

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Listed
January 8, 2014

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name City Square Park Bandstand
other names/site number KHRI # 001-97

2. Location

street & number 100 S 9th Street (City Square Park) not for publication
city or town Humboldt vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Allen code 001 zip code 66748

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide x local

SEE FILE
Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | buildings |
| | | district |
| | | site |
| 1 | | structure |
| | | object |
| 1 | | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture: music facility

Recreation & Culture: music facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Octagon

foundation: Concrete

walls: Metal: Iron (railings)

roof: Asphalt Shingle

other: _____

Narrative Description

Summary

The City Square Park Bandstand is situated at the center of a public square that occupies one city block at the center of Humboldt in the 800 block of Bridge Street. The park is surrounded on all sides by one- and two-story commercial buildings, most dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The park is largely undeveloped, with only two substantial built features: a 1907 bandstand at the center of the park and a water tower at the northeast corner. Other ancillary features in the park include a small pavilion covering a water spigot at the northwest corner, various modern stone monuments at the northwest and southeast corners, a small concrete watering trough for horses in the southwest corner. Only the bandstand and a small perimeter is included within the nomination boundary.

Elaboration

This one square-block space has functioned as a public square since the founding of Humboldt. There has been a public water source at the northwest corner of the park since at least the mid-1860s, and the park has remain largely undeveloped, functioning primarily as a community gathering space.

Four concrete sidewalks lead to the bandstand from the east, west, north, and south edges of the square, and concrete sidewalk partially encircles the north half of the bandstand where there are two sets of concrete staircases leading up to the raised bandstand. The park is shaded with various trees and benches and picnic tables are scattered throughout.

The bandstand (built 1907, contributing structure) is the most prominent feature of the park. Plans for the bandstand were drawn by Charles M. Smith and John Nessel was contracted to build the bandstand. The structure is approximately 1½ stories tall and octagonal in shape. It features an asphalt roof with a spire rising from the center. The ceiling has recently been replaced with tongue-and-groove wood with accommodations for additional lighting. Black cylindrical iron pillars support the roof and ceiling at each of the eight corners of the structure. The floor is wood painted white and sits atop an octagonal concrete base. Concrete pillars at each of the eight corners support the structure approximately eight feet off of the ground. These concrete pillars are joined in semielliptical arches. Two concrete staircases ascend to the raised platform, which has a wooden floor. These staircases face northwest and northeast and feature iron railings. The platform of the bandstand is surrounded by a wrought iron railing. The lower portion of the railing is characterized by round spires with ribbon scrolls at the bottom and top of the spire and rosettes in the midsection in an alternating pattern. The horizontal component is of a thicker ribbon design. Above this lower portion is a circular hand railing that is also made of iron.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1907-1963

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, Charles M. (architect) - bandstand

Nessel, John (builder) - bandstand

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of this bandstand in 1907 and extends to 1963, the fifty-year cut-off date established by the National Park Service to provide sufficient passage of time to allow objective evaluation of the historic resource eligibility at the time of its listing.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The City Square Park Bandstand in Humboldt is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. The public square originated with the platting of the town in 1857, and has functioned primarily as a community gathering space. Humboldt's community band formed in 1866 under the leadership of former military bandmaster Richard Redfield, and performed in the park as early as 1867. The current bandstand was built in 1907 and sits at the center of the park.

Elaboration

The town site of Humboldt was chosen by B.M. Blanton, a Methodist missionary, in 1856. Blanton wrote to his brother, N.B. Blanton, and J.A. Coffey, who were in Lawrence, to inform them of his intent to settle the area and Coffey provided \$20 to secure the land. A German colony interested in moving west had organized in Hartford, Connecticut and met with Blanton and Coffey in Lawrence in March of 1857. The group reached the new settlement in May of that year and the town was named Humboldt, after Alexander von Humboldt, a German geographer. The town grew steadily over the next three years though progress was stalled by unrest related to the Civil War. In 1861, during a rebel attack, the majority of the town was destroyed in a fire. After quick recovery, Humboldt once again prospered and the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad made its way to Humboldt in April of 1870. It was followed by the Kansas City, Lawrence & Southern Kansas Railroad in October. These valuable transportation links allowed Humboldt to experience further growth and the town was formally organized as a city in 1870. Humboldt was the county seat for Allen County from 1858 to about 1865, when it moved to Iola.¹

Humboldt was originally platted with a public square reserved.² The history of the square is intertwined with the history of Humboldt's local band, which is almost as old as the town itself. The presence of a bandstand in the park dates back to 1867 when the band used "a pair of Fairbanks wagon scales at the southwest corner of the square." The scales belonged to J. C. Redfield, who operated a store across the street from the park at the southwest corner of the square and also played in the band. However, if a "load of hay or coal came along to be weighed the band had to scatter until it had driven away." Prior to circa 1870, the public square was described in the local paper as "a block of barren ground, save for a few weeds, an old circus ring, the 'town well' with its 'old oaken bucket,' near the northwest corner." There was no light, no chairs, and concerts began early enough to be ended by sundown.³

Shortly after the Civil War, Ohio native and former wartime bandmaster Richard R. Redfield moved to Humboldt to work in the hardware store belonging to his brother, J. C. Redfield.⁴ Richard had served in the 177th Regiment of the Ohio Infantry during the Civil War, and his rank was listed as "musician."⁵ Once settled in Humboldt, he operated a music and sewing machine store⁶ and served as a music teacher for much of the

¹ William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: Andreas Publishing, 1883). Accessed online 21 May 2012. <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/allen/allen-co-p4.html#HUMBOLDT>

² Genevieve L. and Harold S. Choguil, eds. *A History of The Humboldt, Kansas, Community 1855-1988* (Newton: Mennonite Press, 1988), 21.

³ *The Humboldt Union*, 28 September 1907.

⁴ Choguil, 46-47. J. C. had been elected as Allen County's first sheriff in 1860.

⁵ "Soldiers and Sailors Database" National Park Service website < <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm> > accessed 20 June 2012.

⁶ Ancestry.com. *1870 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

county.⁷ He was married to Ida Humboldt in 1884 and had one child.⁸ Redfield was instrumental in the formation of a city band in April of 1866, and he played with the band until he became ill in 1904. He resided in Humboldt until his death in 1908.⁹

Virtually all that is known about the origins of the Humboldt band comes from a series of retrospective newspaper articles written by J. H. Andrews in 1907 and published in the *Humboldt Union* in anticipation of the town's 50th anniversary celebration. The focus of his retrospective was the band's early history – from 1866 to 1880 – and much of his information is recalled from his own memory and those of the living band members. During the publication of this series of 11 articles, a new bandstand was being constructed in the park.

Andrews credits Redfield with organizing the town's first band in the spring of 1866, just after he moved to Humboldt.¹⁰ At the time of the band's founding, Humboldt had only a population of about 200, but they raised \$500 for the band to purchase instruments.¹¹ Andrews notes that these first instruments were over-the-shoulder (John F. Stratton model) instruments that were "typical for marching, as the bell of the instrument extended far out behind in order that those marching might hear the music better."¹² They later discarded these instruments in about 1870 and replaced them with a newer "bell-up" model that they were still using when Andrews penned his articles. The band was a typical brass marching band with 12 members, ten of whom Andrews listed as follows: R. R. Redfield, leader, Eb cornet; Nick Platt, Eb cornet; A. L. Dornberg, Bb cornet; Martin Henrichs, Bb cornet; William Scott, tenor; N. Kemmerer, tenor; J. C. Redfield, baritone; John R. Goodin,¹³ tuba; James Blythe, bass drum; Saver Cool, snare drum.¹⁴ These were the band's first members.

The band performed for the first time on July 4, 1866 at Judge Copeland's grove, southeast of Humboldt.¹⁵ The band performed at most public gatherings, from 4th of July to the 50th Anniversary of Humboldt,¹⁶ and even played while the town waited for the mail to arrive by carriage.¹⁷ Performances included a celebration held on September 14, 1869, again at Copeland's grove, in honor of the birthday of Von Humboldt for whom the town was named; a celebration welcoming the arrival of the two rail lines in the spring and fall of 1870;¹⁸ area fairs, political events, and even theatrical performances.

Early in its history, the band traveled to perform at various local spots, often sitting in a re-purposed farm wagon that had been transformed into a "chariot of music" with a "most comical appearance sitting around on the outer edges of the wagon box, feet inside and those long 'over-the-shoulder' instruments pointing

⁷ Ancestry.com. *Kansas State Census Collection, 1855-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.

⁸ Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

⁹ Choguil, 46-47.

¹⁰ The band's hand-written part books survive to this day, carefully collected and preserved by Carl Busch (former conductor of the Kansas City Symphony) and later the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music at the University of Illinois where they are housed today. Carl Busch Papers and Music Instrument Collection (ca. 1833-1924), the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music, University of Illinois. Accessed online 25 June 2012. <http://www.library.illinois.edu/sousa/>

¹¹ *The Humboldt Union*, 7 September, 1907.

¹² *The Humboldt Union*, 31 August 1907.

¹³ Goodin was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1866, served as judge of the seventh judicial district of Kansas from 1868 to 1876, and was elected as a Democrat to the Forty-fourth Congress in 1874 and served one term (March 4, 1875-March 3, 1877). Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-present [online database]. Accessed 25 June 2012: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

¹⁴ *The Humboldt Union*, 31 August 1907.

¹⁵ *The Humboldt Union*, 31 August 1907.

¹⁶ *The Humboldt Union*, 22 June 1950.

¹⁷ *The Humboldt Union*, 7 September, 1907.

¹⁸ *The Humboldt Union*, 21 September 1907.

skyward.”¹⁹ By the late nineteenth century and through the turn of the twentieth century, Friday night concerts in the park were a regular occurrence. Andrews notes, too, that the presence of a bandstand in the park dates back to 1867 when the band used “a pair of Fairbanks wagon scales at the southwest corner of the square.” The band only used the scales as a stand until 1871, after which they played from a small stand built by the city and later a box stand that the members built.²⁰

A new bandstand was to be completed in time for Humboldt’s 50th anniversary celebration, so construction was hasty.²¹ Plans for this new bandstand were drawn up by Charles M. Smith, and John W. Nessel was hired to build the structure. Smith who was 66 at the time of the building of the new bandstand, was the town’s architect and had such duties as drawing up maps of the town and planning new buildings.²² He was a native of Massachusetts, was married to Anna Smith, and was the father of four children.²³ Nessel, a carpenter by trade and a native of Indiana, was 52 at the time of the construction of the new bandstand. His parents were of German descent, much like most of the population of Humboldt. Though widowed, he was the father of four children²⁴ and his son Jack later recalled helping build the bandstand. He noted in a newspaper interview that the concrete for the base was mixed by hand on a large platform with the use of shovels.²⁵ The bandstand was completed in time for the open of the band concert season in 1908.

Humboldt was originally platted with a public square reserved. It has remained largely undeveloped since the construction of the bandstand, and it continues to function as a place of public gatherings and celebration. Beginning in 1958, the park hosted the annual Biblesta, which was developed by Dr. Arthur Carlson to teach the events of the Bible in chronological order. The name for the Biblesta was coined by Vern Hawver as a mix of the words Bible and Fiesta. The first Biblesta parade was planned to take place on September 29th and boasted 8000 floats and offered a bean feed afterwards. It is now tradition for the event to take place on the first Saturday in October and draws a large crowd every year.²⁶

Bands in Kansas Towns

The local band was and still is an important feature and point of pride in many Kansas towns. City bands often traveled to play in exchange concerts, competitions, and fairs. To early settlers and pioneers, a band was a cultural symbol and was a primary form of entertainment. Brass bands became “essential to the life of a community” and by 1900 “almost every town of any size had a band.”²⁷ Often community bands of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were made up of amateurs or individuals with military band experience. The member with the most musical knowledge typically taught or led the volunteers. Often the volunteers did not gain a formal knowledge of music, but rather learned to sight-read the music. This teaching was not one-on-one tutoring, but rather consistent rehearsals as a group practicing in sections. A band functioned as a whole unit and was less reliant on individual skill and expertise. Band members were mostly men of varying ages in the beginning of the Humboldt Band, however, women later joined the band.²⁸ The band played a variety of types

¹⁹ *The Humboldt Union*, 19 October 1907.

²⁰ *The Humboldt Union*, 28 September 1907.

²¹ Choguill, 21.

²² Ancestry.com. *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

²³ Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010.

²⁴ Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

²⁵ *The Humboldt Union*, 9 March 1961.

²⁶ Choguill, 46-47.

²⁷ Anne M. Marvin, “Facing the Music: The Turn of the Century Hometown Band,” *Kansas Heritage* 5 (Winter 1997): 5.

²⁸ *The Humboldt Union*, 9 March 1961.

of music because of their use in many civic and private events. Music ranged from patriotic and military to more social and formal concerts.²⁹

Summary

The public square originated with the platting of the town in 1857. The park has functioned primarily as a community gathering space, and the community band performed in the park as early as the 1870s. The City Square Park Bandstand in Humboldt is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation.

²⁹ Chris Banner, "The Community Band in Kansas," *Journal of the West* 22 (July 1983): 36

9. Major Bibliographical References

Banner, Chris. "The Community Band in Kansas: A Longstanding Musical Institution." *Journal of the West* 22 (July 1983): 36-46.

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912. Accessed Online 21 May 2012. <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1912/h/humboldt.html>

Cutler, William. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: Andreas Publishing, 1883. Transcription accessed online 21 May 2012. <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/allen/allen-co-p4.html#HUMBOLDT>

Dary, David A. "When Every Town Had a Band" in *More True Tales of Old-Time Kansas*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1987.

The Humboldt Union (Humboldt, KS). 22 June 1950; 7 September 1907; 9 March 1961.

Marvin, Anne M. "Facing the Music: The Turn of the Century Hometown Band." *Kansas Heritage* 5 (Winter 1997): 4-8.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Humboldt). 1893 Sheet # 4.

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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: **Kansas Historical Society**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.1 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | <u> 37.81072 </u> Latitude: | <u> -95.43613 </u> Longitude: | 3 | <u> </u> Latitude: | <u> </u> Longitude: |
| 2 | <u> </u> Latitude: | <u> </u> Longitude: | 4 | <u> </u> Latitude: | <u> </u> Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property includes only the bandstand and a perimeter of land encircled by the sidewalk surrounding the structure. The bandstand is located in the City Square Park, described as follows: Section 04, Township 26, Range 18, Reserve No. 8, Humboldt; AKA block 34, Humboldt.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries include the city block that makes up the public square, which is historically associated with the park and bandstand.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eva Rajewski, KSHS Intern; Sarah Martin, KSHS staff
organization _____ date _____
street & number 6425 SW 6th Avenue telephone _____
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66615
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Historic images, maps, etc.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be at least 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch). Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: City Square Park Bandstand
City or Vicinity: Humboldt
County/State: Allen County, KS
Photographer: Sarah Martin
Date of Photos: June 7, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 7 North side of bandstand, showing two staircases, camera facing S
- 2 of 7 West side of bandstand, camera facing E
- 3 of 7 South side of bandstand, camera facing N
- 4 of 7 East side of bandstand, camera facing W
- 5 of 7 Plaque on north side of bandstand, between two staircases, camera facing S
- 6 of 7 West staircase, camera facing E
- 7 of 7 View from within the bandstand, camera facing NE

City Square Park Bandstand
Name of Property

Allen County, Kansas
County and State

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name City of Humboldt (Attn: Larry Tucker)
street & number PO Box 228 telephone _____
city or town Humboldt state KS zip code 66748

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Figure 1: Contextual Map, Google Earth. Humboldt, KS. Accessed 16 September 2013.



Figure 2: Google Maps. Humboldt, KS. Accessed online: 28 June 2012.
Lat/Long: 37.81072 -95.43613



Figure 2: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: Humboldt, KS; Feb. 1906; Sheet 5

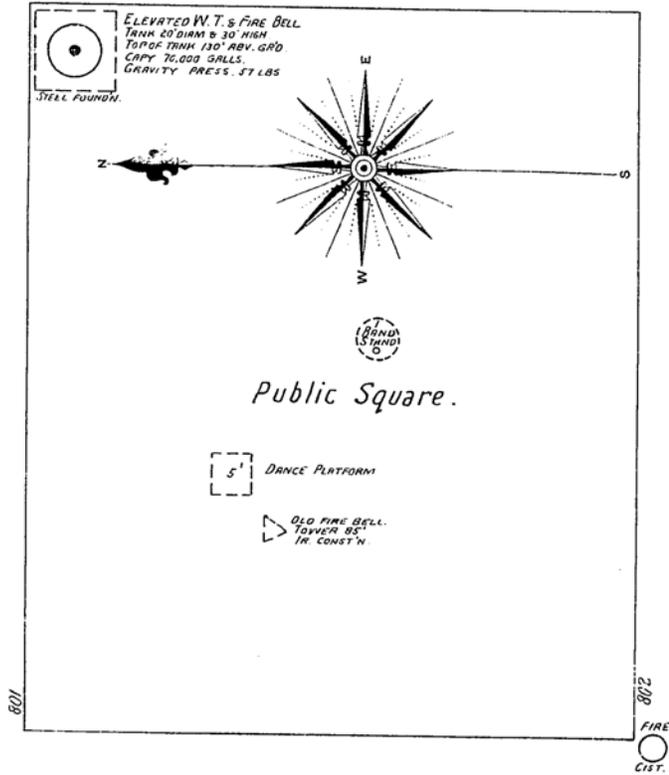


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: Humboldt, KS; Feb. 1932; Sheet 2

