

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: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Union Block

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Southwest corner, Delaware and Jefferson

CITY OR TOWN:
Oskaloosa

STATE Kansas	CODE 66066	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 087
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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"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" 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:
Multiple private (see continuation sheet)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Jefferson County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

Oskaloosa Kansas 66066 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Jefferson

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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 Union Block in Oskaloosa is a composite unit of four rectangular storerooms unified by common materials and design. Each section is two stories in height and has a full basement. The buildings face north toward the courthouse square, and the whole business block measures 100 feet long and 80 feet deep with a height of 35 feet.

The exterior walls are constructed of red brick laid in running bond and trimmed around the windows and doors with rough hewn limestone. The red brick facade rises from a massive stone base which marks the basement area. The horizontal bands of rough hewn stone occurring at the sill and head lines of the second floor windows tie them together visually.

The roof is flat and concealed behind a decorative parapet wall. A stone and metal cornice at the parapet is ornamentally treated with wide projecting brackets and corbels.

The front entrance to the former bank building is angled across the corner and flanked by two short red granite columns resting on high limestone bases. Springing from the column capitals is a massive limestone arch. Further emphasis is added to the main entrance by a heightened parapet wall with the word "BANK" in a central position. Also, extensive brick corbeling occurs above the second floor window arch, and the corbeling is flanked by two brick pilasters situated directly over the two granite columns. A secondary entrance located on the east wall also has an extended parapet--this one with the date "1892."

The arched transom above the main entrance is colored glass. The windows on both the first and second floors occur in tall arched openings with rough hewn limestone blocks forming the arches. The window sills are single stone blocks. The arches above the second floor windows are engaged in groups of three and four. A pediment between the two western storerooms has the name "UNION BLOCK" and the date "1892." Below the pediment on the first floor is an exterior opening providing access to the second floor rooms.

The exterior of the former bank has undergone only minor changes, the most obvious being the recent placing of a sign by the current occupant, a restaurant. From all indications the next storeroom to the west, now a department store, still has the original exterior. The remaining two storerooms originally had the same appearance as the department store. But the front of the third was bricked up within the last year or two and new door and window openings installed. The fourth facade has been changed by the installation of a theater marquee and other alterations. In no instance have the second floor facades been changed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1892

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 | osophy | _____ |
| <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 Union Block, located at the southeast corner of the square in Oskaloosa, was erected in 1892 for several local businessmen. Designed by architect H. M. Hadley of Topeka, the two-story brick and stone block was planned to provide four business fronts on the first floor and space for offices on the second. The corner portion, or the east end of the block, was built for the State Bank of Oskaloosa, Charles W. Huddleston, cashier; his father, William H. Huddleston, built the next portion west for a store and office building; next was a store and office building for A. G. Smith, M. D.; and the west section was a store and office building for C. B. McClellan. Estimated cost for the bank building was \$6,500 and for each of the three remaining segments \$4,000, making the estimated cost for the Union Block \$18,500.

Bids for the stone work on the block were received by the State Bank's cashier, Charles Huddleston, in March, 1892, and in April it was announced that G. W. Thompson, a contractor who had recently moved to Oskaloosa from Kansas City, had secured the contract. Excavations for the Union Block began around the first of June and masons were soon laying the stone foundations. The work progressed rapidly and without major difficulties until September when the brick contractors walked off the job, claiming they were losing money. Other bricklayers were soon engaged and the walls were completed. On November 12, 1892, the Oskaloosa Independent reported that "the roof is on Union Block and all the windows in except the front plates and inside work is going ahead. . ."

Originally the State Bank officers had planned to move into their new quarters by the Christmas holidays, but the move was delayed a number of times because the interior wasn't finished or the fixtures hadn't arrived. Apparently the bank was finally doing business at the Union Block location by early May, 1893, and it remained there until 1960 when a new facility was constructed. At the present time a restaurant occupies the former bank space. Over the years various businesses have occupied the other store rooms in the Union Block, but currently from east to west are a department store, a pool hall and a movie theater. Second floor offices have been rented by doctors, lawyers, abstractors, county officers, and

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

4. Owners of property:

Mr. John Hart, Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066
Mr. Willem Helms, Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066
Mrs. Ione Huddleston, Winchester, Kansas 66097

8. others through the years. There are now a number of apartments on the second floor and other rooms are used for storage.

The Union Block has been a landmark at the southeast corner of the courthouse square since its construction, and commercial enterprises located in its facilities have offered a variety of services to the community. The Union Block is an excellent example of Romanesque architecture in a Kansas commercial structure.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Oskaloosa Independent, January 30, February 6, 20, March 19, 26, April 9, 23, 30, June 4, 11, September 3, 10, 17, November 12, December 17, 31, 1892; March 4, 11, 1893; January 20, 1972.
 "75 Years Banking Service by State Bank of Oskaloosa," Winchester Star, August 3, 1962.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	39	12	55
SE	° ' "	° ' "	95	18	47
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: December 8, 1972

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
 Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
 Date January 16, 1973

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS