

PHD 100221

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Leavenworth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER WAR 17 1972	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
 -AXA Building *W. W. Reich Bldg. - 300 ft*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Pass Title

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 205 South Fifth

CITY OR TOWN:
 Leavenworth

STATE Kansas	CODE 66048	COUNTY: Leavenworth	CODE 103
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
 Ruth E. Davis and Louise Janis

STREET AND NUMBER:
 c/o Kelly Agency
 209 South Fifth

CITY OR TOWN:
 Leavenworth

STATE:
 Kansas

CODE:
 66048

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
 Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Leavenworth County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
 Leavenworth

STATE:
 Kansas

CODE:
 66048

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

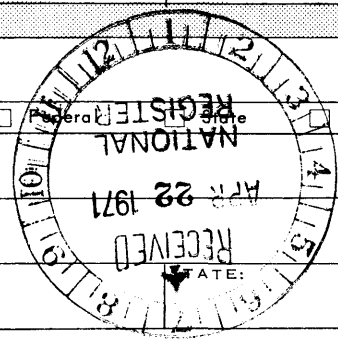
TITLE OF SURVEY:
 NONE

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The AXA Building is a highly ornate and decorative two and one-half story red brick commercial building in the Victorian style. The main facade on Fifth Street, which measures 125 feet, is divided into two major sections. These are connected on the ground floor by an imposing semicircular arch which is also the main entrance to the building. The north facade on Delaware Street measures 48 feet in width.

An obvious attempt at symmetry in the building design is evidenced by the series of paired windows and the trim of the second floor. All windows are elaborately detailed and small circular pediments are located at the top of each bay window. Above the second story windows is a row of square multi-paned windows, which are symmetrically grouped.

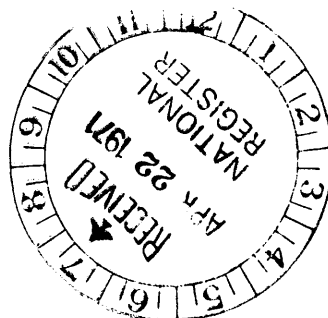
The corners of the building, as well as the window jambs, are quoined with decorative stones. An ornate cornice with much decorative trim and coupled brackets tops the building.

The first floor of the north facade was considerably altered by the remodeling of the drugstore. The original entrance to the drugstore was set at an angle at the northwest corner of the building. Now there are two entrances--one on the north and the other on the west facade, a portion of which was changed by the remodeling. The sheltering porch extending from the north facade is also an addition. The rest of the exterior seems to be much as it was originally except for the removal of two coupled brackets at the northwest corner, apparently to permit placement of a sign.

The AXA Building with space for five stores and 26 office suites was built as a rental property. The store facilities were on the first floor and fronted on Fifth and Delaware streets, two of Leavenworth's busiest streets. The second floor offices were designed to attract professional men--lawyers, doctors, and dentists.

The building is still used as a rental property and still houses some professional offices. However, recent city directories indicate that many of the office suites are unoccupied.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

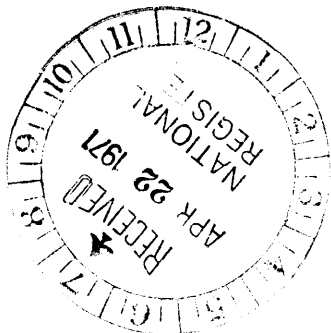
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The AXA Building, originally called the Espenscheid Building, was constructed in 1905 for Charles Espenscheid, a St. Louis investor. Located at the southeast corner of Fifth and Delaware, which was near the center of the Leavenworth business district, the building was designed as a rental property to house several businesses and to provide office space for professional men.

The large commercial structure was designed by William B. Feth, a prominent Leavenworth architect. The general contractor was R. B. Yoakum of Leavenworth who indicated in the bid that his firm could erect the building in four months. Tholen Brothers, also of Leavenworth, was the heating and plumbing contractor. The cost of the building was placed at \$36,000.

The AXA Building is a good example of the Victorian influence on Kansas architecture. Its extremely ornate facade demonstrates the decorative quality of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Bids on Espenscheid Building Are Opened," Leavenworth Daily Times, March 28, 1905.
 "Building Boom in Leavenworth," Leavenworth Weekly Times, March 23, 1905.
Hoye's City Directory for Leavenworth, 1905-1906 (Kansas City, Mo., Hoye Directory Co., 1906), p. 401.
Leavenworth Daily Times, December 31, 1905.
Leavenworth Weekly Times, December 29, 1904; June 29, 1905; January 4, 1906.

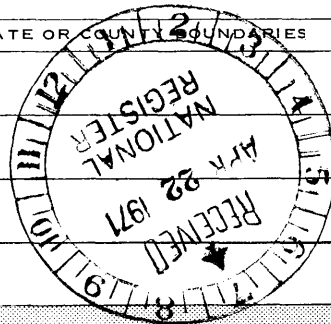
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39	19	04
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant
Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: April 2, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date April 6, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 17 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:
William Huntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 2 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Leavenworth	
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(Number all entries)

- The name of the owner of the AXA Building should be changed to Ruth D. Todd, St. Louis, Missouri.