

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 2

Bill Roy
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas	
COUNTY:	Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: Clay County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 5th and Court

CITY OR TOWN: Clay Center

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Kansas	67432	Clay	027

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Clay County

STREET AND NUMBER: Clay County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Clay Center

STATE:	CODE
Kansas	20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Clay County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Clay Center

STATE:	CODE
Kansas	20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Clay
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clay County Courthouse, which is situated in the courthouse square in Clay Center, is a two-story Romanesque style structure with a full basement and an attic. The rectangular building measures approximately 80 feet long and 60 feet wide with the main tower reaching a height of 65 feet. Main entrances are located on the south, west and north sides facing the town's business district. The exterior walls are constructed of rough hewn stone laid in alternating courses of narrow and wide stone, which give the building a banded effect. This effect is further emphasized by smooth-cut stone bands at each floor line and the roof line. The shingled hip roof converges at the central clock tower. A smaller pyramidal roof accents each corner. The clock tower is also roofed with a shingled pyramidal roof. Projecting entrance features at each of the four sides are roofed with a gable behind the stone facade. Stone-faced dormers are located on each of the exposed sides of the corner tower roofs and on each side of the clock tower.

Window openings on the basement and first floors are simple rectangles with wood double hung sash windows. These windows rise from stone sills and have massive monolithic stone lintels. The first floor cut stone band occurs at the window sill. Window openings on the second floor are large with semicircular arched heads and stone sills at the second floor band. The small dormer windows are of the rectangular sash type. The main building entrances on three sides occur in large semicircular arched openings at ground level. The projecting entrance feature on each side extends above the roof line and terminates in a stone gable flanked by square stone spires. Corbeled stone work is used to accent the facades and the roof cornice. The dormers in the clock tower are the most ornamental features of the building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1900-1901

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clay County Courthouse at Clay Center was constructed in 1900-1901 on land donated in the 1860's for use as a public square by the town's founder, Alonzo F. Dexter. An election on November 6, 1866, determined that the county seat should be permanently located at Clay Center. A temporary courthouse was built on the northwest corner of the square in 1868 by John Dexter and Bros., and in later years county offices were housed in various commercial buildings.

In July, 1898, the county commissioners decided to place before the voters the proposition of levying a tax for the purpose of building a courthouse. The proposition was approved the following November, and the county was authorized by the 1898 legislature to collect a three mill levy for three years to prevent indebtedness after completion of the courthouse.

The county commissioners accepted the architectural plans of J. C. Holland of Topeka in January, 1900, and the contract for construction was let August 7, 1900, to J. C. and H. H. Zeigler and J. T. Dalton of Junction City for \$33,770. On August 28 A. F. Dexter and other dignitaries took part in the groundbreaking ceremonies. The contractors commenced work immediately but after completion of the foundation had to suspend work until spring because of bad weather conditions. Cornerstone ceremonies were held April 23, 1901, with people from various parts of the county participating in a parade, banquet, speeches and other activities. In September the contract for furnishing the offices and courtroom was awarded to the A. H. Andrews Co. of Chicago for \$3,448. The building was occupied by December, 1901, free from any bond indebtedness. The final cost of the structure was approximately \$40,000.

The Clay County Courthouse is an excellent example of early Romanesque architecture in Kansas. The use of alternating bands of stone and the massive stone masonry and the dominant central clock tower make this one of the outstanding buildings in the state and one of the most impressive courthouses in north central Kansas.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank W., editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), v. 1, pp. 364, 365.
 Clay Center Dispatch, August 2, 1900-January 3, 1901; April 18, 1901-May 2, 1901; October 31, 1901-December 12, 1901.
 "His Home a Courthouse," Kansas City Star, November 11, 1910.
The Industrial Edition of the Clay Center Dispatch, v. 12, no. 27 (January 29, 1914), p. 49.
Topeka Mail and Breeze, May, 1901.
 "Will Be Debt Free," Kansas City Journal, April 24, 1901.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "	39	22	37	97 07 31
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Planner
 Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: June 22, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. 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 Local

Name: Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller

Title: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: July 3, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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