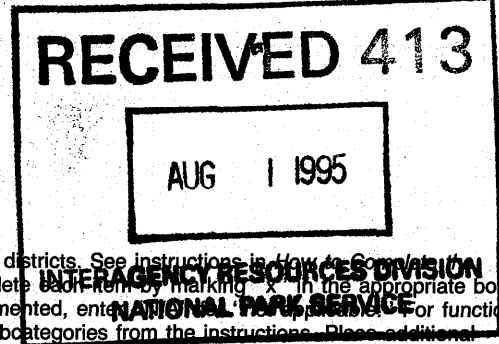


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in how to complete National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Please additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name D.G. Smith Building

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 217 West First Street not for publication

city or town Abilene vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Dickinson code 041 zip code 67410

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Richard D. Pinkney D-SHPO June 23, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8/31/95
Entered in the National Register

D.G. Smith Building

Name of Property

Dickinson County, Kansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade; specialty store,
pharmacy

Commerce/Trade; specialty store;
grocery store

Domestic; single dwelling; apartment

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; single dwelling; apartment

Recreation and Culture;
museum storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Other: Composition

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

D.G. Smith Building
Name of Property

Dickinson County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 4	6 5 4 5 2 8	4 3 0 8 6 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele M. Risdal, National Register Assistant

organization Kansas State Historical Society date June 23, 1995

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

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612-1291

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Michelle meade and Richard Esvang

street & number 217 West First Street telephone _____

city or town Abilene state KS zip code 67410

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

c. 1885-1945

Significant Dates

c. 1885-, 1895, 1945

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Rec _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

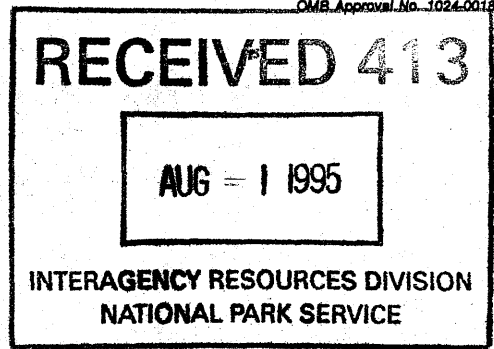
Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society
Dickinson County Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The D. G. Smith Building (c. 1885) is located at 217 West First Street in Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas (pop. 6,242). The two story, red brick building sits on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a composition flat roof. The building has a northern facade orientation with overall measurements of approximately twenty-six feet east to west and seventy-six feet north to south.

The D. G. Smith Building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity as an example of a two-part commercial block store. The building stands at the corner of First and Cedar Streets. The brick store contains restrained elements of the Italianate style. The building's Italianate style is interpreted through its rectangular form, arched windows on the second floor, and bracketed entablature. The first and second floors reflect their different internal uses. The single-story lower floor, at street level, indicates public space as a retail store. The upper floor is an apartment, a private space.

The exterior of the store is constructed of brick. Wooden arches surmount the windows on the facade and first bay of the west elevation. The rest of the windows on the west elevation are surmounted by brick arches with limestone keystones and imposts. Brick arches surmount the windows on the south elevation. Limestone thresholds underscore all windows, except the two located on the east elevation. Three chimneys rise from the west side of the composition roof.

The facade of the store reflects the differences in inside use. The first floor is composed of large windows and a door, all surmounted by transoms. The exterior corners are composed of square steel columns that rise to the second floor. The recessed entrance is marked with steel columns. The second story, where the ornamentation occurs, is composed of three 2/2 double hung sash windows surmounted by wooden arches. Limestone blocks define the corners of the second story. A wooden entablature is located on the facade. The frieze is decorated with dentils. Four brackets uphold the eaves. A gable with "D. G. SMITH. 1885" painted in black is centered on the entablature.

An engraving in the 1887 First National Bank promotional titled "A Gem, The City of the Plains, Abilene" indicates that the words "MUSIC HALL" might have been painted on the brick below the entablature. There is no indication, though, that a music hall ever existed above the pharmacy. The engraving also indicates that the word "DRUGGIST" might have appeared in the gable below the present inscription and the words "PRESCRIPTION" and "A SPECIALTY" were painted on either side of the gable.

The composition of the first bay of the west elevation is similar to the facade. A large multi-light window pierces the first story while the second story is pierced by a 2/2 double hung sash window surmounted by a wooden arch. The end of the first bay is marked with a square steel column on the first floor and limestone blocks on the second. The brick entablature, covering the west and south elevations, reflects a different composition than the facade entablature. The entablature is defined with dentils that are broken with slightly projecting brick brackets.

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The rest of the first story on the west elevation is pierced by a 2/2 double hung sash window and a door surmounted by a transom, located on the farthest southern bay. The second story is composed of (going north to south) two 2/2 double hung sash windows, a 2/2 double hung sash window and a door that are located inside the porch, a square wooden projection pierced by three 1/1 double hung sash windows, and another 2/2 double hung sash window. All openings, except the projecting, wooden window, are surmounted by brick arches with limestone keystones and imposts. The gently sloping porch roof is upheld by turned posts. A railing with turned banisters encloses the porch. A wooden staircase projects from the north side of the porch.

The first story of the south elevation is composed of two 2/2 double hung sash windows. The second story is pierced by two 2/2 double hung sash windows and a door. Brick arches surmount all of these openings. A wooden staircase leads from the second story to street level.

Two small 1/1 double hung sash windows pierce the second story of the east elevation. No ornamentation is applied to this facade. Originally this elevation abutted a one-story commercial building that was removed in 1994.

The interior of the first floor retains its original floorplan. The second story floorplan has changed slightly due to later apartment renovations. The first floor is composed of one large room with a bathroom, workroom and wooden staircase. A tin ceiling surmounts the room. A c. 1890 photograph indicates that the ceiling was originally a painted, vaulted, plaster ceiling. Wainscoting at chair rail level covers the north, east, and west walls. Two photographs, c. 1890 and c. 1910, indicate that counters were located several feet from the west and east walls. Shelves also lined the walls behind the counters. The mezzanine on the south wall was added sometime in the early twentieth century. A c. 1890 photograph indicates no mezzanine or staircase leading to the second floor. It also shows a back room was created by a wooden, dividing wall. This wall went two thirds up the way to the ceiling.

A straight staircase on the south wall leads to the mezzanine. Cabinets and shelves line the west wall and part of the south wall. A straight staircase on the south wall rises to the second floor. The second floor is accessed through a trap door in the kitchen.

The second floor is roughly arranged by having one room lead into another. A hallway runs east to west and divides the second floor. To the south is a combined dining/living room and kitchen. To the north is den, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The second floor is either entered from an exterior entrance on the west elevation that leads into the hall, an exterior entrance on the south elevation that leads to the kitchen or through the trap door in the kitchen.

All woodwork on the second floor has a flat profile. A tin ceiling surmounts the dining/living room. The dining area and living room are divided by a wooden wall that goes two thirds up the wall. An opening pierces the center of the dividing wall. Wainscoting at chair level covers the wall in the

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wall in the east bedroom and den.

The D. G. Smith Building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity as an example of a two-part commercial block store. The present owners, Richard Esvang and Michelle Meade, plan to transform the downstairs into a vintage clothing museum with an espresso/coffee bar on the mezzanine. They currently live in the apartment above the store that was remodelled in 1994. The 1994 remodelling of the apartment returned the floorplan, as closely as could be determined, to its original design. The two bay layout is separated by an east/west hallway. The public rooms are located to the south and contain a combined dining/living room and kitchen. A den, two bedrooms, and a bathroom are located north of the hallway and comprise the private areas of the apartment.

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The D. G. Smith Building (c. 1885) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its historical association with the growth and development of Abilene, Kansas and under criterion C for its architectural significance as a late nineteenth century commercial building. The D. G. Smith Building represents the settlement growth of Abilene, after the cattle trade left.

The D. G. Smith Building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity as an example of a two-part commercial block store. The building stands at the corner of First and Cedar Streets. The brick store contains restrained elements of the Italianate style. The building's Italianate style is interpreted through its rectangular form, arched windows on the second floor, and bracketed cornice. The first and second floor reflect their different internal uses. The single-story lower floor, at street level, indicates public space as a retail store. The upper floor is an apartment, a private space.

"Town building preoccupied a large portion of the westward-moving populace. Many Americans shared the dream that their own communities would one day emerge as great urban centers. The size and extent of a community's commercial buildings served as an index to its achievements and its potential. Even in the frontier town, many of the earliest and finest permanent buildings were erected to house those commercial enterprises. Businesses were intentionally clustered in more or less central districts....The individuality of the emporiums, offices, banks, hotels and theaters that made up these areas was important to their collective image." (Longstreth, p.13)

The architect of the D. G. Smith Building is unknown, but three architects are named in the 1886 Dickinson County Directory. The three possible architects that could have designed the building are John C. Cristy, Paul & Jacobs, and Thompson & Kruger; all located in Abilene. Family lore implies that an architect designed the building, but D. G. Smith was actively involved in the planning and construction of the building.

The D. G. Smith Building, situated along the once bustling Texas Street, integrated itself into the community by supplying needed goods to the town. As the population changed from cattle men to settlers, the D. G. Smith Building became a representation of growing commercial enterprises in a flourishing community. In 1895, the building was converted from a pharmacy into a grocery and dry goods store.

On September 3, 1869, Abilene was incorporated. Abilene's reputation as the "wickedest and wildest town in the west developed as it grew, almost overnight, into a town of 3,000 during the boom era of 1867-1872. During those few years, over three million Texas Longhorn cattle arrived at the terminus of the Chisholm Trail, making Abilene the first cowtown of the west. Abilene was originally laid out along Texas Street, the first street in Abilene. Texas Street stretched east to Cedar then jogged north a short distance and then turned east again to Buckeye.

The increase of settlers coming to Abilene can partly be contributed to the large number of advertisements in eastern papers. "Abilene was the best advertised small town in the United States

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in 1870 and 1871. Streets were thronged from morning until night, and during the summer for 24 hours a day." (Salina Journal, July 1, 1956)

"After going through one period of as wild a history as a civilized town ever had, along with combatting drought, grasshoppers and floods, it wept few tears after the cattle trade ended and embarked on a new era of steady and healthy growth and normal business and living conditions. The country was filling up, farmers were prospering and the great 'desert' had become a vast paradise, drawing newcomers like a magnet.

Brick buildings went up replacing old wooden ones, the town enlarged by one addition after another and new residents flocked in from the east. By 1882-83 the population had grown to more than thirty-five hundred permanent residents and five years later it neared five thousand." (Jameson, p.87)

Abilene was incorporated as a second class city in April of 1884. It was during this time that the D. G. Smith constructed his pharmacy. "The owner and proprietor of this most popular drug store came from Champaign County, Illinois, in 1871, and has been in business ever since; his is therefore, the oldest drug firm in the city. In 1885, Mr. Smith's business became so extensive that he found it necessary to enlarge his house. He therefore went to work and put up his new block on the corner of First and Cedar streets, which is acknowledged to be the finest drug building in the State." (Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, January 1, 1885)

The Friday November 17, 1885 edition of the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle noted that "Mr. D. G. Smith, the Southside druggist removed his stock of drugs and medicines from his old to the new building on Tuesday, of this week. Mr. Smith now has one of the finest locations, as well as one of the best rooms in the city, and we predict for him a trade even greater than he has had in the past."

D. G. Smith ran the pharmacy until his death on December 13, 1895. After his death, Augusta Smith, his wife moved into the apartment above the store and lived there until she died on February 26, 1945. When Mr. Smith passed away, his son in law, Theodore Nusz, turned the pharmacy into a grocery and dry goods store. Nusz immigrated from Shaverkofka, Germany to the United States as a child. He married Lena Anna Brueggen, Smith's step-daughter, on June 6, 1893.

"Carrying an immense and varied stock, doing a large business annually and employing modern and progressive methods, the widely known store of Theodore Nusz, located at the corner of Cedar and First street, occupies a leading position among similar concerns of this city. This store conducts a general merchandize business and handles shoes, dry goods, notions, groceries, etc. Prompt and efficient service, moderate prices, and high quality of goods are among the important features of this establishment." (Past and Present, Progress and Prosperity, p.17C)

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Nusz operated grocery and dry goods store until 1945. In addition to running his store, Nusz was also active in local politics. "Nusz was one of the first city commissioners to be elected here under the city management plan and served two terms as mayor, in 1941 and again in 1944. He was a member of the city commission for six years." (Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, July 15, 1955)

The D. G. Smith Building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity as an example of a two-part commercial block store. The building stands at the corner of First and Cedar Street. First Street was originally Texas Street, the first street in Abilene. The present owners, Richard Esvang and Michelle Meade, plan to transform the downstairs into a vintage clothing museum with a espresso/coffee bar. They currently live in the apartment above the store.

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Abilene Reflector Chronicle, 1 January 1885, 17 November 1885, 27 February 1945, 19 March 1947,
15 July 1955.

Jameson, Henry B. Heros by the Dozen. Abilene: Shadinger-Wilson Printers, 1961.

Longstreth, Richard. The Buildings of Main Street. Washington D. C.: The Preservation Press,
1987.

Meade, Michelle. "D. G. Smith Building." National Register nomination draft, 1994.

Past and Present, Progress and Prosperity. Abilene: 1910.

Salina Journal, 1 July 1956.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property stands on the west 1/2 of Lots 8 in Block 2, Original Town. The property is bounded to the north by First Street, to the west by Cedar Street, to the south by an alley and to the east by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains all property historically associated with the nominated building.