

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Logan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 23 1972	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Logan County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main street, block 32

CITY OR TOWN:  
Russell Springs

STATE Kansas	CODE 67755	COUNTY: Logan	CODE 109
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Butterfield Trail Historical Association and  
Historical Society of Logan County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Russell Springs

STATE: Kansas	CODE 67755
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Logan County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oakley

STATE: Kansas	CODE 67748
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
NONE

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

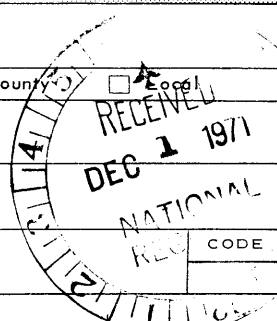
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 old Logan County Courthouse at Russell Springs is a two-story rectangular structure with Renaissance influenced styling. The brick and stone building faces east and measures approximately 60 feet long, 50 feet wide and 45 feet high.

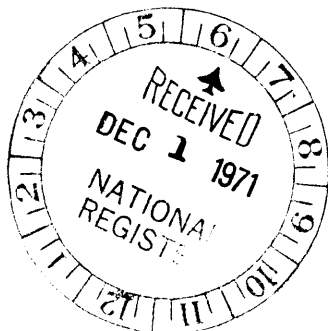
Uniformly sized stone blocks laid in regular horizontal courses form the lower portion of the exterior walls. The remainder of the walls is red face brick laid in a common bond. A wider band of stone separates the stone from the brick masonry at a height even with the top of the rectangular portion of the first floor front windows. The brick masonry is corbeled out to form a cornice with brick brackets under the roof eave.

The steeply pitched hip roof is flat at the top and is covered with wood shingles. A steep, pointed, multi-faced tower roof occurs at the main entrance. The entrance is further emphasized by a wall projection running the full height to the roof line. An elaborate metal ornamental pediment with a palladian window motif terminates the entrance feature. Projecting stone brackets flank each side of the entrance at the first floor.

Each window opening on the first floor front has paired rectangular double-hung sash windows topped by a transom glass with a curved head. The window sill is formed by the stone masonry of the walls, while the window head is emphasized by a combination brick and stone arch. The keystone of this arch is stone while the bricks form the curvature. A stone block at the spring line terminates the arch. The second story windows, which are grouped in pairs, rise from the stone sill which forms a continuous band around the building. Each second story window is capped with a transom glass and an angular arched head of brick and stone. A trio of rectangular windows occurs on the second floor above the main entrance. These windows have semicircular heads and curved brick arches. The frame doors at the main entrance are flanked by rectangular windows.

A two-story stone addition was built on to the west in the 1930's, and a large heavy stone lintel has been removed from the front entrance just above where the museum sign is now placed. Otherwise the building's exterior appears much as it did originally.

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**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887-1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" 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"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Logan County Courthouse in Russell Springs housed the county offices for 75 years beginning in 1888. In February, 1887, the Pioneer Town Site Company of Russell Springs agreed to erect a courthouse and donate it to the county if Russell Springs were chosen the permanent county seat in an election the following December. On April 23, 1887, the town company approved the specifications and plans presented by Alfred Meyer of Atchison and instructed him to superintend construction of the courthouse. George D. Kerns of Russell Springs contracted to build the structure.

Cornerstone ceremonies were held July 7, 1887, and by early October the second floor was almost completed. The deed to the building and grounds was transferred from the town company to the county commissioners in mid-November. The special election on December 22 resulted in a 66-vote margin for Russell Springs as the permanent county seat. The fact that a new courthouse was being constructed there at no expense to the county taxpayers was a major factor in the election. The county commissioners established temporary headquarters in a nearby schoolhouse in January, 1888, and moved into the new \$20,000 courthouse a short time later.

Periodic objections were raised to the county seat remaining at Russell Springs. Russell Springs was one of the two smallest county seat towns in Kansas. Population of the little community was seldom greater than 200 and at times less than 100, and after a branch line was torn up in 1918, the town had no railroad service. However, efforts to move the county seat to Oakley were defeated in a 1937 election, and a 1945 attempt failed when a petition drive to put the question on the ballot did not obtain sufficient signatures. At another election in 1960 the vote to move the county seat appeared to have fallen short of the three-fifths majority which the legislature required to change the county seat, but then the county election board disqualified eleven voters and it appeared the Russell Springs proponents had lost. Court cases followed, but the Kansas Supreme Court ruled in 1963 that the proposition had carried by 2.4 votes and ordered the county seat moved to Oakley. In July, 1963, the county officials moved out of the old courthouse.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blackmar, Frank W., editor, A Cyclopedia of Kansas History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), pp. 180, 181.  
 "County Seat War Pending...", Topeka Capital, February 17, 1937.  
 "A Courthouse in the Balance," Topeka Capital-Journal, July 31, 1963.  
 "Courthouse to Oakley; Appeal May Be Filed," Kansas City Star, October 23, 1960.  
 "Form Society to Preserve Old Courthouse," Oakley Graphic, October 29, 1964.  
 Howes, Charles C., "The County-Seat Wars," This Place Called Kansas (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1952), pp. 55-65.  
 Jagger, Mabel, "County Seat Town That Won't Die," Kansas City Times, November 1, 1961.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	0 ' "	0 ' "	0	0	0
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "	38	54	42
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "	101	10	46
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Two acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: September 27, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

**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 November 20, 1971

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

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

FEB 11 1972

ATTEST: William Pankratz  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 11 1972

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kansas	
COUNTY	Logan	
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(Number all entries)

8. An organization, which later became known as the Butterfield Trail Historical Association and Historical Society of Logan County, was formed in Russell Springs in October, 1964, to preserve the old Logan County Courthouse. Its efforts were successful and the old courthouse was dedicated as the Butterfield Trail Historical Museum on September 5, 1965. The old building possesses local historical significance since it was the first permanent county courthouse of Logan county and it was used for 75 years as the center of county government.
9. Kiewit, Fred, "Feelings Split a County in Hot Dispute over the Courthouse," Kansas City Star, September 18, 1960.  
 Kull, Ron, "2.4 Votes Enough to Move Courthouse," Topeka Capital, July 11, 1963.  
 Logan County Leader (Russell Springs), October 6, 13, 27, November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8, 15, 1887; January 12, March 1, 15, 1888; July 3, 1914.  
 Logan County Times (Oakley), March 3, 1887.  
 Logan County Times (Russell Springs), February 16, 1888.  
 Russell Springs Record, March 3, April 28, May 5, July 7, 1887.  
 Topeka Commonwealth, March 22, 1887.

