

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

For NPS use only

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

received **SEP 12 1985**

date entered **OCT 17 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Stockbrands and Kemmerer Department Store

and or common Light Hardware Building

2. Location

street & number 100 E. Rutledge (SE corner of Rutledge & Main Sts) N/A not for publication

city, town Yates Center N/A vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Woodson code 207

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name John D. Atkin, M.D.

street & number 1004 E. Madison

city, town Yates Center N/A vicinity of state Kansas 66783

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Woodson County Courthouse

city, town Yates Center state Kansas 66783

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 9, 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West 10th

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(slightly)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stockebrands and Kemmerer Store is a two story rectangular commercial building erected in 1904. It stands at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and Rutledge streets, diagonally across from the Town Square, where the Woodson County Courthouse is located. A diagonal corner entrance faces the intersection. The dimensions of the building are approximately 75 feet east to west and 150 feet north to south.

The north and west facades constitute the architectural "front" of the building. They are faced with red brick and trimmed with stone. The principal facades of the first story contain plate glass display windows topped by transoms and placed within a cast iron structural frame. There are five bays of about equal width across the north. Four of these have display windows, but the easternmost contains two doorways, one opening into the store on the first floor and the other opening to a stairway to the second story. The northwest corner is set diagonally and contains the main entrance, flanked by display windows. On the west side are five bays containing display windows, then a fifty foot section of plain brick wall surface and, at the south end, a twenty-five foot section containing a doorway set between display windows.

At the second story level, the street facades have round-arched one-over-one windows, some of which are clustered and some of which are placed singly. The arches are capped with stone crowns which are tied to one another by a matching stone stringcourse which runs across the entire length of the two main facades. This treatment gives the windows an appearance similar to those of the upper story of the courthouse across the street. Above the second story windows the walls are trimmed with a corbeled brick cornice. Behind the parapet formed by this cornice is a flat roof.

The rear walls of the building, on the south and east sides, are faced with rough sandstone blocks.

The interior of the first story is one large, open room with a high ceiling of pressed metal. The second story contains a row of offices on the north, which open off a corridor. On the other side of the corridor is a large, open room with a sloping floor, which originally functioned as a public auditorium. At one time this room had a stage at the south end, but it was taken out in 1942 when a freight elevator was installed in the building. By that time the large upper room was used for storage. Aside from the installation of the elevator and removal of the stage, the interior has undergone very little change.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1904 **Builder/Architect** Grant Naylor, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stockebrands and Kemmerer Store, or Light Hardware Building as it is often called now because of its most recent active use, is locally significant because of its architecture and its associations with the growth of commerce in Yates Center. Architecturally, it is the largest and most imposing turn-of-the-century commercial building in Yates Center, and one of the most intact. It is a representative and very intact example of the small-town commercial architecture of its era.

The Stockebrands and Kemmerer Store occupies a position of great visual prominence in the central business district of Yates Center, occupying one of the four corners facing the Woodson County Courthouse on the Town Square. It thus serves as a visual anchor for the commercial district. (This district is rich in well-preserved commercial buildings built between 1880 and 1925 and is to be proposed for nomination to the National Register as a historic district in the near future, but because of the special prominence of this building and local concerns about its proposed rehabilitation and reuse, it is being nominated individually at this time.)

Completed in March, 1904, the building was erected to house the Stockebrands and Kemmerer Department Store, a general merchandise establishment owned by Ernest and Henry Stockebrand and Robert Kemmerer. Before its construction, some of the leaders of the community had reportedly asked the Stockebrands and Kemmerer to add a public meeting room to the proposed building, for the city had no community meeting room at the time. Thus, the new building was built to include an auditorium which could seat 1,200. This auditorium was the site of many local social and cultural events, including town meetings, vaudeville shows, and Chautauqua programs. The local high school held plays and commencement exercises there until 1924. The northernmost portion of the second story contained rooms that were rented as business and professional offices.

Within a few years after the store opened, Robert Kemmerer left the partnership. The business was then called the Stockebrand and Stockebrand Department Store. It was operated by the Stockebrand brothers and their sons until 1929, when it was sold to Ed Light and Charles Opperman, who moved their business, the Light and Opperman Hardware Store, into the building from another location nearby.

The Light and Opperman Hardware Store was one of the largest hardware dealerships in the Woodson County area, and was very important to the local farm economy as a supplier of agricultural implements.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Yates Center, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	5	9	7	3	5	4	1	9	5	9	2	10
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 7, 8, and 9 of Block 41, original townsite of the City of Yates Center, KS.

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 26, 1985

street & number 120 West 10th

telephone (913) 296-5264

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

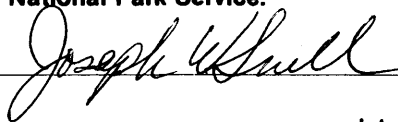
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 August 21, 1958

For NPS use only

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

Beth Groves
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/17/85

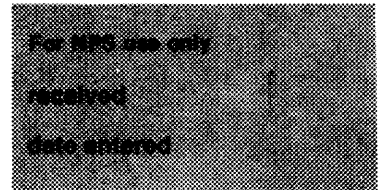
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

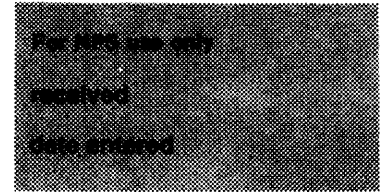
Page 1

Opperman retired from the business in 1942, at which time it became the Light Hardware Company. It continued in operation under that name until it closed in December, 1971. Thereafter the building changed hands several times but was not put to any steady productive use. By 1984 it was empty and deteriorating. Following the condemnation of the building by the city in November, 1984, there was considerable public interest in saving it. It was subsequently purchased by the present owner, who plans to rehabilitate it for commercial use.

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

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews by Brenda Manske, of the Woodson County Preservation Commission, with Elmer Stockebrand, Alice Stockebrand, and Enoch Light, all of Yates Center.

The Yates Center News, March 4, 1904; October 11, 1984; November 29, 1984.

This nomination was prepared from a draft submitted by Brenda Manske, Chairman of the Woodson County Preservation Commission, P.O. Box 112, Yates Center, KS 66783.