Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 4
Garner Shriver

Form 10-300
UNIVERSITIES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY — NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries — complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON:

Kingman City Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
Northeast corner,
Main street and Avenue C

CITY OR TOWN:
Kingman

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
67068

COUNTY:
Kingman

CODE:
095

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
(Chase One)

☐ District
☐ Site
☐ Structure
☐ Object

☐ Building
☐ Private
☐ Both

☑ Public
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

Ownership

STATUS

☑ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation, work in progress

Accessible
to the Public

Present Use
(Chase One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural
☐ Commercial
☐ Educational
☐ Entertainment

☐ Government
☐ Industrial
☐ Military
☐ Museum

☐ Park
☐ Private Residence
☐ Religious
☐ Scientific

☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER’S NAME:

Kingman County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Kingman

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
67068

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kingman County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Kingman

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
67068

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:
The Kingman City Building is a rectangular two-story building in the Renaissance style, located at the northeast corner of Main street and Avenue C in Kingman. It measures approximately 90 feet long, 25 feet wide, and 50 feet high. The exterior walls are of red brick and native stone. A flat roof covers the structure.

Windows in the building are large narrow rectangles with wood frames and appear in groups of three. Those on the second floor have small transoms which have either six or eight small square panes of colored glass. The first floor windows of the octagonal tower consist entirely of the small square panes.

Lintels and sills are made of rather large, rough-cut, native stone blocks, as is the water table which extends from the ground to the bottom of the first floor windows.

Two large openings on the first floor are spanned by flat stone arches; however, most of the opening on the south has been bricked shut and two frame double doors placed in the center of the opening. A modern garage door has been placed in the large arched opening on the west side. The three west windows on the second floor are also spanned by a flat arch.

The dominant features of the building are the two towers. The taller southwest corner tower is octagonal in shape except for the water table which is cylindrical. There are flat-arched windows on all eight sides of the third floor. Terminating this tower is an eight-sided pyramidal roof. The bell tower is square-shaped and situated on the south side above an entrance. It has arched openings on the third floor and a four-sided pyramidal roof. Both of the towers have ornate tin trim.

There is a very dominant tin cornice on the south side and on the west a pediment which bears the date "1888" and representations of firefighting equipment.

Alterations to the building in addition to the changes at the large arched openings include shingled awnings over two first floor groups of windows on the south side. The first floor is now being used by the Kingman Historical Society for museum and research purposes. The second floor, which contains a long hall and several smaller rooms, is not presently in use but will eventually house additional museum displays.
Construction of the Kingman City Building was approved by the Kingman voters in a special election on February 13, 1888. The $10,000 bond proposal for the erection of a city building and fire station was passed by a 63-vote majority.

At the regular city council meeting of March 8, 1888, six bids were offered for the bonds; the council chose the highest bid presented, that of John A. Cragun, who represented the Kingman National Bank. Three councilmen—Leach, Woolsey and Arnold—were then appointed to secure plans and specifications for the building. Bids for construction were read to the council on May 21, 1888, and on May 29 it was announced that Hance White had the contract for the cut stone work and M. Doney was awarded the contract for the stone foundation.

The following week quarrying of white limestone began on two miles east of the city. Cornerstone ceremonies were held June 23, 1888, and the building was completed shortly before December 1. The new structure housed city offices, the city jail and the fire department.

The two towers on the building had functional purposes as well as making the building a landmark in the community. The taller tower was built for the purpose of draining and drying the 50-foot joints of fire hose after they had been used. The second tower formerly housed a bell and now contains a siren, both of which were used to signal time for the community and to announce special events, such as the ending of World War I and World War II, in addition to serving as the fire alarm.

The city building was used basically for the original purposes until 1967 when the city made plans to purchase new office quarters and vacate the old building. The Sinclair Oil Company offered $25,000 (later reduced to $15,000) for the building site and later secured an option to purchase it. The oil company intended to erect a service station after razing the city building. Protests to save the structure were heard from many citizens and the Kingman County Historical Society. During the next two years town meetings were held to discuss the problem, and the historical society solicited donations to preserve the building as a county museum. A meeting
of the city commission, the oil company representatives and the historical society was held on October 20, 1969. Since the oil company's option had lapsed, the historical society offered $5,000 cash for the building. The commissioners accepted that proposal with the stipulation that the building would be returned to the city if the museum closed within five years. The museum officially opened May 30, 1970.

The Kingman City Building, besides housing city offices and the fire department, has been used for elementary and high school classes, the city library, a lodge hall, the city police department and an apartment for the fire engine driver. It has served the citizens of Kingman since 1888 and continues to serve Kingman county residents as a county museum. Architecturally, the building is a good example of the Renaissance style in Kansas, and it is especially noteworthy because it is one of the oldest buildings in Kansas built specifically for use by a city government.
### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Kingman *Leader-Courier*, June 17, 1938; November 24, December 1, 22, 1967.

Kingman *Weekly Courier*, February 23, March 2, April 12, 1888.


### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** One acre

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

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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME AND TITLE:** Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant

Richard Pankratz, Planner

**ORGANIZATION:** Kansas State Historical Society

**DATE:** September 8, 1971

**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 [X]
- Local [ ]

**Name:** Nyle H. Miller

**Title:** Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

**Date:** December 10, 1971

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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:**