

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

AND/OR COMMON

**
Lincoln County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast corner, 3rd and Lincoln Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

no. 1, Keith Sebelius

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Lincoln

CODE

105

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Lincoln

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 67455

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Lincoln County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Kansas 67455

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1971

FEDERAL 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 Lincoln County Courthouse, which is situated on a square just east of Lincoln's business district, was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The principal building material is the local limestone, sometimes called post rock, cut in the cyclopean style. The courthouse is two stories high with a basement and is 87 feet north to south and 67 feet east to west. The building which is symmetrical on axis is surmounted by a central clock tower. The main entrance facing south is slightly recessed and crowned with a dormer having three small windows. A flight of eight stone steps leads to the arched entranceway. An arch under this set of stairs gives outside access to the basement floor. There is a double window with a fanlight above the double doors. Smaller arched windows have been placed on either side of the door and the window immediately above it. There are two windows with a coupled lintel that is slightly arched on the first story on the wings that slightly project from the main facade. The double window with a fanlight motif is repeated on the second story. These wings are crowned with painted wood pediments. Two windows in the basement align with the windows on the first story. The north facade which is the secondary entrance is identical to the south facade described above.

Both the eastern and western facades have two semi-circular projections which divide the flat wall surface. These facades are also symmetrical. An entrance down to the basement floor is centered on each facade. The entrance is accentuated by a blind arch over the door. Slightly above this arch are two small rectangular arched windows visually joined by a limestone string course. The three arched windows on the second story align with those on the first. There are four rectangular windows on each story in the semi-circular projection. The lintels of the windows join to form a string course. The basement level has only two windows which align with the windows above. The entablature of these projections begins above the level of the building's cornice. The entablature has a frieze with festoons and dentils below the cornice, which is topped with a spire. The end panels are similar to the end panels on the south facade.

The trim on the building is a lighter limestone which mainly accentuates the openings. Many of the arches have keystones. A wide limestone string course runs above the lintels of the basement windows. The cornice is wood and has a blank frieze and dentils. The roof is hipped and covered with asphalt shingles. Rising from its center is a tower which is stylistically different from the building. Using Second Empire motifs, the tower rises in two stages. The first stage has a mansard type roof with a window centered on every face. Below this stage is a painted wood balustrade and it is crowned by a cornice with dentils. The second stage has flat faces with an Ionic column on each corner. A clock is centered on every face. From this stage rises a spire which is topped with a pinnacle.

The building has been modified slightly in modern times. The fanlight windows have been painted over in white. The doors have been modernized, air conditioning units added in a few windows and a galvanized metal covering added to the entrance on the east facade.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899-1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT C. W. Squires

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The settlement of Lincoln county had begun in 1865 but the county was not organized until 1870. Location of the county seat was contested for a year or so but an election in February, 1872, established the county seat at Lincoln, or Lincoln Centre as it was originally called. The stone courthouse constructed in 1873 was completely destroyed by fire on the night of December 7, 1898.

Immediately the county commissioners--David Swank, David Shaver and William Mueller--began the process of planning a new building. In January, 1899, a bill was introduced in the state legislature to permit the commissioners to proceed with plans and construction. It quickly passed both houses. The commissioners in late January toured a number of counties to inspect other courthouses and were apparently most impressed by the Ellis county courthouse at Hays City.

Three architects were under consideration and after examining their submitted plans in April, C. W. Squires of Emporia was employed. Squires' estimate for the construction cost was \$18,325. His fee was to be four per cent of the contract price less \$200. That arrangement was made since Squires couldn't be on the project grounds as much as the commissioners thought necessary and a local superintendent would have to be hired. Bids were taken in August, 1899. W. P. Baker was awarded the contract and the work began in September. The commissioners decided that the time was too short to plan a cornerstone laying ceremony so none was held. By mid January, 1900, the walls were almost up and as March ended the windows were being installed. The roof was finished in late April and by mid-May the plastering was completed. The total cost was less than \$20,000.

Formal dedication ceremonies were held September 6, 1900. All the pupils of the local public school, preceded by two town bands, marched to the courthouse to participate in a flag raising ceremony. After that the crowd watched bicycle races, foot races and a baseball game. And at 2:00 p.m. the courtroom was packed to hear musical numbers specially prepared for the occasion and the oratory of two judges, one of whom spoke for more than an hour on the history and growth of the county.

The Lincoln county courthouse has served for more than 75 years as the government facility for the county and continues to do so. It is a fine example of construction with the native limestone commonly known as post rock.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barr, Elizabeth N., History of Lincoln County (n.p., 1908), pp. 47, 48.
Lincoln Republican, Dec. 8, 1898; Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, 16, 30, April 20,
 July 13, Aug. 10, 17, Sept. 7, 14, 28, Oct. 12, 26, 1899; Jan. 11, Feb. 22,
 Mar. 8, 29, April 5, 26, May 17, Sept. 6, 13, 1900.
Lincoln Sentinel, Nov. 9, 1939.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	11.4	517.4	1011.8	4.3	2.1	4.3	6.1	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	Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society
STREET & NUMBER	120 West Tenth Street
CITY OR TOWN	Topeka
DATE	12/11/75
TELEPHONE	(913) 296-3251
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 *Nyle H. Miller*
 TITLE Executive Director DATE Dec. 12, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 12/13/76
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Richard Pankratz* DATE 7.9.76
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 RBR for WJM 7/9/76