

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG -7 1985**

date entered **SEP 11 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Kingman County Courthouse

and/or common Kingman County Courthouse

**2. Location**

street & number 120 Spruce Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Kingman

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Kingman

code 095

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Kingman County Board of Commissioners

street & number Kingman County Courthouse

city, town Kingman

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 67608

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Kingman County Courthouse

city, town Kingman

state Kanss 67608

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Kingman Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 30, 1970

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. Tenth

city, town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

Kingman County Courthouse is a three-story rectangular brick building over a raised limestone basement. It measures 94 feet north to south and 64 feet east to west. The principal roofline is hipped, with an octagonal cupola at the center. At each corner of the building is a slightly-projecting square tower block with a pyramidal roof. A gable-roofed center pavilion projects slightly from each of the four walls.

Built in 1907-08, the courthouse exhibits an architectural character that is perhaps best described as "mixed late Victorian," blending Romanesque, "Free Classical" and Queen Anne elements in a manner that was distinctive to the architect, George P. Washburn.

Above the basement of rusticated limestone blocks the walls are red brick. The tall, slender, first-story windows have flat tops, capped by rusticated stone lintels. The second story windows are slightly shorter and also flat-topped, but with less prominent lintels. The windows of the third story sit low over those of the second and continue their lines up to semi-circular brick arches with stone edging. Rusticated stone impost blocks form a broken stringcourse around the entire building. Above the arches is a corbelled brick frieze above which are white classical cornices. The front (west) gable has a classical entablature instead, carried by four brick pilasters.

On the west facade of the building a flight of steps leads to the main entrance on the first floor. Covering the entrance is a porch whose flat roof is carried by four rusticated stone piers and two stone pilasters.

The cupola is "free classical" in design, with semicircular arched windows on each of the eight sides, between which are engaged Corinthian columns carrying a classical entablature and a bell-shaped roof.

Examination of the original plans indicates a high degree of exterior integrity, with the only major change being the replacement of the windows with modern aluminum-framed ones about 1975. The interior is largely intact also, the most evident alteration being the suspended ceiling in the courtroom.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1907–08 **Builder/Architect** Geroge P. Washburn of Ottawa, KS  
**Contractor:** Matheim & Walters of St. Joseph, MO

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Kingman County Courthouse is locally significant both for its architecture and for its long association with the administration of government and justice for Kingman County.

Built in 1907–08, it was designed by George P. Washburn of Ottawa, KS, one of the leading architects in the state at the turn of the century. Washburn and his contemporary, James C. Holland of Topeka, were the most prolific designers of county courthouses in Kansas, each having designed thirteen. The Kingman courthouse is one of ten Washburn courthouses that still stand as they were originally built. (Six others are already listed on the National Register.) This building is a very good and relatively intact example of Washburn's distinctive architectural style, which typically combined Romanesque, Queen Anne, and "free classical" features. While Washburn designed some buildings in "purer" style, many of his most prominent public buildings are composed in a manner much like the Kingman courthouse, although each is a unique design.

The courthouse has served as the seat of government for Kingman County for over seventy-five years, and continues in that role today.

THIS STATEMENT IS BASED ON CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Kingman, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	7	8	4	3	0	4	1	6	6	3	5	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 of East Avenue A in the original town plat of Kingman.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date July 18, 1985

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone (913) 296-5264

city or town Topeka state KS 66612

# 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 

Executive Director  
title Kansas State Historical Society date July 23, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Beth Groves date 9/17/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Kingman Leader-Courier,

1907

January 10, 17, 31  
February 7, 21, 28  
April 4, 25  
May 2  
June 6, 20, 27  
July 4, 11, 26  
August 8, 15  
October 10

1908

January 16  
February 13  
March 5, 19, 26

Architectural drawings of Kingman County Courthouse, by George P. Washburn, on file at Kansas State Historical Society.

This nomination is based in part on information provided by Donna R. Brown, County Clerk, Kingman County, and on research conducted by the staff of the Historic Preservation Department, Kansas State Historical Society.