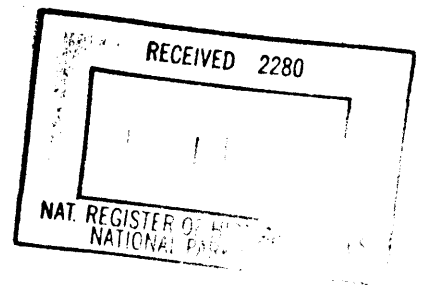


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 the 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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place 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: Wyandotte County Courthouse

Other name/site number: _____

2. Location

710 North 7th Street not for publication

Kansas City vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Wyandotte code 209 zip code 66101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkutz 3/05/02
Signature of certifying official Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is entered in the National Register.

 See continuation sheet Edson R. Beall

 determined eligible for the National Register.

 See continuation sheet _____

 determined not eligible for the National Register.

 removed from the National Register.

 other, (explain:) _____

 Signature of Keeper 4/26/02
Date of Action

Property Name Wyandotte County Courthouse

County and State Wyandotte County, Kansas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas

No. of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register:

0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation STONE: Limestone
Walls STONE: Limestone
Roof OTHER: Composite Material
Other _____

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

Property Name Wyandotte County Courthouse

County and State Wyandotte County, Kansas

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1927-1950

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wight & Wight, Architects

Godfrey Swensen Contractor

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

Property Name Wyandotte County Courthouse

County and State Wyandotte County, Kansas

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Library and Archives Division, Kansas State Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas

Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property <1

UTM References

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>3/5/9/3/2/0</u>	<u>4/3/3/0/4/9/5</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

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 Dana Cloud and Sally F. Schwenk

organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC date April 30, 2000

street & number 818 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1150 telephone (816) 221-5133

city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64106

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Wyandotte County

street & number 710 North 7th Street telephone (913) 573-2876

city or town Kansas City state KS zip code 66101

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

DESCRIPTION

The Wyandotte County Courthouse is a Classical Revival style, six-story masonry structure that occupies the east half of a rectangular block that is west of the Kansas City, Kansas historic central business district [*Figure 1: City Plan of Kansas City, Kansas*]. Facing east onto North 7th Street, this courthouse is almost square in plan [*Figure 2: Existing Site Plan*]. The structure is dressed Indiana limestone laid in running bond. The primary façade measures approximately 132 feet and features hexastyle Doric columns in antis without bases supporting a full Greek Doric entablature. The jail, which has a flat roof, occupies the top (fifth) floor and is set back from the primary façade. Except for the window replacements and the addition of the west annex, the courthouse has excellent architectural integrity and retains nearly all of its original exterior and interior features [*Photographs #1 and #2*]. Erected in 1925–1927 as a county courthouse, the structure continues to serve as a county courthouse.

Designed in the Doric order, this building has 13 bays on the east and west façades and nine bays on the north and south façades. The exterior is dressed Indiana limestone laid in running bond. The seven center bays of the west façade are recessed. Flat piers, extending the full height of the building, define the building corners and enframe the window bays. Dressed limestone also defines the building's decorative masonry features such as the door enframements and pedimented hoods (at the primary façade), and cornice, which is decorated with mutules. Below them, patera are placed on the metopes between the triglyphs.

New metal-clad, one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows with mirrored glazing replaced the original windows. Opaque transom panels enclose the upper fourth of each window opening. The original metal enframements and ornamented spandrels of the tripartite windows are intact [*Photograph #4*]. Fenestration at the three end bays of each façade consists of single window configurations. Fenestration at the seven center bays of the east and west façades and the three center bays of the north and south façades consists of single and tripartite window configurations. Tripartite window configurations at the north, south, and east façades are connected in vertical strips with ornamented metal spandrels.

The seven center bays of the primary (east) façade project to create an entrance pavilion supported by six Doric columns. “Wyandotte County Courthouse” is carved in the architrave and in the frieze has alternating triglyphs and metopes. Between the four central columns are paired doors with carved limestone enframements and pedimented hoods with egg-and-dart molding. New, metal frame doors with metal grille work and transoms replace the original doors [*Photograph #3*]. A grand staircase, flanked by decorative torcheres [*Photograph #4*], rises from the grade level to the first floor of the building. The courthouse features secondary entrances on the north and south façades also accessed by a grand staircase flanked by decorative torcheres. The west annex currently provides the only public access to the courthouse.

The floor plan and use of the original courthouse are typical of the majority of Kansas courthouses built during this time period. A grand staircase at the west side of the building and several smaller secondary staircases provide access to each floor, all of which have north-south running corridors [*Photograph #10*]. The ground-floor entrance is at grade level and a new handicapped accessible entrance is at the west façade [*Photograph #3*]. The first floor houses the county clerk, register of deeds and county commissioners' offices. The second floor houses

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 2

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

the courtroom, judge's chambers, jury room, and sheriff's office. The fourth floor, which is screened from exterior view by the decorative parapet balustrade, houses cell rooms and storage [*Figures 4-7: Existing Floor Plans*].

The interior finishes are also typical of the majority of Kansas courthouses built during this period. Interior finishes consist of terrazzo and marble flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, marble wainscoting, oak doors and trim, and marble stair treads, risers and balustrades. Marble panels also clad the freestanding and wall columns [*Photographs #5, #6, #7, #8, #9 and #10*]. Original light fixtures and sconces also remain intact [*Photograph #11*].

The Wyandotte County Courthouse has excellent architectural integrity despite the alterations mentioned above. Metal-clad windows and doors replaced the original windows and doors; however, the overall exterior appearance of the original courthouse is not compromised as the remaining exterior features such as window and door openings, the masonry, projecting pavilion, Doric columns, torches, and roofline are intact. All of the interior features such as the terrazzo and marble flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, oak doors and trim; marble stair treads, risers, and balustrades; and light fixtures are also intact. The floor plan configuration of the main floors is intact as well. Overall, the Wyandotte County Courthouse not only has excellent architectural integrity, it is also in excellent condition as a result of the care and attention given to the maintenance of the structure by a succession of county commissioners.

This building's historic setting is impacted by a west "annex" building that rises three stories above grade and is set well back from the street and the setback of the courthouse. It is connected to the main structure by a two-story, enclosed, elevated passageway. It is sufficiently smaller in size, scale, and massing to communicate its auxiliary function.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 3

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

PHOTO LOG **Photographer:** **Dana Cloud**
 Date of Photographs: **January 19, 1999**
 Location of Negatives: **Kansas State Historical Society**
 Cultural Resources Division
 6425 S.W. 6th Avenue
 Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

Photo #	Subject	Camera Direction
1.	Exterior of Courthouse, East Facade	West
2.	Exterior of Courthouse	Northeast
3.	Detail of East (Main) Facade	West
4.	Torchere at East (Main) Facade	Northwest
5.	Main Corridor on First Floor	Southwest
6.	Main Corridor on First Floor	South
7.	Main Corridor and Staircase on First Floor	West
8.	Detail of Starting Newell of Main Staircase	South
9.	Detail of Typical Wood Door and Transom at First Floor	East
10.	Main Corridor on Second Floor	North
11.	Main Corridor on Second Floor	South

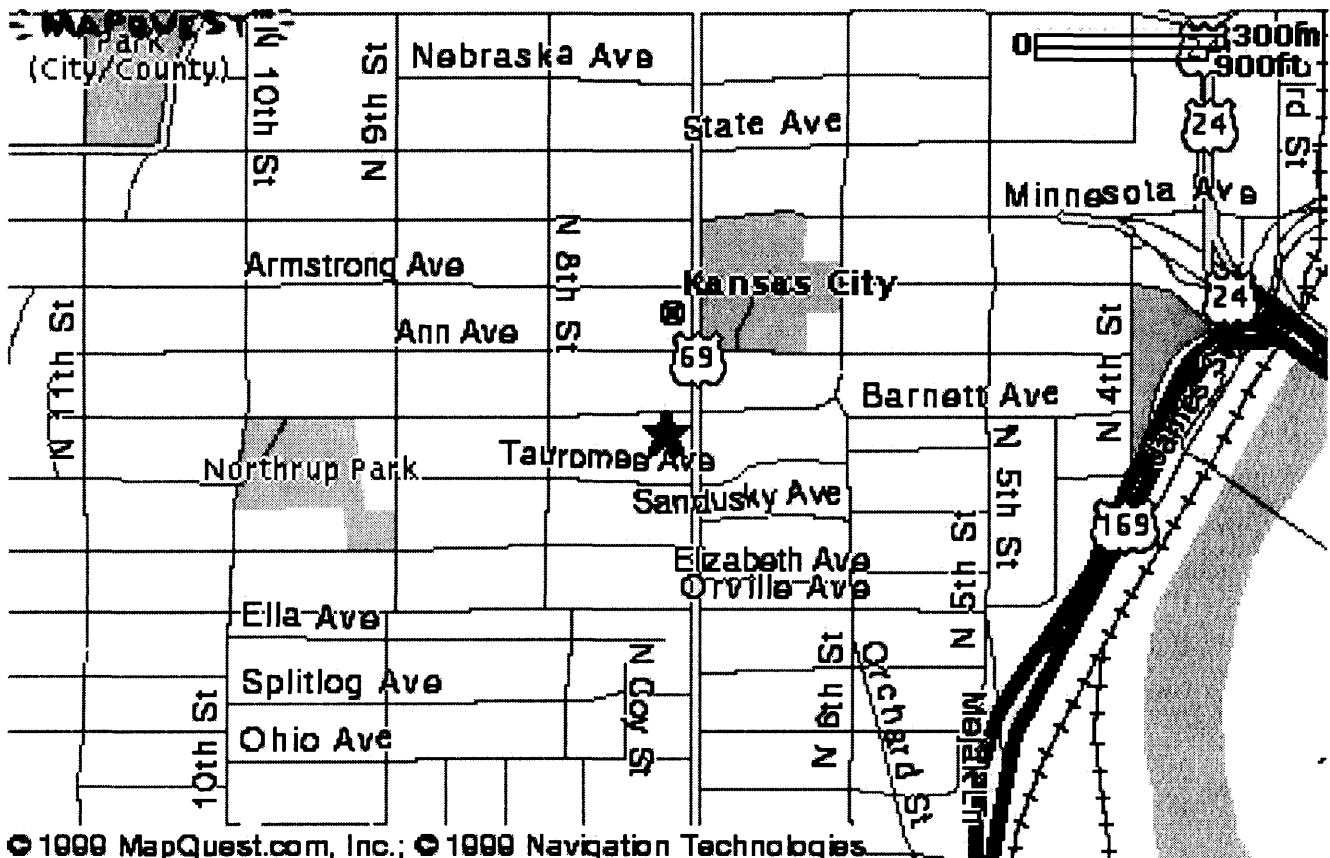
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 4

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

Figure 1: City Plan of Kansas City, Kansas



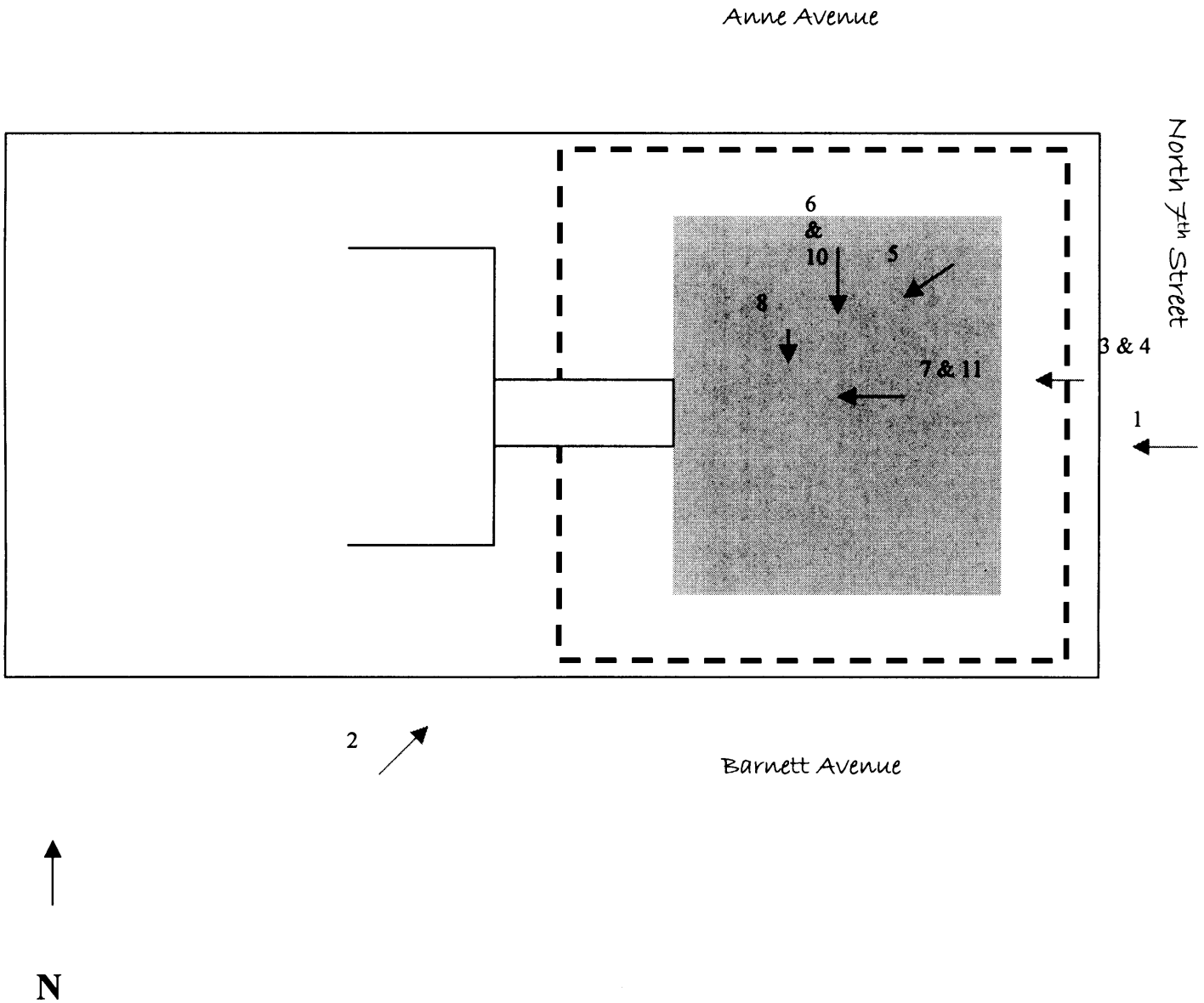
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 5

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

Figure 2: Existing Site Plan



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 6

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wyandotte County Courthouse, erected in 1925–1927, is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of **POLITICS/GOVERNMENT** and under Criterion C in the area of **ARCHITECTURE** for its associations with the development of county courthouses in Kansas and as a representative example of the Classical Revival style popular for civic buildings in the early part of the twentieth century. The historic significance of the Wyandotte County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses that are documented in the Multiple Property Form, “**Historic County Courthouses of Kansas.**” In particular, the property has direct associations to the historic contexts established in the Multiple Property Form—“The Role of the County Courthouse in Kansas Communities 1856–1950,” “Twentieth Century Kansas County Courthouses and Their Changing Use: 1900–1950,” and the “Architecture of Kansas Courthouses 1861–1950.” The property’s association with the evolution of Kansas County Courthouses and their design dates to its completion in 1927 and continues to 2000, the arbitrary 50-year cutoff date for determining eligibility of National Register properties. The property reflects typical courthouse plans, siting, and design found in Kansas during the first decades of the twentieth century. In addition to this property’s retention of association and location, it has a high degree of architectural integrity and is a representative example of its property type. The property type and larger historic contexts relating to the significance of the Wyandotte County Courthouse are fully documented in the Multiple Property Form. The following commentary expands upon these larger contextual themes as they specifically relate to the Wyandotte County Courthouse and documents the property’s significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the northeast corner of Kansas, on the Kansas-Missouri state line, Wyandotte County’s principal city and county seat is Kansas City, Kansas. Several highways run through the county including Interstate Highway 70, Interstate Highway 435, and Highway 73. It is a relatively small county compared to other Kansas counties. The Kansas River forms the county’s southern border.

On January 29, 1859, Governor Medary approved the Territorial Legislature’s recommendation to create Wyandotte County, which was originally a part of Leavenworth and Johnson Counties.¹ On February 25, 1859, the newly elected county commissioners, George B. Wood, Wiley M. English, and H.F. Reid,² held their first meeting to organize the county and find space in which to conduct county business. The commissioners rented rooms in a structure at Nebraska Avenue and Third Street, and Wyandotte County business was officially underway. The first term of the county court began in June 1859, with Justice Joseph Williams residing in a room on the second floor of the Lipman Meyer building.

¹ Author Unknown, “The Past and Present,” *The Wyandotte Herald* (5 July 1883). Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Wyandotte County Clippings, Volume 3, 1896–1913.

² Author Unknown, “First Court House, in Wyandotte Now in Use As Family Residence,” *Kansas City Newspaper Clipping* (Date Unknown). Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 7

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

Early attempts to fund the erection of a permanent courthouse—once in May 1867 and again in November 1867—were not successful. Instead, they supported renting space in a brick building on Minnesota Avenue at \$350 per year. In September 1868, Wyandotte County purchased a two-story, wood, frame structure and property at the northeast corner of Huron Place from Isaiah Walker to serve as the county's first official courthouse. However, by November 1870, the county condemned the structure and sold it to Catherine Hasp, who moved it to 328 Nebraska Avenue and adapted it for residential use.³ On February 20, 1871, the commissioners rented Dunning's Hall at the southeast corner of Fourth and Nebraska for use of the district court. From this point until 1883, the county occupied a number of buildings that served as offices, courthouse, and jail.

Finally, on November 12, 1881, Wyandotte County received the votes required to fund the erection of a permanent courthouse. Between 1882 and 1884, the county raised \$30,000 to aid in the purchase of eight lots at the corner of Seventh Street and Minnesota Avenue and to cover the cost of erecting of a three-story, brick, Italianate style courthouse. Accepted by the county commissioners in June 1883, with a final cost of \$49,691.30, the courthouse served Wyandotte County for nearly 44 years until the commissioners declared it unsuitable for courthouse functions.⁴

As the county grew in population, the county commissioners added new courts and rented additional quarters. On September 5, 1916, the county commissioners passed a resolution declaring that a new courthouse was a necessity and that it should be erected upon the old site at a cost of \$400,000. Voters approved the construction of a new courthouse funded by bonds and on January 29, 1917, the commissioners ordered \$400,000 worth of courthouse bonds sold. The Attorney General of Kansas, in turn, sought an injunction because the amount exceeded the county's bond limit. The District Court granted the injunction and the commissioners appealed to the State Supreme Court where the judgement of the District Court was affirmed.

On September 20, 1920, the commissioners again declared the courthouse inadequate and impractical to remodel and passed a resolution to erect a new courthouse at a cost of \$1,000,000. One newspaper reported: "The unsightly brick building, fast falling to ruin, that once was the Wyandotte courthouse, is likely to offend the pride of Kansas City, Kansas..." On April 20, 1921, voters approved the construction of a \$1,000,000 courthouse. Because the million dollars worth of bonds would exceed the debt limit, the commissioners appealed to the Legislature for relief. The response came with a special act authorizing counties with a population in excess of 110,000⁵ to erect a new courthouse at a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000 and to issue the necessary bonds to finance construction. The Wyandotte county commissioners on the same day passed an order for the building of a new courthouse on the site of the then existing courthouse and fixed the cost at \$1,000,000.

Because the land between Armstrong and Tauomee and Seventh and Ninth streets had been designated as a Civic Center, on September 25, 1922, the commissioners passed a resolution to submit to the voters the question of changing the location of the courthouse to this center. The proposition carried. The commissioners decided to

³ Katharine Kemper, "The Courthouses of Wyandotte County," Manuscript. Woman's Kansas Day Club, 1948. Kansas Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, 2.

⁴ Author Unknown, "The Past and Present."

⁵ Wyandotte County was at this time the only county with this high a population.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 8

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

also seek approval of the Legislature. In February 1923, the Legislature passed a bill that gave the commissioners authority to acquire a new site for the courthouse. The commissioners subsequently selected the east 325 feet of the block fronting on Seventh Street, between Anne and Barnett avenues, that comprised 30 lots as the site for the new courthouse.

Early in January 1925, a group of businessmen chose a committee to act as advisors to the county commissioners in the selection of an architect for the project. The group sponsored an architectural competition and applicants were given a year to prepare and present their plans. Among those submitting plans were Jarvis Hunt, who designed the Kansas City, Missouri Union Station; Charles A Smith, designer of numerous school and public buildings; the firm of Wight and Wight, noted for their classical style designs for financial and private institutions; the firm of Rose and Peterson; J. G. Braecklein; John Latenser; William Bowman; the firm of Squire and Rose, designers of several county courthouses; and the firm of King and Day.⁶ On February 17, 1925, the plans presented by the firm of Wight and Wight were accepted and, in December 1925, the contract for building the courthouse was let to the Swenson Construction Company for \$912,019.50. Construction commenced that year and the cornerstone was laid July 12, 1927 with appropriate Masonic ceremonies.⁷

At the time of its construction, local residents considered the design of the courthouse to be state of the art. A newspaper article at the time of completion of the building noted, "While the building generally is plain in design, calculated to furnish modern commodious offices for the employees of the county, the third floor of the building known as 'the Hall of Courts' has combined the practical with the artistic and is considered the 'show floor' of the building."⁸ The building housed the county offices, four divisions of the district court, two divisions of the city court, the farm bureau, the public law library, and the county jail. One large room on the first floor was designated for public gatherings. In the four district courtrooms, the jury faced the judge, with the witness stand located between them partly facing the judge and the jury. The probate courtroom had special facilities for handling juveniles. There was also a parlor for marriage ceremonies. There were public lavatories on every floor and private washrooms for each general office (some were equipped with showers for those compelled to remain in the building for lengthy time periods). A special cooling apparatus in the basement provided ice water throughout the building. Wight and Wight placed the jail on the fifth floor, well out of public view, and designed it according to top safety and sanitary standards, with cross ventilation and separate plumbing and elevator systems.⁹

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Wyandotte County Courthouse is a significant example of the second and third generation courthouses erected in a wave of new courthouse construction that occurred in the early twentieth century in Kansas. These buildings replaced aged and obsolete courthouse buildings erected in the state's earlier settlement period. The

⁶ Cydney Milstein, "Wyandotte County Courthouse" (Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Form, (September 1993).

⁷ Kemper, 3.

⁸ Author Unknown, "The New Wyandotte County Courthouse is 'Open for Business,'" *Kansas City Star* (10 July 1927). Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

⁹ Author Unknown, "Every Aid for the Public," *Kansas City Star* (10 June 1927). Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

building is also unique in its allocation of spaces, which reflects the particular needs of the most populous county in the state at the time of its construction. The integrity of its historic exterior and interior architectural elements and spatial arrangements, as well as its setting easily convey feelings and associations with its date of construction and the function of county courthouses at this time.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Wyandotte County Courthouse is the only Kansas courthouse designed by the architecture firm of Wight and Wight, a prominent architectural firm in Kansas City, Missouri noted for their public, institutional, and commercial designs. Thomas Wight came to Kansas City in 1904 after spending ten years working for one of the country's leading architectural firms, McKim, Meade, and White in New York City. After considering several other cities, Wight chose to engage in partnership with Edward Wilder, also from McKim, Meade and White.² After several projects fell through, the firm, Wilder and Wight, received a commission to design the First National Bank in Kansas City, Missouri.³

In 1911, Thomas's younger brother, William, came to Kansas City, after working for McKim, Meade and White. The following year, upon Wilder's retirement, he bought out his share and the two brothers changed the name of the firm to Wight and Wight.

Known for their Classical Revival and Beaux Arts style, the firm often received commissions for some of the region's more monumental buildings. Their work reflects their training at McKim, Meade and White, who were known throughout the nation for their classical building styles. Thomas noted that when he began working at the firm, he "didn't know at the time that McKim, Meade and White was the greatest training school for young architects in the country, or that no architects in the United States were individually superior to any one of the members of the famous firm."⁴ Additionally, before they came to Kansas City, both Thomas and William Wight spent a year studying in Europe, which influenced their preference for and utilization of classical styling elements.⁵

The building is an excellent example of the style and period of its construction. The courthouse retains all its original character-defining exterior features, as well as a high percentage of interior treatments such as the two-story, barrel-vaulted hall of courts on the third floor, and the marble floors and wainscoting. It is significant in its ability to reflect the defining characteristics of the early twentieth century Neo-Classical Revival/Classical Revival style. The building's comparatively large size as compared to its nineteenth century Greek Revival counterparts, its simple rectangular shape with expanses of plain wall surface, simple roofline, and employment of Greek orders (including windows and doorways with lintels rather than arches, and pedimented porticoes) are representative of the restrained Classical Revival style in America, particularly after World War I.

The Wyandotte County Courthouse is also architecturally significant for the retention of its original floor plan configuration and hierarchy of space that is in many ways typical of many early twentieth century Kansas

² Fowler, Richard B. "Turning Point in My Career," *The Kansas City Star* 26 April 1931.

³ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

courthouses. Kansas courthouses of this period are generally defined by three or more floors, which have a hierarchy of functions that are located off a main corridor and accessed by one or more staircases. Because of the expanded needs of the Wyandotte County Courthouse in serving the most populous county in the state, the allocation of space was somewhat unique. The ground floor housed the city courtrooms, records storerooms, and auxiliary functions such as the boiler room, facility manager's offices, and toilets. Atypical of other Kansas courthouses erected at this time, the first floor did not house the most frequently used offices. Instead, it housed the offices of the probate judge, storerooms for ballots, the farm bureau/office, office of the registrar of deeds, a meeting room, a large room for jurors, a smoking room for male jurors, and a restroom for female jurors. The second floor of the Wyandotte County Courthouse, rather than holding the district courtroom and associated offices, contained the administrative offices and included offices for the county treasurer, clerk, superintendent of schools, assessor, engineer, surveyor, and commissioners' offices. The third floor housed the judicial function of the courthouse and included space for the clerk of the district court; offices for the sheriff, county attorney, and deputies; four divisions of the district court, private chambers of judges, offices of clerks, and jury rooms. The fourth floor included a law library, inquisition room for the county attorney, pressrooms, and administrative offices—uses not commonly found in Kansas' county courthouses. The fifth floor included jail cells, rooms for the jailer, and a kitchen—common uses for the top floor of a courthouse. Like that of other courthouses, this floor is not as obvious from the exterior and is screened by a decorative parapet balustrade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Wyandotte County Courthouse
Kansas City, Kansas

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Author Unknown, "Every Aid for the Public," *Kansas City Star* (10 June 1927). Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

Author Unknown, "First Court House, in Wyandotte Now in Use As Family Residence," Kansas City Newspaper Clipping (Date Unknown). Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

Author Unknown, "The Past and Present."

Fowler, Richard B. "Turning Point in My Career," *Kansas City Star* 26 April 1931.

Kemper, Katharine. *The Courthouses of Wyandotte County*, Woman's Kansas Day Club, 1948. Kansas Historical Society, Library and Archives Division.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On the northern portion of Block 150, Wyandotte City Subdivision, Lots 1–48 bounded by Anne Avenue on the north, North 7th Street on the east, and Barnett Avenue on the south and the east side of the alley bisecting the block.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the east parcel of the lot historically associated with the courthouse that has not been impacted by new construction.