

Register of Historic Kansas Places

Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Beaumont State Bank
 Other name/site number 015-434

2. Location

Street & number 11651 SE 116th St not for publication
 City or town Beaumont (Glencoe Township) vicinity
 State Kansas Code KS County Butler Code 015 Zip code 67012

3.,4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

SR Listed 5-14-2011

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Bank

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Brick; Wood

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the State Register)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1915-1934

Significant Dates

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	7	1	7	6	4	5	4	1	7	0	5	6	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

2

Zone		Easting					Northing							

3

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4

Zone		Easting					Northing							

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Christy Davis

Organization Davis Preservation, LLC Date 1/15/2011

Street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 Telephone 785-234-5053

City or town Topeka State Kansas Zip code 66612

Property Owner

Name SJC IV, LLC (Stephen Craig)

Street & number 730 New Hampshire St., Suite 206. Telephone 785-838-3625

City or town Lawrence State Kansas Zip code 66044

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*Beaumont State Bank
Butler County, Kansas*

Narrative Description

Introduction

The Beaumont State Bank generally reflects the appearance of its ca. 1915 construction. The building interprets the community's second period of growth, fueled by its role as a railroad junction and oil town.

Setting

Beaumont, Kansas is an unincorporated village in Glencoe Township, Butler County, approximately twenty miles southeast of county seat El Dorado and just south of Highway 400, a major east/west highway that stretches east to the Kansas/Missouri line. Beaumont is nestled in the Kansas Flint Hills, a unique geologic region that stretches from Marshall County on the north to Cowley County on the south. In the late nineteenth century, the rocky but nutrient-rich Flint Hills, not suited to farming, became one of the richest ranching regions in the world. The historic character of this cultural landscape has been preserved for centuries through the practice of prescribed burning. By the early twentieth century, oil discoveries created a more diversified economy.

The Beaumont State Bank is located on the west side of Main Street (also known historically as Third Street), north of the Beaumont Hotel.

Exterior

The Beaumont State Bank is a free-standing brick one-part commercial block, which faces east toward Main Street. The main entrance, a recessed door topped by a three-part transom, is on the north end of the front elevation. The recessed entry door has one glazed panel over three horizontal panels. The angled entry bay also includes a 1/1 double-hung window with cast stone sill. On the south side of the front elevation is a Chicago-Style window with cast-stone sill topped by a multi-pane transom. Although the masonry openings are original, the windows in many of the openings are replacements. A parapet with brick corbelling tops the building.

The north elevation, which faces SE 116th Street, has a parapet that steps down along the sloped roofline. There are four arched masonry openings on the north elevation – three window openings with double-hung windows and an infilled door opening. The wood-framed rear addition, which extends from the west end of the building, was constructed in two phases. The first addition, a gabled section on the north end, was likely constructed after the bank closed in 1934. The second addition, on the south end, appears to date to the 1950s. At this time, the Squiers and others were modifying Beaumont buildings for

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rental housing for commuters working in Wichita's aircraft industry. The wood-framed additions with asbestos siding are in deteriorated condition.

Interior

The interior of the original brick building is divided into two spaces – a large bank lobby and a small vault in the southwest corner. Although the interior plaster has failed, many historic interior features remain. The pressed-metal ceilings are intact in places. The original cast-iron vault door remains. And part of the original teller window is extant. The wood-framed addition was used as a residence. Among the finishes are painted paneling and acoustical ceilings.

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*Beaumont State Bank
Butler County, Kansas*

Statement of Significance

Introduction

The Beaumont State Bank in Beaumont, Kansas is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce for its association with the early business community of Beaumont.

A Brief History of Beaumont

Beaumont, Kansas is an unincorporated village in Glencoe Township, Butler County, approximately twenty miles southeast of El Dorado.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Beaumont established itself as an important railroad and ranching town. The first building, a stagecoach stop commissioned in 1879 by Edwin and Emma Russell, was originally called the Summit Hotel because it was built on the highest point between St. Louis and the cattle shipping center of Ellsworth, Kansas on the proposed St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Rail Line.¹ In 1880, Glencoe Township boasted a population of 606.² The town of Beaumont was formally established in 1881, a year after the Frisco Railroad arrived.³

Like many towns, Beaumont boomed in the mid-1880s as railroads invested heavily in American West. In 1885, the Frisco Railroad built a branch track south from Beaumont and constructed a new water tower to supply its steam engines.⁴ The same year, the Durham Cattle Company, which boasted cattle pens that held 3000 head, purchased the hotel.⁵ Like other paper towns, Beaumont had a newspaper whose principal purpose was to promote its exploits to potential eastern investors. The *Beaumont Business*, published by speculators in the nearby community of Augusta from September 1886 to November 1887, was short-lived.⁶

¹ *Kansas Oil Museum and Butler County Historical Society. Flint Hills Tours* (Butler County Kansas, 1991). Kansas Historical Society Pamphlet.

² 1880 US Census.

³ *History of Butler County, Kansas*, 160

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Frank W. Blackmar, ed., *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc...* (with a supplementary volume devoted to selected personal history and reminiscence. (Chicago: Standard Pub. Co., 1912).

⁶ These newspapers are on microfilm at the Kansas Historical Society.

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*Beaumont State Bank
Butler County, Kansas*

Although Beaumont never met the expectations of the 1880s boosters, it did begin to show signs of permanency in the early twentieth century. Beaumont School graduated its first class in 1903.⁷ In 1905, prominent Beaumont resident William H. Squier opened a hardware store and a lumber yard on Main Street. By 1912, the town boasted “a money order postoffice [sic], telegraph and express offices, telephone connection” and was a “shipping and supply point for a rich agricultural district in the eastern part of Butler and the southwest corner of Greenwood counties.”⁸ Beaumont State Bank moved from a “frame store building across Main Street” to a modern “brick building” in 1915.⁹ Dr. Phillips, a rural doctor and “emergency surgeon for the Frisco Railroad at Beaumont,” doubled as the town’s pharmacist.¹⁰

A thriving regional oil industry boosted the Beaumont economy in the 1910s and early 1920s. But by the mid 1920s, Beaumont, like many communities in Kansas, was plagued by plunging oil and crop prices. Among the casualties of the Great Depression was the Beaumont State Bank.¹¹

The trend toward urban living and decreasing prominence of the railroads in the twentieth century wreaked havoc on rural Beaumont. The population of Glencoe Township declined steadily throughout the first half of the twentieth century, nearly halving from 711 to 399 between 1900 and 1950.¹²

But one of the most notable chapters in Beaumont history was yet to come. In the 1940s and 1950s, Beaumont became a bedroom community for the growing number of aircraft workers commuting to nearby Wichita. Since 1953, the community has been known as the home of the Beaumont Hotel, which caters to aviators and ranchers who land on the nearby grass airstrip. Although the region’s ranching and oil economy continues to thrive, Beaumont’s population has continued to decline. Beaumont’s school closed in 1967. The post office closed in 1992.¹³ Still, the community is still dedicated to the places and

⁷ Jenny Upchurch, “Festival to Celebrate Town’s Historic Water Tower.” *Wichita Eagle*, 4 June 1998. Butler County Clippings, Kansas Historical Society.

⁸ Blackmar.

⁹ Connelly, William E. *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Iola Daily Register*, 13 December 1934.

¹² US Census.

¹³ Lisa Agrimonti, “Post Office Means More than Mail. Beaumont residents fight to keep outlet.” *Wichita Eagle*, 3 August 1994. Butler County Clippings, Kansas Historical Society.

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Butler County, Kansas*

objects that make it unique, including the fly-in Beaumont Hotel and only remaining water tower on the Frisco line.¹⁴

The Beaumont State Bank

The Beaumont State Bank building is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places under Criterion A in the Area of Commerce for its association with the growth and development of Beaumont, Kansas. The building, which housed the Beaumont State Bank from the time of its construction in ca. 1915 until the bank closed in 1934, is one of only four remaining business buildings in Beaumont.

The Beaumont State Bank was chartered with \$10,000 in capital on June 12, 1911.¹⁵ Before the brick building was constructed, the bank occupied a frame store building across the Main Street.¹⁶ Among the original officers were Beaumont pioneers James Edgar, President and William H. Squier, Vice President. James Edgar, who was born in England in April 1857, immigrated to the United States in 1870. By 1885, he was living in Otter Creek, Greenwood County, Kansas with his father, farmer William Edgar.¹⁷ He married his wife Emma in 1893.¹⁸ The couple was living and ranching in Glencoe Township, Butler County, Kansas by 1895.¹⁹ When he died in 1916, Edgar was called "one of the splendid men of Butler County."²⁰

William H. Squier was born in Pennsylvania in 1869 and moved with his family to northwest Missouri in 1878. In 1883, William's father Clinton Squier moved the family to the Beaumont area. There, William met Miss Minnie Peterson, whom he married in 1891. In 1905, William Squier "transferred his interests to the business field at Beaumont," establishing a hardware store and lumber yard.²¹ He became vice president of the Beaumont State Bank in 1911. In the decades that followed, William's sons James Clinton Squier and Frank W. Squier became involved in the father's business interests; both worked at the bank. Clint was working there at the start of World War I. Frank was working there in 1934, when the bank closed.²² William died in 1955.

¹⁴ The following were the population counts for Glencoe Township for 1900-1950. 1900 – 711; 1910 – 676; 1920 – 622; 1930 – 599; 1940 – 486; 1950 – 399.

¹⁵ Kansas Banking Department, *Biennial Report of the Bank Commissioners*, 1915.

¹⁶ "Beaumont's Bank Stays in Family," *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*, 14 Jun 1981.

¹⁷ 1885 Kansas Census.

¹⁸ 1900 US Census.

¹⁹ 1895 Kansas Census.

²⁰ Vol. P. Mooney, *History of Butler County, Kansas* (Lawrence, KS: Standard Publishing Co., 1916).

²¹ "William H. Squier," Connelley.

²² "Frank W. Squier, 80, Beaumont dies," *El Dorado Times*, 2 Apr 1979; "James C. Squier, 84, dies Saturday," *El Dorado Times*, 28 Apr 1980.

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After William's death, the brick bank building came under the ownership of his son James Clinton ("JC" or "Clint") Squier. After JC's his death in 1980, his son Bill Squier sold the property to JC's granddaughter Marcella Atchison.²³ The building is now owned by Steve Craig, who plans to restore it.

Summary

As the only lending institution in town, the Beaumont State Bank played an essential role in the commerce of Beaumont and the surrounding ranching community. The building stands as a testament to Beaumont's second period of growth, the peak of its place as a railroad junction and oil town.

²³ "Beaumont's Bank Stays in Family," *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*, 14 Jun 1981.

Kansas State Historical Society

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*Beaumont State Bank
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Mooney, Vol. P. *History of Butler County, Kansas*. Lawrence: Standard Publishing Co, 1916.

Kansas Banking Department. *Biennial Report of the Banking Commissioners*. 1915.

Kansas Census, 1885, 1895.

U.S. Census, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950.

EL Dorado Times.

Iola Daily Register.

Topeka Capital.

Wichita Beacon.

Wichita Eagle.

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*Beaumont State Bank
Butler County, Kansas*

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The legal description for the parcel on which the Beaumont State Bank sits is as follows: Section 33 Township 27S Range 8E; BEAUMONT, ORIG TOWN, BLOCK 11, Lot 1 - 12, ACRES 1.1. The Beaumont State Bank occupies the northernmost lot on this large parcel.

Boundary Justification

The above is the legal description for the property occupied by the Beaumont State Bank. The Beaumont State Bank occupies the northernmost lot on this large parcel.

Photo Log

All photos were taken by Christy Davis on November 11, 2010.

1. Exterior, east (front) and south elevations, looking northwest.
2. Exterior, east and north elevations, looking southwest.
3. Exterior, rear addition, north and west elevations, looking southeast.
4. Interior, looking southwest.
5. Interior, looking east.
6. Interior, close-up of pressed-metal ceiling on southeast corner.
7. Interior, window on east end of south wall.
8. Interior, close-up of safe on south end of west wall.