UNIVERSAL STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Doniphan County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse square, bounded by Walnut Street on the north,
Liberty on the east, Chestnut on the south, and Main on the west

CITY OR TOWN: Troy

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 2 Bill Roy

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Doniphan

CODE: 66087 20

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (CHECK ONE)

☑ District ☐ Building

☐ Site ☐ Structure

☐ Object ☐ Public

☐ Private ☐ Both

OWNERSHIP

Public Acquisition:

☐ In Process

☐ Being Considered

STATUS

☒ Occupied

☐ Unoccupied

☐ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☒ Yes:

☐ Restricted

☐ Unrestricted

☐ No

PRESENT USE (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPROPRIATE)

☐ Agricultural

☒ Government

☐ Park

☐ Transportation

☐ Comments

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Private Residence

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Educational

☐ Military

☐ Religious

☐

☐ Entertainment

☐ Museum

☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Doniphan County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Doniphan County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Troy

STATE: Kansas

CODE: 66087 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Doniphan County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Troy

STATE: Kansas

CODE: 66087 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:
The present Doniphan County courthouse at Troy is the fourth courthouse to serve the county. The temporary first building was outgrown by 1856 when the second structure was built on the north side of the courthouse square. It was destroyed by fire March 12, 1867, and the third courthouse was built in 1867-68 to replace it. The third courthouse had been outgrown by the turn of the century and was razed in 1905 to permit construction of the present building.

Because Doniphan county's bonded indebtedness amounted to almost a half million dollars (incurred by securing railroads through the county in the early days), the citizens didn't wish to go deeper in debt to build the needed courthouse. Cyrus Leland, Jr., who represented the county in the state legislature in 1903, was successful in having the legislature and governor approve a bill allowing the Doniphan county commissioners to assess a special three mill levy on property for four years to secure the money needed for construction of the new courthouse.

In the spring of 1905 the county commissioners--(Nick L. Nelson, A. B. Symms, and Frank H. Drosselmeier)--requested several architects to submit proposals. Their choice was the plan of George P. Washburn and Sons of Ottawa. The general contract for construction was let on July 7, 1905, to J. H. Wagenknecht of Wathena, Doniphan county, for the low bid of $39,950. Demolition of the old courthouse began a week later, and in spite of delays caused by rain and late delivery of needed supplies, the building was finished in time for the dedication ceremonies on July 4, 1906. Oratory, a parade, fireworks, and the largest crowd in the history of Doniphan county (6,000 to 8,000) highlighted the day.

The Doniphan County courthouse is a good example of the Romanesque influence on government buildings in Kansas. Designed by one of Kansas' best-known architects, George P. Washburn, it is one of the most attractive small town courthouses in the state. It is also significant to the political affairs of Doniphan county, having served as the seat of county government for more than 67 years.
The Doniphan County courthouse is located on the courthouse square in the center of Troy. It is a three-story Romanesque structure with a full basement and an attic. There is a circular tower on each corner and a ten-sided cupola on the top. The base of the courthouse is of native limestone while most of the rest of the building is of red brick.

The courthouse has a modified hip roof with gables between the conical roofs of the towers. The cupola, which has windows around its entire perimeter, has a dome-type roof. The main entrances to the building on the north and south ends have native limestone porches topped with iron railings. The basement, first, and second story windows have stone sills, but only those on the basement and first floors have stone lintels. The third story windows are the only ones with arched lintels, except for the gable windows.

The interior has double wood floors, wooden stairs, plastered walls, and plain dark woodwork. Excluding some offices, most of the rooms are unchanged except for modern furniture. The two-story courtroom in the northeast corner of the building even has the original furniture.

A statue of the goddess of justice, which has since been removed, originally stood on the north gable. Otherwise the exterior is very much like it was in 1906. The surroundings of the courthouse have been changed by the construction of a modern jail on the courthouse square.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank W., editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History
Gray, F. L., Doniphan County History (Bendena, Kan., The Roycroft Press,
1905).
Illustrated Doniphan County, Supplement to The Weekly Kansas Chief,
Troy, April 6, 1916, pp. 330, 331.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<td>89° 47' 10&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0° 10' 50&quot;</td>
<td>89° 47' 10&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: two acres

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Planner
Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant
ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka
STATE: Kansas 66612
CODE 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Name: Nyle H. Miller
Title: Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society
Date: December 3, 1973

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date