renovation and remodeling. The exterior was sandblasted and new bronze double-pane windows and doors were installed. Metal signs running most of the length of the east and north facades were removed. The tellers' cages on the interior were moved from

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE

---

7.

the north wall to the south wall. The floor which was originally linoleum has been covered in places with carpet. Planters have been placed between the columns on the exterior. A bronze colored time and temperature sign has been added to the east facade.

9.

Markley, Walt, Builders of Topeka (Topeka, Capper Printing Co., 1934), pp. 323-327  
Remembrances in Wood, Brick and Stone (Topeka-Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, 1974), pp. 172, 173.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES                      1926                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Wight and Wight

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Central National Bank building was erected in 1926-1927 by the Central National Bank and the Central Trust Co.

The Central National Bank's history can be traced back to 1882 through a number of name and ownership changes. The Central Trust Co. was formed in 1914 by some of the same people who had a controlling interest in the bank. The two institutions were always located at one of the corners of the Kansas avenue and Seventh street intersection: originally on the northeast corner but after 1887 at the southeast corner. In 1926 the land at the southwest corner was purchased and an existing building was razed.

Plans for the new banking facility were prepared by the Kansas City, Mo., firm of Wight and Wight. J. R. Burrow, Jr., vice-president of both financial institutions, announced on February 10, 1926, that the general contract for the building had been let to F. M. Spencer and Son of Topeka with a projected completion date of December 1, 1926. However, the building was not ready for occupancy until mid-April, 1927.

When it was opened, the Central National Bank building was the most modern up-to-date banking facility in Topeka. Erected at an estimated cost of \$250,000, it was regarded as one of the most attractive business buildings in the city.

The Central National Bank occupied the building until it merged with the National Bank of Topeka to form the First National Bank of Topeka around 1957. Topeka State Bank moved into the vacated quarters in 1959 after 54 years at 735 Kansas avenue. In 1974-1975 the building was renovated and remodeled. The exterior was cleaned and some rearranging was done on the interior. However, the building's classical appearance was retained. The name of the present occupant was changed to Topeka Bank and Trust in 1975.

The Central National Bank building was the work of one of the Midwest's prominent twentieth century architectural firms, Wight and Wight. The building's distinctive appearance has made it a landmark on Topeka's principal business street. It has also been called the best execution of classical design in a Topeka commercial building.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Bank Retains Traditional Appearance," Topeka Capital-Journal, June 22, 1975.  
 "Bank to Celebrate Renovation, Name Change," Topeka Capital-Journal, Nov. 30, 1975.  
 "Central Bank Building Is Floodlighted," Topeka Journal, June 21, 1939.  
 "Central Trust History a Story of Rapid Growth," Topeka Capital, Apr. 18, 1927.  
 "Contract Let for Central Bank Building," Topeka Capital, Feb. 10, 1926.  
 "Finest Banking Building in the City Open Soon," Topeka Journal, Apr. 16, 1927.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 268600 4325530  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey  
 Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society DATE January 6, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th Street TELEPHONE 913-296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Nyle H. Miller*

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE January 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *George F. ...*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE *9/19/96*

DATE *July 16, 1976*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER