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: Great Bend Central Business District

   Other names/site number

   Name of related Multiple Property Listing: n/a

2. Location

   Street & number: Roughly bounded by buildings fronting all sides of the courthouse square; 1100 and 1200 blocks (west side) of Kansas Avenue; 1024 Main Street; 1104-1222 Main Street; 1200 and 1300 block of Williams Street; 1409 Williams Street; and 2006-2111 Forest Avenue.

   City or town: Great Bend

   State: Kansas

   County: Barton

   Code: KS

   County Code: BT 9

   Zip code

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

   I hereby certify that this 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 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   Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A   ___ B   X C   ___ D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO

   Date

   Kansas State Historical Society

   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
Great Bend Central Business District
Barton County, Kansas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [x] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64 buildings</td>
<td>27 buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 site</td>
<td>1 site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 structure</td>
<td>1 structure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 objects</td>
<td>28 Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional,
- Financial institution, specialty store, department
- Store, restaurant, auto garage/sales
- SOCIAL: meeting hall, clubhouse, civic
- GOVERNMENT: courthouse, post office, govt
- Office, fire station, correctional facility, city hall
- EDUCATION: public library; DOMESTIC: apts
- RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater,
- Auditorium, bandstand, memorial
- HEALTHCARE: medical office; FUNERARY

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional,
- Financial institution, specialty store, department
- Store, restaurant; RELIGION: religious facility;
- SOCIAL: meeting hall, clubhouse, civic
- GOVERNMENT: courthouse, government
- Office, fire station, correctional facility, city hall
- EDUCATION: public library; VACANT
- RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater,
- Auditorium, bandstand, memorial
- HEALTHCARE: medical office; DOMESTIC: apts

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- No style; LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate;
- LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
- MOVEMENTS: Prairie School, Commercial Style;
- LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Beaux
- Arts, Neoclassical, Collegiate Gothic; MODERN
- MOVEMENT: Art Deco, Streamlined/Art Moderne
- Brutalism, New Formalism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: 
- walls: STONE, BRICK, METAL, GLASS
- roof: 
- other: 

2
Great Bend Central Business District

Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The Great Bend Central Business District comprises the core of downtown Great Bend, the county seat of Barton County, Kansas. Great Bend (2019 pop. 15,358) is sited along the north bank of the “great bend” of the Arkansas River. The town of Great Bend came into fruition with the coming of the railroads and the westward expansion of the United States. The Great Bend Town Company was organized in 1871 in anticipation of the Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. The Company surveyed and laid out a town along the future rail line. The layout adopted a traditional gridded arrangement of streets, with a large public park at its center. Barton County was officially formed in 1872 with Great Bend named the county seat, and the park established as the courthouse square. A commercial and government center was quickly established around the square and Great Bend emerged as central Kansas’ leading, regional trading center. Great Bend continues to play an important economic role in the region and remains a significant center of trade and government for the county.

The Great Bend Central Business District encompasses a total of 93 resources occupying lots laid out in the original town plan for Great Bend. Resources range in date from 1875 to 1997, with the highest percentage occurring during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The central business district of Great Bend is a cohesive collection of commercial and public buildings that document the development and evolution of the heart of Great Bend from the late-1870s through the mid-20th century. It is comprised of a variety of buildings expected to occur within the central business district of a county seat in Kansas. Public architecture includes city and county facilities, as well as a former United States Post Office (Resource #8). Surviving commercial buildings have housed a wide spectrum of businesses including specialty stores, offices, pool halls and saloons, grocers, printers, restaurants, an opera house, and movie theaters, among many other concerns. Architectural styles occurring in the district include Italianate, Beaux Arts, Neoclassical, Collegiate Gothic, and Art Deco. Most of the commercial buildings adopt Commercial Style design elements. Several buildings reflect distinct Modernist influences including rare examples of Art Moderne, New Formalism, and Brutalism. A common trend exhibited in the district is the post-World War II upgrade to storefronts of earlier commercial buildings that reflect a national trend to create a sleek and modern appearance to attract customers. In addition to the many commercial and civic buildings, the Great Bend Central Business District includes significant social meeting halls, a bandstand (Resource #75c) in the courthouse square, and a Union Veterans Memorial (Resource #75b).

The Great Bend Central Business District has a high percentage of contributing resources, with a total of 65, or nearly 70 percent, retaining sufficient integrity. Only 28 buildings are classified as noncontributing. Three buildings within the district are individually listed on the National Register: Crest Theater (KHRI 009-2150-00061), Allen Building (KHRI 009-2150-00039), and the High Rise Apartments (KHRI 009-202).
The Great Bend Central Business District encompasses approximately 42 ½ acres of land within the original town plat of Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas. The district is located approximately one-half mile north of the “great bend” of the Arkansas River and centrally located within the state of Kansas. The district includes buildings fronting streets along all sides of the courthouse square including Main Street and Broadway, Kansas and Lakin Avenues. The district extends along Main Street to the south to include most of the 1100 block and one resource on the 1000 block, the Eagles Lodge (Resource #49), built in 1946. Also included in the district boundary are commercial buildings fronting Forest Avenue between Main and Williams streets; the 1200 and 1300 blocks along Williams Street; and the Barton County public library (Resource #90), constructed in 1971 at 1409 Williams Street. The Great Bend Central Business District encompasses a total of 93 resources, including one object, a Civil War Union Veterans Memorial (Resource #75b).

The district retains its original gridded street layout with rear alleys separating the commercial blocks. Lafayette Park is the focal point of the district, with the imposing, Neoclassical courthouse at its center (Resource #75a). The courthouse is surrounded by a large, grassed lawn with mature shade trees throughout. Historic concrete paths form two large “X’s” across the lawns north and south of the courthouse. At the center of the northern half of the park is the Civil War Union Veterans Memorial, the Rifleman, erected in 1915. South of the courthouse is a large concrete plaza and the Clayton L. Moses Memorial Band Shell (Resource #75c), built in 1927.

Construction dates of the 93 resources within the district range from 1876 to 1997 (Figure 1). The dates of construction largely coincide with trends in growth and development of Great Bend since its founding. While the first buildings erected in Great Bend were frame construction, these were quickly replaced by stone or brick buildings. As such, the earliest extant buildings include four (4) masonry commercial blocks erected in the late-1870s within the 1400 block of Main Street. The first major building boom occurred during the 1880s. This development was largely
concentrated along Main Street and Forest Avenue. Of the ten buildings erected during this period and surviving within the *Central Business District*, only one is located on Kansas Avenue – the Great Bend Bottling Co. Building (Resource #30), built in 1887. Building activity slowed slightly during the last decade of the nineteenth century. While historic Sanborn maps and photographs confirm that the district was largely built out, surviving buildings are primarily attributed to the city’s second boom period during the early-twentieth century.

Development during the Depression years slowed considerably. Among the few buildings erected in the 1930s is the impressive Municipal Building & Auditorium (Resource #86) on Williams Street, an early example of structural concrete construction. While the population and economy thrived during the 1940s through the 1960s, new construction within the *Central Business District* was much slower than the early-twentieth century. Although the construction of new buildings declined, many of the earlier commercial buildings received modern upgrades in the post-War years. The 1970s saw the city’s most recent building campaign, including commercial and civic buildings, as well as the *High Rise Apartments*, a senior living facility and Great Bend’s tallest edifice. Since the mid-1970s, development in the *Central Business District* has virtually ceased with only three buildings erected after 1975.

The *Great Bend Central Business District* boasts an impressive collection of historic resources that document the growth and development of the city as the county seat and major trading center in central Kansas. Among the ninety-three (93) resources, commercial architecture predominates with a total of seventy-seven (77) buildings. Seven (7) government-related buildings occur throughout the district. Four (4) buildings were erected to serve as meeting halls for fraternal or civic organizations. Additional resources occurring within the *Central Business District* include the Civil War Union Veterans Memorial (Resource #75b), erected in 1915; the Moses Memorial Band Shell (Resource #75c), built at the south end of Lafayette Park in 1927; two medical offices built in 1925 and 1943; and the monumental *High Rise Apartment Building* (Resource #26), erected in 1972 and individually-listed on the National Register.

A variety of historic businesses were housed in the many commercial buildings comprising the *Central Business District* of Great Bend. Among those include numerous specialty stores, restaurants, and professional offices. Four imposing, historic bank buildings are notable commercial buildings represented in the district. Two historic department stores include the Cox Building (Resource #66), built in 1912 at 1219 Main Street, and the large J.C. Penny Store (Resource #37), erected in 1960 at 1500 Kansas Avenue. Two historic hotels survive in the *Great Bend Central Business District* - the former Mazda Hotel (also Senate Hotel and J.H. Cook Building (Resource #33), erected in 1910 at 1310 Kansas Avenue; and the former Zarah Hotel (Resource #45), built in 1917 on Lakin Avenue. Two buildings specifically designed to house a movie theater include the former Weber Theatre (Plaza Theater; Resource #62), built in 1916 at 1210 Main Street, and the National Register-listed *Crest Theater* (Resource #40), built in 1950.

Commercial architecture is dominated by one- and two-story, stone or brick construction with flat roofs. The commercial buildings are reflective of traditional commercial development from...
the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries where the individual buildings share exterior walls, rather than being free-standing structures. Brick parapets are common, many of which feature corbelled brick or attached metal cornices. Storefronts reflect traditional design elements such as a recessed entry and flanking display windows. Many of the storefronts exhibit post-World War II upgrades to create a more modern and sleek aesthetic to attract customers. In several instances, commercial facades feature architectural slipcovers dating from the post-war years through the 1980s.

Most of the commercial buildings are classified as one- or two-part commercial blocks. Two commercial buildings in the Great Bend Central Business District adopt a Temple Front form. Two commercial buildings do not conform with the traditional commercial forms of earlier years. The J.C. Penney Department Store (Resource #37), built in 1960, and the American State Bank & Trust Company Building (Resource #10), erected in 1975, demonstrate a significant shift in the design of commercial buildings from the traditional commercial block to the construction of large, monumental, and free-standing edifices following World War II and designed to accommodate the rapid increase in automobile ownership by offering substantial parking.

Distinct architectural styles are applied to many of the buildings within the historic district. Among the styles include Italianate, Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, and various Modernist designs including Streamlined Moderne, Brutalism and New Formalism. A large percentage of the commercial buildings do not adhere to a traditional academic style but instead feature simple design elements that create an altogether unique “Commercial Style.” Twenty-two (22) of the commercial buildings lack stylistic adornment altogether. Among the seven (7) government-related buildings within the Central Business District, distinct architectural styles represented include Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, and Modernism. One notable resource, the Masonic Lodge No. 15 (Resource #46) is a rare representation of Collegiate Gothic in the city.

**Integrity Statement**

The Great Bend Central Business District comprises a full spectrum of historic resources that document the establishment and growth of the city as not only a county seat but a major regional trading center in central Kansas. Surviving resources reflect national trends in building forms and architectural styles from the late-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, including post-World War II storefront upgrades to earlier commercial buildings. As a whole, the district retains an excellent degree of its historic integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. While the majority of the buildings exhibit some degree of exterior modifications, most retain a fair to good degree of historic integrity of design, material, and workmanship.

Buildings classified as contributing typically possess some level of alteration. Many of the alterations, particularly those attributed to post-World II modernization, are historic modifications that document how commercial buildings frequently evolve over time. Some of the alterations, particularly the application of architectural slipcovers to the upper facade, detract
from, or obscure, the historic architectural character of a particular building, making its degree of intact integrity indiscernible. Acceptable alterations for contributing buildings generally include infilled windows that retain the original openings; additions which are secondary to the main block; alterations to non-street-facing elevations; and storefront alterations provided that the transom outlines and other significant architectural divisions are evident. Storefront modifications attributed to post-World War II upgrades are historic changes and, in most cases, contribute to the overall historic aesthetic of the district. In a few occurrences, an architectural slipcover is a historic modification associated with post-World War II modernization campaigns. If the date of the slipcover occurred during the Period of Significance, the building may be recognized as a contributing resource. Otherwise, the slipcover prevents an accurate assessment of integrity and is deemed noncontributing to the district.

There is no precise formula for determining a building as contributing or noncontributing to the historic district. Resources within the Central Business District classified as contributing will typically possess approximately two-thirds of its historic design and materials, including fenestrations, and will not possess significant changes such as incompatible awnings, signage, additions, and/or change of fenestration of storefronts or upper façade windows.

Inventory of Resources

Each resource within the district is identified by its inventory number, which is keyed to the boundary map. The building name as presented in the inventory is the historic name, or a name by which the building is commonly known by. If a historic or common name of the resource is unknown, the building is identified in the inventory heading as its current occupant. If neither a historic nor current occupant is known, the building is identified simply as “Commercial Building.” The resource name is followed by the Kansas Historic Resource Inventory (KHRI) survey number, then followed by its contributing status, address, date of construction, and architectural distinction. The latter refers to the building type, or form, and architectural style that distinguishes the resource. If known, the architect or builder is included. A detailed architectural description is provided for each resource, including any noteworthy historical information. When a resource is classified as noncontributing, a brief explanation is provided.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inventory Number</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Potentially Eligible for NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>009-243</td>
<td>1912 11TH ST</td>
<td>Neil's Appliance &amp; Radio Service Repair</td>
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<td>1901 12TH ST</td>
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<td>009-222</td>
<td>2019 12TH ST</td>
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<td>1904 BROADWAY AVE</td>
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<td>009-213</td>
<td>1906 1908 BROADWAY AVE</td>
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<td>009-212</td>
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<td>2020 FOREST AVE</td>
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<td>1101 KANSAS AVE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Commercial Building</td>
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<td>009-248</td>
<td>1209 KANSAS AVE</td>
<td>Great Bend Bottling Works</td>
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<td>Safeway Grocery</td>
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<td>009-251</td>
<td>1310 1312 KANSAS AVE</td>
<td>J.H. Cook Building</td>
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<td>009-252</td>
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<td>1500 KANSAS AVE</td>
<td>Wiley's Department Store</td>
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Great Bend Central Business District

Barton County, Kansas

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1) Neil's Appliance & Radio Service Repair (KHRI 009-243) Contributing
1912 11th Street
Date of Construction: c.1950
Architectural Distinction: One-Part Commercial Block

This unadorned, one-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and tall, flat brick parapet along the frost façade (south). The parapet is topped by a band of header bricks. An interior brick chimney pierces the east end of the roof. The facade is eight bays wide (D, G, G, W, W, G, D, W), from west to east. The first bay is a single-leaf, metal door set within a larger opening that is enclosed in concrete block. The garage bays to the east feature overhead, metal garage bay doors. These are followed by two, two-pane display windows with brick sills. To the east is a wood-paneled overhead garage bay door. This is followed by a single-leaf door within a larger opening enclosed by vinyl siding and a one-over-one, double-hung window. The easternmost bay is comprised of two window panes covered by metal security screens. The east elevation features a single-light display window on the south end, and garage bay on the north end. Between the bays are four windows set high on the wall. The west elevation lacks windows and doors.

2) Insurance Planning (KHRI 009-244) Noncontributing
1901 12th Street
Date of Construction: 1978
Architectural Distinction: One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story former drive-thru bank is stuccoed, rectangular in form with a flat roof. It is most distinguished by false rafter ends projecting from the upper walls. The front façade (north) features a central section that is slightly recessed, with four, vertically-oriented rectangular windows. An entry door is located at the west end of the recessed section, leading to the western block of the building. The east block on the façade is a blind wall, whereas the west block contains five windows. The east elevation of the building contains three vertical lights. The south elevation contains a slightly projecting bay that contains the former drive-thru window.

This building was erected after the Period of Significance. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource to the historic district.
3) USD Maintenance Garage (KHRI 009-222)  Contributing
2019 12th Street
Date of Construction: 1926
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story brick commercial building has a very low-pitched, front-gabled roof with a tall brick parapet along the front (north) and rear elevations. The front parapet steps up toward the center of the roofline. It has a stone or cast concrete capping. At the center of the parapet is a stone or cast concrete cartouche-like element with swags. Beneath the parapet is a plain brick cornice. The front facade is ten bays, each separated by a brick pilaster. The easternmost bay contains a modern replacement aluminum door with narrow, single-light transom. Above the transom is a metal sheet covering. To the west are two garage bay openings with overhead doors. To the west of the garage bays is another large opening with a partial-width brick apron. This was likely a display window and entry door that has since been boarded over. To the west is another garage bay opening with roll-up metal overhead door. The upper half of this opening is covered in vinyl siding. This bay is then followed by another garage bay that is infilled in aluminum siding and has a modern replacement entry door installed. To the west are two additional garage bays with metal overhead doors. The westernmost two bays appear to be have originally been large display windows with brick aprons but have since been enclosed with asbestos cladding and metal.

This building historically housed a service garage and auto sales.

4) The Buckle (KHRI 009-214)  Noncontributing
1904 Broadway Avenue
Date of Construction: 1992
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story office is brick-veneered with a flat roof. A mansard roof-type awning occupies the upper half of the building and is clad in wood shingles. The building is rectangular with a small projecting bay centered on the front façade (south). The facade is three bays (W, D, W), each with a segmental-arched concrete surround. The entry door is metal-and-glass with sidelights and transom extending into the arched surround. The outer window bays are two-leaf, single-light casements with transoms.

This building was erected after the Period of Significance. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource to the historic district.

5) Yeraldi’s Boutique (KHRI 009-213)  Contributing
1906 & 1908 Broadway Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1940
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block
This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof. The façade (south) features two separate storefronts. A modest, corbelled brick cornice is along the façade. Each storefront angles inward toward a metal-and-glass entry door with flanking sidelights. The door and windows are aluminum-framed. Each storefront features large, plate glass display windows with brick bulkheads and aluminum awnings. Rectangular, corbeled brick panels are above each storefront, and contain signboards.

6) **Rana Luna Boutique (former printing press)** (KHRI 009-212) Contributing  
1910 Broadway Avenue  
**Date of Construction:** c.1910  
**Architectural Distinction:** Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and an interior brick chimney. The brick veneer on the front façade is rusticated. Five small cream-colored panels adorn the cornice on the front façade. The storefront reflects post-World War II upgrades including a recessed entryway flanked on either side by aluminum-framed plate glass window displays. The door is metal-and-glass with a boarded over transom. At the west end of the facade is a multi-light door leading to an interior stair hall. The door is topped by a transom. The display windows have brick bulkheads. A fabric awning is above the storefront. The second floor of the facade has two sets of paired, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. Side elevation, second floor windows are two(horizontal)-over-one, double-hung wood sash.

According to the 1914 Sanborn map, the building housed a printing press.

7) **European Dance Centre** (KHRI 009-211) Contributing  
1912 Broadway Avenue  
**Date of Construction:** c.1930  
**Architectural Distinction:** Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form, extending the full depth of the lot. The roof is flat with a low brick parapet that steps down once toward the rear. At the southwest corner of the building, a brick chimney pierces the roof. The otherwise plain building is enhanced by small square, cast concrete panels with simple flower bas relief. These blocks/panels surround the building at the roof line. The front façade (south) is symmetrical with a recessed entryway flanked on either side by large display windows. The windows are plate glass with metal frames. The metal-and-glass door is topped by a wide transom. Brick bulkheads reveal three-light windows into a cellar or basement. A wide transom is along the façade above the storefront. The transom is boarded over. The west elevation contains a large display window at the south end that is boarded over. The window opening features a cast concrete crown. Windows on the west elevation are small, multi-lights set high on the wall.
8) (former) United States Post Office (KHRI 009-2150-00073) Contributing
1924 Broadway Avenue
Date of Construction: 1911
Architectural Distinction: Beaux Arts

Architect: James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the U.S. Department of Treasury

This one-story former post office is designed in the Beaux Arts style. The nearly square building has a low-pitched, truncated hip roof. The brick building features a smooth, cast concrete foundation that is scored to give the appearance of stone blocks. The roof is topped by a cast concrete balustrade that surrounds the building. A wide cornice features cast concrete dentils, scored concrete, and small circular panels. Along the front facade (south), the cornice features engraved lettering "United States Post Office." The symmetrical facade is five bays (W, W, D, W, W) with modern replacement windows. The bays are separated by engaged, cast concrete pilasters with molded capitals. The centered entry door is a modern replacement, tinted glass door with narrow sidelights and transom. Above the transom is a decorative metal screen panel. The door surround is cast concrete with slender pilasters supporting a segmental-arched pediment. A detailed bas relief with cartouche and floral design enhances the pediment. The tinted windows replace the original 2(horiz)-over-2(horiz), double-hung sash. The windows have concrete sills and a vertical brick jack arch with concrete keystone. Above each window is a rectangular concrete panel. The west elevation matches that of the facade. However, the facade features a modern brick and concrete handicap ramp, whereas the west elevation has original concrete steps with flanking light posts.

The building was the first in Great Bend to be built specifically for a post office. It first occurs on the 1914 Sanborn map, at which time it had electric lighting and steam heating system. It is presently occupied by the Family Crisis Center.

9) Hiss Sherman Wealth Management Group (KHRI 009-236) Noncontributing
2001 Broadway Avenue
Date of Construction: 1997
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This modern, one-story commercial block features a brick veneer exterior and a flat roof. A wide, stuccoed cornice surrounds the building and extends above the roof line forming a parapet. The front façade (north) is four bays wide with round-arched openings. The second bay from the east is a deep, recessed entryway. The remaining bays are comprised of vertical windows separated by brick pilasters. A raised, concrete string course is along the elevation, at the base of the window bays. Two arched window bays are on the east elevation.

This building was erected after the Period of Significance. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource to the historic district.
10) (former) American State Bank & Trust Co.  (KHRI 009-210)          Contributing
2006 Broadway Avenue
Date of Construction: 1975
Architectural Distinction: New Formalism

This two-story former bank adopts New Formalism in its design. The brick building is rectangular in form with a full-height projecting wing centered on the façade. The wing serves as the main entrance lobby to the bank. The building features a flat roof and symmetrical facade (south). It is characterized by the slender concrete pilasters that surround the building. The pilasters are white, contrasting with the gray-red brick veneer of the building. The pilasters support a wide, flat concrete awning that extends above the second floor. This design feature creates the appearance of a classical colonnade. The facade contains groupings of two and four windows, where each window is separated by the engaged pilasters. The windows are rectangular, fixed lights. The first-floor windows are each topped by a square metal panel. The exterior walls of the projecting lobby wing on the façade are window walls, with vertical columns of windows separated by pilasters. The interior light fixture in the lobby appears to be original glass globes.

This building is presently occupied by Innovative Livestock Services.

11) Commercial Building (KHRI 009-237)          Noncontributing
2015 Broadway Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1920
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building features a flat roof and parapet. Two interior brick chimneys extend above the roof. The front façade (north) features a modern storefront and tan brick veneer. The upper façade is covered by a standing seam metal storefront that extends above the roofline forming a parapet. The facade storefront contains four distinct bays (2W, D, 2W, 2W) where the window bays are comprised of two, tinted glass panes, framed in metal, with brick bulkheads. The entry door is metal-and-glass and is flanked by sidelights and a topped by a transom. The entryway is recessed. The west elevation lacks entry doors or windows, but reveals six course American bond. The north end of the east elevation features one large, tinted glass display window. South of the display window are six window openings that are infilled. These are followed by multi-light, factory-type windows.

The modern façade and storefront detract from the historic aesthetic of the commercial district. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource.

12) Jewelry Store (KHRI 009-258)          Contributing
2006 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1885
Architectural Distinction: Italianate; Two-Part Commercial Block
This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The parapet features an elaborate corbeled brick cornice that protrudes slightly and features brackets and multiple bands of dentils. The second floor features a set of paired one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows with brick voussoir. At the east end of the second floor is a single window. The first floor at the east end features a recessed entryway with a modern, metal-and-glass door with sidelight and transom. It is flanked by engaged brick pilaster that extend to the cornice. West of the door is a storefront with a single-leaf glazed door and sidelight with transom. On either side of the door is a vertical, single-light display window with wood-paneled apron. Extending along the facade above the storefront and east door is an applied metal cornice with molding and end brackets.

This building was built by Albert S. Allen and John Hubbard in 1885. It was originally part of the two-storey adjacent building to the west at 2010, sharing a Victorian-style design. In 1938, Ralph Rinker separated the two buildings.

13) Prudential Building & Loan Association (KHRI 009-2150-00066) Contributing
2009 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: 1919
Architectural Distinction: Neoclassical; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, Beaux Arts-style commercial building is stuccoed masonry with a flat roof. A stuccoed parapet with balustrade tops the building. The building features a wide molded cornice with dentils and "Prudential Building" engraved at the center of the facade's cornice. The symmetrical facade seven bays where the outer bays project slightly, creating the appearance of a central block with flanking wings. The central five bays are tall, round-arched openings supported by round columns. The openings contain flat-headed metal-framed windows and one metal-and-glass door with sidelights. The arched section of the bay is concrete with a circular element. The molded arch features a keystone. The outer bays each contain a large, single-light display window.

The bank occupied the building until 1966. In 1970, the building was opened up to the American State Bank Building adjacent to the east at 1223 Main Street.

14) Rinker Building (KHRI 009-2150-00067) Contributing
2010 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1885
Architectural Distinction: Art Deco; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story brick building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The Art Deco building has a cream-colored brick veneer on the façade (south) and the west elevation is stuccoed. The façade is characterized by decorative geometric design elements clad in black Carrara glass. The vertically-oriented features extend above the roofline. Centered on the upper façade is a rectangular panel formed by black Carrara glass tiles. It the center of the
panel is a rectangular panel with lettering reading "RINKER." The second floor of the facade has four historic windows. Each is a two-leaf, single-light casement topped by a horizontal transom. Centered on the facade beneath the second-floor windows is a second panel framed by Carrara glass tiles. The first floor of the facade retains the historic 1938 storefront. The storefront features large, metal-framed plate glass windows with black Carrara glass paneled bulkheads. A deeply recessed entryway is centered on the facade. The entryway features a wooden ceiling and decorative tiled flooring. Two glazed, wooden, single-leaf doors are separated by a vertical display window box. The window and door are topped by horizontal wood panels. An exterior metal staircase is on the west elevation.

The building was constructed in 1885 by Albert S. Allen and John Hubbard. The building originally included the adjacent building at 2006 Forest and featured elaborate Victorian detailing. In 1938, Ralph Rinker spent a small fortune on a renovation of the western section of the original building (2008 & 2010). He lowered the ceilings, replaced windows, and designed an Art Deco facade. According to the 1887 Sanborn map, offices occupied the second floor, and the first floor housed a meat and grocery store. In 1914, a printer occupied 2008 and 2010 store housed an Express office.

15) Great Bend Tribune Building (KHRI 009-232) Contributing
2012 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1885
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This commercial building is comprised of three historically separate buildings that later merged to form the present building with shared façade. The principal block is two-story with a dark brown brick exterior, flat roof, and parapet. The parapet is slightly taller at the center of the front façade (south). The upper façade is enhanced by white, limestone blocks and rectangular brick panels. The upper façade is three bays (3W, 2W, 3W) with one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. The central bay is framed by brick pilasters that extend into the parapet. The historic storefront was remodeled prior to 1972. It features a stone veneer exterior. The stone veneer is shared by the one-story block to the west. Together, the façade is four bays (W, W, D, W) with a slightly recessed entryway. West of the door is a set of two paired display windows, followed by a set of three windows. The windows feature a stone sill. East of the entry door is a horizontally-oriented window containing two rectangular panes separated by an awning window. A Modernist flat metal awning is above the western half of the storefront. The awning makes a ninety degree drop before continuing along the facade to the east.

The present building housing the Great Bend Tribune is comprised of a two-story block with a one-story block attached on the west. In 1887, the one-story building was occupied by a drug store. The two-story block housed a restaurant, a bookstore, offices, and printing press. By 1914, the one-story building housed a butcher, and the two-story block was occupied by a cleaning & dyeing shop and a printing press. It is unclear when the Tribune acquired the one-story block.
16) Willner Building (KHRI 009-2150-00068)  Contributing
2015 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1880
Architectural Distinction: Prairie Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story commercial building reflects restrained elements of the Prairie style. The western block is masonry construction, whereas the eastern half is brick construction. The two blocks share a façade that was built in 1903. The new facade is yellow brick. The upper half of the facade is intact, whereas the first floor has an incompatible remodeled storefront. The building features a flat roof with a stone parapet with molded stone cornice along the facade (north). Beneath the cornice, a rectangular stone panel with side scrolls reads "WILLNER." At each end is a diamond-shaped stone element with raised four-leaf flower. A molded stone string course runs the width of the facade. The facade is five bays on the upper floor. The outer bays of the upper facade project slightly and are framed by engaged brick pilasters with stone plinths. Each window bay contains a set of paired, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows with exterior storm windows. Above the central three bays is a rectangular brick panel framed by brick headers and corner blocks with flower moldings. Centered in the panels is a larger, diamond-shaped stone element with flower. Rectangular panels above the outer bays are very elaborate with a raised cartouche and floral design. The panel is framed by molded stonework. The northernmost bay on the east elevation has a matching set of paired windows with elaborate panel. The first floor of the front facade has brick columns at the corners. Its modern storefront is framed by a historic stone trim. At the upper corners is a decorative corner stone with a scroll-like form. The historic storefront is infilled with dark brown brick and four arched openings that are somewhat cone-shaped with brick stretcher surround. The openings have large, single-light windows. The second opening from the west is a recessed entryway. The northernmost bay on the east elevation has a similar storefront, infilled with brick. This elevation features rows of one-over-one windows with segmental arch headers.

Research indicates that the western half of this building began c.1880 as the Willner Furniture Store. As reflected in the 1884 Sanborn map, a frame building was adjacent to the east. By 1887, the frame building was replaced by a brick commercial block, that shared a facade and second floor with the earlier Willner block. The brick massing in 1887 housed a billiard hall. In 1889, the western half housed a furniture store and the eastern half was a restaurant. The second floor was occupied by a photo studio, office space, and lodging. A 1903 newspaper announcement indicated that the building received a new front – “one of the nicest in the city.”

17) Lumpy’s Bar & Grill (KHRI 009-2150-00069)  Contributing
2017 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1900

1 Notice. Barton County Democrat, October 9, 1903
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof. A stepped parapet with white ceramic coping is along the façade (north) and features two decorative scrolls. The façade is a cream-colored brick veneer. Three horizontal panels are framed by brick headers with corner blocks featuring a small, four-leaf flower. The storefront is well-preserved and framed by a decorative trim. The trim is narrow, red-colored with a rope-like design. The storefront features large, single-light metal-framed display windows and stone block bulkhead. A centered recessed entryway features a glazed entry door with transom. The recessed entryway angles inward with display windows. Above the storefront is an 8-light transom with textured glass.

The 1909 Sanborn map indicates the building was occupied by a restaurant.

18) Joel B. Jackson Attorney at Law (KHRI 009-233) Contributing
2018 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1920
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet along the façade (south). The building is characterized by a modest, corbelled brick cornice. Beneath the cornice is a rectangular, corbeled brick panel. The storefront appears to be a post-World War II upgrade. It features a large, metal-frame display window with brick bulkhead. Towards the west end of the facade, the display window angles inward toward a recessed entryway. The door is single-leaf, metal-and-glass with a single-light transom. A fabric awning is suspended above the storefront.

19) Lakin Theater (KHRI 009-2150-00070) Contributing
2019 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1900
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story commercial building is masonry construction with a brick veneer on the front façade (north). The building has a flat roof with brick parapet. The front parapet is enhanced by a corbelled brick cornice. Beneath the cornice are three, rectangular, corbelled brick panels. The second floor of the facade contains three, one-over-one, double-hung windows with exterior storm windows. The windows feature smooth stone or concrete lintels and sills. The building appears to retain its original storefront. At the west end is a stair hall entry door. The door is wood with three vertical lights. Above the door is a very tall transom comprised of three horizontal lights. East of the door is a brick pilaster, followed by the storefront. The storefront contains two glazed wooden entry doors with single-light transoms. Wood-framed display windows have paneled wood aprons. The storefront is topped by a wide, six-light transom.
The 1909 Sanborn map indicates that the building was a moving picture theater with a bowling alley in the basement. The 1914 Sanborn map indicates that the building was occupied by a bowling alley. Offices or apartments were likely leased on the second floor. It is presently occupied by a gallery.

20) (former) American Express Company (KHRI 009-234)    Contributing

2020 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1910
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet. A non-historic metal slipcover occupies the upper façade (south). The storefront appears to be a post-WWII upgrade. It features a recessed entryway at the east end with a metal-and-glass door. The remainder of the storefront is a large, metal-frame plate glass display window with stone-veneered bulkhead. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront.

According to Ray Schulz's "Great Bend Pride Pictorial View of the 1920s, this building housed the American Express Company. It is presently occupied by Los Dos Potrillos Mexican restaurant.

21) (former) Grocery and Bakery (KHRI 009-231)    Noncontributing

2021 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: 1889
Architectural Distinction: No Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story commercial building is masonry construction with a brick veneer on the front façade (north) that is covered in stucco. The building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. Its upper façade contains four, round-arched window openings with modern replacement windows. The storefront appears to be a post-WWII remodel. Features four metal-framed display windows with stuccoed bulkheads. It is characterized by its angled, recessed entryway with metal-and-glass door. The door leads into an entry lobby. A fabric awning tops the storefront.

The 1914 Sanborn map indicates that the first floor was occupied by a grocery and bakery and the second by a photography studio.

The building retains its original fenestration and post-WWII storefront upgrade. However, the stuccoing of the facade and the installation of incompatible, replacement windows compromise its historic integrity. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource to the historic district.
22) Commercial Building (KHRI 009-228) Contributing
2022 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: 1921
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story commercial building features a flat roof with brick parapet. A protruding cast iron cornice with end brackets is along the façade and the southernmost bay of the west elevation. Beneath the cornice on the façade is a rectangular, corbelled brick panel with stone square corner blocks. A diamond-shaped stone is centered within the panel. The second floor of the façade features four window bays framed by corbelled brick. The windows are modern replacements, single-light panes with tinted glass. The larger openings are stuccoed with three diamond-shaped blocks. Beneath the second floor windows is a brick panel matching the panel above the windows. The storefront is a modern remodeling. The storefront is stuccoed with three fixed windows and a chamfered corner entry at the west end. A brick square column is at the cornered entry. The door is metal-and-glass. A wide panel above the storefront was likely originally a transom. It is presently stuccoed with the business name engraved into it. The west elevation features two vertical stretcher brick string courses. Between the courses are eight, rectangular corbelled brick panels with stone square corner blocks. Seven window bays on the second floor are boarded over. The first floor features five small square window bays set high on the wall. All but one are boarded over. At the north end is a wide opening that leads to an open area at the rear of the building. South of this is a small one-over-one window, followed by a set of three vertical lights occupying what was historically an entry bay.

This building presently houses the business of Computer Services and Consulting.

23) Great Bend Valley Lodge #95 IOOF (KHRI 009-2150-00071) Contributing
2025 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: 1908
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet. The building reflects restrained Romanesque-stylistic influences. The front façade (north) features an elaborate, corbelled brick cornice. The ends of the second floor of the façade are enhanced by corbelled brick plasters. A set of three windows is between the pilasters. The windows feature corbelled brick round arched heads. The outer windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with exterior storm windows. These are topped by round-arched transom windows. The central window is a round-arched fixed light. Beneath this window is a decorative square brick panel with ceramic plaque with floral motif and the Odd Fellows symbol - the Chain with Three Links. This motif symbolizes Friendship, Love, and Truth. A concrete string course is beneath the round-arched transoms, and another runs along the façade beneath the windows. The storefront features large display windows with decorative, turned spindle frieze with sawtooth detailing. The display windows have brick bulkheads and angle inward toward a central recessed entryway. The door is single-leaf,
metal-and-glass. A wide, shed-roofed awning with asphalt shingles is suspended above the storefront. The west elevation features a simple corbelled brick string course along the second floor. The second floor features 7 window bays with segmental, brick arched heads. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with stone or concrete sills. the first floor has eight bays (W, W, W, W, D, W, D, D). The four window bays at the north end are small single fixed lights with segmental brick arch heads. These are set high on the wall. To the south is a window bay framed by brick pilasters. The window is a single, square light with round-arched fanlight above. The window to the south matches those on the second floor. Further to the south is a single-leaf entry door with transom and segmental brick arch head. This door is accessed by four concrete steps leading from the sidewalk. To its south is another arched entry door that is recessed and is at sidewalk level. The rear of the building features a set of paired windows and a single window with flat heads on the second floor. A third window is staggered, likely within a stair hall. It has a segmental arch head.

This building was built by the Great Bend Valley Lodge #95 (IOOF). The Lodge meeting hall was on the second floor and the first floor used for commercial purposes. The first floor houses the Starr Grocery store for many years. It also housed the Meyer Furniture Store, Sherwin Williams, and Treasure Chest Book Store. It is occupied by Forest Avenue Antiques.

24) Commercial Building (KHRI 009-216) Noncontributing
2105 & 2107 Forest Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1900
Architectural Distinction: No Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular with a flat roof and parapet. The front façade (north) is somewhat altered. Its upper façade features a modest band of a single course of stretcher bricks that are cream-colored, in contrast with red brick of the exterior. The second floor of the façade contains three window bays with flat heads and vertical stretcher brick lintels. Three of the windows are covered in plywood. The others are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with exterior metal-and-glass storm windows. The first floor appears to have historically been comprised of two distinct storefronts. The former storefront on the east end is covered in plywood. the southern storefront is covered in some sort of stucco paneling with a single-leaf door. The door has three diamond-shaped lights and is flanked by sidelights. West of the door is a horizontally-oriented window, set high on the wall.

This building housed Ward Clay photography in 1954 and the Frees-Hoge Pharmacy in 1962. It later housed the Kansas State Employment Services.

Although the upper façade is relatively intact, the storefront is totally remodeled and insensitive to the original design of the building. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource to the historic district.
25) Medical Office (KHRI 009-257)  
2111 Forest Avenue  
Date of Construction: c.1925  
Architectural Distinction: Modernist; One-Part Commercial Block  

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet that steps down toward the rear. The front facade was remodeled, likely during the 1960s or 1970s. The present façade features an architectural slipcover along its upper half. The lower half is an ashlar stone veneer. At the east end of the facade is a metal-and-glass door flanked on either side by single-light sidelights. At the west end is a set of three clerestory windows set high on the wall. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront level. At the west corner is an engaged brick pilaster. The west elevation contains two small, segmental-arched windows toward the rear. At the north end of the elevation, a former side entry door is enclosed with ashlar stone veneer matching that of the facade remodeling.  

According to the city directories, the building housed medical offices through at least 1963.

26) High Rise Apartments (KHRI 009-202)  
1101 Kansas Avenue  
Date of Construction: 1972  
Architectural Distinction: Brutalist; High Rise  
Architect: Butler & Associates  

High Rise Apartments is a twelve-story high-rise public housing complex centrally located in the downtown commercial core of Great Bend, Kansas. Completed in 1972 by the Great Bend Housing Authority, the building was design by architects Butler and Associates. The building is designed in the Brutalist style, clad in light brown king size brick with sculptural brick piers at each corner. It has a cross-shaped footprint with dark glazed fenestration. At the cap of the building is a projection on all four elevations. At the interior, all floors are arranged on a cross-shaped plan with a central elevator lobby and stair. The building is twelve stories, steel frame with concrete slab floors and concrete footings. The framing is organized rectilinearly around a central elevator and stair core with four wings. The central core measures rough 52 feet east-west and 45 feet north-south. With a cross-shaped footprint, the building measures approximately 100 feet east-west and 95 feet north-south at the absolute. A series of structural rectilinear steel-frame boxes form the wings, which extend from the central core roughly 20 feet north and south, and 24 feet east and west.  

In 1972, the Great Bend Housing Authority completed High Rise Apartments in response to the need for a solution to the elderly housing crisis. The initiative for public housing capitalized on the availability of federal funding in the creation of 101 senior housing units, in a distinct Brutalist high-rise tower design. These developments represent the Great Bend Housing Authority’s (GBHA) mission of affordable and quality senior housing provision.
They also illustrated the GBHA’s broad commitment to create not just shelter for the elderly but a holistic program that encouraged independent senior living through thoughtful site selection, design, and amenities that catered to elderly residents. The high-rise design exemplified goals of both the GBHA and public housing design guidelines for senior housing at the time.

27) Newcombe Building (KHRI 009-245)  Contributing
1201 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: 1916
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet. The building is enhanced by a decorative, yet modest, corbelled brick cornice. A cast concrete, rectangular panel is centered on the upper façade and reads "NEWCOMBE 1916." The original storefront is altered, likely upgraded in post-War II years. The majority of the storefront on the front facade (east) is covered in metal sheathing. The facade features a single, metal-and-glass door topped by a single-light transom and wide sidelight. North of the door, two tinted glass display windows have brick bulkheads. A flat-roofed metal awning is suspended above the storefront. Above the awning, a metal slipcover conceals what was likely a transom or signboard panel. The metal awning wraps around the south elevation, extending halfway along the wall. At the east end of the elevation is a long row of covered display windows and a single-leaf, metal-and-glass door with transom. This elevation also features a garage bay opening and third entry door toward the west end. An addition is at the west end of the building with a storefront facing 12th Street. Its facade is covered in vertical, standing seam metal cladding. It has a single-leaf door and two, vertically-oriented, narrow display windows and a flat-roofed awning.

A date block on the upper façade reads "Newcombe 1916". A 1947 City Directory suggests that the building houses the Brewer Welding Supply Co. It is presently occupied by American Family Insurance.

28) Peschka-Doerr Furniture Company Appliance Warehouse (KHRI 009-246)  Noncontributing
1205 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1950
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The front façade (east) appears to feature a modern stucco covering along the majority of the wall; however, original brick is exposed at the bottom of the façade. The building was receiving a remodeling during the 2021 survey. The facade features two separate bays. The northern bay is a garage bay. The southern bay is the storefront comprised of a tinted glass window wall of metal-framed panels, and a metal-and-glass door. A fabric awning is suspended above the storefront.

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According to the 1956 City Directory, the occupant of 1205 Kansas Ave was the Peschka-Doerr Furniture Company/Appliance Warehouse. It presently houses the Jimlo Glass Center.

Due to the remodeling of the façade and its storefront, the building does not conform with the historic aesthetic of the streetscape. Thus, it is noncontributing to the district.

29) Commercial Building (KHRI 009-247) Contributing
1207 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1950
Architectural Distinction: Modernist; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and low parapet. The upper façade on the front (east) features a metal slipcover with rows and columns of protruding pyramidal elements. A break in the slipcover reveals an original brick facade. The modern storefront features a single-leaf door at the north end with an address of 1209 1/2. A central, two-leaf metal-and-glass door is flanked by wide sidelights and display windows. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront.

30) Great Bend Bottling Works (KHRI 009-248) Contributing
1209 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: 1887, c.1940 Remodeling
Architectural Distinction: No Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story stuccoed, masonry commercial building is rectangular with a flat roof and parapet. The front façade (east) features a simple stuccoed string course with two window bays on the second floor. The windows appear to be one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with exterior metal-and-glass storm windows. The first floor of the facade is three bays (W, D, W) with a modern, metal-and-glass door with wide, two-light transom and a sidelight. The windows are vertically-oriented single panes. The three openings on the first floor reveal ghost marks that suggest the openings were original segmental-arched.

According to Sanborn Maps, this building has its origins as a Soda Water facility as early as 1887. By 1892, it was the Great Bend Bottling Company. By 1905, the name changed to H.E. Dean Bottling. The 1956 City Directory indicates that Dr. Pepper was occupying the building. Sanborn maps reveal a complicated evolution of the building. Its initial beginnings began around 1890. In 1887, a soda water facility was located on the site and was a one-story masonry building. By 1892, a one-story brick addition was added to the rear, followed by a frame addition. By 1899, the frame addition received a concrete veneer. By 1905, the frame addition was removed, at which time a detached frame block with concrete exterior was built at the west end of the property. Shortly thereafter, by 1909, a one-story frame utility bay and walkway were added, connecting the main building to the detached block at the rear of the property. The 1914 Sanborn shows a similar footprint. It is unclear when the second floor of the building was added. However, a 1940s aerial photograph of the block confirms that the
second floor was added by this time. The rear half of the building remains one-story, with the frame wings replaced by masonry construction.

31) (former) Safeway Grocery (KHRI 009-249) Noncontributing
1300 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1925
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is L-shaped with a wing project from the east end of the south elevation that fronts 12th Avenue. The primary block faces west toward Kansas Avenue. This façade features a unique block parapet that is stepped at the corners and features alternative blocks of grooved blocks. A gray-colored brick is along the upper facade and features a long, rectangular wood signboard that reads "Barton County Office Building." The storefront level of the facade is entirely remodeled. A 1940s aerial photograph reveals a three-bay storefront with awnings. These likely included a principal entrance and large display windows. The storefront is entirely enclosed with a red-brick veneer with two simple windows with brick surrounds that occupy the south half. These windows are tinted with a horizontal light at the bottom that is likely an awning or hopper. The north half features a single-leaf, metal-and-glass door with a display window of three, metal-framed lights adjacent to the north. A wide, flat awning with rounded corners is suspended above the door and display windows. The south elevation of the main block has three, engaged brick pilasters with concrete caps. The elevation contains modern windows and doors. The projecting wing reveals an original upper facade on all sides. The flat brick parapet is topped by a band of vertical header bricks. Round, decorative globes are at the corners of the front (south) parapet. A rectangular brick panel along the upper front facade is framed by vertical stretcher bricks with concrete corner blocks. The elevation contains modern windows and doors. The remodeling of the façade of both wings is not compatible with traditional commercial storefronts from the early- to mid-20th century. The tinted glass windows and red-brick infill of the storefronts detracts from the historic aesthetic of the commercial district.

32) Midwest Novelty Company (KHRI 009-250) Contributing
1306 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1920
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. A band of vertical stretcher bricks is at the top of the front façade. Three bands of protruding
bricks are along the upper façade. Two distinct storefronts occupy the facade. The south storefront features a metal-framed, plate glass display window. Adjacent to the north is a single-leaf entry door topped by a boarded of transom with AC unit. The northern storefront contains a matching display window with concrete block bulkhead. A former entry door adjacent to the south is boarded over.

The 1947 City Directory indicates the building housed the Midwest Novelty Company. In 1954, the 1306 unit houses the same business, as well as the Midwest Cigarette Service, while the 1308 store was occupied by the Almquist Electric. By 1962, Midwest Novelty remained in 1306 while Klepper Insurance Agency occupied 1308.

33) J.H. Cook Building (KHRI 009-251) Noncontributing
1310 & 1312 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1910
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The upper façade (north) features a course of five rows of corbelled brick that is gray-colored, contrasting with the red brick exterior of the building. The upper facade also contains small engaged brick pilasters. At the center is a limestone block with "J.H. Cook" inscribed. Beneath this is another string course of two rows of brick stretchers. The second floor features six, evenly spaced window bays with segmental arches. The window openings are infilled. gray-colored brick string course runs along the facade, above the windows and forms the segmental-arched heads of the openings. The historic storefront is entirely modified with a modern brick veneer, window and door openings. At present (2021), the ground level is seven bays (D, D, W, W, W, D, W) with metal-and-glass windows with transoms, and simple, tinted glass, single-light windows. Above the storefront is a shed-roofed awning covered in wood shingles. Between the awning and the second-floor windows is clad in wood shingles matching that of the awning.

The 1914 Sanborn map indicates that the first floor of the building was vacant and the second floor had hotel rooms; a c.1920s photograph shows the building as occupied by the Mazda hotel. By 1947 (city directory), the hotel was renamed Senate Hotel.

Historic photographs indicate that the second-floor windows were paired, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. Three distinct storefronts characterized the building, each with wide, multi-light glass block transoms. While the outer storefronts feature angled and recessed entries, the central entrance was flush. Due to the extensive remodel of the first floor storefronts, this building is classified as a noncontributing element to the central business district.

34) Great Bend Petroleum (KHRI 009-252) Noncontributing
1318 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1930
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This commercial block is heavily modified. It is rectangular in form, of brick construction. Its upper façade is concealed by a wood-shingled slipcover that appears to date to the 1980s. At the base of the slipcover, is angled outward to form a slight shed-roofed awning above the storefront. The storefront is completely remodeled with a modern brick veneer, windows and doors.

The 1947 City directory confirms the building was not yet built. In 1954, the building was vacant. In 1962, it housed the Great Bend Petroleum Company.

35) Bryant & Fryberger Mortuary (KHRI 009-260) Noncontributing
1324 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1925
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This heavily modified commercial block is brick, rectangular in form, with a flat roof and brick parapet. The upper façade features a rectangular brick panel framed by a smooth concrete surround. The modern storefront has a white-colored brick veneer that contrasts with the red brick of the upper facade. A modern, two-leaf, glazed entry door is at its south end. The door is flanked by textured glass sidelights and transom. North of the door is applied metal lettering reading "Law Office of Donald F. Anderson II, LLC" Above the modern storefront/brick veneer is a shed-roofed awning with slate shingles.

The 1947 city directory indicates the building housed a mortuary.

Due to the extensive remodeling of the front façade and storefront, this building detracts from the historic aesthetic of the commercial district of Great Bend.

36) Barton County Jail (KHRI 009-253) Noncontributing
1408 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: 1953
Architectural Distinction: Modernist

Constructed in 1953, the original, Modernist jail is nearly fully concealed by later additions, particularly those built during the early 2000s. The original building is one-story, reinforced concrete construction with a flat roof. The building is characterized by its concrete exterior. It has a recessed entrance with metal-and-glass door, sidelights and transom. Adjacent to the north of the entrance is a recessed section with a wall of concrete panels. A 2 1/2-story addition was built south of the original building. It continues the concrete panel exterior design.

The alterations and additions to this building significantly compromise its historic integrity and the overall aesthetic of the central business district.
37) Wiley’s Department Store/JC Penny’s (KHRI 009-208)  Contributing
1500 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1960
Architectural Distinction: Modernist

This two-story department store reflects Modernist design features. It has a boxy, functional form with a brick veneer exterior. A random-coursed stone veneer is along a portion of the first floor, enhancing the large display windows and entrances. The plain exterior walls of the second floor lack window or door openings. Narrow, vertical bands on the upper floor offer slight stylistic enhancement. The roof is flat. The west elevation serves as the principal facade facing Kansas Avenue. This elevation contains five bays (W, D, W, W, W). The northernmost bay is a large display window comprised of four vertical panes with metal frames and topped by square transoms. The vertical panes are tinted - a recent modification. South of the display is a recessed entryway. The entrance features a wide, vertical window and three, metal-and-glass doors. Above the window and each door is a large rectangular transom window. The remaining bays on the elevation are large, single-light tinted display windows topped by rectangular transom. The transoms appear to be paneled over. The south elevation contains a large display window with transom on the west end. Here, the window is boarded over with plywood. To the east is a recessed entryway with three, metal-and-glass doors. Adjacent to the east of the doors are two large vertical windows. Each door and window in the entryway is topped by a rectangular transom light. East of the entry are two small square display windows that are infilled with brick. These are followed to the east by a large display window that is also brick infilled. An original flat metal awning runs along the west and south elevations above the window and entryway bays. A two-story wing (original) extends from the northeast corner of the building. Its south elevation reveals ribbon windows on its second floor. A one-story historic wing is at the southeast corner of the building. It has a brick and stone veneer and flat roof. Its south elevation contains a metal-and-glass door with two, vertical adjacent lights. Square panels are above the door and windows. The east elevation of the one-story wing features a set of paired, single-light windows at the south end, followed to the north by a modern, metal-and-glass double door. Above each of these two bays is a prominent arched awning. North of these bays is a recessed rear entryway leading into a small entry lobby. The entryway contains metal-and-glass double doors with wide vertical adjacent windows. A wide, four-light transom is above the entryway.

This building was built on the site of the former Morrison Hotel, one of the state's grandest Victorian-era hotels. The new department store first housed Wiley's before becoming a JC Penny by the 1970s.

38) Hampton & Hampton Accounting (KHRI 009-215)  Noncontributing
1501 Kansas Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1930
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block
This one-story commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The brick building is stuccoed. Its front façade (east elevation) is four bays (W, D, W, W) with a single-leaf, metal-and-glass door. Windows are single-light replacements with round-arched transom and stucco surround. The south elevation has two window bays. At the rear, a shed roof covered in metal sheeting is supported by a square wood post. The north elevation (rear) has a secondary door and two, horizontal glass block windows.

This building is a non-contributing resource to the Great Bend Central Business District due to extensive exterior modifications.

39) Chafee Electric (KHRI 009-254)  Contributing
1901 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1920
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The building features a corbelled brick cornice framed on either side by a engaged brick pilasters. Beneath the cornice is a rectangular brick panel with cast concrete corner blocks. Above the second floor on the front facade (north) is decorative brick bands of headers and stretchers with end blocks. The second floor contains three window bays, where the central bay is wider than the outer. Between each bay is a concrete element resembling a downward arrow. The second floor windows are single-light tinted panes topped by decorative, multi-light transoms. The storefront is recessed and enhanced by a concrete panel exterior and surround. At the west end of the facade is a metal-and-glass door. To the east is another door with wide flanking, 6-light sidelights featuring a marble panel veneer surround.

According to the 1947 City Directory, the building housed Chaffee Electric. By 1954, Mathers-Jaeger Appliance Company occupied the building.

Despite the oblivious alterations to the storefront, the building continues to convey a sense of the past and contributes to the historic aesthetic of the district.

40) Crest Theater (KHRI 009-2150-00061)  Contributing
1905 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1950
Architectural Distinction: Art Moderne
Individually Listed 02/09/2005
Architect: Boller & Lusk

The Crest Theater is a three-story masonry enframed wall commercial block. The building features a glazed terra cotta façade and measures approximately 150 deep and 50 feet wide. The theater is a late example of the grand movie palace, exhibiting the general form, configuration, and architectural detailing of movie palaces that appeared in commercial
districts in major United States cities mainly during the interwar years of the early-twentieth century. The theater features a concrete foundation, solid brick walls, and steel trusses that support the roof and floor. The use of terra cotta and glass on the façade give the theater bold geometric lines and a distinct Art Moderne appearance.

Constructed in 1950 by Kansas City-based owners Commonwealth Theatres, the Crest Theater was built by Flett Construction Company as a three-story masonry commercial building. Noted theater architect Robert Boller designed the building with geometric and Art Moderne influences. The interior boasts murals and interior decorations from artist Frank Oschwald. Other innovations included a heated sidewalk in front of the building to aid in the melting of snow during the winter months.

41) (former) Duncan’s Ford Garage (KHRI 009-2150-00062)  Noncontributing
1907 & 1909 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1915
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story commercial building features a flat roof with low parapet. The front façade (north) is substantially altered. Its eastern 1/3 features a brick veneer, a single-leaf, metal-and-glass door, and a large, two-light display window. Its western section is stuccoed with a narrow, corbelled brick cornice. The upper facade of this section features two raised string courses that are stuccoed. The storefront is three bays with an off-centered, single-leaf, metal-and-glass door. West of the door is a display window with six panes of varying sizes. A larger display window is east of the door.

The storefront of this building is heavily altered and no longer reflects its historic appearance as an early auto garage or later store. The remodeling is incompatible with the historic aesthetic of the streetscape. Thus, it is considered a noncontributing resource to the central business district.

42) (former) Harness Shop (KHRI 009-255)  Noncontributing
1911 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: c.1890
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building has a flat roof with low parapet. The upper front façade (north) is covered in a metal slipcover. The storefront resembles common post-WWII upgrades to existing commercial buildings. It has a recessed entrance with metal-and-glass door flanked by sidelights and transom. On either side of the entrance are large, plate-glass display windows with a brick veneer bulkhead.

While the historic storefront is intact, the slipcover conceals the upper facade. As such, it is not known what extent of the original fabric survives. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource to the district.
43) Fruit and Hay Store (KHRI 009-2150-00063) Contributing
1913 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: 1906
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, rectangular brick building has a flat roof with parapet. The upper facade is stuccoed and features a stuccoed, corbelled brick cornice and three, corbelled brick panels. The front facade (north) storefront features large, metal-framed plate glass windows with brick bulkhead. A smaller display window angles inward toward a recessed entryway. The door is single-leaf, metal-and-frame with a single-light sidelight and transom. The storefront has a non-historic metal sheet veneer. Two metal signboards are above the storefront.

The building first occurs on the 1909 Sanborn map as a Fruit and Hay supplier. In 1914, it housed the same business.

Despite the application of metal sheeting to the storefront, the building continues to convey its historic design features. It is a contributing building to the historic aesthetic of the streetscape.

44) The Wells Store (KHRI 009-2150-00064) Contributing
1915 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: 1933
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, modest commercial building is brick with a flat roof and parapet. A simple, rectangular brick panel is inset along the top of the front facade (north). Two window bays occupy the second floor. Each is comprised of a modern, two-light metal windows that appear to be sliding panes. Each opening features a vertical stretcher brick lintel. The storefront appears to be a mid-20th century upgrade. At the west end is a metal-and-glass door that likely leads to an interior stair hall. The storefront features a recessed entryway that leads to a metal-and-glass door with flanking sidelights and plate glass display windows with brick bulkheads. A shed-roofed awning with asphalt shingle roofing is suspended above the facade, followed by a vertical stretcher brick course.

Frank C. Wells built this building to house his men's clothing store. The Wells store was in business until 1987.

Despite the replacement windows on the upper facade and storefront upgrades, the storefront retains a traditional commercial configuration. The alterations do not detract from the overall historic aesthetic of the streetscape.

45) Zarah Hotel (KHRI 009-2150-00040) Contributing
1917 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: 1925, 1939 Addition
Great Bend Central Business District
Barton County, Kansas

Architectural Distinction: Prairie Style; Two-Part Commercial Block
Architect: Ellis Charles, Wichita, Kansas
Builder: T.C. Cork, Great Bend, Kansas

This three- and four-story brick commercial building has a flat roof with flat brick parapet. The brick exterior is common bond. A large brick chimney pierces the roof at its east end. The rear section of the building is four-story in height and is a 1939 addition. The hotel features a simple corbelled brick and stone cornice. The second and third floors of the facade (north) contain nine window bays with modern, replacement, single-light windows and concrete sills. The central window bay contains two vertical panes. At each end of the facade, three small concrete square blocks separate the windows on the second and third floors. The first floor of the facade is seven bays. While the historic fenestration of display windows and central entryway is maintained, the storefront bays are substantially remodeled. Wide, multi-light glass block transoms above each bay are replaced by metal cladding. The principal entrance is deeply recessed with an ashlar stone veneer. The west elevation has seven distinct storefronts separated by engaged brick pilasters. Several of the storefronts feature deeply recessed entryways. Some appear to be historic while others are newly remodeled. Similarly, the rows of windows on the upper floors are modern replacements.

Great Bend Hotel Corporation built the Zarah Hotel, which was completed in 1925. The hotel remained in operation until 1972. During its operation, the first floor housed a variety of clubs, organizations, and doctor's offices. In recent years, the building was remodeled and accommodates a variety of businesses and offices. Early photographs of the hotel show the original windows on the upper floors being 8-over-1, double-hung wood sash. The storefront display windows were large, single-fixed lights with wide, multi-light glass block transoms.

Despite the exterior modifications, the former Zarah Hotel occupies a prominent position in the heart of Great Bend and continues to embody characteristics of early- to mid-twentieth century commercial design. The building contributes to the overall historic and architectural significance of downtown.

46) A.F. & A.M. Lodge No. 15 (Masonic Lodge) (KHRI 009-2150-00011)
Contributing
2015 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: 1928
Architectural Distinction: Collegiate Gothic
Architect: Mann & Company, Hutchinson, Kansas
Builder: T.C. Cork
Kansas City Stained Glass Works Company – Stained Glass Windows

This building is a unique, imposing edifice in downtown Great Bend. The three-story brick building features a flat roof. An interior brick chimney is at the southwest corner of the building. The front facade (north) features an Indiana limestone veneer. The eclectic design of the facade features a flat parapet along the west and a taller engaged tower/parapet
towards the center. The eastern section of the facade features octagonal engaged towers/parapet, separated by a copper mansard-type roof. This section features a decorative terra cotta cornice. The third floor of the eastern section contains three windows: 6-light casements. The second floor of the section contains three, two-leaf, eight-light casement windows with multi-light transom and round-arched stone surround. The first floor of the east section features a full-width storefront with large, plate-glass windows and a single-leaf door. The storefront is topped by a multi-light transom. The central tower section contains a heavy, two-leaf wooden door. The door is topped by an elaborate, false stone balcony and two-round-arched stained glass windows. The window shares a rounded stone arch with decorative engravings of Masonic motifs. Copper light fixtures are on either side of this bay. Above the stained glass windows are two narrow windows, followed by a large incised square and compass motif. The top of the tower of features an incised stone parapet. The western section of the facade features a wide cornice of five, circular elements depicting various Masonic symbols. Two window bays occupy the second and third floor of this section. Each bay is slightly recessed within a round-arched stone surround. Here, the windows are two-leaf, ten-light casements. The third floor of the west elevation reveals six-light casement windows.

This building is the first Masonic Temple erected in Great Bend. The Lodge is one of the oldest fraternal orders in Great Bend, being organized in 1873 (six months after Great Bend was organized in 1872). According to a notice commemorating the cornerstone laying, the Lodge occupies the site where the Lakin theatre operated for so many years. A portion of the theater's skeleton was used for the new Temple.

47) Bling Glamour (KHRI 009-227) Contributing
2019 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: 1916
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block
This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and a brick parapet. Beneath the parapet along the front façade (north) is a corbelled brick cornice, followed by a wide, rectangular brick panel. A modern signboard with the business name is centered on the panel. The storefront features large, plate-glass display windows with brick bulkheads. The entryway is deeply recessed, providing a covered space for "window shopping." The entry door is a modern replacement and is flanked by sidelights and transom. A large, non-historic shed-roofed awning is suspended above the storefront.

48) H&R Block (KHRI 009-226) Contributing
2023 Lakin Avenue
Date of Construction: 1916
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

2 “Masons to Observe Cornerstone Laying,” Great Bend Tribune, March 1, 1928.
This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet with concrete capping. At each end of the front façade (north), engaged brick corner pilasters extend beyond the parapet, forming a castellated appearance. From each corner, the parapet slopes gently up toward the center where the parapet forms a taller, round-arched design with keystone. Beneath the parapet on the facade is a full-width, rectangular brick panel with square concrete corner blocks. The storefront is symmetrical with a centered entryway that is slightly recessed. The entry door is a modern replacement, flanked on either side by sidelights with wood-paneled aprons and topped by a wide transom. The remainder of the storefront is occupied by large, plate-glass metal-framed display windows with brick bulkheads. A large, non-historic shed-roofed awning is above the storefront. Five bays on the west elevation are boarded over. These include wide, rectangular window openings set high on the wall. Beneath three of the openings are door openings. At the rear is an overhead garage door.

49) Fraternal Order of Eagles #646 (KHRI 009-204) Contributing
1024 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1946
Architectural Distinction: Streamlined/Art Moderne

This two-story Modernist brick building features a flat roof. A taller, square block is located at the northwest corner of the building and houses the principal entry. This block features a grey-colored brick wall on its west elevation (front) that enclosed what was once a deeply recessed entry. The present entry is at the north end of the facade (west elevation) and is slightly recessed with two-leaf, metal-and-glass door. The southern two-thirds of the facade is slightly lower than the principal massing. Its first floor lacks window or door openings. The upper floor was historically an open porch with flat roof that has since been enclosed with brick and windows. A historic neon sign is attached to the northwest corner of the building. The south elevation contains a row of nine, multi-light glass block windows at ground level. Two small circular windows are towards the west end of the elevation, followed to the east by seven, multi-light windows. The north elevation of the tall corner block features a single, stained glass window with limestone surround at the second floor. Beneath the window are three columns of small square lights. Eight window bays on the north elevation are separated and framed by stone veneer panels. The ground level of each bay are multi-light glass block windows. The upper floor window bays appear to be factory-style, multi-light with metal frames and exterior storm windows. At the east end of the elevation, the wall is covered in a stone panel veneer. The upper floor contains three round lights and a recessed secondary entry is at ground level. The stone veneer wraps around the corner of the rear elevation and has a vertical column of square lights.

A review of an early photograph of the building reveals that the front facade has been heavily altered. The primary entrance was deeply recessed within the taller projecting block. This has since been enclosed. Similarly, the second floor along the southern two-thirds of the facade was once an open porch with flat roof. It is not confirmed when these modifications took place. Property records suggest that remodeling occurred between 1995 and 2020. Despite
the enclosure, the overall massing and Modernist distinction, the building continues to convey its post-World War II design.

50) Grand Army of the Republic Hall (KHRI 009-242) Contributing
1104 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1886
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style/Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building features a flat roof with tall brick parapet along its front façade (west). The north elevation is stuccoed over. The upper façade features a rectangular brick panel framed by slightly projecting brick headers. At the center of the panel is a small rectangular stone block with "G.A.R 1886." The second floor of the facade has three windows (W, 2W, W) where the central bay is a set of paired windows. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with exterior metal and glass storm windows. The storefront is heavily modified. It has a modern brick veneer. At its south end is a deeply recessed entryway lead with a modern replacement door that likely leads to an interior stairway to the second floor. At the north end of the storefront is a metal-and-glass door. Between the doors is a large, horizontal-oriented rectangular display window. Above the storefront is a wide, vertical board slipcover that likely conceals a former transom. The north elevation reveals three, segmental-arched windows on the second floor.

The Grand Army of the Republic Post No.52 of Great Bend built this building to house its meeting hall on the second floor and commercial stores on the first. Despite the storefront modifications, this building, which is among the oldest surviving commercial blocks in the central business district, continues to reflect design elements attributed to its early construction. It contributes to the overall historic aesthetic of the district.

51) Shooter’s Supply Sporting Goods (KHRI 009-241) Contributing
1108 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1974
Architectural Distinction: No Style/One-Part Commercial Block

This modest, one-story commercial block is rectangular with a flat roof. The building is concrete block construction with a brick veneer along the front façade (west). On the north elevation, the concrete block wall extends above the roof to form a tall parapet. The facade is unadorned and symmetrical with three bays (W, D, W). The centered door is slightly recessed, metal-and-glass with an exterior metal security gate. The windows are concealed by metal security screens but feature brick sills.

52) Carroll Building (KHRI 009-205) Contributing
1109 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1916
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style/Two-Part Commercial Block
Great Bend Central Business District
Barton County, Kansas

Name of Property

This two-story commercial building is brick construction with a flat roof and parapet that steps down toward the rear. The front facade (east) features a wide, corbeled brick cornice with dentils. The first floor of the facade has a stone veneer exterior. The facade features two separate storefronts. Three, metal-and-glass doors are centrally located on the facade, recessed to form a small outdoor lobby space. Here, a square, stone veneer column supports the floor above. On either side of the recessed entry are large, metal-framed plate glass display windows with stone veneer bulkheads. A fabric awning is suspended above the storefronts. The second floor of the facade features four window bays with flat brick crowns and brick sills. The windows are boarded over. Centered on the second floor is a small stone panel that reads: "CARROLL 1916." The north elevation reveals two, segmental-arched window openings on the second floor. These are infilled with brick.

This property was originally built and owned by the Carroll family. The lower level held a grocery store and the second floor housed Charlie Carroll’s law office.

Despite the exterior modifications, this building continues to contribute to the historic architectural aesthetic of the streetscape.

53) Uneeda Cleaners & Carson Machine & Supply Co. (KHRI 009-240) Contributing
1110 & 1112 Main Street

Date of Construction: 1916

Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style, Modernist/One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and flat brick parapet along the front façade (west). The parapet steps down toward the rear along the side elevations. A simple brick cornice is along the façade and features a band of header bricks with a band of vertical stretchers below. The upper facade features a modest rectangular brick panel framed by brick headers. The storefront appears to be a post-WWII upgrade. It is symmetrical with a wide, centered recessed entryway. Two, single-leaf doors are separated by brick pilasters and wall. The south door is glazed with a narrow, rectangular wood panel. The north door is metal-and-glass. On either side of the entryway are two large, multi-framed plate glass display windows with brick bulkheads. A metal awning is suspended above the storefront. Above the awning is a wide metal panel that likely conceals a former transom. The north elevation reveals evidence of a former wall painting, including the word "IDECO." This building is an excellent illustration of a post-WWII storefront upgrade to an existing commercial building with vernacular/traditional commercial design features. Thus, the building contributes to the historic aesthetic of the business district.

According to the 1947 City Directory, the building was occupied by Uneeda Cleaners and Carson Machine & Supply Co. that year. It presently houses M&N Screen Printing and Mitchell’s Bakery.

54) Dolly & Doc Creative Studio (KHRI 009-221) Contributing
1119 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1920
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style/One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet. The south elevation parapet is much taller than that of the front façade (east). The façade features a wide, corbeled brick cornice. The storefront features four large, plate-glass display windows with stuccoed bulkheads. The easternmost display window angles inward toward a recessed, metal-and-glass, entry door. A wide panel covered in metal sheeting is above the storefront. It was likely originally a wide transom. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront. A 1972 photograph of the streetscape confirms that the building has undergone minimal alterations since that year.

55) Argonne Rebels, Inc. Bingo (KHRI 009-220) Noncontributing
1123 Main Street
Date of Construction: c.1900
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style/Two-Part Commercial Block

This large, two-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The front façade (east) features a post-World War II upgraded storefront and a post-1972 metal architectural slipcover. The storefront is symmetrical with large-plate glass, metal-framed display windows and a centered, recessed entryway that angles inward toward the door. The door is metal-and-glass with a single-light sidelight and transom. The display window bulkheads are stuccoed. The side elevations reveal interior brick chimneys that pierce the roof, creating a slight castellated appearance of the parapet. The south elevation's second floor features a row of window openings with segmental brick arches. The windows are covered in metal sheeting. The exterior brick on the side elevations is six-course American bond. The north elevation features five window bays with flat stone heads and stone sills. These windows are covered over. The first floor of the elevation has three, small square window openings set high on the wall. These also have flat stone hills and sills. West of the windows is a recessed entryway topped by a square, infilled window opening. At the west end of the elevation is a brick-infilled door opening with flat stone lintel. The rear elevation features a row of window openings with segmental-arched windows. At the rear of the building is a one-story, flat-roofed brick addition. Its northwest corner is chamfered with a roll-up metal garage door. East of the garage door on the addition are two bricked-in window openings, followed by a single-leaf modern door.

A 1972 streetscape photograph shows the building with its original one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. The upper façade, which is presently covered in a metal slipcover, features a decorative, stepped brick cornice with castellated corners and a modest stone cornice. The second floor of the facade has four sets of paired windows with stone lintels and sills. The photograph suggests that wide transoms above the storefront display windows and entry bay were boarded over prior to 1972. The present storefront reflects post-WWII modernist upgrades. However, this building is a noncontributing resource to the historic and architectural integrity of downtown Great Bend due to the c.1980s slipcover that conceals the
architectural detailing of the upper facade that once characterized the building. Should the slipcover be removed and reveal historic design features, a re-evaluation of contributing status should be considered.

56) Office Products, Inc. (KHRI 009-239) Contributing
1200-1208 (even) Main Street
Date of Construction: 1974
Architectural Distinction: Modernist; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, multi-retail commercial block is brick with a flat roof and low flat parapet. The upper façade (west) features applied, aluminum letters reading "OFFICE PRODUCTS INC." At the north end of the façade is a storefront containing a recessed entryway with a metal-and-glass door featuring a narrow transom and wide sidelight. Adjacent to the north are two large, metal-framed display windows with brick bulkheads. South of the entryway is a long row of six large display windows, followed by a wide, recessed entryway. Within the entryway are two entry doors, each leading into a separate unit. Each door is metal-and-glass with transom and sidelight. A wide, flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront on the façade. The south elevation contains three sets of paired, two(horizontal)-over-2(horizontal), double-hung sash windows at the west end. These are followed to the east by a recessed entry with small rectangular, single-light windows on either side. The door and windows are topped by a metal awning. To the east is another door and window topped by an awning.

57) The Moses Block (KHRI 009-2150-00037) Contributing
1201 Main Street
Date of Construction: c.1900
Architectural Distinction: Prairie Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This unique, Prairie-inspired, brick commercial building is two-story with a flat roof. Its side elevations feature brick parapets. The south parapet features three brick chimneys with corbeled brickwork. The parapet is enhanced by simple stone courses. The front and rear of the building each feature a broad, hipped roof parapet with wide overhanging eaves. These parapets are clad in asphalt shingles and feature paired support brackets. A round-arched brick and stone element is centered on the roof slope of the front parapet. Window openings on the second floor are separated by brick pilasters. The second floor of the front facade (east) has three window bays are infilled and stuccoed (post-1972 modification). Beneath the second floor on the facade are three, raised rectangular brick panels. The ground level storefront pre-dates 1972. It features a brick veneer with random protruding brick headers. A rectangular, two-light metal window is on the facade. At its north end is a recessed entry door. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront and extends to the north above the storefront at 1203. The south elevation has eight window openings on the second floor. Five of the openings are infilled and stuccoed. Three of the window bays reveal original paired, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. The openings have flat stone heads. A simple stone string course is along the elevation, running beneath the window bays. The first floor of
the south elevation has six small, square window openings with stone heads and sills. These are set high on the wall and are infilled with brick. Towards the west end of the elevation are four additional openings, beneath the infilled windows. The westernmost is a secondary entry door. This is followed to the east by a modern two-light metal and glass window with aluminum awning. At the rear of the building is a one-story brick addition that pre-dates 1972. The south elevation of the addition features a set of three, one-over-one windows and board-and-batten cladding. A shed-roofed awning with asphalt shingles is along the elevation.

This building was constructed by C.W. and C.L. Moses. The second store housed the Moses Brothers Mill offices. Turner's Grocery and Cafeteria leased the first floor of the building. Other businesses over the years included Safeway, Gates Drugs, Ralph Wallace Café.

Historic images indicate that the hipped parapets were originally covered in ceramic tiles and featured either dentils or exposed rafter ends. The three window bays on the second floor of the front façade are paired windows on the outer bays and a single centered window. The original storefront was comprised of two large display windows and an entry door with sidelights and transom at the north end. A third storefront display window is on the south elevation. A wide, multi-light glass block transom was along the facade. The present storefront is considered a historic modification as it pre-dates 1972. While the majority of the second floor window openings have been infilled with brick, this alteration may be reversible. Despite the exterior alterations, this building exhibits its unique upper façade design in the Prairie style and continues to convey its historic and architectural distinction.

58) Vowell Building (KHRI 009-2150-00041) Contributing
1203 Main Street
Date of Construction: c.1890
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story brick building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet. The building is characterized by its modest brick corbeled cornice and three, rectangular brick panels. The storefront appears to be a post-World War II upgrade with a ceramic tile bulkhead and metal-framed display windows. In 1972, the storefront angled inward toward a metal and glass door.

This building was built in 1890 by Henry Vowell. It has housed a variety of businesses including Spraugh's Grocery, the Pawnee Club, Victor Barber, and a restaurant. Prior to 1972, the building joined with the adjacent Moses Block to the south (1201).

59) Shriddle Building (KHRI 009-2150-00042) Noncontributing
1205 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1909
Architectural Distinction: Modernist; One-Part Commercial Block
This two-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The upper façade is covered in a metal architectural slipcover that post-dates 1972. A post-World War II storefront upgrade features a Carrara glass panel veneer at the corners of the facade (east) and bulkheads. The display windows are large plate-glass and metal framed. At the north end of the facade is a recessed entryway. The entry door is metal and glass and accessed from the south side of the small entryway vestibule. A large, metal-clad shed-roofed awning is suspended above the storefront.

A 1972 photograph reveals a flat brick parapet with modest cornice enhanced stone detailing. The photograph shows a stone string course above two sets of paired windows. A multi-light transom appears to be above the storefront. The windows on the second floor are one-over-one, double-hung sash in the 1972 photograph.

This building was built by Henry Schriddle and originally used as a dry goods store. Various businesses have occupied the building including a clothing store, shoe store, pool hall, and restaurant, among others.

The storefront of this building is a good illustration of post-World War II upgrades to existing commercial buildings. However, the c.1980s slipcover along the upper façade and the large shed-roofed awning conceal original design features that may be intact. These design elements are insensitive to the historic aesthetic of the streetscape. However, they are impermanent alterations, and their removal may reveal significant architectural detailing.

**60) Pelter Building (KHRI 009-2150-00043)**
1207 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1909
Architectural Distinction: Modernist; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The front façade (east) reveals a post-World II modernist upgrade to appear sleeker and more modern. The upper façade is covered in what appears to be a slipcover of aggregate paneling. The storefront angles inward toward a recessed entry door. The door is aluminum-framed glass and topped by a transom. The display windows are aluminum framed with an ashlar brick bulkhead. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront. This building is a good representation of post-WWII upgrades to existing commercial buildings.

The building was constructed by Hannah Pelter and used as a billiard hall for many years.³

**61) A to Z Thrift Store (KHRI 009-2150-00044)**
1209 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1928

³ Metzke, Stefanie. “Historic Resources of Great Bend,” pamphlet prepared for the City of Great Bend, nd.
Architectural Distinction: Modernist; Two-Part Commercial Block
Architect: Thomas W. Williamson & Company

This two-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The upper facade is covered in a wood shingle slipcover that post-dates 1972. The building features two, post-WWII storefronts separated by a central entry door that is glazed. Both storefronts angle inward toward a single-leaf door. The storefronts feature visual fronts with large plate glass windows. The northern storefront has a metal-and-glass door with transom and an ashlar brick veneer bulkhead. The southern storefront features an aluminum and glass door and a Carrara glass panel bulkhead and surround. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefronts.

The 1972 photograph reveals a flat parapet along the northern block. The southern storefront block has a parapet that steps up at the center. This block has three sets of paired, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows in the second floor. The north block has four single, one-over-one windows with segmental arched openings on the second floor. There appears to be a transom above the north storefront. The storefronts are good illustrations of post-World War II upgrades to existing commercial buildings. However, the non-historic slipcover prevents an evaluation of integrity of the upper facade. Thus, the building is a noncontributing element to the historic district.

62) Weber Theatre/Plaza Theatre (KHRI 009-2150-00045) Contributing
1210 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1916
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The front parapet has slight crenellation at the corners before angling upward toward the center to form a slight gable. Beneath the gable peak of the parapet is a round stone date block with a brick surround. A wide brick course is beneath the parapet along the facade. Its unique patterning draws upon a herringbone design and resembles the feather of an arrow. It uses angled stretcher bricks with headers at the peak. Beneath this brick course is a rectangular brick panel painted black with applied gold-colored letters reading "R.B. TELLERS." Flanking the panel is a square brick panel at each end of the facade. The facade storefront is remodeled. At each end of the storefront, the wall is stuccoed and paneled. The storefront itself appears to date to the post-WWII years. It has an open, visual front with three large, metal-framed display windows. The north window angles inward toward a slightly recessed entryway. The door is metal-and-glass and flanked by single-light sidelights. What was likely historically a transom above the storefront is presently paneled over. Remnants of a fabric awning is suspended above the storefront. The north elevation reveals several window openings at the first and second floors that are infilled with brick.
In 1916, Louis Zutavern constructed the building as a moving pictures theater. In 1920, the building was leased and managed by the Weber Theater. By the 1930s, the name changed to the Plaza Theatre. It later housed a music store, clothing store, and gift shop.

63) Roots & Wings Foundation (KHRI 009-2150-00046) Noncontributing
1213 Main Street
Date of Construction: c.1925
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This 1 1/2-story commercial building received a complete remodeling in 2014. The original building was one story, and it appears the ceiling was dropped to accommodate an upper half story. The building is rectangular with a flat roof and a modest corbeled cornice. The facade (east) features a modern stone veneer exterior. Two windows are at the south end of the upper floor of the facade. They are two-over-two, double-hung sash with shutters. At ground level is a set of paired windows at the south end. North of the windows is a recessed entryway with a single-leaf glazed door and small four-over-four window. The entryway is topped by a shed awning.

The 1972 photograph shows the building with what appears to be a post-World War II storefront comprised of plate glass windows that angle inward toward a recessed entry door. The wide recessed entryway offered covered "window shopping.' Due to the extensive, incompatible facade remodeling, this building detracts from the historic aesthetic of Great Bend's central business district.

64) Coast to Coast Stores/Bargain Barn (KHRI 009-2150-00047) Noncontributing
1215 Main Street
Date of Construction: c.1925
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story brick commercial building features a totally remodeled storefront. The building features a flat roof, and its facade is topped by a wood post balustrade. The storefront features three concrete square pilasters. The entryway is deeply recessed at the north end of the facade. At the top of the entryway is a three-light transom. The door is glazed with sidelights. South of the door is an 18-light window with brick bulkhead and topped by a six-light transom. Above the storefront in the upper facade is a rectangular panel with applied diamond-shaped tiles and metal letters reading "Bargain Barn."

A 1972 photograph of the streetscape shows this building occupied by Coast to Coast Stores. The building storefront received a total remodel in 2014. Thus, it is a noncontributing resource to the central business district of Great Bend.

65) Rigg’s Photography (KHRI 009-2150-00048) Contributing
1217 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1919
Great Bend Central Business District
Barton County, Kansas

Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. A rectangular, inset brick panel is above three window bays on the second floor. The windows appear to be one-over-one-over-one, triple-hung metal sash. The replacement windows are tinted. Original windows were one-over-one with rectangular transom. A white concrete string course is along the facade beneath the windows. Beneath the string course are three, corbelled brick, rectangular panels. The storefront is a full-width, open visual front attributed to post-World War II upgrades to appear sleeker and more modern. The storefront is characterized by large, aluminum-framed plate glass display windows with ceramic tile bulkheads. The storefront angles inward to a slightly recessed, metal-and-glass door. An aluminum awning is suspended above the storefront. Above the awning is a wide, full-width transom with nine lights. The transom appears to be associated with the post-World War II upgrade. A c.1920s photograph indicates that the transom is in place of an earlier brick panel for signboard. A business sign is attached to the center of the facade above the storefront.

66) Borthwick Building (KHRI 009-2150-00049) Noncontributing
1219 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1912
Architectural Distinction: Modernist Storefront; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. The upper 2/3 of the front facade (east) is concealed by a metal, architectural slipcover that post-dates 1972. The slipcover covers five window bays, as well as a name and date block. The present storefront appears to be a post-World War II upgrade. At its north end is an original, two-leaf glazed wooden door that leads to an interior stair hall. The mid-20th century storefront angles inward toward a two-leaf, metal-and-glass door with sidelights and transom. Display windows are large, plate glass with aluminum frames and brick bulkhead. A flat-roofed metal awning is suspended above the facade.

The 1914 Sanborn map indicates that the building was occupied by a Department Store. In 1972, it was occupied by Farris Furniture. It is presently occupied by the River of Life Church.

While the building features an intact representation of a post-World War II storefront, the slipcover conceals the upper facade. As such, it is not known what extent of the original fabric survives. Should the slipcovers be removed and reveal an intact upper facade, a re-evaluation of contributing status is warranted.

67) German American Bank (KHRI 009-2150-00038) Contributing
1223 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1910
Architectural Distinction: Neoclassical; Temple Front Commercial
This two-story, brick bank building adopts a temple form. The building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and flat brick parapet. The front facade (east) is characterized by a gabled, smooth stone pediment with dentils and a wide cornice. The year "1910" is engraved in the pediment. The second floor of the facade features three window bays separated by engaged stone pilasters with Scamozzi capitals. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. The outer windows are topped by segmental-arched crowns, whereas the central window has a triangular crown. The facade's first floor reveals a post-World War II storefront that angles inward toward a metal-and-glass door topped by a single-light transom. The remainder of the storefront is an open, visual front of large, plate-glass display windows. Above the storefront is a wide transom covered in metal sheeting. At the corners of the storefront are stone-veneer paneled square columns. Above the storefront's transom, the stone veneer panels form a wide frieze, topped by a stone entablature with dentils. This latter design feature appears to be original to the building. The north elevation features a unique cornice with stone dentils and vertical stone bands. A stone string course separates the first and second floors of this elevation. The second floor contains ten window bays. The easternmost window is framed by engaged stone pilasters with Scamozzi capitals and is topped by a segmental arch crown. The following six bays to the west are paired, with corbelled brick crowns alternating between flat and round-arched. Bay #7 contains three small, double-hung windows sharing a flat, corbelled brick crown. The two westernmost bays on the second floor are paired window openings that are infilled and stuccoed. The first floor of the elevation is nine bays (W, 3W, W, W, 3W, W, D, W, W) where the six eastern bays are infilled and stucco. These include both round-arched and flat crowns. The single-leaf, metal-and-glass door has a segmental-arched transom and brick crown. The two western bays are modern paired windows with flat brick crowns.

The German American Bank opened for business on August 8, 1910 in their brand new building at 1223 Main. The founders of the bank were Edward W. Moses and Clayton L. Moses, who founded many other banks throughout the county. The bank's name eventually changed to the American State Bank, which is still in business in Great Bend. The second floor houses several offices.4

68) Dawson Jewelers (KHRI 009-219) Contributing
1301 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1971
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story brick commercial building is rectangular with a flat roof and parapet. The front façade (east) is symmetrical and five bays (W, W, D, W, W). The entryway is recessed. The door is single-leaf, metal-and-glass with a sidelight and two-light transom. The flanking window bays are very narrow, single vertical lights. A flat metal awning is suspended above the windows and door. A sign with the business name is above the awning. The south

elevation contains nine bays. At the east end of the elevation three very narrow vertical windows. To the west is a wider vertical window, followed by a recessed entry door and display window. At the west end is a third door and two small fixed windows. Shed-roofed awnings are above the doors. A 1972 photograph confirms that the building is relatively unchanged since its construction.

69) Dry Lake Brewery (KHRI 009-218) Noncontributing
1305 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1971
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building features a flat roof with parapet. The historic storefront, which was comprised of a window wall of plate glass display windows, was recently removed and pushed back to create a recessed, outdoor dining space. The new storefront features overhead garage-type doors with multiple lights. A 1972 photograph indicates that the building once featured a flat metal awning suspended along the façade, above the full-width storefront.

The removal of the original storefront to create outdoor dining, as well as the installation of an incompatible new storefront compromise the overall historic integrity and aesthetic of the central business district.

70) Buckland Building (KHRI 009-2150-00050) Contributing
1309 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1887
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. A wide, elaborate Victorian-style cornice is replaced, or covered by, a wide synthetic panel. The corners of the front façade (east) feature cream-colored concrete pilasters extending to the base of the cornice. Seven window openings with triangular stone crowns occupy the second floor. The windows are boarded over. Between each window is a stone course. The storefront is heavily remodeled. Its northern half is recessed to accommodate a small outdoor dining area. The southern half features three large display windows with stuccoed aprons. The windows are separated by iron posts original to the building. Transoms above the display windows are boarded over. Above the storefront are stuccoed rectangular panels.

The building was constructed by A.J. Buckland, in conjunction with Otto and Hugo Bueger. Two stores occupied the first floor with offices above. It is presently occupied by Gambino’s Pizza restaurant.

71) The Buckle (KHRI 009-217) Contributing
1313 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1963
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block
This two-story commercial building reflects trends in post-World War II commercial design including a metal slipcover applied to the upper façade. The open, visual front storefront is full-width with six large plate glass windows that are aluminum-framed. At the north end of the storefront is a two-leaf metal-and-glass door with wide transom above. The storefront is slightly recessed to provide a covered space for “window shopping.” At each end of the storefront is a projecting stucco masonry wall. Above the storefront is a wide metal awning.

72) Hiss Building (KHRI 009-2150-00051) Noncontributing
1315 & 1317 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1909
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building features to separate storefronts. The storefronts received post-World War II upgrades to appear sleeker and more modern. The same remodeling included a decorative metal architectural slipcover applied to the upper facade. A 1972 photograph shows the mid-century upgrades to the building. Since 1972, the slipcover was removed from the facade of 1317 and revealed the historic facade (east) of the building. The facade off 1317 features a modest corbeled brick dentil cornice. The second floor of 1317 contains two window bays, each containing paired, single-light tinted panes. The windows are modern replacements. The post-World War II storefront was remodeled in recent years. The storefront was enclosed with a stone veneer, modern paired windows, and a single-leaf entry door. The southern half of the building, occupying 1315, continues to reflect the post-War upgrades and slipcover. At the north end of 1315 is a metal-and-glass door leading into a stair hall. South of the door is the storefront featuring smooth panel veneer and plate-glass windows framed in aluminum. The storefront angles inward to a metal-and-glass door with narrow transom.

The building was built by Joseph Hiss and Louis Zutavern, local businessmen. Joseph Hiss had earlier opened a harness shop on this block of Main Street in 1880.

While the south half of the building (1315) retains its post-World War II upgrades, the storefront and second floor windows at 1317 are insensitive to the original design of the building, as well as its historic post-War upgrades. Thus, it is recommended noncontributing to the city's central business district.

73) Woolworth Company (KHRI 009-2150-00053) Noncontributing
1319 Main Street
Date of Construction: c.1890
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and flat brick parapet. The building features a modest corbeled brick cornice. Beneath the cornice is a rectangular, stuccoed panel. The second floor of the façade (east) contains two sets of paired...
windows. The windows are modern, single-light fixed and tinted panes that replaced one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. A simple stucco string course runs along the facade beneath the windows. The storefront is heavily modified. It is three bays (D, W, W) with a metal-and-glass, door that is recessed. The windows are paired, single lights. The storefront wall is a modern granite veneer that also encloses a former transom. Above the storefront is a rectangular panel.

The 1892 Sanborn map indicates that the building housed a grocery store. By 1914, it housed a "Notions" store. It later housed the Woolworth Company store, and is presently occupied by office space.

The replacement, tinted windows on the second floor and the total remodeling of the storefront are insensitive to the historic design and character of the building. Thus, it is noncontributing to the city's central business district.

74) First National Bank (KHRI 009-2150-00009) Contributing
1321 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1919
Architectural Distinction: Beaux Arts; Temple Front Commercial Block

This monumental, two-story temple front bank building features a smooth, limestone exterior. The rectangular building has a flat roof topped by a decorative limestone parapet with paneled piers. The building features a wide molded cornice with dentils. The front facade (east) is symmetrical and three bays. The central bay is deeply recessed, flanked on either side by full height, fluted Doric columns on square plinth blocks. The entry door is centered on the facade and topped by an elaborate metal transom. The entryway features a molded limestone surround enhances by small circular elements. Above the door is a flat entablature with dentils and scrolled brackets. The outer bays of the facade feature a large, single fixed light with decorative panel above, followed by a smaller fixed light. Together, the windows feature a molded surround and a pedimented crown featuring dentils and scrolled brackets. Above the framed windows is a single fixed window at the second floor. The north elevation contains five window bays. The central three bays are slightly recessed and separated by paired, engaged limestone pilasters. The windows appear to be modern replacements with metal spandrels. At the west end of the elevation is a side entry door.

The building initially housed the First National Bank before merging with the American State Bank.

Historic photographs indicate that the second floor windows on the front facade were original two-over-two sash. The first-floor windows on the facade were historically three vertical panes. On the north elevation, the central three bays on the first floor were originally segmental-arched windows. Despite the alterations, the building continues to convey its stylistic distinction and is a landmark building in Great Bend.
75a) Barton County Courthouse (KHRI 009-2150-00010)  Contributing

1400 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1917
Architectural Distinction: Neoclassical
Architect: W.E. Hulse

This impressive, 3 1/2-story courthouse is rectangular in form, adopting a symmetrical, Neoclassical design. The masonry building has a cast concrete exterior, scored to resemble stone blocks. The building has a flat roof and a wide, dentiled cornice. The uppermost half-story is an enclosed parapet with sets of paired windows. The ground level is distinguished by a concrete exterior with more elaborate scoring that creates the appearance of narrow, horizontal stone slabs. The main facade (west elevation) is seven bays (W, W, W, D, W, W, W) where the outer bays are narrow, rectangular windows on the second and third floors. The five interior bays are slightly recessed and separated by prominent, fluted concrete columns with Ionic capitals. The columns are along the second and third floors. The windows on the second floor are rectangular, multi-light, whereas the third-floor windows are round-arched with keystones. The window bays feature rectangular panels. The entry is centered on the facade, with the metal-and-glass door at ground level. The entryway is framed by a mid-20th century marble-paneled surround that extends to the second floor. All windows are replacements, installed post-1971. The east elevation has a similar fenestration as the west. However, the entryway lacks the marble-paneled surround. Paired, recessed windows are at ground level on all sides of the building.

The original design of the courthouse had main entrances on the present second-floor, which were accessed by prominent stone stairs. The courthouse was remodeled in 1952 when the prominent stairs on the west and east elevations were removed and replaced with ground floor entrances.

75b) Civil War Union Veterans Memorial (KHRI 009-175) Contributing Object

1400 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1915
Artist: Fredric C. Tibbard

This is a bronze statue of a Union infantryman standing with left foot slightly ahead of the right foot. The butt of his rifle is on the ground in front of the infantryman who holds the top of the muzzle with both hands. A canteen is on his back hip, slung from a strap across right shoulder. An ammunition pouch is on the infantryman’s back hip. A bayonet hangs from his belt. A plaque on the front of the memorial reads: Erected and dedicated by Ira D. Brougher Department Commander to Pap Thomas Post No. 52 Grand Army of the Republic Department of Kansas Veterans of the War 1861-1865. A.D 1915 Lest we forget.

75c) Clayton L. Moses Memorial Band Shell (KHRI 009-2150-00074) Contributing
1400 Main Street  
**Date of Construction:** 1927  
**Architectural Distinction:** Neoclassical  
**Architect:** Mann & Company, Hutchinson, Kansas  
This one-story band shell is located at the south end of the courthouse lawn and faces north toward the courthouse. The building is reportedly constructed of Bedford limestone. It has a hipped roof covered in ceramic tiles and features ceramic-tiled coping. The stage is recessed within the building and framed by engaged square pilasters with modest, molded capitals. A one-story addition (2000-2001) is on the south elevation and provides public restrooms.

76) **Allen Building (KHRI 009-2150-00039)**  
1401 Main Street  
**Date of Construction:** 1875, Remodeled 1921 and 1960s  
**Architectural Distinction:** Neoclassical; Two-Part Commercial Block  
**Individually Listed 1/5/2018**  
**Builder:** August Schaeffer  
The Allen Building is a two-story, blond brick commercial building. The rectangular building has seen many façade renovations through the years. The upper façade of the main elevation (east) and south elevation retain the Neoclassical appearance of its 1921 design change. Character-defining features include a decorative Neoclassical cornice and pilasters in the upper façade, as well as one-over-one sash windows with transoms. The building has a flat roof with brick parapet. Its storefront reflects a 1960s remodel. The mid-century storefront is asymmetrical with a deeply recessed double-door system. On either side of this door are aluminum-framed display windows with permastone bulkheads. To the north of the storefront is a non-historic aluminum door that leads to the second floor. Separating the storefront from the historic upper façade is a temporary plywood cover. Above this, the upper façade is highly intact with five windows. The corners of the façade feature brick pilasters with classical capitals.  
The Allen Building was the first stone and masonry building erected in Great Bend, built specifically to house the first drug store in town. It also served as the home of the Inland Tribune (predecessor to the present Great Bend Tribune) and as the town’s first lending library. Albert S. Allen had served as hospital steward of the 82nd Ohio and came to Great Bend in May 1872 soon after its establishment.

77) **Hubbard’s Dry Goods (KHRI 009-2150-00055)**  
1403 Main Street  
**Date of Construction:** 1878  
**Architectural Distinction:** Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block  
This two-story masonry commercial block is rectangular in form with a flat roof with parapet. The front façade (east) has a brick veneer. The upper façade features decorative brick corbelling and two, one-over-one, double-hung windows. At the north end of the first
floor contains a single-leaf door leading into a stairhall. The door is topped by a boarded over transom. The storefront appears to be a post-WWII upgrade. It has metal-frame display windows and recessed entryway. The entry door is metal-and-glass with wide transom above. A large, non-historic metal awning is suspended above the storefront.

The building was constructed by J.H. and Josephine Hubbard for their dry goods store. By 1886, the store closed and they leased the building to Brucks and Company. The building has been used by Crescent Grocery, Dillon and Sons Grocery, Sweetbriar Clothing, among others. It is presently occupied by Sweet Dreams Candy Shop.

78) Moses Bros. Mercantile (KHRI 009-2150-00056) Contributing
1405 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1878
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story commercial building is limestone construction with a brick veneer on the facade. The building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet. A simple, corbeled brick cornice is along the facade. Beneath the cornice are two rectangular brick panels. The first floor storefront reportedly dates to the 1920s. The storefront features an open, window wall and a metal-and-glass door. The storefront is recessed with brick wing walls featuring black Carrara glass veneer on the front. A narrow transom is above the facade and is boarded over. The second floor of the facade contains two wide window bays, each comprised of multiple panes of textured glass.

The Moses Building opened for business in 1878 as Moses Brothers Mercantile Company.

79) Howard's Dress Shop (KHRI 009-2150-00057) Noncontributing
1409 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1928
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story brick commercial building is rectangular with a flat roof. The upper façade features a metal slipcover and a rectangular signboard reading "Jazzercise." The storefront was upgraded in 1957. It features a window wall of metal-framed panes. The display windows angle inward to a recessed entryway. The door is metal-and-glass.

In 1928, after a fire destroyed the original wood frame harness shop located at 1409 Main, the John Hiss family rebuilt a single story brick building on the lot. The building was rented out as a retail location from its beginning. In 1937, Howard's Dress Shop rented out the building. The building presently houses Perfectly Paisley Boutique and a Jazzercise studio.

5 Metzke, Stefanie. “Historic Resources of Great Bend,” pamphlet prepared for the City of Great Bend, nd.
The building has been remodeled twice, once in 1957 when it was extended to the alley, and again in 1971. However, a c.1980s slipcover conceals the upper facade. It is unclear what degree of historic fabric survives. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource to the historic district.

80) Grave’s Drugstore (KHRI 009-2150-00058)  Contributing
1411 Main Street  
Date of Construction: 1911  
Architectural Distinction: Modernist Storefront; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial block is rectangular in form with a flat roof with parapet. The upper façade features a mid-century metal architectural slipcover. The storefront appears to be a post-WWII upgrade. The storefront features large, plate-glass display windows that angle inward a recessed entry door. The door is two-leaf, metal-and-glass. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront.

Edwin Tyler built this building in 1911. It was first Graves Drug Store and later leased by Litwins. It has also been a Singer Sewing Machine outlet, Great Bend Sewing and fabric center, among other businesses.

81) Nimock’s Building (KHRI 009-2150-00059)  Contributing
1413 Main Street  
Date of Construction: 1888  
Architectural Distinction: Italianate; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial block features a flat roof with parapet. An elaborate cornice features brackets, dentils, and a sawtooth trim. Between the brackets is a sunburst panel. The upper façade features three window bays where the central bay is paired windows. The windows feature wood-louvered shutters and decorative hood moldings. Between the second floor windows and storefront is a decorative metal slipcover likely added during a post-World War II upgrade. The storefront is symmetrical with a recessed entryway that angles inward. The single-leaf, metal-and-glass door with wide flanking sidelights and transom. On either side of the entry are window display boxed with metal-framed windows and bulkheads clad in black, glazed tiles.

This building is an excellent illustration of a late-19th century commercial block with a mid-20th century storefront.

82) The People’s Store (KHRI 009-2150-00060)  Contributing
1415 Main Street  
Date of Construction: 1878  
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; Two-Part Commercial Block
This two-story, stone building has a brick veneer covered by a metal slipcover. The building is rectangular with a flat roof and parapet. The storefront features large plate glass display windows with tiled bulkhead that is painted over. The interior corners of the display windows are chamfered. The entryway is recessed with a single-leaf, metal-and-glass door flanked on either side by wide sidelights and a narrow transom. A fabric awning is suspended above the storefront.

This building was constructed in 1878 by J.W. Lightbody. J.W. and his brother, J. Lightbody had been in business with each other in the dry goods business. In 1878, the firm broke apart and J.W. Lightbody constructed the two-story stone building to house his half of the broken partnership. J.W.'s business was called the "People's Store." By 1909, the building housed the C. Samuels Dry Good store. Later occupants include the Stephn-Isern Mercantile Company, Isern-Lutschg Shoes, Reisbigs, Cinderella Shoppe, Calico Shop, and Portraits by Shane.

83) Clayton & Edwards Dry Goods (KHRI 009-235)  Noncontributing
1419 Main Street
Date of Construction: 1888
Architectural Distinction: No Style; Two-Part Commercial Block

This two-story, brick commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and flat brick parapet. The front façade (east) is substantially altered. It features a modern brick veneer and storefront. The initial ornate Victorian detailing was removed. The present façade features a simple corbeled brick cornice with four, corbeled brick diamond-shaped panels below. The upper facade lacks window openings. The ground level of the front facade contains six recessed openings. The central two bays are wider than those on ends and have flat arches. One contains a single-leaf, metal-and-glass door with display window, the other has a display window. The outer four bays are segmental-arched openings with display windows. Centered above the storefront is a narrow, rectangular opening containing four awning windows.

Clayton and Edward started a dry goods store together in a wood frame building at this site. In 1888, they erected a permanent building brick building to house their store. By 1905, it was occupied by a men's clothing store, and by 1914, it was a department store. It is presently occupied by a salon and spa with offices on the second floor.

The extensive exterior alterations on the front façade are insensitive to the historic commercial aesthetic of the streetscape. As such, it is noncontributing to the district.

84) Fire Station No.1 (KHRI 009-223)  Contributing
1205 Williams Street
Date of Construction: 1972

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6 Metzke, Stefanie. “Historic Resources of Great Bend,” pamphlet prepared for the City of Great Bend, nd.
Architectural Distinction: Modernist

This two-story fire station features a brick veneer and a flat roof. The building is rectangular in form with a slightly taller block projecting from the north end of the front façade (east). Another projecting block is at the west end of the south elevation. The primary massing features a wide concrete cornice. The front facade of the main block has four window bays at the second floor. Each window is a vertically-oriented single fixed light. The window bays are enhanced by vertical concrete courses that extend the entire floor. The first floor of the facade contains four garage bays with metal overhead doors featuring three horizontal lights. The facade of the projecting block at the north end contains three small square lights arranged vertically. A smaller one story block projects from its north end and houses the entry vestibule. The metal-and-glass door with sidelights and transom is on the south wall of the projecting block.

85) City Building (KHRI 009-224)  Contributing
1209 Williams Street
Date of Construction: c.1970
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story office building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and parapet that steps down toward the rear. The building is stuccoed. The upper half of the front façade (east) is covered in metal sheeting and has applied lettering reading: “CITY BUILDING.” The facade is three bays. The outer bays are comprised of a row of four, square tinted glass windows. The centered entryway is recessed. It features a single, metal-and-glass door with transom and an electronic sliding door. The doors are separated by a large single-light window with paneled apron.

86) Municipal Building & Auditorium (KHRI 009-225)  Contributing
1217 Williams Street
Date of Construction: 1938
Architectural Distinction: Art Deco
Architect: R.I. Hamilton of Wichita, Kansas

This two-story building is a rare use of architectural concrete construction in Great Bend. The monumental building is characterized by its concrete shell, segmental-arched roof. The front façade (east) features a low concrete parapet. Four concrete pilasters extend beyond the roofline and parapet. The pilasters separate four window bays above the second floor that likely provide additional lighting to the interior auditorium. At the second floor of this principal block features a set of three windows at each end. These windows are replacement two-leaf casements with transom above. The building features a lower, two-story rectangular block centered on the front facade. The two-story block features a flat roof and parapet with a rectangular signboard reading "POLICE DEPARTMENT." Beneath the sign is a wide, grooved concrete string course that is brown, contrasting with the white walls of the building. At each end of the central block, the parapet is lower and the wall appears to overlap. Such
design creates the appearance of a stepped block. These end bays feature a wide cornice with three narrow grooved bands. The second floor of the central block, including the lower end bays, is five bays with three paired windows at the center and single windows on the outer bays. The windows are two-leaf casements with transom. Beneath the paired windows are three horizontal concrete panels, followed by three window bays on the first floor. Flanking either side of the central projecting block is a one-story wing with flat roof. Each overlaps the first floor of the central block outer bays. Here, the one-story wings have cornered entrances - each with a single-leaf glazed door and transom. The one-story wings feature a grooved, brown-painted string course. The east elevation of the south wing contains two overhead garage doors. The east elevation of the north wing contains a single window. A former door is removed and the opening infilled with concrete. North of this wing is a recent addition. A large, one-story concrete block at the northeast corner of the building mimics the design of the original. It has a flat roof and brown-painted concrete string course. Two windows occupy its east elevation. A single, recessed entry door is on its north elevation. The north elevation of the principal massing with arched roof features 8 bays, each topped by a vertical grooved cornice. Beneath the cornice of each bay is a set of three, single-light skylight windows. The easternmost features the main entrance into the auditorium with three, metal-and-glass doors and transoms. Adjacent to the west of the door is an engaged concrete pilaster with vertical grooves. Above the door is a rectangular concrete panel reading "AUDITORIUM." The panel features a decorative concrete surround revealing a slight basket weave pattern. The first floor of the remaining bays feature two windows. Some bays are separated by prominent engaged concrete pilasters, or buttresses. The first floor of the westernmost bay is concealed by a later brick addition. At the rear of the building is a centered, two-story rectangular block (original), flanked on either side by original one-story blocks. A later addition surrounds these three blocks.

This building was described by architects and builders as the most outstanding example of the use of architectural concrete west of the Mississippi River. Arched trusses were built to support the forms for the concrete Z-D type roof shell. Thirty thousand board feet of lumber was used in the construction of supporting false-work, which was used first for the west half of the auditorium and later skidded to the east half of the building. The complete arch of the roof is 125 feet wide and the concrete is 2-5/8 inches thick at the top of the arch and at the lower edges, near the haunches or supports, varies in thickness from 5-1/2 to 6-1/2 inches."^7

Historic photographs and postcards depicting the building indicate that the four uppermost windows on the facade of the principal block were originally multi-light glass block windows. The flanking windows on the second floor were historically factory-type, metal-framed, multi-light windows with central awnings. The large addition at the rear was reportedly constructed around 1970. The addition at the northeast corner of the building was built c.1995. Despite these changes, the Municipal Building and Auditorium survives as a unique representation of architectural concrete construction in Great Bend and Barton.

county. Its historic design, stylistic elements, and overall window fenestration is unaltered. The building is a contributing resource to the historic and architectural significance of downtown Great Bend.

87) Wenke & White Medical Offices (KHRI 009-238) Contributing
1307 Williams Street
Date of Construction: 1943
Architectural Distinction: One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story commercial building is brick with a flat roof and parapet. The front façade (east) features a modest, corbelled brick cornice reminiscent of early-20th century commercial design. A metal signboard with the business name is fixed on the center of the upper facade. At the south end of the facade is a metal-and-glass door topped by a single-light transom. The door is slightly recessed between simple brick pilasters. It is topped by a flat concrete lintel. North of the door, the wall is brick-veneered and contains two metal-framed display windows with brick sills. A course of vertical stretcher bricks runs along the facade above the storefront. The south elevation reveals a modern slipcover of diagonal board cladding. The upper wall of the elevation is clad in metal siding.

According to the 1947 city directory, the building housed the medical offices of dr. LL Wenke and Charles L. White. It is presently occupied by Golden Belt Community Foundation.

88) Commercial Building (KHRI 009-259) Noncontributing
1309 Williams Street
Date of Construction: c.1905
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story commercial building is rectangular in form with a flat roof and brick parapet. The north elevation of the building reveals stucco over stone construction. The front façade (east) is brick-veneered. The brick parapet along the façade is topped by a band of brick headers, followed by a band of stretchers. Beneath the bands, the upper facade is characterized by a row of small, red-brick rectangular panels. Each comprised of five, stacked stretcher bricks. The end panels contain eight stretchers. The storefront is remodeled. It has been stuccoed and features two separate storefronts. Each contains a metal-and-glass door and paired, single-light display windows with stuccoed bulkheads. A large shed-roofed awning is suspended above the storefronts. It is clad in wood shingles.

The 1909 Sanborn map indicates this building housed a woodworking business. It is presently occupied by a chiropractor office.

Despite the upper façade retaining historic brick detailing, the storefront is completing remodeled and the large awning is insensitive to the design of the building and the overall aesthetic of the streetscape.
89) Commercial Building (KHRI 009-229)  Noncontributing
1408 Williams Street
Date of Construction: c.1915
Architectural Distinction: Commercial Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story, brick commercial building features a flat roof with brick parapet. The building features modest stylistic enhancements. Three corbelled brick, rectangular panels occupy the upper façade (west). The storefront features a centered, recessed entryway. The modern door is tinted glass with narrow transom and wide, blacked-out sidelights. Large display windows on either side of the entryway are covered in board-and-batten siding. A metal, shed-roofed awning is suspended above the entryway.

The modern coverings on the façade conceal the window bays. Thus, it is unknown what degree of design and material is intact. Therefore, it is a noncontributing resource.

90) Barton County Public Library (KHRI 009-256)  Contributing
1409 Williams Street
Date of Construction: 1971
Architectural Distinction: Modernist

This one-story library is comprised of a principal block with its main façade facing north, and a large square-shaped block at the southeast. The library is characterized by its random-coursed, stone veneer exterior and wide concrete panel cornice along the upper façade. It is further distinguished by its Modernist windows. The vertically-oriented windows are deeply recessed within concrete surrounds. This building is a fine illustration of Modernist design for public buildings in Great Bend.

91) Agricultural Machine Repository (KHRI 009-230)  Noncontributing
1410 Williams Street
Date of Construction: c.1900
Architectural Distinction: No Style; One-Part Commercial Block

This large, one-story commercial building is rectangular with a flat roof and parapet. The brick building is stuccoed. The façade (west) is symmetrical and five bays (W, W, D, W, W) with a centered entryway containing a metal-and-glass door with metal-framed plate glass window and transom. On either side of the entryway are two large display window openings that are covered in weatherboard cladding. The north elevation contains another display window opening at its west end, also boarded over. To the east are three factory-type metal windows with nine lights. East of these is a recessed side entry, followed by an overhead, metal garage door. The parapet along this elevation steps down toward the east.
Great Bend Central Business District
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas
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It is unclear when the building was stuccoed. The weatherboard coverings conceal the bays behind. As such, the integrity of the intact design of the storefront is indiscernible. Therefore, this building is a noncontributing resource to the district.
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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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.)

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.

Areas of Significance

- COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
- POLITICS & GOVERNMENT
- COMMERCE
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1871-1975

Significant Dates

1971

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Boller, Robert & Dietz Lusk Jr; Butler & Associates
Charles, Ellis (Builder), Cork, T.C. (Builder),
Hamilton, R.I., Mann & Company, Schaffer, August
(Builder), Taylor, James Knox, Tibbard, Frederic C
Williamson, Thomas W & Company

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance begins in 1871 when Great Bend was surveyed and laid out in a gridded arrangement of streets and blocks. The Period of Significance extends to 1975 to recognize the most recent, and final substantial building campaign within the central business district and the construction of the monumental, American State Bank & Trust Company’s New Formalist building (Resource #10). New development came to an abrupt halt following 1975 with only three buildings erected since that year.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A
Great Bend Central Business District

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The Great Bend Central Business District in Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance at the local level in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Politics and Government, Commerce, and Social History. The central business district of Great Bend was surveyed and laid out in 1871 to take advantage of the site’s location along the Santa Fe Trail and the coming of the railroad. Its layout adopted a traditional gridded street arrangement with a central park surrounded by commercial blocks. As planned, the blocks were separated by alleys, and the park quickly became a center of government when Great Bend was selected as the county seat and the courthouse erected at the center. Further, the distribution of mid-twentieth century public architecture speaks toward city planning initiatives to separate new civic buildings from the pedestrian-oriented commercial center. Since its establishment, Great Bend has been the commercial, business, and trading center of central Kansas. Surviving buildings reflect the development of Great Bend from the 1870s through the early-1970s, including a wide range of commercial businesses that served local and regional residents and visitors alike. Government buildings include both city and county facilities, as well as one United States Post Office. In addition to being the commercial and political center of the region, Great Bend was also a social epicenter for the city and county. Residents and visitors alike gathered in the central business district to enjoy its many amenities including theaters, an opera house, the band shell, and the many pool halls and saloons. Four fraternal organizations erected buildings in the district to serve as meeting halls or clubhouses. The organizations played important roles in society, arranging various public events and philanthropic initiatives.

The Great Bend Central Business District is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Resources include building types and architectural styles reflective of distinct trends in American architectural design, including those frequently occurring in the heart of small towns and cities. Represented styles appearing in the district include Italianate, Beaux Arts, Neoclassical, Collegiate Gothic, Commercial Style and Art Deco. Mid-Century Modernist designs include examples of Art Moderne, New Formalism, and Brutalism. In addition, numerous commercial buildings within the district reflect national post-World War II trends to modernize earlier commercial storefronts.

Elaboration

Historic Context

Formed in 1872, Barton County is located in central Kansas and occupies 899 square miles. Prior to its formation, the Prairie Indians thrived on the land, benefiting from the vast herds of buffalo that roamed the territory. Beginning in 1821, an important trading route was forged from the Missouri River to Santa Fe, Mexico. Approximately two-thirds of the Santa Fe Trail passed through Kansas. The future Barton County was conveniently located along the route. The route served as a military road during the Mexican War (1846-1848), afterward acting as a supply route for military posts in New Mexico and Arizona territories. Two miles east of present Great Bend, the old Rath Ranch Trading Post was established along the Santa Fe Trail where it crossed

Great Bend Central Business District

Name of Property: Walnut Creek. In 1864, Camp Dunlap was established here to protect against the frequent Indian attacks. The following year, a more permanent post was erected and renamed Fort Zarah. In 1868, the Fort Zarah military reservation was established and contained approximately 3,700 acres of land. However, the fort was dismantled the following year due to a decline in the Indian threat. The Fort Zarah post office closed in 1870 and the reservation land put up for sale. Despite the closure of the fort, white settlement within the region was well underway.

Early Settlement and Development
Located a mere two miles from Fort Zarah, Great Bend was established along the north bank of the “great bend” of the Arkansas River. The town of Great Bend came into fruition with the coming of the railroads. The railroads fueled the westward expansion of the United States as permanent settlements were established along the rail lines. In anticipation of the coming of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad (AT & SF RR), the Great Bend Town Company was organized in Topeka in August of 1871 to establish a town along the Santa Fe Trail and future rail line. The initial site selected for the town was Section 34; however, this section bisected the Arkansas River. Therefore, Section 28, which was on higher ground, was selected.

Following the selection of the land upon which to start the new town, the Town Company surveyed and platted the tract into streets, alleys, lots, and blocks. The town was laid out in a traditional grid plan with streets running in a north to south and east to west arrangement. At the center of the town was planned a public park, later called Lafayette Park. The heart of the future town was to be developed several blocks north of railroad corridor and depot, which would be sited just north of the Arkansas River. The majority of the streets in the original town plat were named in honor of individuals influential in the establishment of Great Bend. Many changed names in 1885. Among the streets at the center of the town, surrounding the public park, include Peter Avenue (presently Kansas Avenue) after Thomas J. Peter, the General Manager of the AT & SF Railroad; Curtis Street (now Main Street), named for J.L. or Dr. Charles R.S. Curtis, both of the Town Company; Williams Avenue, in honor of Archibald L. Williams, director of the Town Company and later Attorney General for the state of Kansas; Wilder Street (present 11th Street), for Edward Wilder, Secretary Treasurer of the Santa Fe Railroad; Mitchell Avenue (present 12th Street), for Judge Thomas Mitchell, a company stockholder; Lakin Avenue, named in honor of D.L. Lakin, the railroad’s first land commissioner; Maggie Street (present Forest Avenue); Cowgill Street (present Park Street), believed to be named after an early settler to the area, E. B. Cowgill; and Bassett Avenue (present Broadway), named in honor of Doctor M.F. Bassett, President of the Great Bend Town Company.

The commercial blocks are reflective of traditional commercial development from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries where the individual buildings share exterior walls, rather than being free-standing structures. A significant planning feature of cities and small commercial districts across the nation is the incorporation of rear alleys separating the commercial blocks. In the nineteenth century, American cities used alleys to hide utilitarian functions of urban life. An alley is a narrow lane for service use such as trash access, deliveries, plumbing, and for parking, among others. In laying out the original town plat for Great Bend, the planners adopted this important urban design element for both commercial and residential blocks. This design feature is largely intact within the Central Business District, particularly within the blocks surrounding the square, and continue to be utilized as service areas and parking. Figures 2 and 3 are a 1902 plat of Great Bend that depict the original town plan as laid out in 1871.

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Great Bend Central Business District
Name of Property

Figure 2. Plat Book, Barton County, Kansas – 32 & 33, North West Publishing Company, 1902
Source: Kansas Memory, Kansas Historical Society
In order to comply with the Townsite Pre-Emption Law, which required occupation and improvements to officially designate a town, the Great Bend Town Company erected a hotel, Drover’s Cottage (later Southern Hotel, not extant) in the winter of 1871. Thomas L. Stone was hired as the landlord of the hotel.\textsuperscript{11} In May of 1872, A. C. Allen erected the first drug store on the west side of the public square (not extant). Other early businesses included two grocery stores established by Ed Markworth and John Cook; and a hardware store operated by E.L. Morphy.\textsuperscript{12} By May of 1872, approximately 40 houses were erected in town.\textsuperscript{13}

Barton County was officially formed on May 16, 1872. On July 15 of that year, the A T & SF Railroad laid track into Great Bend, and in September, a patent was issued to the mayor in trust, A.A. Hurd, formally incorporating Great Bend. Initially, a deed was made to the Great Bend Town Company; however, its stockholders did not reside in the new town. As such, the United States courts determined that a deed could only be granted to actual occupants. A compromise was made between residents and the Town Company. Each occupant received a fair quota of lots, and, in turn, sold one-half to the Company.\textsuperscript{14} Great Bend was selected as the county seat in 1872.

\textsuperscript{13} Great Bend Tribune, \textit{Biographical History of Barton county, Kansas}, Great Bend Tribune, 1912; page. 266.  
\textsuperscript{14} Great Bend Tribune, \textit{Biographical History of Barton county, Kansas}, Great Bend Tribune, 1912; page. 270.
With the coming of the railroad and selection as the seat of county government, Great Bend quickly developed into a bustling town and trading center in central Kansas. For a brief period, Great Bend was one of the major shipping points for cattle brought up from Texas.\(^{15}\) During the early years of the town’s development, buildings erected within the central business district were primarily of frame construction. Figure 4 shows the commercial block west of Lafayette Park in the late-1870s. The block is nearly fully developed, largely with frame construction; however, a few masonry buildings are visible at the end (left) of the block. The county’s first courthouse was completed in 1874 at the center of Lafayette Park. The 54-by-80-foot stone and brick building featured a square clock tower. The courthouse was the center of the community, serving as town hall, church building, dance hall, lodge room, and opera house.\(^{16}\) Only four buildings erected in the 1870s survive. All are stone construction and located within the 1400 block of Main Street (formerly Curtis). The first stone commercial building built in Great Bend is the drug store of Albert S. Allen, who started his business in 1872 in a frame building. Allen built the two-story brick building in 1876 at the northwest corner of Main and Forest Streets (Resource #23, NR-listed). Adjacent to the north of Allen’s drug store were Hubbard’s dry goods (Resource #77), followed by Moses Brothers Mercantile (Resource #78), both erected in 1878. A few buildings to the north was the People’s Store (Resource #82), also stone construction, erected in 1878.

By 1882, just ten years since its establishment, Great Bend’s central business district was largely developed, with a variety of buildings expected to occur in a regional trading center. A wide range of businesses served residents, merchants, and travelers, including numerous saloons and pool halls. By 1884, several hotels and boarding houses accommodated travelers arriving either by rail or the Santa Fe Trail. A Bird’s Eye View of Great Bend in 1882 illustrates the development of the central business district that emerged surrounding the courthouse square Figure 5). The 1882 Bird’s Eye View confirms that commercial development was largely concentrated on the west side of Main Street (formerly Curtis) and was dominated by one and two-story, stone or brick construction. Sanborn maps (Figure 6) further confirm the rapid development of the central business district and the transition from frame construction to masonry between 1884 to 1892, particularly along the west side of Main Street (formerly Curtis).


Great Bend Central Business District
Barton County, Kansas

Figure 5. Bird’s Eye View of Great Bend, Kansas, 1882
Great Bend Central Business District
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas
County and State

Figure 6. 1884 (left) and 1892 (right) Sanborn Maps Illustrating Transition from Frame Construction to Permanent Stone or Brick Commercial Buildings
Note: Frame construction is colored yellow, brick is red, and stone is blue

The initial boom period of Great Bend continued through the 1880s. The first federal census to record Great Bend’s population was in 1880 when the population totaled 1,071 residents. This number more than doubled the following decade, reaching 2,450 residents by 1890. Between 1890 and 1900, growth continued, yet at a much lower rate. By the turn-of-the-twentieth century, blocks surrounding Lafayette Park and the courthouse were nearly fully built out. Commercial development expanded to the south along Main Street and to the west along Forest Avenue. The area east of blocks fronting Kansas Avenue remained largely residential.

Among the most notable buildings erected during this initial boom period was the Morrison Hotel (not extant), constructed in 1888 at the northeast corner of Broadway and Kansas Avenues. The Victorian-era hotel was once considered the grandest hotel between Kansas City and Denver.17 Another hotel, the Shepler Hotel (not extant) was a large, three-story brick building erected c.1885 at Main and 12th Streets.18 At the southwest corner of Main and Broadway was the imposing Farmer’s and Merchant’s Bank (not extant), built in 1886. While these buildings are no longer extant, several others erected during the 1880s and 1890s survive. Among those include the Wilner Building, constructed c.1880 at 2015 Forest Avenue (Resource #16) to house the Wilner Furniture Store. The former Great Bend Bottling Works building was erected in 1887 at 1209 Kansas Avenue (Resource #30). The Buckland Building (Resource #70) was completed in 1887 at 1309 Main Street. The H.C. Nimock’s Building (Resource #81) was built in 1888 at 1413 Main Street. That same year, Clayton and Edwards Dry Goods erected a grand, two-story building at 1419 Main Street (Resource #83).

The Vowel Building (Resource #58) at 1203 Main Street was erected c.1890 for Henry Vowell. Other businesses to open in the latter years of the nineteenth century that are still extant include a harness shop at 1911

18 The Shepler Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1968.
Great Bend Central Business District
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Lakin Avenue (Resource #42); a grocery and bakery store built in 1889 at 2021 Forest Avenue (Resource #21); and a jewelry store built in 1885 at 2006 Forest Avenue (Resource #12). The building presently occupied by the Great Bend Tribune (Resource #15) was built c.1880 on Forest Avenue and housed a variety of businesses including a drug store, restaurant, bookstore, butcher, and printing press. The same building was also occupied by the Great Bend post office for a number of years. Many of the two-story commercial buildings within the Central Business District built during the latter years of the nineteenth century also housed professional office and domestic space on the upper floor.

Not only did downtown Great Bend serve as a commercial and civic center in Barton County, it was also the epicenter for social and entertainment activity. Saloons and billiard halls were plentiful during the late-nineteenth century. The 1886 Farmer’s and Merchant’s Bank on Main Street reportedly housed an auditorium in its upper floor, and the building was known as the Opera Block. That same year, the Great Bend Grand Opera House (not extant) was erected at the southwest corner of Forest and Williams avenues. The grand, three-story building provided entertainment to local residents and visitors alike for decades.

Fraternal organizations were active in Great Bend as early as 1882 when a Masonic Lodge was meeting in a building at the northeast corner of Main and Broadway, and an Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall (I.O.O.F) occupied a building on the 1400 block of Main Street. By 1892, the Masonic Lodge relocated to a new brick building (not extant) at the northwest corner of Main and Broadway. The I.O.O.F occupied the upper floor of the Moses Brothers Mercantile Building (Resource #78) at 1405 Main Street, built in 1878. Following the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R) established a post in Great Bend. The G.A.R. was the country’s preeminent veteran’s organization, which peaked in 1890 with over 400,000 members and more than 7,000 posts. The Great Bend post erected a two-story building to house its meeting hall in 1886 at 1104 Main Street (Resource #50). The meeting hall occupied the second floor, while the ground level was used for commercial space. The G.A.R. hall quickly became a social center in Great Bend, hosting a variety of events including cake walks and boxed suppers, among many others.

Early-Twentieth Century Boom

At the turn-of-the-twentieth century, Great Bend had a total population of 2,470. During the first decade of the century, the population soared, reaching 4,622 residents by 1910, an 87 percent increase. Between 1910 and 1920, census records indicate a slight decline in population, once again rebounding during the 1920s. In 1930, Great Bend had 5,548 residents.

The rising population and thriving economy of the early-twentieth century is evident by the imposing edifices erected by three prominent financial institutions within the Central Business District. The German American Bank (Resource #67) was erected in 1910 at 1223 Main Street. In 1919, the American State Bank (Resource #74) and the Prudential Building & Loan Association (Resource #13) were built. The banks are among the most elaborate buildings surviving within the historic district and their construction attest to a prosperous economy of Great Bend and Barton County during the early-twentieth century.

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22 Federal Census, 1880-1930
23 Federal Census, 1880-1930
The city’s first building erected specifically to serve as a United States Post Office (Resource #8) was erected in 1911 at the north end of the courthouse square. The building is reflective of the monumental and grand design of federal buildings during the early-twentieth century. In 1917, the county courthouse was razed to make way for a new facility. The second and current county courthouse (Resource 75a) was completed in 1918 and constructed of Indiana limestone.\(^{24}\) It, too, is an impressive and monumental addition at the heart of the Great Bend Central Business District. Prior to the construction of the new courthouse, a Civil War Union Veterans Memorial, referred to as the Rifleman (Resource #75b), was erected within Lafayette Park on the north side of the original courthouse in 1915. The bronze statue of a Union infantryman was erected by the G.A.R. Post No.52 of Great Bend. At the south end of the park, the Clayton L. Moses Memorial Band Shell (Resource #75c) was erected in 1927. The City Band played to large crowds on summer evenings and during special events. The courthouse square and band shell continue to be a center of activity and entertainment for Great Bend and the county residents.

As the City prospered throughout the early-twentieth century, the Central Business District not only served as a center of commerce and government but was the epicenter of social and entertainment activity. During the early years of the century, the Lakin Theater was housed in the two-story building located at 2019 Forest Avenue (Resource #19). A bowling alley was located in the basement of the same building.\(^{25}\) The first known building erected for the sole use as a movie theater was built in 1916 at 1210 Main Street (Resource #62). Prior to this time, various movie theaters occupied multi-story buildings that all housed commercial businesses. The theater was built by Louis Zutavern, and by 1920, the Weber Theater occupied the building. By the 1930s, management changed and the theater was renamed Plaza Theater (Figure 7).\(^{26}\)

![Figure 7. Weber Theater/Plaza Theater, 1210 Main Street](Taken from Ray Schulz’s, Pictorial View of the 1920s)

Membership among the various civic organizations increased concurrently with the growth of the city. During this boom period, two fraternal organizations erected permanent lodge halls. The I.O.O.F #95 hall was built in 1908 at 2025 Forest Avenue (Resource #23). The Free Masons erected an imposing edifice (Resource #46) in 1928 on the site of the former Lakin Theater on Lakin Avenue.

By the end of the 1920s, Great Bend remained a thriving commercial, political, and social center in central Kansas and Barton County. New development slowed considerably during the Great Depression; however, the

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\(^{25}\) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1909, Sheet 3

\(^{26}\) Stefanie Metzke, “Historic Resources of Great Bend,” prepared for the City of Great Bend, nd.
city and surrounding area would soon benefit from a new industry, entering into another period of economic prosperity.

Oil Boom and Post-World War II Growth

During the early years of the 1930s, oil production within Barton County began to increase considerably, playing a significant role in the economy of the region. Prior to 1930, the total recorded production of oil was only 2,000 barrels. By 1933, production had increased to nearly 75,000, and by 1936, barrel production skyrocketed to 6 ¼ million barrels. An unprecedented boom in oil production occurred between 1941 and 1950, with an average annual production of 16.3 million barrels. The peak annual production occurred in 1949 when nearly 20 million barrels were pumped. It was during this period when the city of Great Bend experienced a substantial boom period and an impressive increase in the capital of the city. Great Bend quickly emerged as the center of commerce and business of the region’s oil industry in central Kansas.

Population trends coincide with the growing oil industry from the 1930s through the 1950s. In 1930, Great Bend’s population was 5,548, increasing by 63 percent to 9,044 by 1940. This impressive period of growth continued, with the population reaching 12,665 residents by 1950. By 1954, the estimated population within the city limits reached 15,854 residents, with 54 acres of land developed for commercial use. A municipal airport was offering daily flights between Great Bend, Denver and Kansas City on Continental Airlines.

According to a comprehensive city plan prepared in 1955, the dominant employment in Great Bend was in the oil industry (30.1 percent) and retail trade (24 percent). The service industry followed, accounting for 11 percent of the population. Public administration, transportation, communication, and utilities each accounted for seven percent of the labor force. The same report noted a slight decline in the opening of new oil wells in Barton County from the previous year, while neighboring counties were increasing production. The report further recognized the likelihood of a growing trend of establishing new branch locations in areas near the new pools. However, the 1955 plan attests that Great Bend would continue to have an advantage in the fact that it has such a diversified and “full complement of service and supply dealers that offer competitive lines of parts or supplies.” The 1955 Comprehensive Plan recognized the city’s reliance on the oil industry and the need for diversification of businesses for the future economy. Ultimately, the Comprehensive Plan of 1955 concluded that the city of Great Bend should make a concerted effort to promote and attract manufacturing plants sufficient to employ an additional 700 workers by 1980:

In considering the future of Great Bend’s economy it is quite evident some other form of economic activity must be added so the economic base will provide an increasing percentage of basic employment as the drilling and active oil service companies leave or diminish in importance. Industrial expansion is the key to filling this need.

Throughout the 1950s, the city’s population continued to increase, though the pace of growth was gradually declining. Between 1950 and 1960, the population increased by 31.6 percent, peaking at a total of 16,670

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28 Federal census, 1930, 1940, and 1950.
residents. A special report of Great Bend issued by the city’s Economic Development Commission in 1966 indicates that Great Bend served as the shopping and distribution center of an area comprising all or part of nine counties. Oil remained a major contributor to the city’s economy, followed by agriculture, light manufacturing, and processing industries – “Great Bend is the nerve center of a prosperous, growing and important part of the Great Middle West.”34 The population declined during the 1960s by 3.2 percent, rebounding slightly during the 1970s. This rebound is due, in part, to the relocation of the Fuller Brush Company facilities to Great Bend in 1973. The company became one of the city’s largest employers.35

Changing Built Environment of Central Business District

The great oil boom and the end of World War II saw another impressive period of growth and development in Great Bend. As the city expanded outward, the Great Bend Central Business District concurrently experienced considerable change to its built environment. As the economy thrived, new businesses were established, either erecting new buildings or occupying earlier facilities. During this period, several of the earlier buildings underwent storefront upgrades to appear sleek and more modern, a nationwide trend following World War II along America’s Main Streets.

In addition to commercial growth within the heart of the City, the need quickly arose for larger civic space to accommodate expanding city and county government services. In 1938, the impressive Municipal Building and Auditorium (Resource #86) was erected at 1217 Williams Street, replacing the former, two-story City Hall building. The facility was designed to “house an auditorium with a seating capacity of 2,5000, the City Hall, police department, jail, fire department, city offices, and council room.”36 When constructed, it was considered the most impressive example of structural concrete construction west of the Mississippi River.37

![Figure 8. Historic Postcard of Municipal Building & Auditorium, nd](image)

35 Federal Census, 1950-2020
36 Portland Cement Company, “Great Bend’s New Municipal Building is Architectural Concrete,” advertisement in the Great Bend Tribune, 1937 (exact date unknown).
37 Rural Kansas, “Great Bend City Auditorium,” Rural Kansas, getruralkansas.com/Great-Bend/50Explore/420.shtml <accessed October 2021>
The 1940s saw the construction of a small medical clinic for Doctors L.L. Wenke and Charles L. White at 1307 Williams Street (Resource #87) in 1943. An impressive meeting hall for the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Lodge #646 (Resource #49) was erected in 1946 at the south end of the business district and, like its’ counterparts, the organization played an important social and philanthropic role among the community.

Development continued through the 1950s with the construction of the National Register-listed Crest Theater (Resource #40) on Lakin Avenue, fronting the south side of the courthouse square. A new county jail (Resource #36) was erected in 1953 east of the square in 1953. The county courthouse, which was constructed in 1918, received a remodeling in the 1950s when the stairs leading to the west and east entrances were removed and the basement level became the primary entrance floor. In 1960, the first modern-day department store, Wiley’s Department Store (Resource #37), was erected at the northeast corner of Broadway and Kansas avenues. The department store was built on the site of the former Morrison Hotel. By the 1970s, the national chain, J.C. Penney’s, occupied the building.

![Image](image.jpg)

**Figure 9. J.C. Penney’s (formerly Wiley’s) Department Store, 1500 Kansas Avenue (009-208), 1972**
Source: Barton County Historical Society Museum

During the 1970s, the built environment of Great Bend’s Central Business District experienced its most significant facelift of the mid-twentieth century, and its most recent building campaign. The district saw the continued construction of modern commercial buildings, the majority of which are in-fill construction, replacing earlier buildings. One such example is the large, one-story, multi-retail commercial block built in 1974 at 1200-1208 Main Street (Resource #56). The building was erected on the site of the former Briggs Hotel, a three-story brick building shown on the 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Two prominent edifices within the district built during the 1970s epitomize Mid-Century Modernist architecture constructed in Great Bend. Built in 1972 at the south end of the district, the twelve-story High Rise Apartment (Resource #26) is the first and only high-rise building in the City. The building was built by the Great Bend Housing Authority in response to the need for elderly housing. In 1975, the American State Bank & Trust Company built its new bank facility at the northwest corner of square (Resource #10). The site of the building was once occupied by the Fair Building, a large brick and masonry, two-story commercial building. The monumental new building is an imposing edifice occupying a prominent site on the square.

38 Ray Schulz, Great Bend Pride: A Pictorial View of the 1920s, 1995; p. 2.
40 *ibid.*
As documented in the 1955 Comprehensive Plan, city planners recognized the need for additional government facilities to accommodate the growing population and expanding government services. The same plan recommended that such buildings be erected along the periphery of the Central Business District to separate the pedestrian flow of the commercial area surrounding the square. Elements of the Comprehensive Plan of 1955 were realized in the early years of the 1970s when three government buildings were erected on Williams Street. The City Building (Resource #85) was built in 1970 and is a modest, one-story block. The following year, the County built a large, modern public library at 1409 Williams Street (Resource #90). In 1972, a new fire station (Resource #84) was erected at 1205 Williams Street.

By the end of the 1970s, new development within the Central Business District came to a near abrupt end. During the 1980s, Great Bend’s population dropped to 15,427, a more than seven percent decline. In 1983, a fire destroyed one of the earliest and significant edifices within downtown, the former Farmer’s & Merchant’s Bank Building at the southwest corner of Main and Broadway. More recently, the Central Business District lost another significant building, the old Grand Opera House. The abandoned building was in a state of disrepair and was demolished c.2015. The site of the former opera house remains vacant. The 2020 population of Great Bend was 14,733. Despite the declining population, the city survives as the center of county government in Barton County with a number of historic civic buildings throughout the district. The Great Bend Central Business District continues to flourish as a medical, legal, and technical center, as well as a regional shopping and entertainment area. The original town layout of Great Bend, with its gridded street layout and blocks with alleys arranged around a central public square, remains intact. Further, the distribution of commercial and civic buildings reflect trends in community planning and development through the mid-1970s.

**Architectural Context**

The Great Bend Central Business District comprises a wide range of building types and architectural styles that convey national trends in the built environment of America’s small towns and cities. Great Bend’s business district is especially noteworthy in that its surviving buildings document the full evolution of Great Bend from its early establishment in the 1870s, through the boom period of the early-twentieth century, and the post-World War II-era building campaigns. The various architectural types and styles represented within the district depict distinct periods of American architectural design form the late-nineteenth century through 1975.

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Commercial Building Forms, or Types

Commercial architecture predominates within the historic district, accounting for nearly 83-percent of its resources. The majority of the commercial buildings are classified as one- or two-part commercial blocks as defined by Architectural Historian, Richard Longstreth. In his guidebook, Buildings of Main Street, Longstreth defines the **two-part commercial block** as the most common form for small and moderate-sized commercial buildings in the United States. This type of building is generally limited to two to four stories and is characterized by a horizontal division into two distinct zones. The two-part division of the exterior zones reflects differences in its interior use. The street level indicates public spaces for commercial enterprises, while the upper section suggests more private spaces reserved for offices, meeting halls or apartments. The two-part commercial block accounts for approximately thirty (30) representations of commercial buildings within the **Great Bend Central Business District**. The majority front Main Street and Forest Avenue. The 1400 block of Main Street is a fine example of a commercial row lined with two-part commercial blocks. Intact representations of two-part commercial blocks in the district include the former Lakin Theater at 2019 Forest Avenue (Resource #19), built c.1900; and the Nimock’s Building (Resource #81), built in 1888 at 1413 Main Street. The former Zarah Hotel (Resource #45) exemplifies a two-part commercial block that exceeds two stories in height. Two fraternal halls in Great Bend are also distinguished by their two-part commercial block form – the G.A.R. Hall (Resource #50) and the I.O.O.F. Lodge #95 (Resource #23) occupied the upper floor of its respective building with commercial space reserved for the ground floor.

The **one-part block** is usually a one-story commercial building that was a popular design in small cities and towns during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. It was adapted from the lower part of the two-part commercial blocks. The district includes forty (40) examples of a one-part commercial block, occurring along all streets surrounding the courthouse square. Constructed c.1940, the building at 1906-1908 Broadway Avenue (Resource #5) is a good example of a one-part commercial block with two separate storefronts. Another representation of this commercial type is the building located at 2023 Lakin Avenue (Resource #48), erected in 1916.

Richard Longstreth defines another commercial type frequently occurring on America’s Main Streets. **Temple Front** buildings feature façades derived from the temples of Greek and Roman antiquity and treated as one compositional unit. They are most frequently two or three stories high. The Temple Front building was not developed solely for commercial use. It was most often employed for public, institutional and religious buildings. However, it was a distinguishing feature of many banks. While the one- and two-part commercial blocks occurred in commercial districts in nearly all periods of American history, the Temple Front was a highly popular form during the early-twentieth century. Only two commercial buildings in Great Bend’s **Central Business District** adopt a Temple Front form. These include the German American Bank (Resource #67), built in 1910, and the American State Bank building (Resource #74), erected in 1919, both on Main Street.

Two commercial buildings within the **Central Business District** do not conform with the traditional commercial forms of earlier years. The J.C. Penney Department Store (Resource #37), built in 1960, and the American State Bank & Trust Company Building (Resource #10), erected in 1975, demonstrate a significant shift in the design and scale of commercial buildings from the traditional commercial block to the construction of large,
monumental, and free-standing edifices following World War II that also accommodate the rapid increase in automobile ownership by offering substantial parking.

Architectural Styles

Distinct architectural styles are applied to a variety of buildings throughout the Central Business District, including both commercial and public architecture. Among the noted styles include Italianate, Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Collegiate Gothic, Art Deco, and various Modernist sub-styles. A large percentage of the commercial buildings do not adhere to a traditional academic style but feature design elements that create an altogether unique “Commercial Style.” Twenty-three (23) of the commercial buildings lack stylistic adornment.

Italianate (popular nationwide 1850s to 1880s)

Commercial architecture reflecting the Italianate style are typically flat-roofed blocks with brackets and decorative window moldings, and large storefront windows. Oftentimes, the roofs feature a small, triangular gable extending up from the center of the roof on the main façade. Elaborate cornices with brackets beneath the eaves are the most distinguishing characteristics of the Italianate commercial block. Brackets are often paired. Windows are often arched and may feature decorative moldings. Only two commercial buildings in the Survey Area adopt Italianate influences. Built in 1885, the building located at 2006 Forest Avenue features arched windows and a wide bracketed cornice. The Nimrock Building (Resource #81) at 1413 Main Street was erected in 1888 and features an elaborate bracketed cornice and unique window heads (Photograph 20). The lower façade of the building features a post-World War II, Modernist upgrade.

Beaux Arts Style (popular nationwide c.1885 to 1930)

The Beaux Arts style was introduced to the United States by American architects like Richard Morris Hunt. The style most frequently occurred in places where turn-of-the-century wealth was concentrated such as major urban centers and resort communities. However, restrained interpretations are found on commercial and public buildings in small cities. The Beaux Arts style employs symmetry, Italian Renaissance form, and classical Greek and Roman decorative elements such as columns, pediments and balustrades that create a grand and imposing aesthetic. Facades frequently include decorative elements such as quoins, balconies, terraces, and porticoes, as well as ornamental windows and grand entrances. Only one building in Great Bend’s central business district reflects Beaux Arts influences. Erected in 1919 on Main Street, the American State Bank Building (Resource #74) features a smooth limestone exterior, symmetrical façade, a balustrade parapet, dentil cornice, and a grand, full-height recessed entryway framed by fluted Doric columns. The front windows are topped by prominent pediments with scrolled brackets. Its north elevation historically featured segmental-arched windows on the first floor; however, these have since been removed and replaced with modern, flat-headed windows.

The earliest surviving building erected specifically for public service is the impressive former United States Post Office (Resource #8), built in 1911 at the north end of the courthouse square. Designed by James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the United States Department of Treasury, the former post office draws upon the Beaux Arts style with its limestone block exterior, symmetrical façade, and a flat roof topped by a stone balustrade. The bays are separated by engaged stone pilasters. The centered entry door is enhanced by a surround of cast concrete with slender pilasters supporting a segmental-arched pediment. A detailed bas relief with cartouche and floral design enhances the pediment.
Neoclassical (popular nationwide c.1895 to 1955)

Neoclassical became a dominant architectural style for residential buildings nationwide by the turn-of-the-twentieth century; however, it spread prolifically nationwide, becoming a popular style for a wide range of buildings including commercial buildings, bank branches, and public architecture. The style usually features a classical symmetry, full-height porch with columns and temple front, and various classical ornament such as dentil cornices. This style is more scaled down and flexible than the grander Beaux Arts. Three (3) commercial buildings in the Central Business District reflect elements of the Neoclassical style. The earliest is the Allen Building (Resource #76), erected in 1875 at 1401 Main Street. The building was remodeled in 1921 with restrained Neoclassical features including a dentil cornice and engaged pilasters. The 1921 remodeling also featured a classical pedimented entry that was removed when the storefront was remodeled in the 1960s. The German American Bank (Resource #67) is an impressive illustration of Neoclassical design for a financial institution. Not only does it adopt a Temple Front form, but the building also features a heavy dentil cornice with pediment on the façade. The modern storefront is framed by engaged pilasters with dentiled architrave. The second-floor windows are enhanced by segmental-arched, stone heads. Round-arched window openings, though enclosed, are on the north elevation. Finally, the Prudential Building & Loan Association (Resource #13) was built in 1919 at 2009 Forest Avenue. The one-story stone building is characterized by its round-arched window bays framed by round columns. The design creates the appearance of a classical, columned arcade. The building is topped by a stone balustrade parapet.

The most impressive representation of Neoclassical design in Great Bend is its grand courthouse (Resource #75) erected in the heart of the square. The courthouse was designed by the Hutchinson, Kansas firm of W.E. Hulse & Company and completed in 1918. The imposing building is characterized by a smooth, Indiana limestone exterior, round-arched windows, full-height Ionic columns, and wide dentil frieze.

Prairie School (late-19th-early-20th century)

Originating in Chicago, Prairie School was an attempt at creating an indigenous North American style of architecture related to the ideas and aesthetics of the Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19th and early 20th century. Characterized by horizontal lines, windows grouped in horizontal bands, and flat or hipped roofs with broad overhanging eaves. The Great Bend Central Business District contains three contrasting interpretations of the Prairie school design.

The Willner Building (Resource #16) was built in 1880 at 2015 Forest Avenue. In 1903, its façade was remodeled with elements of the Prairie school. Although the first-floor storefront is heavily remodeled, the second floor of the façade retains its 1903 design. It is characterized by rows of paired windows and stone string course that create an emphasis on the horizontal. The façade is further enhanced with decorative bas relief panels with raised cartouche and floral design. Built in 1925, the Zarah Hotel (Resource #45) is characterized by an emphasis on the horizontal with rows of windows along its upper floors. Concrete string courses further enhance the horizontality of the design. At ground level, rows of storefronts are separated by wide brick pilasters.

A unique variation of the Prairie School in the district is the Moses Block (Resource #57), built in 1900 at 1201 Main Street. As originally designed, the building was characterized by groupings of paired windows on the second floor and stone string courses that create a sense of horizontality. Of note is the wide and prominent shed-roofed awning supported by brackets at the top of the front and rear. The front awning features a centered, segmental-arched element.
Collegiate Gothic (early-twentieth century)

Collegiate Gothic is an early-twentieth century adaptation of the Gothic Revival style. It was most frequently used for educational buildings, as its name suggests. Collegiate Gothic buildings are masonry construction of brick or stone that create a sense of permanence. Collegiate Gothic buildings have flat rooflines hidden by a stepped or crenelated parapet. Gothic arched entrances often have central towers and bay windows, as well as Gothic cast stone tracery. Exteriors are often highlighted by bas relief decorative panels or plaques. The Great Bend Central Business District contains a unique illustration of Collegiate Gothic architecture in Barton County. The Masonic Lodge (Resource #46) adopts multiple elements of Collegiate Gothic such as its limestone veneer, central tower element, parapet, and arched window heads. Of note is a partial cornice featuring circular bas reliefs with Masonic symbols.

Art Deco (popular nationwide 1920s-1940s)

Art Deco was an intentional break with past revival precedents in an effort to embrace the modern age. The style was popular nationwide from the 1920s through 1940. Art Deco is characterized by sharp-edged looks and stylized geometrical decorative details. Buildings have a sleek, linear appearance, and oftentimes feature a façade with a series of setbacks to create a stepped outline. Low-relief decorative panels frequently occur at entrances, around windows, and along roof edges or as a string course. Walls are characteristically smooth stucco or concrete block. The use of glazed brick or mosaic tile is also common among Art Deco buildings. Additional decorative elements include Chevrons and zigzags. Constructed in 1885 at 2010 Forest Avenue, the Rinker Building (KHRI 009-2150-00067) is a rare example of Art Deco in the Central Business District. The building initially featured elaborate Victorian detailing. However, in 1938, Ralph Rinker remodeled the building, employing an Art Deco design, particularly to its façade. The building features a cream-colored brick veneer with decorative geometric design elements on the upper façade clad in black Carrara glass. A central panel on the upper façade is framed by smooth, black glass tiles.

Arguably the most impressive representation of Art Deco design in the Great Bend Historic District is the massive City Municipal Building and Auditorium (Resource #86) completed in 1938. The sleek building features a smooth concrete exterior and design elements placing an emphasis on the vertical. In addition to its Art Deco design, the building is most distinguished by its construction technique employing structural concrete. When built, it was considered as the most outstanding example of the use of architectural concrete west of the Mississippi River. The main body of the building is a round-arched concrete shell supported by arched trusses.

Commercial Style

While several of the commercial buildings within the business district reflect elements of distinct architectural styles, the majority are classified as adopting a general “commercial style.” The Commercial Style occurs on buildings from the late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century, particularly in small towns and cities. These buildings have very little ornamentation and are largely characterized by decorative, corbelled brickwork along the cornice or parapet. Shaped parapets at the roofline were frequently employed. Rectangular brick panels are common along the upper façade, sometimes featuring inset accents of tile, concrete, limestone, or terra cotta. Storefronts typically have recessed or flush entrances and translucent window transoms. Many of the commercial buildings in Great Bend are identified as possessing elements of the Commercial Style. The upper façade of the Carrol Building, built in 1916 at 1109 Main Street (Resource #52), is a good illustration of the Commercial Style occurring in the district. The building’s façade is simply enhanced by a corbeled brick cornice. Another fine illustration is the two-part commercial block erected c.1920 at 1901 Lakin Avenue.
Great Bend Central Business District
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-resource #39). Although the building features a modern storefront, its upper façade retains decorative, corbelled brickwork with inset concrete accents.

**Modernism (c.1940s-1975)**

Modernist architecture embraced technological advances in materials and construction methods while rejecting applied ornamentation and references to the past. Modernist designs focused on “simplicity, spatial clarity, and maximizing interior exposure to daylight.”\(^{43}\) Post-World War II-era American architecture embraced European Modernism that first emerged in the 1920s.\(^{44}\) This movement evolved into what came to be known as the **International style**. Following World War II, the International style evolved into a broader modern movement emphasizing technology and expression of construction methods, materials, exposed structural elements, and simplicity of form. The style was highly popular through the late-1950s. Identifying features of the International style in Modernist design include the use of modern materials such as concrete, glass, and steel; rejection of non-essential decoration; ribbon windows and glass curtain walls; and flat roofs.

The **Great Bend Central Business District** contains a small collection of buildings exhibiting designs that draw upon International style principles. The Fraternal Order of Eagles #646 Hall (Resource #49) features an overall boxy form. The light-colored brick building has a long and low design, broken by a taller square block at its main entrance. The side elevations are characterized by a row of triple windows on the second floor and multi-light glass block windows at ground level. The window bays are separated by stone veneer panels. Another building drawing upon the International Style is the J.C. Penny’s Department Store (Resource #30). The concrete building is unadorned and features a brick-veneered upper façade that lacks window openings or stylistic enhancements. The lower façade is a stone veneer. Overall, the building evokes an austere aesthetic, focusing its design on the interior use of space rather than exterior enhancements.

Three government buildings were erected in the early years of the 1970s, all sited on Williams Street and all exhibiting elements of Late-Modernist design. The City Building (Resource #85) is a simple concrete box reminiscent of the International Style. The Fire Station No. 1 (Resource #84) was erected in 1972. The two-story building features a boxy, functional design, brown brick exterior, flat roof, and a concrete cornice. The sprawling Barton County Public Library (Resource #90) is characterized by a random-coursed stone veneer exterior with concrete panels along the upper walls. Windows are vertically-oriented and recessed – a common feature of late-Modernist design.

One Late-Modernist building erected in Great Bend is the largest and tallest building in city. The twelve-story High Rise Apartments (Resource #26) was designed by the architecture firm of Butler and Associates. The design of the building exemplified the goals of the Housing Authority and public housing design guidelines for senior housing at the time. Further, it is an exemplary illustration of Modernist design in Great Bend. Specifically, it is the only representation of **Brutalism** in the central business district. Brutalist architecture rejected the modern conservatism dominating mid-century design. Brutalist Style architecture placed emphasis on mass, weightiness, roughness, and solidity. The most common design element of Brutalist architecture is the use of exposed concrete. The word Brutalism was derived from the French words Beton Brut, meaning Raw Concrete. Concrete is a simple, pliable material, “which responds to the genuine architectural


expression, but still very clear and remarkable once dry.”82 The style has been most commonly used in the
design of institutional buildings, such as libraries, courthouses, and public housing. Identifying features of
Brutalist design include heavy cantilevered blocks and massive appearance; monumental and boxy form;
exposed cast concrete; deeply recessed windows or slit windows, void between mass; broad, expansive walls
and slab columns; concrete screening, or shade walls; and an overall brony, unornamented muscular
presence.45 The High Rise Apartment building exhibits numerous elements of the style, particularly its overall
broad and muscular presence. The steel and concrete building has a light brown brick exterior with tan
spandrels and a flat roof.

Many critics felt that the International Style and Brutalism was bland, monotonous, and cold.46 Variations of
Modernist designs emerged, creating what some might refer to as sub-styles. An exemplary representation of
Modernist design is the imposing former American State Bank & Trust Building (Resource #10), erected in
1975. This building is a sub-style of Modernist design referred to as New Formalism that emerged in the mid-
1950s in response to the austerity of the International Style. The style is recognized for its abstract design while
employing simplified elements of classical architecture. Identifying design features include a strict symmetry,
flat projecting rooflines, smooth, white or light wall surfaces, and the use of arches, stylized columns, and
entablatures. Colonnades are common, as is the application of historically expensive materials such as
travertine, marble, or granite as a thin veneer or paneling. Ornamentation in the form of screens or grills using
modern materials is also found on New Formalist design.47 The former American State Bank & Trust Building
(Resource #10) is a classic representation of New Formalism.

Sometimes referred to as Streamline Moderne, Art Moderne is an early Modernist design that greatly contrasts
with the austerity of the International style. Art Moderne was largely popular during the 1930s and 1940s. It is
similar to Art Deco but places an emphasis on the horizontal rather than the vertical. The style was most popular
in large metropolitan areas. Art Moderne is characterized by smooth, rounded wall surfaces, often stuccoed. Flat
roofs are common. Horizontal grooves or lines in walls create horizontality. Art Moderne buildings are
frequently asymmetrical with corner or ribbon windows arranged horizontally. Metal balustrades and the use of
glass block windows are common. Curved wall surfaces and windows are also common, as is the use of smooth
glass or enamel panels on exterior walls. Only one commercial building in Great Bend’s central business district
reflects an Art Moderne design.

Built in 1950 and designed by noted theater architect, Robert Boller, a partner in the firm Boller & Lusk, the
Crest Theater (KHRI 009-2150-00061) is among the most notable buildings within the Central Business
District. The use of terra cotta tile sheathing and glass on the primary façade give the theater bold geometric
lines and a distinct Art Moderne appearance. Listed in the National Register in 2005, the Crest Theater is
recognized as “notable as a high style illustration of an architectural style rarely seen in Kansas and as an
expression of the nation’s period of renewal and optimism following the end of World War II.”48

architecture/
48 Kristen Ottesen and Elizabeth Rosin, “Crest Theater National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form,” National Park Service,
June 2004; Section 8, Page 6.
The design of commercial facades and storefronts changed considerably following World War II as a result of advertisements, advances in materials and manufacturing, and product marketing. Such advancements allowed the lower level of commercial buildings in the mid-twentieth century to appear more modern and up-to-date.49 Among the most significant innovation characterizing a Modernist storefront is an open front, or visual front. Rather than opaquely-backed display windows, the interior space became the display, allowing pedestrians an interior view of the entire store. In doing so, businesses attracted more customers. Perfectly clear plate glass was easily produced and transported in large sheets and frequently used on storefronts. Large windows were crucial in creating the visual front.50 Glass might be lightly framed, typically with aluminum. During the mid-twentieth century, asymmetry and angled storefronts were common. Display windows and recessed entries provided room for additional display and a small exterior lobby protected from weather. For deeply recessed entries, the use of freestanding columns further enhanced the storefront. Retail display cases were often built within the exterior lobby, including small, cantilevered display cases. It was not uncommon to see a canopy along the façade, extending above the exterior lobby. These jutting canopies replaced the traditional fabric awning. Some were supported by rods, and columns, while other steel and concrete canopies were cantilevered without visible support.51

Following World War II, aluminum and steel were primary materials, particularly used on storefronts. A variety of glass products were used to not only create the open front, but to enhance the building’s appearance. Opaque structural glass such as Vitrolite and Carrara, was thin and could be attached to a variety of substrates. Further, it was available in a variety of colors and is highly durable.52 Structural glass contrasted well with the aluminum storefronts. Spandrel glass started to appear on office buildings as curtain walls and was frequently used for slip covers along the upper façade of commercial buildings. Glass blocks and colored ceramic tiles and panels were also used, though less frequently, to make a dramatic statement. Textured masonry surfaces were common, as well as colorful tiles along the bulkheads and wall surfaces.53

While many of these Modernist design elements were employed on commercial facades and storefronts of new buildings, in order to compete with the rapid development of commercial strips outside of downtown, business owners of earlier commercial buildings were pressured to modernize. This generally meant remodeling the storefront to create a visual front and attract pedestrians and motorists alike. Changing downtown economics resulted in many vacant upper floors of the early, multi-story commercial buildings. As part of the modernization campaign, the upper floors were frequently covered with glass, porcelain enameled panels, or aluminum slip covers. Sometimes the upper façade might be covered by a decorative screen wall or grill. Advertising and signage were highly important to modern commercial buildings during the post-war years. The upper façade frequently served as a large billboard with large lettering applied. This national trend was particularly common in Great Bend where numerous earlier commercial facades were updated to appear sleek and modern.

50 Dyson 2015.
Numerous buildings within the Central Business District dating from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries reflect Modernist upgrades to their facades. An excellent example of an upgraded storefront is the Allen Building (Resource #76), built in 1875. The building was remodeled in 1921 in the Neoclassical style and received a second upgrade in the 1960s. The latter remodel features an asymmetrical storefront with a deeply recessed entryway flanked by aluminum-framed display windows that cantilever slightly above permastone bulkheads. Another good illustration of an upgraded façade depicting Modernist design elements is the People’s Store (Resource #82), built in 1878. Its post-World War II storefront features a deeply recessed entry flanked by very thin, metal-framed display windows with tiled bulkheads. The bulkhead tiles are painted over but were likely originally glazed. The exterior lobby has tiled flooring.

Summary
The Great Bend Central Business District survives as an intact representation of a railroad town established in central Kansas during the western expansion of the United States in the late-nineteenth century. As the county seat, the district has served as the political and government center of Barton County since 1872. Its advantage of the county seat, coupled with its siting along a prominent rail line in the heart of central Kansas, Great Bend was quickly established as a regional trading and commercial center, a distinction that it continues to maintain. The district maintains its original grided layout, with commercial blocks and alleys arranged the central square. The distribution of public buildings along the periphery of the district convey deliberate planning efforts of the mid-twentieth century to separate the commercial pedestrian center from the new government buildings erected. Finally, the breadth of building types, forms, and architectural styles represented within the district comprise a full spectrum of resources expected to occur within a county seat of small mid-western city. Surviving buildings reflect the evolution of the built environment through time from the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries, including both new construction and the modernization of earlier commercial blocks. Streetscapes within the Great Bend Central Business District continue to convey a distinctive historic aesthetic and sense of place. Only three buildings post-date the Period of Significance. Recent revitalization efforts of downtown Great Bend strive to reverse intrusive exterior alterations, particularly the application of architectural slipcovers in the 1980s. Designation on the National Register will encourage property owners to appropriately restore and preserve character-defining elements of its historic resources.
9. Major Bibliographical References

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Great Bend Central Business District
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Portland Cement Company, “Great Bend’s New Municipal Building is Architectural Concrete,” advertisement in the Great Bend Tribune, 1937 (exact date unknown).


Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Great Bend, Kansas, Maps, 1882-1914


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Great Bend Central Business District
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Barton County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  42.5 approximately

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________________________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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18. Latitude: 38.366486  Longitude: -98.765878
Great Bend Central Business District
Barton County, Kansas

Name of Property

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The proposed district is comprised of the courthouse square and all but one building fronting the square. The district is bounded to the north by the rear property lines of the 1900 block of Broadway Avenue, extending to the east and west to include individual buildings at the intersections of Kansas and Broadway, and Main Street and Broadway, respectively. The district is bounded to the west by the rear property lines of buildings fronting the west side of Williams Street. The district is bounded to the south by 12th Street, the south property line of 1024 Main Street, and 11th Street. The eastern boundary follows Kansas Avenue, north from 11th Street to Lakin Avenue. The east boundary then follows the rear property lines of buildings fronting the east side of the 1300 block of Kansas Avenue. The east boundary extends north across Park Street, following along the rear property line of the County Jail at 1408. Directly north of the jail, the boundary travels west to Kansas Avenue, then north along Kansas Avenue, crossing Broadway Avenue to include the JC Penny’s Department Store at 1500 Kansas Avenue and occupying the northeast corner of the district.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The proposed boundary includes commercial, professional, and public buildings, among others, that comprise the center of downtown Great Bend since its establishment in 1871. The boundary was drawn to include buildings immediately surrounding the courthouse square, and those along the periphery that possess historic and/or architectural significance. The boundary is drawn to exclude residential buildings not otherwise directly tied to commercial and/or political activity. Thus, the two-story, former residence fronting the west side of the square and directly north of the County Correctional Facility, is excluded from the district. The boundary is further drawn to exclude buildings along its periphery that were built after the Period of Significance or exhibit insensitive exterior alterations that would compromise the historic aesthetic of the district. While most of the buildings directly east of the courthouse square have undergone considerable alteration, they remain within the district boundary as this block is significant to the development history of the courthouse square and the original plan of the town of Great Bend. This block occupies a significant location within the square and has potential for rehabilitation to a historic appearance. The district boundary was also drawn to include significant civic buildings west of the square, as well as the High Rise Apartment Building at the southeast of the district. The latter is a monumental building within downtown Great Bend, erected by the Housing Authority for the elderly, and is thus associated with the governmental building campaign during the 1970s.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
OMB No. 1024-0018

Great Bend Central Business District
Barton County, Kansas

Name of Property
County and State

street & number __________________________ telephone __________________________
city or town __________________________ state __________ zip code __________

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 100 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.

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Great Bend Central Business District
City or Vicinity: Great Bend
County: Barton State: Kansas
Photographer: Jaime Destefano
Date Photographed: September 28-30, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include a description of view indicating the direction of camera:

1 of 46. Forest Avenue, South Side of the 2000 Block. Photographer facing southeast
2 of 46. Forest Avenue, North Side of the 2000 Block. Photographer facing northeast
3 of 46. Main Street, West Side of the 1200 Block. Photographer facing southwest
4 of 46. Main Street, West Side of the 1200 Block. Photographer facing northwest
5 of 46. Main Street, West Side of the 1300 Block. Photographer facing southwest
6 of 46. Main Street, West Side of the 1400 Block. Photographer facing northwest
7 of 46. Courthouse Square/Lafayette Park, Photographer facing northeast
8 of 46. Broadway, North Side of 1800 Block. Photographer facing northwest
9 of 46. Kansas Avenue, West Side of 1200 Block. Photographer facing northwest
10 of 46. Lakin Avenue, South Side of 1200 Block. Photographer facing southwest
11 of 46. 1911-1915 (odd) Lakin Avenue. Photographer facing south
12 of 46. Kansas Avenue, East Side of 1200 Block. Photographer facing southeast
13 of 46. Barton County Courthouse (Resource #75a), West Elevation. Photographer facing east
14 of 46. Union Veteran Memorial (Rifleman) (Resource #75b), South Elevation. Photographer facing North
15 of 46. Clayton L. Moses Memorial Band Shell, Front Façade (North Elevation) (Resource #75c). Photographer facing South
16 of 46. Municipal Building & Auditorium (Resource #86), 1217 Williams Street, Southeast Oblique. Photographer facing Northwest
Great Bend Central Business District

17 of 46. A.F. & A.M. Lodge No. 15 (Masonic Lodge) (Resource #46), 2015 Lakin Avenue, Front Façade (North Elevation). Photographer facing South
18 of 46. (former) United States Post Office (Resource #8), 1924 Broadway Street, Front Façade (South Elevation). Photographer facing North
19 of 46. Willner Building (Resource #16), 2015 Forest Avenue, Northeast Oblique. Photographer facing Southwest
20 of 46. (former) American State Bank (Resource #74), 1321 Main Street, Northeast Oblique. Photographer facing Southwest
21 of 46. (former) German American Bank (Resource #67), 1223 Main Street, Front Façade (East Elevation). Photographer facing west
22 of 46. (former) American State Bank & Trust (Resource #10), 2006 Broadway Avenue, Front Façade (South Elevation). Photographer facing north
23 of 46. Nimock’s Building (Resource #81), 1413 Main Street, Front Façade (East Elevation). Photographer facing northwest
24 of 46. Allen Building (Resource #76), 1401 Main Street, Southeast Oblique. Photographer facing northwest
25 of 46. 2019 (Resource #19), 2021 (Resource #21), and 2025 (Resource #23/I.O.O.F building) Forest Avenue, Photographer facing southeast
26 of 46. Prudential Building & Loan Association (Resource #13), 2009 Forest Avenue, Front Façade (North Elevation). Photographer facing south
27 of 46. Zarah Hotel (Resource #45), 1917 Lakin Avenue, Northwest Oblique. Photographer facing southeast
28 of 46. Moses Block (Resource #57), 1201 Main Street, Southeast Oblique. Photographer facing northwest
29 of 46. Carroll Building (Resource #52), 1109 Main Street, Front Façade (East Elevation). Photographer facing west
30 of 46. (former) Weber Theatre (Resource #62), 1210 Main Street, Northwest oblique. Photographer facing southeast
31 of 46. Lumpy’s Bar & Grill (Resource #17), 2017 Forest Avenue, Front Façade (North Elevation). Photographer facing south
32 of 46. Rinker Building (Resource #14), 2008-2010 Forest Avenue, Front Façade (South Elevation). Photographer facing north
33 of 46. Commercial Building (Resource #6), 1910 Broadway Avenue, Front Façade (South Elevation). Photographer facing northwest
34 of 46. Yeraldi’s Boutique (Resource #5), 1906 & 1908 Broadway Avenue, Front Façade (South Elevation). Photographer facing south
35 of 46. 1901 Lakin Avenue (Resource #39), Front Façade (North Elevation). Photographer facing south
36 of 46. Crest Theater (Resource #40), 1905 Lakin Avenue, Front Façade (North Elevation). Photographer facing south
37 of 46. Cook Building/Mazda Hotel/Senate Hotel (Resource #33), 1310-1312 Kansas Avenue, Front Façade (West Elevation). Photographer facing east
38 of 46. Barton County Correctional Facility (Resource #36), 1406 Kansas Avenue, Front Façade (West Elevation). Photographer facing east
39 of 46. JC Penney’s Department Store (Resource #37), 1500 Kansas Avenue, Southwest Oblique. Photographer facing northeast
40 of 46. 2023 Lakin Avenue (Resource #48), Front Façade (North Elevation). Photographer facing South
41 of 46. The People’s Store (Resource #82), 1415 Main Street, Storefront Detail. Photographer facing southwest
42 of 46. Fraternal Order of Eagles #646 (Resource #49), 1024 Main Street, Northwest oblique. Photographer facing southeast
43 of 46. Barton County Public Library (Resource #90), 1409 Williams Street, Southwest oblique. Photographer facing northeast
44 of 46. Fire Station #1 (Resource #84), 1205 Williams Street, Front Façade (East Elevation). Photographer facing west
45 of 46. High Rise Apartments (Resource #26), 1101 Kansas Avenue, Southwest Oblique Photographer facing northeast
46 of 46. 1200-1208 (even) Main Street (Resource #56), Front Façade (West Elevation). Photographer facing east

Attachments
Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below

a. Topographic Map
b. Enlarged Topographic Map
c. Aerial Map
d. Historic District Map with Photograph Locations
Great Bend Central Business District
Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas

Attachment A: Topographic Map, Overview
Great Bend Central Business District
Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas

UTM Coordinates

A: 38.367094, -98.765825
B: 38.367053, -98.765899
C: 38.366564, -98.762393
D: 38.366545, -98.766447
E: 38.365998, -98.762990
F: 38.364438, -98.769777
G: 38.364485, -98.764609
H: 38.362235, -98.763772
I: 38.361953, -98.764419
J: 38.361740, -98.765080
K: 38.362902, -98.765824
L: 38.362806, -98.766421
M: 38.363305, -98.767827
N: 38.364379, -98.767861
O: 38.365472, -98.767229
P: 38.365543, -98.767785
Q: 38.365447, -98.767761
R: 38.366486, -98.765878

Attachment B: Enlarged Topographic Map Showing District Boundaries and Coordinates
Great Bend Central Business District
Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas

Attachment C: Google Earth Aerial Photograph Showing Historic District Boundaries
Attachment D: Historic District Map with Photograph Locations