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| First National Bank Building |
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Name of Property

Doniphan County, Kansas County and State

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| First National Bank Building | Doniphan County, Kansas | | |
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| 3. Statement of Significance | | | |
| Applicable National Register Criteria | Areas of Significance | | |
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| ☐ C a birthplace or grave. | (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) | | |
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| E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. | | | |
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| Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form or | n one or more continuation sheets.) | | |
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| Previous documentation on file (NPS): | Primary location of additional data: |
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| preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) | State Historic Preservation Office |
| has been requested | Other State agency |
| previously listed in the National Register | Federal agency |
| previously determined eligible by the National Register | Local government |
| designated a National Historic Landmark | University |
| recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey | Other |
| | Name of repository: |
| recorded by Historic American Engineering | Kansas State Historical Society |

Record #

| Name of Property | k Building | | | iphan County, K nty and State | ansas |
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| Name/title | Susan Jezak Ford | | | | |
| Organization | Citysearch Preservation | Date | February 20, 2008 | | ala di sana ang sana Tang sana ang |
| Street & number | 3628 Holmes Street | Telephon | e 816-531-248 | 9 | |
| City or town | Kansas City | StateM | <u>0 </u> | ip code <u>64</u> | 109 |
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| | rrill Bauer 1507 Caria Court | Telephone | 702-596-4854 | | |

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>

First National Bank Building Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

Summary

The two-story First National Bank building is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Historic Resources of Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas." The building sits on the northeast corner of Main and Ives Streets in Highland, Kansas. The main portion of the rectangular red brick building measures approximately 40 feet wide by 50 feet deep. The building has a flat roof, a stone watercourse and bands of buff brick at the sill and lintel levels. All original window openings are tall and narrow with stone sills and arched headers. Window openings are now filled with modern double-hung windows, boarded over or downsized. A band of buff brick caps the building's corbelled cornice.

Architectural Description

The building has primary façades on the west and south sides. Two storefronts, each three bays wide, divide the south façade. Three brick pilasters that run from the sidewalk to the cornice divide and surround the two halves of the south façade. Bay one in the first story of the west half contains the bank's main entrance stairway leading to a wood and glass door surrounded by paneled lights. Bays two and three each has a large window topped by a leaded glass transom. The second story has a doorway opening in bay two, surrounded by smaller window openings in bays one and three. A stairway surrounded by a simple iron railing leads past a basement window in bay two to a doorway in bay three and a doorway in bay one of the building's east half. Arched headers top the two west basement openings. The east half of the south façade is an irregular three bays wide. The first story now contains a central entrance surrounded by in-fill panels containing modern windows. The second story has a doorway opening in the east portion.

The west façade is six bays wide. Viewing the bays from right to left (south to north), bays one through five each has a basement window opening. Basement windows have arched headers and metal mesh screens. First-story window openings are larger than those in the second story. Bay one has a second-story window, bay two has a first-story window and bay three has windows in the first and second stories. Bay four has a first story window. Bay six has a second-story window and a first-story entrance, now boarded over.

An enclosed wood stairway bisects the west half of the building's north (rear) side. One enters the stairway through a single doorway in the far west corner. Clapboards cover an enclosed second-story porch. The porch has three small double-hung windows and sits atop a pent roof supported by three wood posts. The east half of the north elevation contains a brick one-story extension. This extension has a single large window opening on the west side and a central entrance topped by four window openings in the south side. Clapboards cover the east half of the building's second story. A short portion of the building's east brick wall rises above the garage abutting the east side.

The west interior retains many of the historic features from the building's decades as a bank and then a post office. A counter and grill bisect the main room diagonally where employees served clientele. Mosaic tile floors, oak moldings, marble baseboards, leaded glass windows and large sections of the metal and oak grill are all still present in the public side of the room. Oak floors, pressed metal ceilings and the bank's vault remain in the office portion of the room. The rear portion of the west interior contains a bathroom and a rear entry. The east portion's interior contained several

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>2</u>

First National Bank Building Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

types of businesses and currently contains an apartment. Vinyl and carpet cover most wood floors, suspended ceilings hide the original pressed metal ceiling and plasterboard walls create two bedrooms. The space also contains a kitchen and bathroom. Several walls are clad in rough boards. The basement areas, also currently laid out for apartments, have concrete block or plaster board walls. The west basement retains pressed metal ceilings above a suspended ceiling. The second story contains four apartments in configurations likely created in the 1980s, but wood floors and historic wood moldings are still present.

Many of the First National Bank building's window openings are downsized or boarded over, likely from the 1980s. A balcony that spanned the second story was also removed at this time. Interior apartment finishes and configurations reflect the building's recent use as multiple family housing, but historic finishes are present throughout in historic wood moldings, wood floors, iron radiators and metal ceilings.



1930s view of Highland's Main Street. The First National Bank Building is the far left building in the photograph. (The Highland Vidette.)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>3</u>

First National Bank Building Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

Summary

The First National Bank building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under the MPDF "Historic Resources of Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas." The building is eligible under Criterion A in the category of COMMERCE as an important business building in Highland.

History

Construction of the First National Bank building began immediately after fire destroyed the earlier bank buildings in 1913. As promised in a *Highland Vidette* article, Tom Reber purchased the two corner lots, constructed a modern building and rented the west first story to the bank. The second story contained apartments, including a room for Reber.¹ The *Vidette* printing plant occupied the west side of the basement. The basement windows provided enough light for the business and the concrete floors provided an even temperature for the presses. B.A. Webb leased the east basement for his barbershop, which included a bathing room, shower and an area to clean clothes.²

The Weekly Kansas Chief stated in 1914, "The First National Bank is housed in the finest business structure in the little city, just across the campus of the Highland university. The interior is very handsome, being patterned after the manner of metropolitan banks; it has, no doubt, the finest equipment and facilities of any bank in Doniphan County."³

The building served as a social and business center in Highland. Tom Reber owned the building until he sold it to Eugene and Florence Parker in 1946, according to Doniphan County deed records. The west first story served as the First National Bank until April 1932, when a small sign appeared on the front door that read, "Closed by the Directors to Protect its Depositors." The bank quickly went into receivership, liquidated its assets and closed, leaving Highland with just one bank, the Farmers State Bank.⁴ The local post office soon moved into the space, operating there until around 2000. The east half of the building served as a hardware story, dry goods store and several restaurants until converted to an apartment in the mid-1980s. The building's second story and basement contained apartments and rental space since construction. The entire building is currently vacant.

Architecture

The First National Bank Building is one of the few remaining examples in Highland of a two-part commercial block. The MPDF "Historic Resources of Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas" references Richard Longstreth's description of the most common form for small and medium-sized storefronts in this country. Two-part commercial blocks can include up to four stories, but only reach two stories in Highland. The form has a clear delineation between the first and second stories, as seen on the First National Bank building. The building's first story had larger windows and public entrances, while the second story had smaller windows and held living space, elements described in the MPDF. The north and south sides of Main Street originally contained several two-part commercial blocks between Ives and

¹ "Highland to Rebuild," The Highland Vidette, 3 April 1913, p. 1.

² "Vidette Office Moved," *The Highland Vidette*, 10 July 1913, p. 1.

³ "The First National Bank," Illustrated Doniphan County (Troy, KS: The Weekly Kansas Chief, 6 April 1916), 119.

⁴ "First National Bank Closed Monday," The Highland Vidette, 28 April 1932, p. 1.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>4</u>

First National Bank Building Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

Kirkwood. The First National Bank building and the adjacent garage are two of Highland's few extant historic commercial structures. Recent changes to the building are reversible and do not detract from the building's integrity. The building's exterior brick ornamentation, arched fenestration and recessed banks entrance are all still present, as are many of the historic interior details, especially in the bank space.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>9</u> Page <u>5</u>

First National Bank Building Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

Sources

"The First National Bank." Illustrated Doniphan County. Troy, KS: The Weekly Kansas Chief, 6 April 1916, 119.

- The Highland Vidette: "Highland Has A \$50,000 Fire." 9 January 1913, p. 1; "Highland to Rebuild." 3 April 1913, p. 1; "Vidette Office Moved." 10 July 1913, p. 1; "First National Bank Closed Monday." 28 April 1932, p. 1.
- Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Form, "1st National Bank Building" 13 March 1987. (On file at Kansas State Historic Society archives.)

Highland, Kansas. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1915; 1927.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First National Bank Building Section number <u>Additional Info</u> Page <u>6</u> Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

The First National Bank Building is located on Lots 17 and 18 and the west 16 feet of Lot 16 on Block 69 of the Original Town of Highland, Kansas. Main Street creates the south boundary, Ives Street creates the west boundary, the garage to the east creates the east boundary and the alley creates the north boundary.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the First National Bank building.

Photographic Information

| Photographer: | Susan Jezak Ford |
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| | Citysearch Preservation |
| | Kansas City, MO |
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Date of Photographs: February 2008

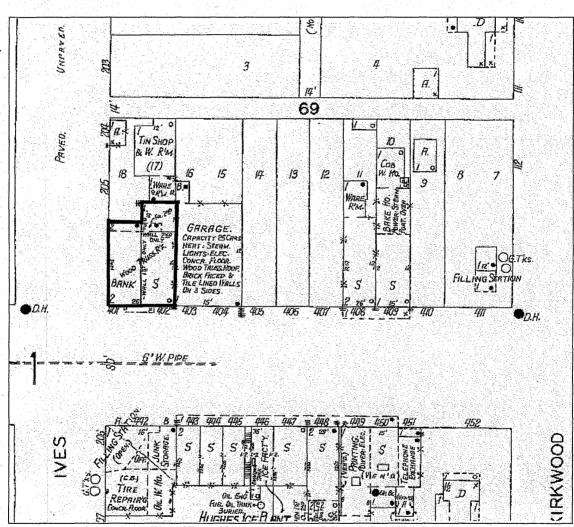
Location of Original Photographs: Kansas State Historical Society

| Photograph Number | Description | Camera View |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Southwest exterior corner | Northeast |
| 2 | Southeast exterior | Northwest |
| 3 | West exterior wall | Southeast |
| 4 | Rear of building | Southeast |
| 5 | Rear of building | South |
| 6 | West 1 st story interior | East |
| 7 | West 1 st story interior | Southeast |
| 8 | West 1 st story interior | Northeast |
| 9 | East 2 nd story interior | East |
| 10 | East 2 nd story interior | East |
| 11 | West basement interior | West |

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Info Page 7 Highland, Doniphan County, Kansas

First National Bank Building



Current outline of First National Bank building from 1927 Sanborn map.

