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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 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 Western Union Building

Other names/site number Collins Building; KHRI #173-11076

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 154 N. Topeka Ave. not for publication

City or town Wichita vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Sedgwick Code 173 Zip code 67202

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

8-6-18

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:) _____

atavolusky

9/14/2018

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Business and Professional

Commerce/Trade: Professional

Industry/Processing/Extraction: Communications

Health Care: Clinic

Facility

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

foundation: Concrete

Movements: Commercial Style

walls: Terracotta

roof: Asphalt

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The Western Union Building is located at 154 N. Topeka Avenue in downtown Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. The two-story commercial building was built by Kansas City Contractor R.T. Collins in 1924¹ who had secured a 25-year lease with the Western Union Company. Western Union originally occupied the entire building and later occupied the corner storefront (158 N. Topeka) for more than fifty years.

Featuring a rectangular footprint, the building is three bays wide fronting Topeka Avenue and eight bays deep along 1st Street. The masonry load-bearing structure has brick perimeter walls, tile block partition walls and concrete columns and beams, floors and roof. Red brick is the exposed finish on the secondary east and south facades. The front facade features mottled cream-colored glazed terracotta panels with ornate detailing. The 1924 design of the Western Union Building reflects the traditional Commercial Style building common in the Progressive Era. Classified as a Two-Part Commercial Block with a clear distinction in the upper and lower facades, the terracotta facade is classically configured with two-story pilasters defining bays along the upper and lower facades. A simple cornice separates the upper and lower facades and defines the base of the parapet. Finely detailed terracotta panels feature ornate shields, urns and acanthus leaves on the upper facade as well as rope detailing on the pilasters around the masonry openings at each bay.

The Western Union Building retains its terracotta facade with few modifications. The primary exterior change was ca.1980s replacement of the upper windows and storefronts on the street facades. Secondary facades have few if any modifications and retain the original 3/3 DH metal windows. The original street entry, the lobby and main stairway remain intact on the ground floor as does the interior storefronts in the bay immediately east of the north entrance. Finishes in the public areas include terrazzo floors, plaster walls and ceilings, marble wainscoting and school-house style pendant light fixtures. The upper floor retains features and finishes that convey its historic design for commercial offices with doors, transoms and flanking windows in place at office entrances off the corridor.

Elaboration

Setting

Located at the southeast corner of 1st Street and Topeka Avenue, the Western Union Building is situated one block north of Douglas Avenue, downtown Wichita's major east/west thoroughfare. The north and west boundaries of the East Douglas Historic District begin southeast of the nominated property and extend four blocks to the east flanking Douglas Avenue. Additionally, there are prominent individual historic resources including the Scottish Rite Temple and the Orpheum Theater located northwest of the nominated property. Despite these historic surroundings, a number of contemporary office buildings, drive-in banks, and surface parking lots have compromised the historic context in the blocks around the Western Union Building. For this reason, the building is individually nominated.

The Western Union Building has a rectangular footprint facing west on Topeka Avenue. Measuring approximately 60' x 140' the building occupies the entire site bordered by N. Topeka and E. 1st Streets on the west and north respectively and by a mid-block alley on the east (Figure 2). A paved parking lot is located south of the building. There is parallel parking on 1st Street north of the building but no on-street parking on N. Topeka Ave. Public sidewalks run along the street facades on the north and west. Seven storefront bays span along the street facades including three bays (154-156-158) on Topeka Ave. and four bays (401-403-405-407) on 1st Street (See Figure 3 with Sanborn Map indicating historic configuration with addresses). The 158 N. Topeka address was the corner storefront with a canted entry, occupied by Western Union for nearly 60 years.

Exterior

The Western Union Building is free-standing on a corner parcel. While the first floor has a rectangular footprint filling the entire site, the second floor is a rear-facing U-shaped configuration which allows a light well for upper-floor offices and skylights on the first-floor in the center of the south side of the building. The roofs are flat or tapered and obscured by the parapet. The existing roofing is rolled asphalt. A large square chimney rises above the roofline near the center of the east

¹ *Wichita Eagle* (morning edition) 9 Jun 1924. 10.

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side of the building, venting the original boiler. A tile coping is in place on the brick secondary facades while the primary street facades have a terracotta cap matching the facade.

The north and west facades are terracotta over a gray marble base. Smooth blocks comprise the base facade with projecting cornices and ornately detailed panels and trim. Full-height rectangular piers divide the facades into bays, each with a storefront at street level and a set of Chicago style windows on the upper facade. The masonry openings at each bay feature a rope trim around the inside edge. Although the existing storefronts and windows are replacements, the original terracotta openings are intact unaltered. The upper windows feature a terracotta pier dividing the upper windows into three parts. The window piers feature ornate detailing of Classical derivation with urns and acanthus leaves. Square panels featuring ornate shields are centrally located in the area between the storefront and upper windows. Ornate panels with acanthus leaves are located along the parapet above a projecting cornice band that features subtle detailing with an inverted tulip pattern.

The only major alterations on the exterior of the building have been the ca. 1980s replacement of storefronts and upper windows on the street facade. As seen in a photo of the building shortly after completion, the original windows were 1/1 units flanking a fixed center pane with transoms over each (Figure 4). The replacement windows are full-height aluminum units (no transom) in sets of three in the original masonry openings of each bay on the upper facade. The storefronts are compatible in scale and retain historic proportions of base, window and transom but are dark bronze aluminum-framed units with tinted glass. Based on historic records including a historic photo, Sanborn Maps and City Directories, each of the storefront bays on Topeka Ave. and the east four storefronts on 1st Street likely had a street entrance. Today two of the three storefront bays on the west facade have street entrances; the center bay does not. None of the storefront bays along the north facade have street entrances, ground-floor offices in the east half of the building are accessed from the lobby and interior corridor. The bulkhead of the replacement storefronts is concrete closely matching the color of the original gray marble.

The fifth bay from the east, on the north facade is the entrance to the upper floor. This bay is recessed slightly with marble wainscoting and base and a terrazzo floor. The door is contemporary matching the adjacent storefront bays with an aluminum-framed glass door with glass sidelight.

Unlike the street facades, the secondary sides of the building are variegated red brick with a tile parapet cap. The rear/south facade has three bays defined by the center light well on the upper floor. The west bay is a solid brick wall with no openings. The center bay has no openings on the ground level but has openings on all three sides of the rear-facing U. The east bay has no openings on the lower level but has three windows on the upper level. The east alley facade is asymmetrical with varying window and door openings that do not align on the upper and lower floors. There are five windows on the upper level, the north of which has been infilled and a fire door installed. The non-original door accesses a metal fire escape at the north end of the east facade. The first floor has two windows on the south end and a pair of metal doors that provide access to an interior basement stair. A single door is centrally located corresponding to a corridor that accesses ground-floor offices in the east half of the building. Two small horizontal windows at the north end of the east facade have formerly been replaced with a fixed sash in the historic opening. There are three-light hopper units in place at basement openings on the east facade. Other than the two replacements at east basement windows, the secondary facades retain the original metal windows in two primary styles. The windows are 3/3 double-hung sashes on both floors; the upper windows have three-light transoms above the 3/3 windows.

The building was designed to be eight stories tall with only the first two floors built at the original construction in 1924. When Collins sold the building in 1926, purchasers announced plans to building the additional six floors as seen in the rendering in Figure 5.²

Interior

Historically, the ground floor appears to have been designed to accommodate seven businesses, each with a storefront providing street access. The storefront bay immediately east of the north entry retains interior storefronts. It is not known if the other north storefront bays originally had interior storefronts. According to news reports at the building's completion in 1924, Western Union was to occupy the entire building.³ Sanborn Maps label 158 N. Topeka, the corner storefront "Telegraph Office" and additional businesses are listed at the Topeka Ave. and 1st Street addresses through the years. The building was remodeled ca. 1984 after Western Union vacated the property and the existing storefronts appear to date to that remodeling as does the existing first-floor plan configuration. The existing building retains the storefront bays on

² "\$200,000 Paid for Building." *Wichita Eagle*. 5 Jun 1926. 1. See also Figures 4 and 5 at the end of the nomination.

³ *Wichita Eagle* (morning edition) 9 Jun 1924. 10.

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the exterior but only two bays (154 and 158 N. Topeka) retain street access. The storefront bay east of the north entrance is a single office accessed from its original interior storefront off the lobby. Bays 6-7-8 (counting from the W) have formerly been combined for a single tenant with individual offices along the north wall. Office space has also been partitioned on the south side of the east half of the building, both accessed from a central corridor that extends east from the lobby. The primary circulation remains intact in an L-shaped configuration that extends from the north entrance and lobby with a corridor extending to the east off the lobby to the main stair near the center of the south side of the building. A conference room is located off the south end of the lobby, east of the main stair. The conference room has contemporary finishes but retains skylights in original openings. A non-historic corridor extends from the stair lobby/corridor to the east end of the building providing access to the offices in the east half of the ground floor. A stair between the basement and first floor is located at the east end and provides access to the basement mechanical space. The east corridor as well as the offices throughout the first floor, has contemporary finishes that include sheetrock, suspended acoustical tile ceilings and carpet or tile. Aside from the storefront and entry bays on the exterior of the building, the significant historic features on the ground floor are the configuration and finishes in the lobby and corridor. These features include interior storefronts, marble wainscoting, plaster walls and ceiling, and terrazzo floors. The stair retains its original configuration on the first floor with metal railings and newel posts.

The main stair provides access to the second floor near the center of the east half of the floor on the south with restrooms located east of the stair. The stairway has formerly been enclosed (likely for fire separation) at the second floor only; the stair itself remains open. The corridor extends east and west at the top of the stair terminating at both ends with doors into offices on the east and west ends. Corridor finishes include terrazzo floors and plaster walls and ceilings.

The west and north sides of the building are generally one large open space with some partitions in place along the south wall in the southwest corner of the floor. The existing corridor doors also suggest size and configuration of original offices and it is clear where former partition walls have been removed in three locations in the north half of the building. Smaller offices are in place at the east end and in the southeast corner of the floor. Walls have been removed between offices and in the restrooms on the south side of the floor. The existing condition of the upper floor suggests a former remodeling that was begun and not completed. It is unclear if the existing corridor with individual office doors reflects the original configuration used by Western Union or an early remodel to accommodate multiple office tenants on the upper floor.

The original/early wall partitions were tile block with plaster finish. Despite the alterations to office spaces, the corridor configuration remains intact with wood doors, transoms and windows. Terrazzo flooring similar to the 1st floor lobby is extant in the 2nd floor corridor. Additionally, plaster walls and ceilings are generally in place throughout although plaster has been removed below the windows on perimeter walls. The floor is a unique setup with small blocks of wood set tightly together with no mechanical attachment. It appears that this was the original subfloor likely designed for sound control and insulation on the concrete floor slab. The existing flooring is vinyl tile over a subfloor on top of the blocks. Plaster ceilings are in fair to poor condition having formerly been exposed with removal of suspended acoustical tile ceilings in most areas of the second floor. Some doors and trim retains a stained and varnished finish but most wood trim has a painted finish. Historic schoolhouse-style pendant light fixtures are present at select locations on the first and second floors.

An unfinished partial basement is extant at the east end of the building accessed by a stair in the southeast corner. This space was designed to serve as mechanical space with the original steam boiler and continues to house mechanical equipment.

Integrity

The Western Union Building retains integrity of location, feeling and association conveying its original design and commercial function. While the building housed Western Union's telegraphy equipment and offices, their service business to send and receive telegraphs was continually located in the storefront space on Topeka Avenue. Home to Western Union for sixty years, the existing building is locally known and called the Western Union Building. It retains a moderate degree of integrity of materials and workmanship, compromised somewhat by the replacement windows and storefronts and modifications to the configuration and finishes in the offices space. While there have been no changes to the building footprint and site, the context around the building has experienced major changes through the years compromising the integrity of setting.

Most of the primary character-defining features of the building's exterior remain to convey the building's original design: the terracotta and brick facades, building form and massing, masonry openings, and the original metal windows on the secondary facades. The primary exterior alteration was the ca. 1980s installation of replacement windows and storefronts

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on the street facades. The replacement units are compatible in style and proportions although the dark color of the frames make the windows and storefronts stand out against the light-colored terracotta.

The basic plan configuration and finishes at the building entrance, lobby, main stairway, and corridors remain with few modifications. Extant distinctive interior features and finishes include the original marble wainscoting in the foyer and terrazzo floors in first-floor and second-floor corridors. Distinctive features on the upper floor include wood-framed doors and windows, and operable transoms at office entrances off the central corridor. Interior alterations include modification and removal of partition walls and construction of some new partition walls within the commercial and office spaces. Suspended ceilings have been installed in most ground-floor commercial spaces. Plaster walls and ceilings are extant but with damage at perimeter walls and on most ceilings from prior attachment of suspended ceilings and HVAC. Despite these modifications, the Western Union Building retains a significant degree of historic and architectural integrity.

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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

Communications

Period of Significance

1924-1968

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Arthur Frederick McAdams (architect)

Roy T. Collins (builder)

Period of Significance (justification)

At the time the building was constructed in 1924, owner R.T. Collins had secured a 25-year lease with Western Union. Collins sold the Western Union lease with the building two years later. Western Union remained in the building for nearly sixty years ultimately closing in 1984. The period of significance spans from the building's construction in 1924 to 1968, the fifty-year cut off for historic significance when no specific date warrants a specified date or period for terminating significance.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Western Union Building also known as the Collins Building, erected in 1924 at the corner of 1st Street and Topeka Avenue in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Communications. The building is significant for its association with the Western Union Telegraph Company during the early to mid-twentieth century when the company dominated wire communications in the United States. News of the Collins Building's opening in the *Wichita Eagle* stated that the building would serve as the relay center for message traffic for most of Kansas and northern Oklahoma.⁴

While Western Union was known for its iconic headquarters in New York City and its regional office constructed in Kansas City in 1920, the company regularly leased space for their offices in cities across the United States. The building at 154 N. Topeka Avenue in downtown Wichita that would become known as the Western Union Building was designed by architect Arthur Frederick McAdams and built by Roy T. Collins, both of Kansas City. Western Union had been in Wichita since 1876 and had outgrown their offices in the Sedgwick Building. Collins had secured a 25-year lease from Western Union prior to beginning construction.

Western Union and Wichita were inextricably linked for over 100 years, sixty of which were conducted from the building at 154 N. Topeka. In that time local newspapers document at least three major changes in methods of telegraphy operation, each time due to further mechanization, likely leading to downsizing personnel and space requirements.⁵ Western Union closed its Wichita office in the nominated building in 1984 and sent its last telegram in 2006. The period of significance for the Western Union Building begins with construction in 1924 and spans to 1968, the fifty-year threshold for historic significance.

Elaboration

Western Union and the Communications Revolution

On May 24, 1844, Samuel F. B. Morse transmitted the first official message, "What Hath God Wrought" to his partner Alfred Vail, from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. via his electromagnetic telegraph. Morse, along with many other scientists and inventors, had been working with the idea of using electricity to transmit information for more than a decade. In the wake of Morse's message, *The Baltimore Sun* declared, "Prof. Morse's telegraph has already, during the first week of its operations, been proved to be of the greatest public importance. Time and space has been completely annihilated."⁶ The revolution had begun. The first commercial telegraph line was constructed only two years later between Washington, D.C. and New York City along the railway line by Morse's company, The Magnetic Telegraph Company.⁷

By 1851, a year in which more than fifty telegraph companies were operating in the eastern United States, Western Union was formed in Albany, NY, then called The New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company. The new company's primary focus was to build a line from Buffalo to St. Louis as a terminus for further westward expansion.⁸ Prior to rail, letters could take weeks or months to reach their destination. As rail lines expanded up and down the coasts the time shrank; however, cross country mail was a different matter. As hostilities heated up between the states, it became clear that a transcontinental system was required because war was coming. In 1860 Congress passed the Pacific Telegraph Act, which paved the way for the construction of a transcontinental line and funded an intervening measure that became known as the Pony Express. The message service provided by the Pony Express, operated for only eighteen months, April 1860 until October 1861, when Western Union finished linking their operations between Missouri and California. The trip that had taken riders ten days was reduced to only minutes by telegraph wire.

⁴ *Wichita Eagle* (morning edition) 9 Jun 1924. 10.

⁵ "Western Union Employee Receives 45-year Pin." *Wichita Eagle* (evening ed.) 13 May 1962.

⁶ *The Baltimore Sun*. 31 May 1844. 2. Accessed on newspapers.com on 12 Apr 2018.

⁷ "Western Union Telegraph Company Records: Historical and Background Information." The Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives accessed on 26 Apr 2018 at <https://sova.si.edu/details/NMAH.AC.0205?s=0&n=10&t=C&q=&i=0#ref1684>.

⁸ Western Union Telegraph Company. 1851-1901. (1901) A Retrospect. Albany, NY: Western Union Telegraph Co. 16.

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In 1873 *Harper's Weekly* had described the telegraph as two hundred thousand miles of wire connecting every center of population in the country "converging from every direction to certain central knots like Chicago, St. Louis...thence arranged as to bind every city and town to all its neighbors, near and far."⁹ Initially owning 500 miles of telegraph wire, within fifteen years Western Union controlled more than 75,000 miles of wire, most of which it gained through acquisition of competitors.¹⁰ By its 50th anniversary, that number had grown to more than a million miles of telegraph wire in the United States.¹¹ From the beginning telegraph had a symbiotic relationship with rail. Telegraph poles were placed alongside railroad tracks and in some areas built simultaneously. It is not surprising then that railroad was the earliest adopter of the new technology. As early as 1851, rail companies used telegraphy to route trains. In turn, Western Union trained railroad clerks and depot masters to be telegraph operators and provided free telegraph service. Railroad company employees were asked to watch the line, straighten and reset poles, mend wires, and report to the telegraph company.¹²

By December 1858, the Western Union Company completed a line to Kansas City. The company purchased the St. Louis and Missouri River Telegraph Company and opened its first telegraph office in Kansas City, Missouri on October 12, 1865.¹³ By 1876 Western Union had an office in Wichita.¹⁴ Wichita's economic growth was heavily dependent on agriculture as well as with manufacturers, department stores, and banks, and wholesalers trading across the country and around the world. These businesses provided a framework for commerce in the city, with Western Union serving their communication and money transfer needs. Wichita's grain market likely used wire services to locate buyers, execute sales, ship product, and to transfer funds.¹⁵ The relationship with rail was vital as each railroad operating in Wichita had its own telegraph office including Midland, Rock Island, Missouri Pacific, Orient, and Frisco.¹⁶ One indication of the importance of the relationship was that while Morse code used less and less, in 1959 the Wichita office still had twenty-two Morse code lines because it remained the preferred method of communication for railroads. The service was terminated on April 23, 1960.¹⁷

One of the biggest social changes resulting from the relationship between rail and telegraphy was the alteration the concept of time. In 1865, the United States Naval Observatory began using the telegraph to transmit time signals to the Navy Department and later to Western Union, which used the telegraph lines to provide accurate time to railroads across the nation. The company also synchronized their main office clocks in larger cities by telegraph and then selling subscriptions to a time service wherein subscribers received synchronizing signals every hour. Railroads in the United States, three-fourths of which had agreements with Western Union, began synchronizing their times with the Western Union time.¹⁸ This standardization of time, made possible through Western Union telegraph, eventually changed the nation's perspective on speed, punctuality, and timeliness. With standardized time and a focus on timekeeping, a social revolution in work habits and performance occurred.¹⁹ In Wichita by 1876, the whistle of the City Mills was regulated by railroad time, which was synchronized by telegraph every few days.²⁰

By 1880 Western Union controlled eighty percent of U.S. message traffic.²¹ Part of Western Union's success lay in its partnerships with other companies. As early as the 1860s the Associated Press (AP) provided content while the telegraph provided the platform for disseminating news. Formed in 1846 in New York City, the AP collected news around the country, as well as European news from ships arriving on the East Coast.²² This infusion of information gave rise to daily papers that became wholly dependent on AP for content empowering the AP with an ability to dictate terms and price. In

⁹ Harper's Weekly August 1873 accessed online at <http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org/library/files/pdf/Harper1873Telegraph.pdf> accessed on 13 Apr 2018. 332-333.

¹⁰ *Retrospect*. 32.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 32.

¹² *Telegraph and Telephone Age*. New York. 1917, 53, accessed on Google Books.

¹³ Ambler and Schwenk. 17.

¹⁴ *Wichita Beacon*. 30 July 1884, 3 and "Lloyd B. Ferrell." *Wichita Beacon*. 15 June 1928. 15.

¹⁵ Ambler and Schwenk described this relationship between Kansas City and Western Union. Their idea was modified here to fit the realities of Wichita commerce. See *Kansas City Western Union Building NR Nomination*, 17.

¹⁶ The railroads listed were reported in the local newspapers to have had a telegraph office and a relationship with Western Union.

¹⁷ "Western Union Manager Started as Messenger." *Wichita Eagle* (morning ed.) 29 Jul 1960.

¹⁸ Cathy Ambler and Sally Schwenk. *Kansas City, Missouri Western Union Building National Register Nomination*. Washington, DC: National Parks Service. 2002. 14.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 14.

²⁰ *Wichita Eagle* 27 Jan 1876. 3.

²¹ Madeleine Schachter, Joel Laurence Kurtzberg. *Law of Internet Speech* (2008) Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press. 29, accessed on Google Books.

²² Joshua Wolff. *Western Union and the Creation of the American Corporate Order, 1845-1893*. 2015. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 121.

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Wichita that meant in order to succeed as a daily newspaper, access to telegraph-provided news was a necessity. In September 1879 the *Wichita Daily Beacon* was founded with the understanding that the paper would be provided with AP news from the telegraph office in Kansas City. Contracts were signed, agreements were made, but as the newspaper went to press on its fifth day of publication it received notice that it had been granted access to the news report to be delivered only by 5 pm each day, much too late for the evening news.²³ Western Union claimed that they feared it would "tie up the lines" during the busiest part of the day. When the deal fell through the *Daily Beacon* ceased publication, explaining in an editorial:

*We have, after due consideration, determined to discontinue the publication of the daily until such a time as the proper facilities will be secured by the telegraph company to give us the evening dispatches at the same time they are furnished to the evening papers of Kansas City, Atchison and Topeka.*²⁴

Daily service resumed in the fall of 1884.²⁵

Perhaps the most monumental invention related to the telegraph was the stock ticker. In 1867 Edward Calahan invented the machine that used the telegraph to broadcast real-time financial information from the stock exchange to subscribers. The service soon appeared in hotels, saloons and betting parlors across America.²⁶ Seeing a valuable market, Western Union began to lease circuits to press associations and stockbrokers. By the turn of the century, nearly all brokers leased private circuits as well as tickers to transmit orders and quotations between branch offices and exchange floors.²⁷ By the 1880s, only forty years after the first telegram was sent by Samuel Morse, Western Union asserted that only two percent of its traffic was from private customers; the rest came from businesses engaged in commodity trading, futures markets and racetracks.²⁸ The stock ticker and leased-wire networks "formed the backbone of modern American finance capitalism."²⁹

The process of transmitting a telegram was aptly described in the *Kansas City, Missouri Western Union Building National Register Nomination*:

*Senders wrote messages by hand and Morse operators keyed the message in code to a transmission wire. Another operator received the coded message and translated the message back into words. The receiving operator then routed the message to the recipient. If the wire message came from a great distance, it passed through several locations within the Western Union network. For example, once a message reached its city destination, it might go through another branch office before being delivered.*³⁰

Early telegraph machines were capable of only transmitting or receiving one message at a time. Thomas Edison, seeing the need for more capability and having been beaten to the patent for the duplex machine, created the first quadruplex system that could send and receive two messages simultaneously. In 1874 he sold the rights to his invention to Western Union for \$10,000. Transmission remained labor intensive requiring an operator to translate a message into Morse code, tapping it out while at the other end an operator completed the reverse process. Edison set out to automate the process as well and when he succeeded he sold his invention to Jay Gould, owner of Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Co and Western Union for \$40,000.³¹

By 1905 the Vibroplex "Bug" machine further sped the process by automatically generating strings of one of the two pulses, allowing more telegraphic traffic in an hour with a "bug" than previously could be accomplished in a day with a key.³² As early as 1923, automated teletype machines were incorporated into the Wichita office. Operators used it to both type and send a customer's message. Those first slow machines, called "Morkrum" were replaced by "reperforators" in 1948. At the receiver's end, an operator used the machine to make a paper tape of the transmission for the telegram's recipient, or the teletypewriter operator could also reperforate received signals on a tape and these could be retransmitted and later typed again into written word.³³ With this new technology, messages could be keyed with city codes so that once

²³ *Wichita Beacon*. 10 Sep 1879. 2.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 2.

²⁵ *Wichita Beacon*. 18 Oct 1893. 2.

²⁶ Hochfelder, David. *The Telegraph in America, 1832–1920*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. 2012. 120.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Norvin Green. "Postal Telegraph Facilities," 28 Feb 1890, Western Union Collection, 4, as quoted in *Wolff*. 8.

²⁹ Hochfelder. 102.

³⁰ Ambler and Schwenk. 19.

³¹ Randall Stross, *The Wizard of Menlo Park*. New York: Three River's Press. 2007. 20.

³² Jim Thompson, "The Railroad Telegrapher." *Ozarks Watch* 7, No. 2 (Fall 1993 / Winter 1994) accessed on 13 Apr 2018 at <https://thelibrary.org/lochist/periodicals/ozarkswatch/ow702h.htm>.

³³ Ambler and Schwenk. 16.

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a message reached a hub facility like Kansas City, the operator would quickly reroute it by city code to its destination. Developed by Western Union, the reperforator system was used from 1948 to 1976. It was adopted by the United States Air Force in 1951.³⁴ By the early 1960s a "burster" printer replaced the reperforator.³⁵ The burster printer facilitated Western Union's move into yet another industry: public opinion. The service called, Personal Opinion Message (POM) Service, was a new concept allowing television or political audiences to register their feelings about a particular issue or program via telegram. When a subject was under debate whether in the Kansas Legislature or in Washington, D.C., thousands of messages would be received and automatically forwarded to the tapeless burster machine, six of which were installed in the Senate and House office buildings in Washington.³⁶ Each machine could receive messages relayed at 100 words per minute. Every Congressman had his own box where messages were bundled and picked up by his staff. The White House also has a burster machine and all messages are routed through a central office in the city. The system received its greatest test when John F. Kennedy was inaugurated and thousands of congratulatory messages were sent, including many from Wichita.

The telegraph played a significant role in Wichita as evidenced not only by the number of telegraph companies and their locations in the city, but also the ability of citizens to gain an education in telegraphy. In 1886 the Western Telegraph Institute was established followed by the Wichita Telegraph College, established in 1912. Within a few years there were eight schools across the state that provided telegraphy training, three of which were in Wichita.³⁷ At the Wichita Telegraph College students were educated in railway and other telegraphic work including training with the "most approved and modern apparatus and accessories."³⁸ Because of its location and market access Wichita was chosen as the location for the first commercial wireless telegraph in the central United States. The apparatus, capable of picking up radio waves, was installed on the roof of the Boston Store in February 1910.³⁹

On its 50th anniversary, Western Union published a retrospective in which they describe the role of telegraphy in the United States as the "application of electricity to business purposes."⁴⁰ Initially, Samuel Morse had seen the utility of the telegraph for governments and private individuals, but business services proved the greatest utility. Western Union's goal by the twentieth century was to provide "a fast premium service to primarily business customers."⁴¹ Cooperative ventures with railroads, hotels and businesses that relied upon speed of information were the mainstay of the company. Early in the twentieth century the rise of prominence of the telephone and its chief promoter, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T), was a staunch competitor to Western Union. The two fought many legal battles, but finally in 1908, AT&T acquired Western Union resulting in the benefit of sharing lines and ordering telegrams by telephone. Many saw the merger as an overwhelming monopoly and thus under threat of suit under the federal antitrust laws, AT&T separated from Western Union in 1913. Interestingly, in Topeka in the 1920s, Western Union provided a monitoring service that included burglar and fire alarms as well as requiring a company's security guards to send a signal to Western Union from a different area of a building every hour ensuring regular patrols of large companies and factories. According to reports an estimated \$20 million of Topeka property was guarded by Western Union.⁴²

One business innovation unveiled following WWII was a desk fax that allowed businesses to send and receive telegrams.⁴³ By the late 1960s Western Union's telegram business accounted for only about half of revenues, thus the company increased its focus on business services which led to the development of the Telex. Telex was a direct-dial teletype printer exchange for instant worldwide two-way communication available in 115 countries, including the United States.⁴⁴ It was a multiple address service that allowed a sender to communicate a single common message to as many as 100 subscribers at once.⁴⁵ In 1967 it generated \$32 million.⁴⁶ In short, it was the forerunner to email.

³⁴ G.S. Vernam (May 1958). "Automatic Telegraph Switching System Plan 55-A". *Transactions of the American Institute of Electric Engineers*. IEEE: 239–247.

³⁵ "Western Union Employee Receives 45-Year Pin." *Wichita Eagle (Evening Ed.)* 13 May 1962.

³⁶ "POM-High Speed Wichita Setup Helps Take America's Pulse." *Wichita Eagle (morning ed.)* 14 May 1961.

³⁷ Lewis Coe. *The Telegraph: A history of Morse's Invention and Its Predecessors in the United States* (2003) Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing Co.

³⁸ Connelley, William. *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*. Vol 4 (1918) Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co.1807.

³⁹ *Wichita Beacon*.16 Feb 1910. 5.

⁴⁰ *Retrospect*. 9.

⁴¹ Wolff. 8.

⁴² "Telegrams Not Whole Function of Western Union – Protector Too." *Topeka State Journal* 15 July 1922. 8.

⁴³ "Hobbies Influences Life of Telegraph Manager." *Wichita Eagle (Evening Ed.)* May 1961.

⁴⁴ Lubrano, Annteresa. *The Telegraph: How Technology Innovation Caused Social Change*. (2016) London: Taylor & Francis, 92.

⁴⁵ *Ibid*. 92.

⁴⁶ "Mergers" *Newsweek* 71 (1968). 326, accessed on Google Books.

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Western Union continued also to focus on enhancing the experience for private customers. The company offered the first money transfer (1871), the first photographic images telegraphed across the ocean from Europe to America (1920), first specialized messages including singing telegrams (1933), holiday greetings (1935), and in the late 1960s, Perfume-By-Wire, Melody-Grams, Candy-Grams, Dolly-Grams and Flowers by Western Union.⁴⁷ The company's "Operator 25" Service also provided the first opportunity for shoppers to compare prices and find a local distributor, a precursor to today's online shopping options.⁴⁸

Despite its advanced technological developments, Western Union messengers were a mainstay of the company. From small towns to big cities messenger boys (and messenger girls during wartime) were a common sight. Messengers were highly coveted posts and advancement up through the ranks of the company was common; some of Western Union's top officials began their careers as messenger boys. Additionally, messengers were provided with a rigorous training course, outfitted from a company wardrobe department, and expected to adhere to strict standards of dress and performance. Providing service to the public was so important that messengers were incentivized to answer the whim of customers. In Wichita messengers were considered "the essence of service" as it was not uncommon for them to deliver roses, act as a golf caddie, babysitter or retriever of lost or forgotten items.⁴⁹ For the boys the job provided good wages, opportunity to learn the trade, but it also provided access to businessmen across the city, giving them a potential open door into the local business community. A 1930 *Wichita Eagle* article explains that many local Wichita businessmen look back with pride on their beginnings as a Western Union messenger.⁵⁰ Loyalty to the company was fostered and highly valued.

As one author explained, "Telegraphy was thus a revolutionary technology—in both senses of that term, as a revolution in technological practice and as a transformative technology with far-reaching effects on American life."⁵¹ While Western Union telegrams fade from our collective memory the role played by the telegraph as a precursor to modern technologies is clear and has been the subject of numerous academic studies published over the last decade. Just as smart phone and tablet innovations seem to leap frog their precedents in only a few years, the "Victorian internet" also known as the telegraph, was in a continual loop of improvement and innovation. After decades of innovation, forays into countless industries, high stakes mergers, and divestitures, in 2006 Western Union formally ended telegraph transmissions worldwide.

Wichita's Development

Wichita was incorporated on July 21, 1870 on two plats of land belonging to Darius Munger and William Greiffenstein; the city was well on its way to becoming a thriving center of trade two years later when it welcomed its first railroad. A real estate boom followed the early development and by 1887, Wichita was ranked third in the United States in volume of real estate transactions.⁵² By 1889, however, the boom had ended and Wichita's population growth reversed itself causing many local investors to lose everything. The bust continued through the remainder of the nineteenth century.

The first two decades of the 20th century in Wichita were marked by renewal and growth. As the new century dawned, Wichita quickly became the third-largest city in Kansas with more than 24,000 residents.⁵³ The economy was driven by grain production, the elevators and mills needed to process it as well as three major rail lines (the Santa Fe, Missouri Pacific and Rock Island) required to ship it.⁵⁴ By 1909, the number had risen to five railroads with fourteen diverging lines and forty passenger trains daily.⁵⁵ By 1920, Wichita was the nation's ninety-sixth largest city and Sedgwick County had a population of 92,234. In the same era monumental change befell Wichita with the arrival of two new industries: oil and aviation. Wichita's economy had been dependent on agriculture until oil was discovered twenty-five miles northeast of Wichita. The El Dorado oilfield brought in \$65M into Wichita's economy in the late teens and early 1920s, which acted as a magnet for new businesses including Derby oil refinery, Koch Industries, and the Beech, Stearman and Cessna Aircraft Companies.⁵⁶

⁴⁷ Eugene Victor Rostow. *President's Task Force on Communications Policy: Final Report*. Washington, DC: President's Task Force on Communications Policy, 1969, accessed on Google Books.

⁴⁸ Lubrano. 92.

⁴⁹ *Wichita Eagle Magazine*. 13 April 1930. 5.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* 5.

⁵¹ Hochfelder. 102.

⁵² Kathy Morgan and Barbara Hammond. *Multiple Property Documentation Form, Residential Resources of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas 1870-1957*. City of Wichita, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, 2008: E-4.

⁵³ Population of Cities in Kansas accessed at <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/ksah/population/2pop33.pdf> on 10 Apr 2018.

⁵⁴ Kathy L. Morgan, and Kyle M. Palmer, *Draft Multiple Property Documentation Form, Commercial and Industrial Resources Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas*, City of Wichita, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, 2013, 8.

⁵⁵ *Wichita City Directory*, 1909, 21 as cited in *Ibid.* 11.

⁵⁶ Morgan and Hammond. E-8.

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By 1930, Sedgwick County's population had grown to 136,336.⁵⁷ Many of the city's new citizens came for jobs in the aviation industry and it was this industry that helped to buffet the city from the extreme economic decline of the Great Depression. As war clouds gathered over Europe in the late 1930s Wichita's aviation, oil and gas industries were already in full swing. By 1943 Wichita's population had risen to 225,000 to meet the war industry demands; representing a more than a fifty percent increase in three years and eight times the increase for the decade of the 1930s.⁵⁸ While more than half of the population was working in aircraft-related industries, local companies including Coleman Lamp and Stove Company, Hayes Equipment Company and Clear Vision Pump Company also produced war-essential products and employed large numbers of residents.⁵⁹ Wichita's "proximity to major transportation routes and the location of gas and oil refineries in the area greatly enhanced the distribution capabilities of these national businesses by providing the petroleum necessary for transportation of raw and finished products."⁶⁰

While the city experienced a post-war decline in population it was short-lived as war broke out on the Korean peninsula in 1950. The result locally was the resurgence of defense-related industry and the establishment of McConnell Air Base in 1951. In five years, McConnell became the busiest military airport in the country. By 1960 the citizenry had expanded to over 254,000 and the city encompassed sixty square miles with the entire metropolitan area spanning over 182 square miles.⁶¹ Today, Wichita's population exceeds 390,000⁶² and downtown Wichita continues to experience revitalization with new construction and investment in the revitalization of many of the older buildings.

The Western Union Building In Wichita

On May 16, 1923, C.W. Mourning was granted a permit to wreck the existing brick building 160 N. Topeka. Roy T. Collins would begin work a short time later constructing the two-story brick building with a terracotta facade. Construction of the building addressed at 154 N. Topeka would eventually cost \$155,000.⁶³ Roy Taylor Collins (1888-1954) was born on August 18, 1888, to Stephen and Flora Collins in Rush Center, Kansas.⁶⁴ After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1915, Roy moved to Kansas City to open a new office of the Collins Construction Company. The company was founded in 1880 by Roy's father Stephen and his uncle Frank in Rock Island, IL. Under Roy's leadership the firm, incorporated in 1927, was responsible for many commercial, industrial and residential structures in Kansas, Missouri and adjoining states. The firm's Kansas City buildings include: the Kansas City Life Insurance Building at Armour and Broadway; the Hyde-Park Hotel at Thirty-Sixth and Broadway (NR Ambassador Hotel Historic District (Boundary Increase 2008));⁶⁵ the Sombart Apartments at Armour and Locust; and the Park Lane Apartments at 4600 JC Nichols Parkway.⁶⁶ Additionally, the Shawnee Mission High School addition (1954) and Midwest Research Institute on Volker Blvd are attributed to Collins Construction.

After two years of ownership, Collins sold the Western Union Building to Wichita businessmen George F. Bissantz and Charles G. Lilly for \$200,000 in June 1926.⁶⁷ George Friedrich Bissantz (1863-1940) was born on June 13, 1863, to Adolph and Catherina (Harold) in Durkheim, Germany. "Fred" immigrated to Kansas in 1888, where he married Auguste Oerke in 1890.⁶⁸ He followed his older brother, Jacob, who came to Wichita in 1868 and opened a hardware store.⁶⁹ Fred opened a bakery at 306 E. Douglas in 1894 and added an ice cream parlor by 1904. Bissantz used his bakery income to

⁵⁷ Population of Cities in Kansas accessed at <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/ksah/population/2pop33.pdf> on 10 Apr 2018.

⁵⁸ Miner, Craig. *Wichita: The Magic City*. Wichita: Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 1988. 188.

⁵⁹ Rachel Nugent and Lauren Rieke, *Colorado-Derby Building Kansas Historic Register Nomination*, Kansas State Historical Society, 2015, 9.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 10.

⁶¹ 1963 Wichita City Directory. Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

⁶² U.S. Population Figures: Wichita. Accessed at <http://uspopulation2017.com/population-wichita-2017.html> on 12 Apr 2018.

⁶³ "\$200,000 Paid for Building." *Wichita Eagle*. 5 Jun 1926. 1.

⁶⁴ Ancestry.com. *U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2005 and Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Rock Island Ward 4, Rock Island, Illinois. 8. Enumeration District: 0117. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2004.

⁶⁵ Susan Ford, *Ambassador Hotel Historic District (Boundary Increase) National Register Nomination*, U.S. Department of the Interior: Washington, DC, 2008.

⁶⁶ "Roy T. Collins is Dead." *Kansas City Times*. 7 Jun 1954. 29.

⁶⁷ *Wichita Eagle*. 5 Jun 1926. 1.

⁶⁸ Ancestry.com. *Kansas County Marriage Records, 1811-1911*. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2016.

⁶⁹ Ancestry.com. *1880 United States Federal Census* [database online] and *Germany, Select Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898* [database online]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2010, 2014, and *Wichita Daily Times*. 15 Nov 1882. 2.

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invest in real estate beginning with the building that housed his business.⁷⁰ Fred and his brother Jacob bought adjoining parcels at 513 and 515 E. Douglas and built a three-story brick building in the early 1900s known as the Bissantz Building (NR, East Douglas Historic District, 2004). Fred Bissantz was involved in several Wichita real estate deals including ownership of the IOOF Building at 115 S. St. Francis and a two-story brick building at 116 S. Lawrence.⁷¹ Additionally, he owned 115 N. Emporia, which he traded as part of the deal to acquire the Western Union Building.⁷²

Charles Grant Lilly (1868-1953) was born August 28, 1868, in Flagg, Illinois, to William and Idella. Charles married Effie Fay Peckin, a Wichita native, on October 1, 1890.⁷³ Lilly had become a Wichita post office clerk three years earlier and was soon promoted to letter carrier, where he covered an ever-expanding territory on the north side of town. In 1920, he celebrated thirty-three years with the post office.⁷⁴ Lilly, like Bissantz, invested in real estate in downtown Wichita.⁷⁵ It is not apparent whether the Western Union Building was their only collaboration, but the two businessmen were members of the International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge # 296 in Wichita, which may be where they met and decided to invest jointly in real estate.⁷⁶

Until 1900 the Western Union office was located in the 100 block of Main Street and it had two competing telegraph firms in the city: American District and the Postal Telegraph Companies.⁷⁷ Western Union called the Sedgwick Building at First and Market Street home from ca. 1906 through 1924 when it moved to its new building at the corner to Topeka and First Street.⁷⁸ Prior to its move to Topeka Ave., the firm had six offices in the city including the main office at 114 E. First St. (Sedgwick Building) and branch offices in the Beacon building, Broadway Hotel, Wheeler K-H Building, 125 N. Rock Island Ave. and at Union Station.⁷⁹ In 1922, Western Union's business in the city was humming; up seven percent over the previous year.⁸⁰

With their move to the Collins Building at 154 N. Topeka in 1924, Western Union gained an up-to-date modern building with the newest technology and conveniences. Designed by architect Arthur Frederick McAdams for builder Roy T. Collins, the Western Union office would serve as a relay station for most of Kansas and northern Oklahoma, and was constructed with automatic conveyors and pneumatic tubes for transfers and communication within the office.⁸¹ There were reportedly accommodations for messenger boys that included a club room, showers, and toilets.⁸² The rapid and continual change in technology no doubt had bearing on the company's physical facilities. Efficiency was highly valued and thus, many processes were standardized across the company.

In the 1930s and 1940s an average of more than 50 people not including messengers were needed to receive and transmit messages in Wichita, handling as many as 10,000 messages per day.⁸³ By 1977 the number of employees was reduced to five, four handling traffic and one messenger handling 450 messages per day.⁸⁴ The Western Union offices continued to occupy the corner "storefront" at 158 N. Topeka. In the 1970s, around the clock service was replaced by 9-5 business hours.⁸⁵

While early newspaper reports stated that the two-story building would be used exclusively by Western Union, numerous other businesses had storefronts or offices in the building shortly after its construction. According to city directories the Midian Shrine Temple called the building temporary headquarters from 1925 through early 1927 while its own facilities were being constructed. The Shriners had their office in the building and held meetings upstairs. Additionally, home

⁷⁰ "Bissantz Bakery Sold." *Wichita Daily Eagle*. 22 Jun 1904. 6.

⁷¹ *Wichita Beacon*. 18 Aug 1919 .6 and 26 Sep 1922. 13.

⁷² "\$200,000 Paid for Building." *Wichita Eagle*. 5 Jun 1926. 1.

⁷³ *Wichita Beacon*, 1 Oct 1890. 4.

⁷⁴ *Wichita Beacon*. 20 Nov 1920. 9.

⁷⁵ *Wichita Beacon*. 12 Feb 1917. 6.

⁷⁶ "Make 13 More Odd Fellows." *Wichita Daily Eagle*. 3 Jan 1914. 2.

⁷⁷ Ancestry.com. 1900 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Rock Island Ward 4, Rock Island, Illinois. 8. Enumeration District: 0117. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2004.

⁷⁸ *Wichita Beacon*. 2 June 1924. 7.

⁷⁹ 1924 R.L. Polk & Company Wichita Directory. Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

⁸⁰ "Says Business is Good." *Wichita Daily Eagle*. 10 Nov 1922. 9.

⁸¹ *Wichita Eagle* (morning edition) 9 Jun 1924. 10.

⁸² *Wichita Eagle Magazine*. 13 April 1930. 5.

⁸³ Cheryl Pilate. "Telegraph 'Clickity-Clack' Fades." *Wichita Beacon (evening ed.)* 23 Jan 1977.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

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supplies including oil burners and water heaters were sold from the building alongside a candy store (1925) and later a restaurant (1935-1945). Service industries and professional offices were the preponderance of tenants including realtors, investment and insurance companies, and the telephone employees' credit union (1952-1963). The building would house a wide variety of tenants through the years, but Western Union would continue to have their offices in the building from the opening in 1924 until 1984.⁸⁶

The Western Union Building remained in the Bissantz family until 1958 when it was sold to Henry Johnson by Edgar Bissantz (George's son).⁸⁷ Charles and Effie Lilly (1870-1940) had a daughter listed on the 1910 census, but it is unclear whether she survived her parents or had any link to Henry Johnson.⁸⁸ The Johnson family sold the building to the Liebau-Woodall Associated in 1992. Ownership passed to Air Capital Investments in 2006, who sold it to the current owner, 154 N. Topeka LLC in February 2018.

⁸⁶ All tenant information is from Wichita City Directories found online (1924-1962) and at the Wichita Public Library (1963-2010).

⁸⁷ 154 N Topeka Deed Records. Sedgwick County Clerk and Registrar of Deeds.

⁸⁸ Ancestry.com Wichita, Ward 4, Sedgwick, Kansas; Roll: T624_456; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 0128; accessed on Ancestry.com. *1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line]*. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2006.

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The Western Union Telegraph Company. (1885) London, UK: n.p. Accessed online on 16 Apr 2018 at

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiuc.2810578;view=1up;seq=14>.

Western Union Telegraph Company 1851-1901A Retrospect. (1901) Albany, NY: Western Union Telegraph Co.

"Western Union Telegraph Company Records: Historical and Background Information." *The Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives* accessed on 26 Apr 2018 at <https://sova.si.edu/details/NMAH.AC.0205?s=0&n=10&t=C&q=&i=0#ref1684>.

Wichita Beacon. 1879-1928. Accessed on Newspapers.com.

Wichita Daily Eagle Morning Edition, 9 June 1926. 10. Accessed on microfilm, Kansas State Historical Society.

Wichita Daily Times. 15 Nov 1882. 2. Accessed on Newspapers.com.

Wichita Eagle 27 Jan 1876. 3. Accessed on Newspapers.com

Wichita Eagle (morning edition) 9 Jun 1924. 10. Accessed on microfilm, Kansas State Historical Society.

Wichita Eagle Magazine. 13 April 1930. 5. Accessed on microfilm, Kansas State Historical Society.

Wichita Eagle 20 Feb 1964. 18A.

Wolff, Joshua. *Western Union and the Creation of the American Corporate Order, 1845-1893*. 2015. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

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 37.687847 -97.334183
 Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

North 10' Lot 15 and All Lot 17, Topeka Avenue, J.R. Means Addition, City of Wichita

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The legal description above reflects the current parcel where the building is located and with which it is historically associated. There have been no known changes to the site size or configuration.

Western Union Building
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, KS
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda & Michelle Spencer
organization Spencer Preservation date 4/20/2018
street & number 10150 Onaga Road telephone 785-446-9857
city or town Wamego state KS zip code 66547-9584
e-mail brenda@spencerpreservation.com

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

name 154 Topeka LLC. c/o/ Abdul Arif
street & number 154 N. Topeka Ave. telephone 316-300-3000
city or town Wichita state KS Zip 67202

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.

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

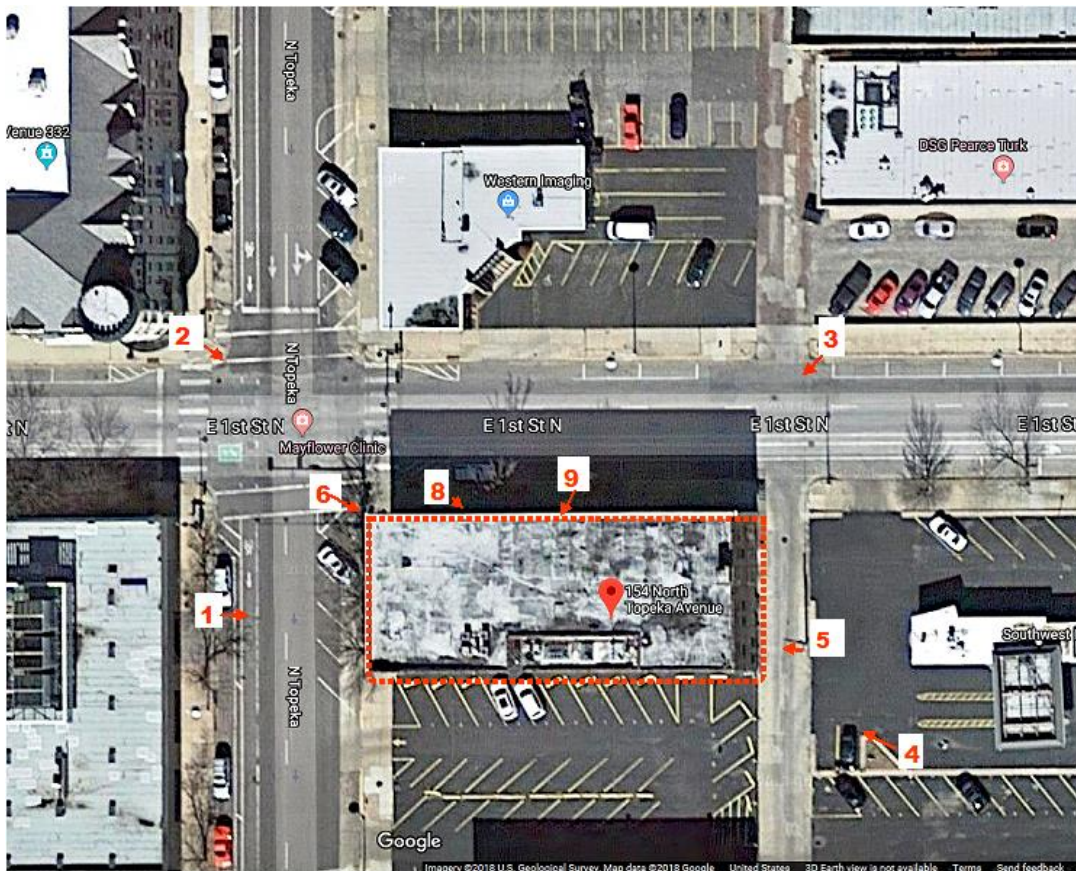
Name of Property: Western Union Building
City or Vicinity: Wichita
County: Sedgwick State: KS
Photographer: Brenda R. Spencer
Date Photographed: 23 February 2018

Western Union Building
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, KS
County and State

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

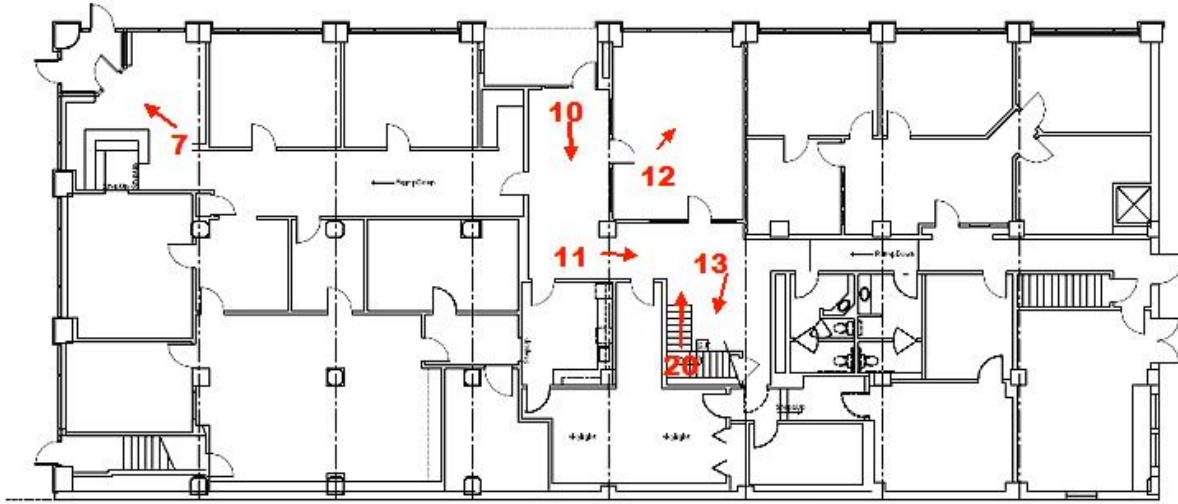
- | | | |
|----------|----|---|
| 1 of 20 | E | West/front facade |
| 2 of 20 | SE | North and West street facades from corner of Topeka and First looking SE |
| 3 of 20 | SW | East and north facade from 1 st Street NE of building |
| 4 of 20 | NW | Rear/south and east facades from parking lot SE of building |
| 5 of 20 | W | Original metal windows extant on E facade |
| 6 of 20 | SE | Storefront space at NW corner of building (original home to Western Union) |
| 7 of 20 | NW | Interior view of corner storefront space with non-historic vestibule |
| 8 of 20 | SW | Detail of terracotta facade (on north) with ornate detailing (and replacement windows) |
| 9 of 20 | S | Recessed entry to lobby with access to main stair to 2 nd floor, near center of north facade |
| 10 of 20 | S | Looking S in lobby inside N entry; interior storefront on E (left) |
| 11 of 20 | E | Looking E in first floor corridor with interior storefront on N (left) |
| 12 of 20 | NE | Interior view of office in storefront bay #4 (from E) with interior access;
interior storefronts on south and east sides of this office. |
| 13 of 20 | S | Main stair from first floor |
| 14 of 20 | W | Looking W in 2 nd floor corridor from top of stair |
| 15 of 20 | E | Looking E in north half of 2 nd floor from W end |
| 16 of 20 | SE | Detail of corridor door with transom and window from office-side, north side of 2 nd floor |
| 17 of 20 | W | Looking W to west end of 2 nd floor corridor with original office doors with transoms and flanking windows |
| 18 of 20 | W | Looking W in office at SE corner of 2 nd floor with common restrooms visible west of office |
| 19 of 20 | SW | Typical existing window extant on 2 nd floor – 3/3 double-hung metal units with 3-light transoms |
| 20 of 20 | N | Looking down main stair from 2 nd floor with interior storefront visible off 1 st floor lobby |



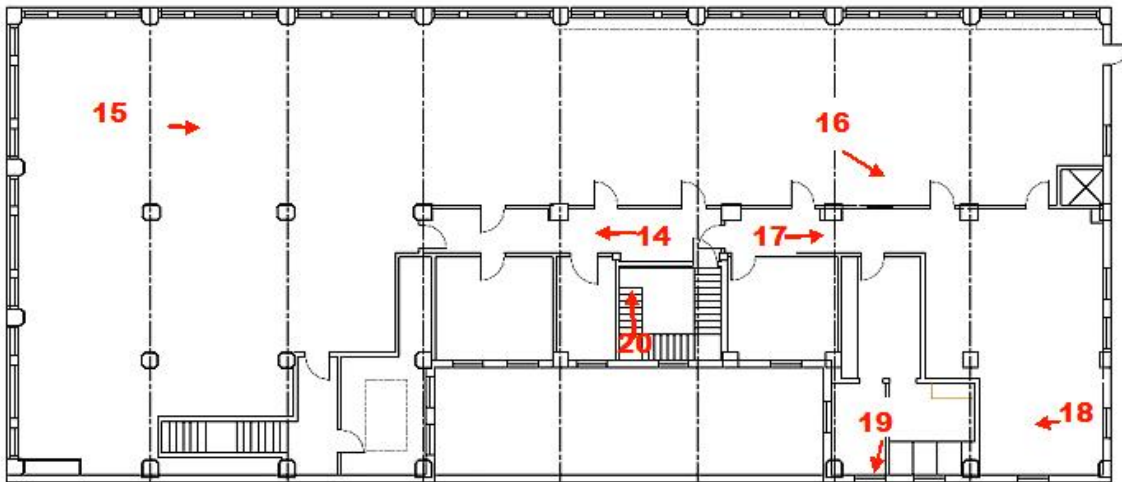
WESTERN UNION BUILDING
154 N. Topeka Ave., Wichita, KS
PHOTO KEY—EXTERIOR/SITE

Western Union Building
Name of Property


Sedgwick County, KS
County and State



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR


WESTERN UNION BUILDING
154 N. Topeka Ave., Wichita, KS
PHOTO KEY—INTERIOR

Western Union Building
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, KS
County and State

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

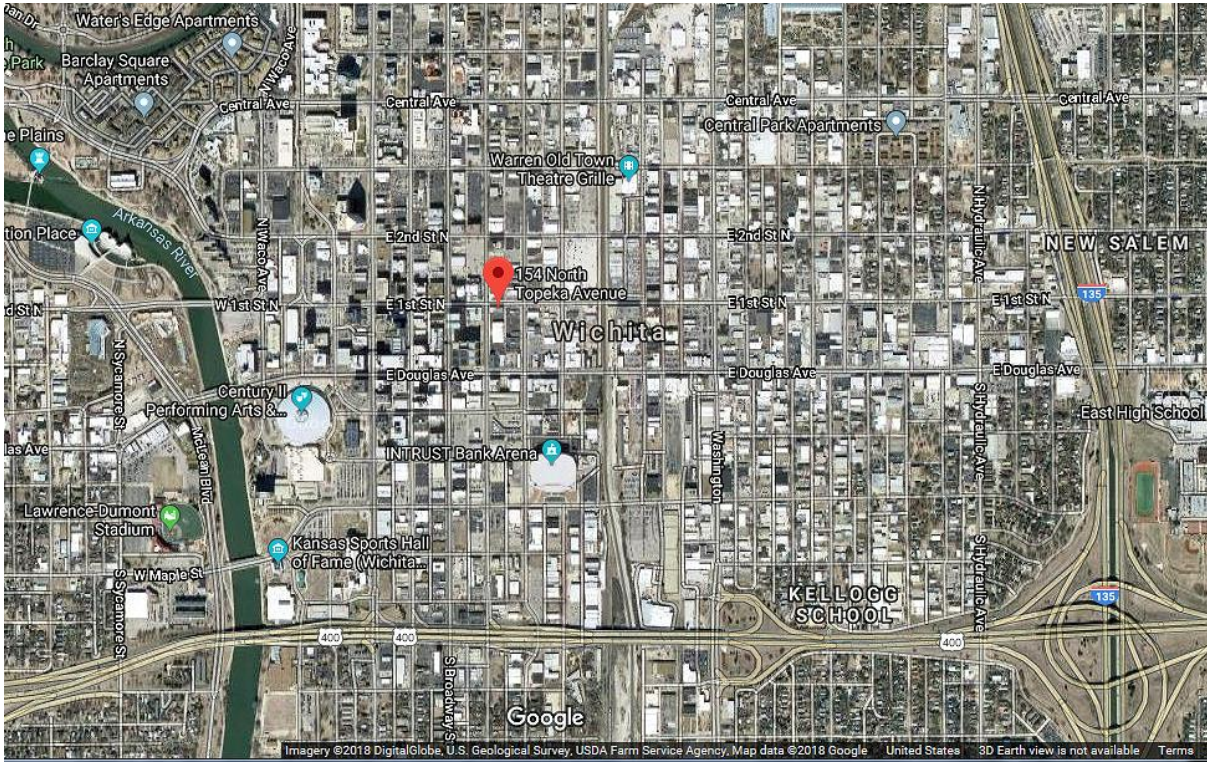


Figure 1 – Context Map – Downtown Wichita, KS (Google Maps, 2018)
Western Union Building
154 N. Topeka Avenue, Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS
Latitude 37.687847 Longitude -97.334183, Datum WGS 84



Figure 2 – Aerial View of Site (Google Maps, 2018)
Western Union Building
154 N. Topeka Avenue, Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS
Latitude 37.687847 Longitude -97.334183, Datum WGS 84

Western Union Building
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, KS
County and State

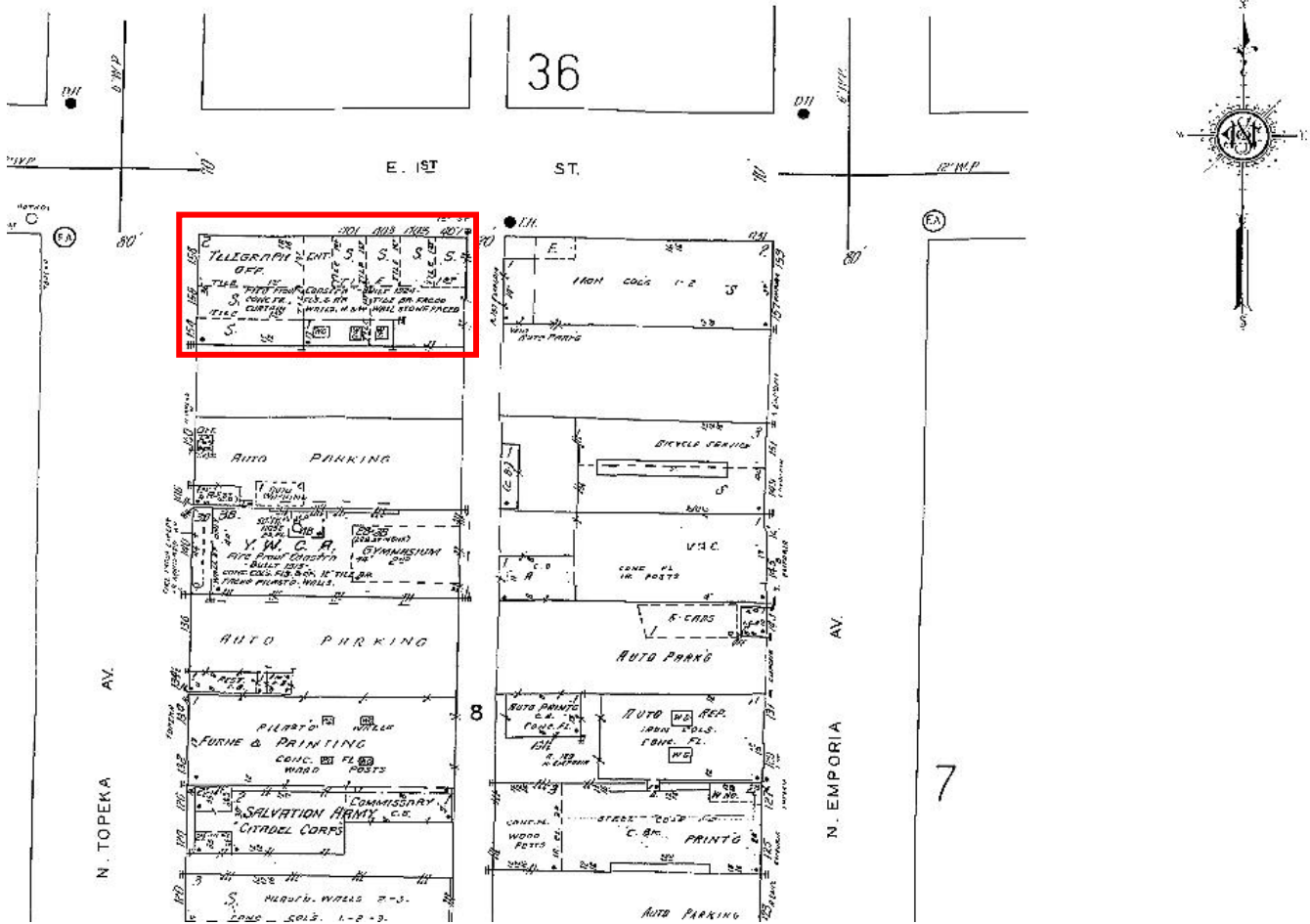


Figure 3 – “Telegraph/Western Union Office” occupies corner storefront addressed at 158 N. Topeka Ave. in 1950. They remained in the building until ca.1984.
1935 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map with November 1950 Update (Excerpt Sheet 6)

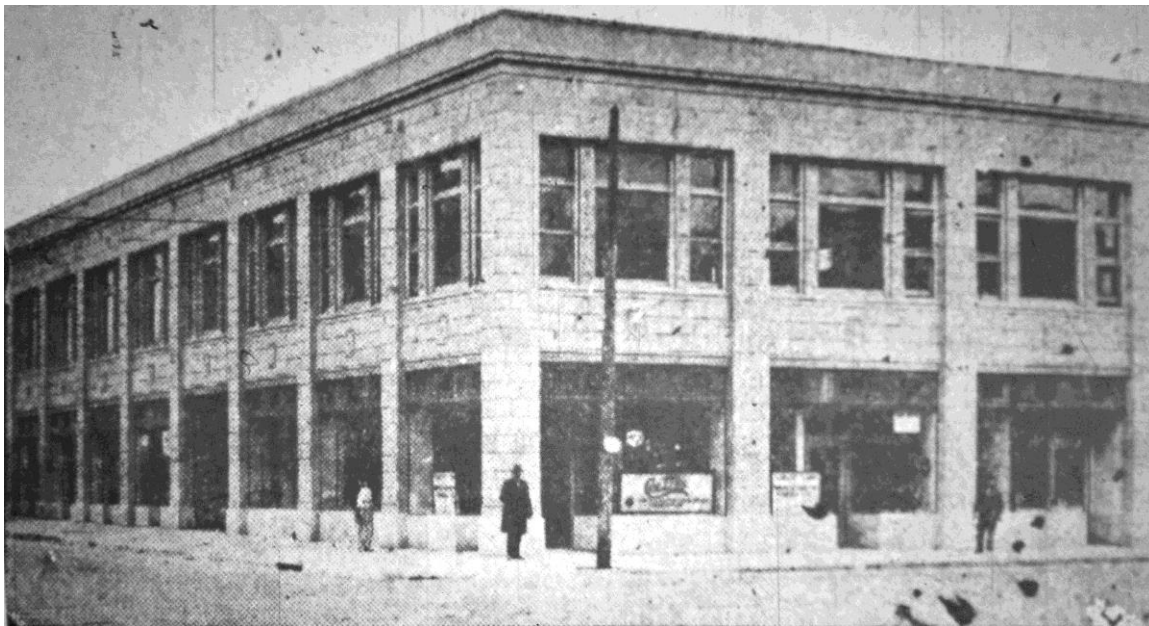
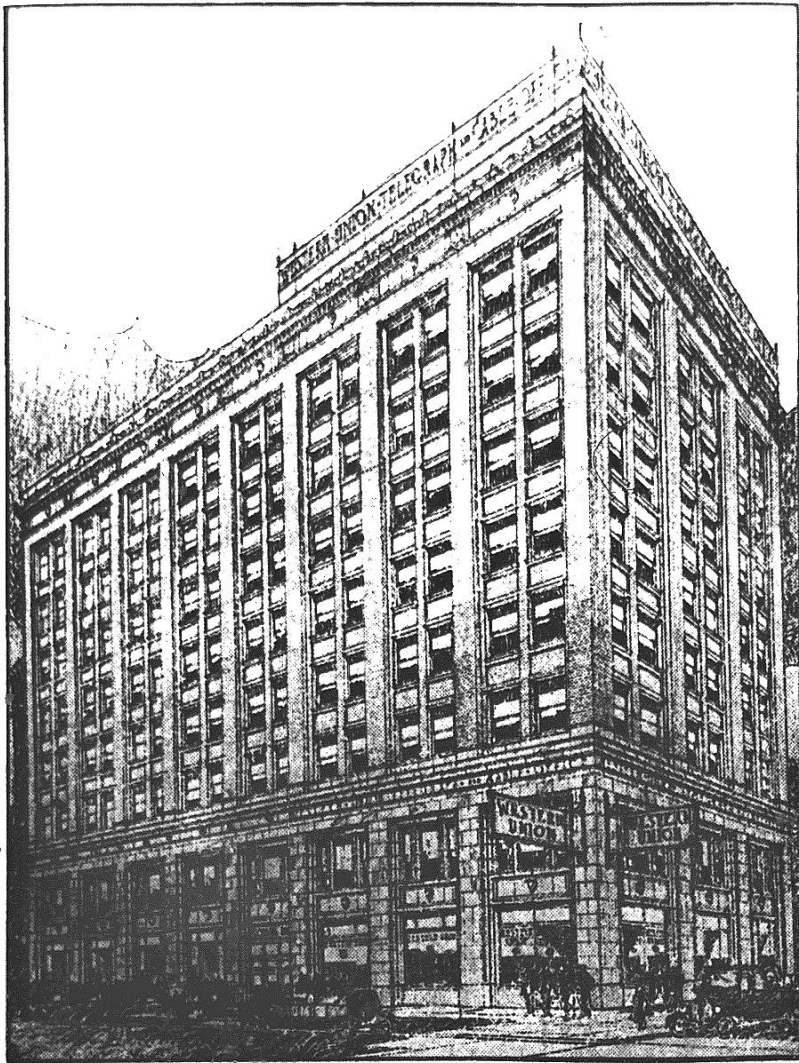


Figure 4 – Photo of building shortly after construction *Wichita Daily Eagle* Morning Edition, 9 June 1926. 10.

Western Union Building
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, KS
County and State



THE WESTERN UNION building, at Topeka avenue and First street, as it will look when six more stories have been added by its new owners. The two story building, erected in 1924, was sold Friday by its builder, Roy T. Collins, of Kansas City, Mo., to George F. Bissantz and Charles G. Lilly, prominent Wichita business men, for \$200,000.

Figure 5 – Architect’s Rendering - *Wichita Daily Eagle* Morning Edition 5 June 1926. 1. Wichita/Sedgwick County Public Library. Note – Builder R.T. Collins sold the 2-story Western Union Building in 1926. Purchasers George F. Bissantz and Charles G. Lilly had big plans to add six stories. Bissantz and Lilly and their decedents owned the building for more than 30 years but obviously, the addition never took place.



Figure 6 –Western Union Messenger Boys, Wichita Kansas. *Wichita Eagle Magazine*. 13 April 1930. 5.



Muller Chiropractic

154
N. TOPEKA

Muller Chiropractic
154 N. Topeka
Topeka, KS 66608
Phone: 785.243.1111
Fax: 785.243.1112
www.mullerchiro.com

37



ONE WAY

1st St

ONE WAY

Muller

USA

6. 2011

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PRIME LINE

- White Chevrolet pickup truck
- Dark grey SUV
- White SUV
- Red SUV
- Dark grey SUV





Value Center
CUSTOMER PARKING ONLY
Unauthorized Vehicles Will Be
Towed At Owner's Expense
Ch...



Muller Church

154
N. TOPERA

1st



Muller Church
154 N. Topera
Wichita, KS 67202
Phone: 316.261.1234
Fax: 316.261.1235
www.mullerchurch.org

Muller Church
154 N. Topera
Wichita, KS 67202
Phone: 316.261.1234
Fax: 316.261.1235
www.mullerchurch.org







NO
SMOKING
WITHIN
25 FEET
OF DOORS





NOTICE

118





















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: 8/7/2018 Date of Pending List: 8/27/2018 Date of 16th Day: 9/11/2018 Date of 45th Day: 9/21/2018 Date of Weekly List: 9/14/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 9/14/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

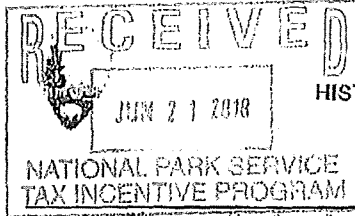
DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

RECEIVED

MAY 21 2018

CULTURAL RESOURCES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
PART 1 - EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

NPS (D)
No. 1024-0009
Form 10-168
Rev. 2014

NPS Project Number 38705

Instructions: This page must bear the applicant's original signature and must be dated. The National Park Service certification decision is based on the descriptions in this application form. In the event of any discrepancy between the application form and other, supplementary material submitted with it (such as architectural plans, drawings and specifications), the application form takes precedence. A copy of this form will be provided to the Internal Revenue Service.

1. Property Name Western Union Building

Street 154 N. Topeka Avenue

City Wichita County Sedgwick State KS Zip 67202-2406

Name of Historic District NA

National Register district certified state or local district potential district

2. Nature of request (check only one box)

- certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district or National Register property for rehabilitation purposes.
- certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes.
- certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.
- preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.
- preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.
- preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Project Contact (if different from applicant)

Name Brenda R. Spencer Company Spencer Preservation

Street 10150 Onaga Road City Wamego State KS

Zip 66547-9584 Telephone (785) 456-9857 Email Address brenda@spencerpreservation.com

4. Applicant

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct. I further attest that (check one or both boxes, as applicable) (1) I am the owner of the above-described property within the meaning of "owner" set forth in 36 CFR § 67.2 (2011), and/or (2) if I am not the fee simple owner of the above-described property, the fee simple owner is aware of the action I am taking relative to this application and has no objection, as noted in a written statement from the owner, a copy of which (i) either is attached to this application form and incorporated herein, or has been previously submitted, and (ii) meets the requirements of 36 CFR § 67.3(a)(1) (2011). For purposes of this attestation, the singular shall include the plural wherever appropriate. I understand that knowing and willful falsification of factual representations in this application may subject me to fines and imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. 1001, which, under certain circumstances, provides for imprisonment of up to 8 years.

Name Abdul Arif Signature [Signature] Date 5/11/18

Applicant Entity 154 Topeka, LLC

Street 154 N. Topeka Ave. City Wichita State KS

Zip 67202-2406 Telephone (316) 300-3000 Email Address abdul.arif@gmail.com

NPS Official Use Only

The National Park Service has reviewed the Historic Preservation Certification Application -- Part 1 for the above-named property and has determined that the property:

- contributes to the significance of the above-named district or National Register property and is a "certified historic structure" for rehabilitation purposes.
- contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes.
- does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary Determinations:

- appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
- does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.
- appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district if the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS is expanded by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

Date 6/28/18 National Park Service Authorized Signature [Signature]

NPS comments attached

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JUL 02 2018
CULTURAL RESOURCES

**WICHITA HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MINUTES
9 JULY 2018**

Meeting started at 2:01 p.m.

Members Present: Elena Ingle
Gregg Wilhite
Janice Rich
Jeff Englert
Members Absent: Barbara Hammond
Nick Penner
Dr. John Rhodes
Staff Present: Kathy Morgan, Senior Planner
Jim Schiffelbein, Planning Analyst
Brent Kennedy, City Archaeologist

RECEIVED

JUL 09 2018

Cultural Resources Division

ITEM NO. 2 ADDITIONS OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

ITEM NO. 3 REVOLVING LOAN FUND UPDATE

Housing Services will be promoting the Historic Revolving Loan Program in the upcoming weeks.

ITEM NO. 4 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 11 JUNE 2018 MEETING

Motion #1: Rich moved to approve of the minutes of the 11 June 2018 HPB meeting; seconded by Wilhite. Motion carried (4-0)

ITEM NO. 7 CONSENT AGENDA

None.

ITEM NO. 8 PROJECT REVIEW

A. MAJOR: HPC2018-00038 Submission of KS/NR nomination Western Union Building
APPLICANT: 154 N Topeka LLC/ Spencer Preservation
FOR: 154 N. Topeka

Application to support submission of nomination of the Colorado-Derby Building to the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

Summary

The Western Union Building is located at 154 N. Topeka Avenue in downtown Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. The two-story commercial building was built by Kansas City Contractor R.T. Collins in 19241 who had secured a 25-year lease with the Western Union Company. Western Union originally occupied the entire building and later occupied the corner storefront (158 N. Topeka) for more than fifty years.

Featuring a rectangular footprint, the building is three bays wide fronting Topeka Avenue and eight bays deep along 1st Street. The masonry load-bearing structure has brick perimeter walls, tile block partition walls and concrete columns and beams, floors and roof. Red brick is the exposed finish on the secondary east and south facades. The front facade features mottled cream-colored glazed terracotta panels with ornate detailing. The 1924 design of the Western Union Building reflects the traditional Commercial Style building common in the Progressive Era. Classified as a Two-Part Commercial Block with a clear distinction in the upper and lower facades, the terracotta facade is classically configured with two-story pilasters defining bays along the upper and lower facades. A simple cornice separates the upper and lower facades and defines the base of the

parapet. Finely detailed terracotta panels feature ornate shields, urns and acanthus leaves on the upper facade as well as rope detailing on the pilasters around the masonry openings at each bay.

The Western Union Building retains its terracotta facade with few modifications. The primary exterior change was ca. 1980s replacement of the upper windows and storefronts on the street facades. Secondary facades have few if any modifications and retain the original 3/3 DH metal windows. The original street entry, the lobby and main stairway remain intact on the ground floor as does the interior storefronts in the bay immediately east of the north entrance. Finishes in the public areas include terrazzo floors, plaster walls and ceilings, marble wainscoting and school-house style pendant light fixtures. The upper floor retains features and finishes that convey its historic design for commercial offices with doors, transoms and flanking windows in place at office entrances off the corridor.

Significance

At the time the building was constructed in 1924, owner R.T. Collins had secured a 25-year lease with Western Union. Collins sold the Western Union lease with the building two years later. Western Union remained in the building for nearly sixty years ultimately closing in 1983. The period of significance spans from the building's construction in 1924 to 1968, the fifty-year cut off for historic significance when no specific date warrants a specified date or period for terminating significance.

The Western Union Building also known as the Collins Building, erected in 1924 at the corner of 1st Street and Topeka Avenue in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Communications**. The building is significant for its association with the Western Union Telegraph Company during the early to mid-twentieth century when the company dominated wire communications in the United States. News of the Collins Building's opening in the *Wichita Eagle* stated that the building would serve as the relay center for message traffic for most of Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

While Western Union was known for its iconic headquarters in New York City and its regional office constructed in Kansas City in 1920, the company regularly leased space for their offices in cities across the United States. The building at 154 N. Topeka Avenue in downtown Wichita that would become known as the Western Union Building was designed by architect Arthur Frederick McAdams and built by Roy T. Collins, both of Kansas City. Western Union had been in Wichita since 1876 and had outgrown their offices in the Sedgwick Building. Collins had secured a 25-year lease from Western Union prior to beginning construction. Western Union and Wichita were inextricably linked for over 100 years, sixty of which were conducted from the building at 154 N. Topeka. In that time local newspapers document at least three major changes in methods of telegraphy operation, each time due to further mechanization, likely leading to downsizing personnel and space requirements.³ Western Union closed its Wichita office in the nominated building in 1984 and sent its last telegram in 2006. The period of significance for the Western Union Building begins with construction in 1924 and spans to 1968, the fifty-year threshold for historic significance.

HP staff recommends that the HPB finds that Western Union Building meets the criteria for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places and support the proposed nomination.

Motion #2: Englert moved to adopt the findings of the Historic Preservation Staff and support the proposed nomination of the Western Union Building, as reviewed in accordance with K.S.A. 75-2715 - 2725, to the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A- Architecture for Community Planning and Development – Communications; seconded by Wilhite. Motion carried unanimously (4-0)

ITEM NO. 9 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

1. Project Updates – Morgan gave an update on the progress at the Fresh Air Baby Camp. A contractor has been hired to fit the storm windows and interior trim. Once the storm windows are fitted, the painter will take them off-site to paint and return for the contractor to install. Exterior stucco repair is progressing and the order to manufacture seven doors has been executed.
2. NAPC conference July 18-22, 2018 – Janice Rich, John Rhodes and Kathy Morgan will be attending the NAPC Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

ITEM NO. 10 ADJOURNMENT

Motion #3: Wilhite moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Rich. Motion carried (4-0), meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.



6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099



Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

August 6, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein, Acting 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 Dr. Ernstein:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:
NEW NOMINATIONS in Certified Local Government (7)

- **Casson Building; Topeka, Shawnee 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 a PDF of letter of support and Part 1 approval;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

- **Western Union Building; Wichita, Sedgwick 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 a PDF of letter of support and Part 1 approval;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

- **Pioneer Log Cabin; Manhattan, Riley 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 a PDF letter of support;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

- **St. John's Hospital; Salina, Saline 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, a PDF with letter of support, and a PDF of notarized letter of objection from owner of Medialle Center and copy of Part 1 approval;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs

- **Marion Springs School; Baldwin City vicinity, Douglas County, Kansas** (new nomination under "Historic Public Schools 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;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **Appanoose Church of the Brethren & Cemetery; Overbrook vicinity, Franklin & Douglas counties, 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, a PDF of letters of support, and .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs
- **Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District; Baldwin City vicinity, Douglas County, Kansas** (new nomination under "Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail" MPS)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 DVD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

NEW NOMINATION in non-CLG communities (1)

- **Dunlap Colored Cemetery; Dunlap vicinity, Morris 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 a letter of support;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

RESUBMITTED NOMINATION (1)

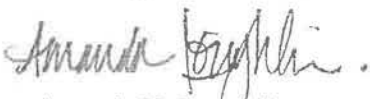
- **Harmon Park Swale; Prairic Village, Johnson County, Kansas** (resubmitted nomination) (NRIS #13000880)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 DVD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination , a PDF letter of support, and a .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

REMOVAL REQUEST (1)

- **Lyons High School; Lyons, Rice County, Kansas** (additional documentation; removal request)
 - Physical, signed copy of the documentation's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the documentation;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photograph.

If you have any questions about these enclosed items, please contact Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, at ext. 217 or Patrick.Zollner@ks.gov.

Sincerely,



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