

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Sedgwick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 715.20.0025	DATE 5/14/71

1. NAME

COMMON: **Old Sedgwick County Courthouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **504 No. Main St., northeast corner of Central Ave. and Main St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Wichita**

STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **67202** COUNTY: **Sedgwick** CODE: **173**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Sedgwick County**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Sedgwick County Courthouse
525 No. Main St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Wichita** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **67202**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Sedgwick County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Wichita** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **67202**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

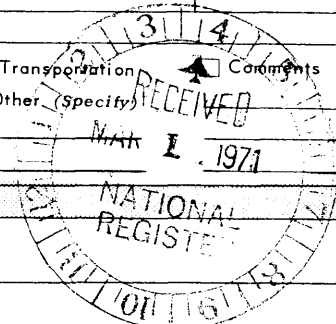
TITLE OF SURVEY: **Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1939** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Records destroyed. A guide book, Kansas, was published**

STREET AND NUMBER: **in 1939.**

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

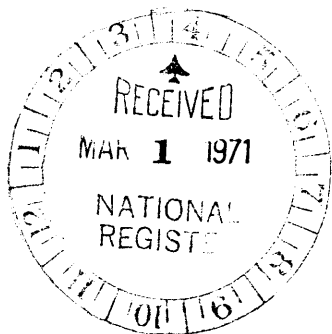
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Sedgwick County Courthouse is built of grayish native stone, generally with sawn faces, but sits on a rough-hewn stone base. It is primarily a three-story structure with two additional stories over portions of the building and a full basement which is partially exposed above grade. The facades are divided horizontally at each story with a decorative stone band traversing the entire perimeter. The roof is distinguished from the wall by a projected cornice supported on brackets. Crowning each corner of the structure is a four-sided, steep-pitched hip roof covered with shingles. The central tower is similarly roofed. Windows are designed in two forms, rectangular openings with stone sills and flat stone lintels and narrow windows with stone sills and circular arched tops. A large arched opening is superimposed above each entrance and in turn an ornate pediment is superimposed above each arch.

The interior of the building was remodeled a number of times to meet demands for increased office space. The exterior has been changed also with the removal of steps which led to the second floor and subsequent changes in the entrances at those locations. The central tower was originally six stories high with clock faces six feet high on the four sides. The upper portion of this tower, including the clock, has been removed for safety reasons.

The old Sedgwick County Courthouse is an example of Renaissance influence architecture beautifully executed in stone.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1888**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

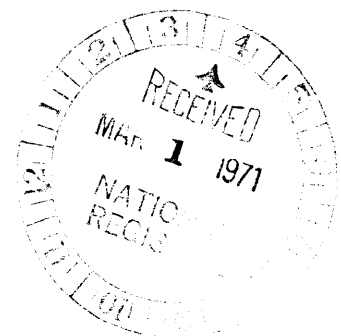
The old Sedgwick County Courthouse is one of the oldest and most impressive of the early Kansas courthouses.

Land for the purpose of constructing a courthouse was donated to the county on July 23, 1874, by D. S. Munger, a pioneer Wichita resident. The contract for its construction was awarded to W. H. Sternberg of Wichita on August 30, 1888, for \$197,329.

After 71 years of service as Sedgwick county's seat of government, it gave way in 1959 to a new eleven-story courthouse. Presently the first and second floors are used by the welfare department and the Civil Air Patrol. The rest of the building is unoccupied and continues to deteriorate. Concerned citizens are attempting to develop innovative plans for the use of the old courthouse but so far to no avail. Its fate today is as unsettled as when it was vacated.

In a 1964 visit to Wichita Robert Garvey, Jr., who at that time was the executive director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, encouraged the preservation of the old courthouse by saying, "This building represents the growth and development of Sedgwick county and is an accumulation of total history in this area."

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Courthouse Ahead of Schedule," Wichita Morning Eagle, June 8, 1958.
 Dougherty, Dale, "Heritage Foundation Renews Bid to Preserve and Rejuvenate Old Sedgwick County Courthouse," Wichita Morning Eagle, August 30, 1963.
 "Help Save the Old Courthouse," Wichita Historical Museum Association brochure, n. d., 4 pp.
 Pearson, Charles, "What Can Be Done with the Old Courthouse?" Wichita Eagle and Beacon, February 25, 1963.
 "Silent Clock Brings Back Memories," Wichita Eagle, April 1, 1964.
 "Use of Old Courthouse Encouraged by Visitor," Wichita Beacon, May 27, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0	0	0			0
NE	0	0	37	41	39	97 20 15
SE	0	0				
SW	0	0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2-3

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE: <u>MO</u>		COUNTY:	
STATE: <u>MO</u>		COUNTY:	
STATE: <u>MO</u>		COUNTY:	
STATE: <u>MO</u>		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant
Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: November 19, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth St.

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Nyle H. Miller</u> <u>Nyle H. Miller</u></p> <p>Title <u>Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society</u></p> <p>Date <u>November 23, 1970</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connelly</u> <u>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>MAY 14 1971</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: <u>William M. Neustadt</u> <u>Keeper of The National Register</u></p> <p>Date APR 9 1971</p>

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Sedgwick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. The Old Sedgwick County Courthouse was designed by architect
W. R. McPherson.
(Wichita Beacon, May 5 and July 7, 1888)