

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Doniphan
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

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	CODE 66087	COUNTY: Doniphan	CODE 043

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Doniphan County	STATE: Kansas
STREET AND NUMBER: Doniphan County Courthouse	
CITY OR TOWN: Troy	
STATE: Kansas	CODE: 66087
	CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds	COUNTY: Doniphan
STREET AND NUMBER: Doniphan County Courthouse	
CITY OR TOWN: Troy	
STATE: Kansas	CODE: 66087
	CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE	FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE: Kansas	
CODE: 66087	
CODE: 20	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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) 1905-1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Doniphan County courthouse at Troy is the fourth courthouse to serve the county. The temporary first building was outgrown by 1858 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank W., editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), v. 2, p. 821.
 Gray, P. 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.
The Weekly Kansas Chief, Troy, April 20, 1905-July 12, 1906.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	47'	10"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		95°	05'	19"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **two acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **Oct. 17, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West Tenth Street**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society
Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date December 3, 1973
December 3, 1973

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS