

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 3 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 16 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

First National Bank in Mankato? (preferred name)

AND/OR COMMON

First National Bank of Mankato

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner, Commercial and Jefferson 545

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mankato

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

01

STATE

Kansas 66956

CODE

20

COUNTY

Jewell

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

X COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Forrest R. Fair

STREET & NUMBER

501 North High Street

CITY, TOWN

Mankato

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66956

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Jewell County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Mankato

STATE

Kansas 66956

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1970

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First National Bank in Mankato exhibits many of the influences of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The building was constructed of Kansas City pressed brick on a limestone foundation with limestone trim and a wooden cornice. Located at the northwest corner of Commercial and Jefferson streets, the building dominates the major intersection of Mankato's business district. The building runs 20 feet along Commercial and 50 feet along Jefferson street and is 35 feet high. It has two stories and a basement. The main entrance to the bank addresses the corner and has a heavy stone arch supported by squat red granite columns on limestone pedestals. An electric clock has been hung in the archway under the keystone. Five steps lead up to the recessed doorway which has a fanlight. The imposts of all openings have been joined by a limestone string course. Above this entranceway is an arched window which rests on a limestone string course that connects all the second story window sills. This arched window has heavy limestone voussoirs and quoins. Another limestone string course at the level of the impost continues around the two facades, unifying the windows. The spandrels above the arch have been filled with decorative brickwork that continues up to the brick corbeling which supports the cornice. This cornice is also supported by brick piers which spring from the impost line. The entablature molds around these piers and has three consoles below the cornice. Above the cornice is a solid balustrade with finials capping the piers.

The east facade on Commercial street is dominated by a large arched window on the first story. The window has been divided vertically into three sections and the transom is stained glass. This window aligns with a basement window that has been spanned by a flat arch with limestone voussoirs. Centered above the first story window are two arched windows trimmed in limestone over the arches, on the quoining and also in the infill of the pier separating them. There is decorative brickwork between the voussoirs and the entablature. This entablature has a cornice line supported on brackets and above which is a brick balustrade capped with a plain limestone molding.

The northern bay of the facade projects from the building. There is a doorway on the ground level. The door has been slightly recessed from the main facade and has a transom. The brick piers on either side of the door are corbelled below the impost, and the doorway is spanned with a straight limestone block. A stained glass window has been set in this doorway before the actual door. There is a rectangular panel of decorative brickwork above the doorway. A single arched window with limestone voussoirs and quoins has been placed above the door. This bay is crowned with a pedimental form supported on brick corbels.

The arrangement on the south facade is asymmetrical but unified by the limestone string courses. Just west of the angled entranceway are two arched windows on the first story. A group of three windows has been placed above these on the second story. The decorative treatment of all apertures on this facade is similar to that described for the main entrance and eastern front. Three basement windows have been aligned

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1887-1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First National Bank building in Mankato was erected in 1887-1888 for the Mankato National Bank Company. That company was formed by a man named Keyes, who represented Eastern financial interests and who was the bank's first cashier. The banking history of Mankato is in many respects closely linked to the history of this building.

The First National Bank of Mankato was chartered in 1887 and opened for business in August in temporary quarters while its new building was under construction. It had absorbed the town's oldest bank, Case, Bishop and Co., which had been established in 1877.

Work on the new building began in August, 1887. The contract for construction was awarded to a Clay Center builder. A shortage of material delayed construction for a time in November, but by the spring of 1888 the building was enclosed. The First National Bank of Mankato began banking operations in the new structure on May 23, 1888.

A few years later the First National Bank was absorbed by the Jewell County National Bank. It was soon forced to liquidate, and the building became the property of the American National Bank of Kansas City, which eventually sold the bank building to J. P. Fair around the turn of the century.

John Porter Fair had come to Mankato from Iowa in 1886 and purchased the Bank of Mankato, a private bank which had been founded in 1883. Several years later when a state charter was obtained, he changed the name to Mankato State Bank. The next major event was the move into the vacant former First National Bank building. In 1903 a national charter was secured and the bank was renamed the Mankato National Bank. The final name change occurred in 1923 when it became the First National Bank in Mankato, the "in" distinguishing the name of the present firm from that of the building's original occupant.

Both the bank and the building are still owned by the Fair family and both continue to play an important role in the financial and business affairs of the community. The building is important to the streetscape of Mankato's commercial district since it anchors the major business intersection of the community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "A Brief History of the First National Bank...", The Western Advocate (Mankato, Kansas), July 25, 1940.
- Jewell County Monitor (Mankato, Kansas), May 4, July 6, 13, Aug. 17, 24, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 9, 23, 1887; Feb. 1, 22, Mar. 14, May 9, 23, 1888; May 6, 13, 1932; June 26, 1975.
- 100 Years Under Old Glory--Mankato, Kansas (n. p., 1972) pp. 14, 15, 31, 38, 45.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	5, 6, 7, 6, 5, 0	4, 4, 0, 4, 2, 1, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Richard Pankratz Cornelia Wyma	Director, Historic Sites Survey Architectural Historian	DATE	January 29, 1976
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society		TELEPHONE	913-296-3251
STREET & NUMBER	120 West 10th Street		STATE	Kansas
CITY OR TOWN	Topeka			

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

February 4, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

W. J. Miller

DATE

6/16/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

6-15-76

SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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First National Bank in Mankato

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

7

under those on the second story.

The entablature from the east facade has been continued but is broken just past these windows by a corbelled brick chimney. Beyond this chimney are a group of three windows and a brick pier separating another group of two windows on the second story. Four openings on the first story align with those above, and the second one from the end is a doorway.

The west facade is a plain brick wall with several undecorated windows. A small one-story brick addition extends to the west. There is a large brick chimney which projects out from the wall. The north facade is a shared wall.

In 1971 the building was completely refurbished. The stone was sandblasted, a red cement wash was applied to the brick, the wood trim was painted and the cornices repaired. Modern fixed shutters were added to some of the first story windows and an indoor-outdoor carpet laid on the main entranceway steps. The interior was also remodeled.

Except for the time and temperature sign, the electric clock, the shutters, and the indoor-outdoor carpet on the entry steps, the building's external appearance has changed very little from the original.