

*Retyped*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kansas</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Linn</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Linn County Courthouse**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Fourth and Main**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Mound City**

STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66056** COUNTY: **Linn** CODE: **107**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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"/> 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)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Linn County**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Linn County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mound City** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66056**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Linn County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mound City** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66056**

**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: **Linn**  
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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 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 Linn County Courthouse is a two-story rectangular building with a full basement and an attic. The structure faces north and is approximately 110 feet long and 60 feet wide with an overall height of nearly 65 feet.

The exterior walls are red brick laid in a running bond pattern with contrasting white mortar. The brick walls rest on a native limestone base which projects five feet above the ground level. The large stone blocks have hand hewn faces and are laid in regular horizontal courses. A smooth cut stone belt line divides the stone base from the brick above. An additional band of smooth cut stone traverses the building perimeter at the window sill line of the second story.

The roof form is a series of intersecting gables covered with red clay tile shingles. <sup>Generally</sup> The only ornamentation on the gable ends is a frame bargeboard of lattice work design. The ~~only~~ exceptions are the gables over the entrances which are done in brick with stone trim. A scroll-like ridge terminating at the peak of the gable enhances these gables. Two towers project above the roof line at the entrances with the larger one above the north ~~and~~ (main) entrance. These towers are decoratively treated with bracketed soffits and steep pyramidal roofs. A corbelled roof cornice separates the roof from the walls while the center portion of the building has large wood brackets to support the roof.

Windows in the building are generally slender rectangles with cut stone sills and flat stone arches. The main entrance and the windows above occur in large openings with semicircular arched tops. These windows are trimmed in stone to add to their elegance.

The exterior has basically the same appearance now as originally although some changes have been made. Several windows on the west side have been bricked shut and aluminum storm windows have been installed. The present metal window awnings replaced canvas awnings around 1958.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1885-1886

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/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy           | _____                                    |
| <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                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

Construction of the Linn County Courthouse in 1885-1886 was the culmination of a long county seat controversy which began in 1859. The county seat was moved to various towns in the county between 1859 and 1885, with Mound City eventually becoming the permanent county seat. The bitterness from the issue was still evident in April, 1885, when in a county-wide election voters rejected a proposal to build a new courthouse. Mound City residents and others concerned about a safe place to store the official records were determined to have a courthouse, however, so they began soliciting subscriptions from private individuals and soon had enough money promised to begin plans.

George Ropes of Topeka, one of the more prominent architects of the day, was hired to design the new courthouse. Excavation work, which began early in the summer of 1885, was done by J. W. L. Bell, and the foundation was laid by G. W. Goodlander of Fort Scott. A local man, Z. Mentzer, was chosen to superintend the work, and in September, 1885, he traveled to Clinton, Iowa, to purchase building materials. After the completion of the foundation, work was discontinued until spring because of adverse weather conditions.

The contract for the brick work, which began in May, 1886, was awarded to John T. Trigg of Centerville, Iowa. Rapid progress was made during the summer months and by August the roof was being added. On October 4, 1886, the courthouse was donated to Linn county by the Mound City Courthouse Building Committee. The Linn County Clarion (Mound City) reported on October 8, 1886, that the building was completed except for the flooring and plastering. Three weeks later that work was in progress. The final cost of the courthouse is estimated at \$20,000. Of that amount all but \$2,000 was raised by private subscriptions. After the county commissioners accepted the building, some tax money was expended in fitting the offices for occupancy. County officials moved into the courthouse on January 1, 1887, but reportedly it was not entirely finished until later that year. The building continues to serve as the center for county government. *It is the second oldest county courthouse in the state still in use.*

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
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(Number all entries)

8. In addition to its importance to the political development and to the governing of Linn county, this courthouse is an excellent example of nineteenth century Kansas courthouse architecture in the Renaissance style and executed in brick.

The court room was used as one of the settings for Gordon Parks' movie, The Learning Tree.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Linn County Clarion (Mound City), April 2, 16, 30, May 24, June 18, October 8, 1886.  
 "Linn County Courthouse Changes Little Over the Years," Fort Scott Tribune, June 27, 1972.  
 Linn County Republic (Mound City), May 28, 1897.  
 Mitchell, William Ansel, Linn County, Kansas (Kansas City, Campbell-Gates, 1928), pp. 141, 142.  
 Mound City Progress, April 17, May 1, September 25, 1885; July 2, 23, October 22, 29, 1886.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

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: Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant  
Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: October 19, 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

Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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