NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME

COMMON: Chase County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

On the square at the south end of Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Cottonwood Falls

STATE: Kansas 66815

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

☐ District ☑ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

☑ Public ☐ Private

Public Acquisition:

☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered

STATUS

☑ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied

☑ Preservation work in progress ☐ No

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☑ Yes: Restricted ☐ Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☑ Government ☐ Park

☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence

☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious

☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Chase County

STREET AND NUMBER:

Chase County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Cottonwood Falls

STATE: Kansas 66815

CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Chase County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Cottonwood Falls

STATE: Kansas 66815

CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939

☐ Federal ☑ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Records destroyed. A guide book, Kansas, was published in

STREET AND NUMBER:

1939.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:
Chase County Courthouse is a magnificent three-story building constructed of tooled limestone, which was quarried on the town site. The building sits on a rough hewn limestone foundation base which projects several feet above ground level. There is a full basement.

A horizontal projected stone band separates the first and second floor levels. An ornate cornice provides a separation between the tooled limestone and the red-painted mansard roof. An ornamental white iron fence is located on the top perimeter of the mansard roof. A clock bell tower extends above the roof line.

Windows on the first and second stories are grouped in pairs and have arched lintels. A projected pediment is located above the window groups on the second floor. Third floor windows are of two types—paired rectangular windows with a curved pediment and oval shaped windows with ornamental surrounding trim.

The main facade is divided into three equal vertical parts with the clock tower above the center portion and the main entrance in the center portion. The main entrance is accented by a Palladian window located directly above it on the second floor.

The interior is enhanced by a spiral stairway extending from the first floor to the third floor.
The Chase County Courthouse in Cottonwood Falls has served that Flint Hills county since 1873. In 1871 voters of Chase county twice went to the polls and voted for a courthouse. The first election on May 23 decided that public buildings should be constructed; at the second election on August 16 the people approved a bond issue of $40,000 to build a courthouse and jail.

James Bannon of Leavenworth with the low bid of $36,245 was awarded the construction contract. The architect and superintendent was John G. Haskell, a noted Lawrence, Kansas, architect who also designed the State Capitol. The building was completed in October, 1873, at a total cost of $42,599.88, and a housewarming and ball were held October 17 with the building open to the public from 9 a.m. to midnight. The building has been in continuous use as the seat of county government since that time, and much of the building is virtually unchanged.

The people of Chase county have a great pride in their distinctive courthouse. In 1953 they held an 80th "birthday party" at which a spotlighting system was installed to floodlight the north facade and dome. When fire of undetermined origin damaged part of the tower in December, 1966, the people insisted that it be restored exactly as it was. The architect's original specifications were produced to insure accuracy.

The Chase County Courthouse is a truly excellent example of the Renaissance influence on Kansas buildings. This magnificent architectural landmark is also the oldest courthouse remaining in use in Kansas.
| COMMON: | Chase County Courthouse |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | On the square at the south end of Broadway |
| CITY OR TOWN: | Cottonwood Falls |
| STATE: | Kansas |
| SOURCE: | State Highway Commission of Kansas, General Highway Map of Chase County, Kansas |
| SCALE: | one inch: two miles |

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
"Chase County Would Rather Fight than Switch the Courthouse Tower," Wichita Eagle, June 2, 1967.

### Geographical Data

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<th>Corner</th>
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Approximate acreage of nominated property: 2.5

### Form Prepared By

Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant
Richard Penkrotz, Planner

Kansas State Historical Society  
120 West Tenth St.  
Topeka  

### State Liaison Officer Certification

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National
- State [X]
- Local [□]

Name: Nyle H. Miller

The Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society  
Date: October 29, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
FEB 24 1971

ATTEST:  
JAN 20 1971