United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>historic name</th>
<th>Hoke Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>other names/site number</td>
<td>155-2660-00786</td>
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### 2. Location

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>county</td>
<td>Reno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>code</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>code</td>
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<tr>
<td>zip code</td>
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### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this x nomination _ _ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x _ _ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

| _ _ national | _ _ statewide | X _ local |

Signature of certifying official

__________________________________

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _ _ meets _ _ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

__________________________________

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

| _ _ entered in the National Register | _ _ determined eligible for the National Register |
| _ _ determined not eligible for the National Register | _ _ removed from the National Register |
| _ _ other (explain:) | |

__________________________________

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper
### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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<tr>
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**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter “N/A” if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

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### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**COMMERCE/TRADE**: professional, specialty

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**COMMERCE/TRADE**: VACANT/NOT IN USE

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### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**LATE 19TH and EARLY 20TH CENTURY**

**AMERICAN MOVEMENTS**: Commercial Style  
(Two-Part Commercial Block)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: Masonry
- walls: Brick
- roof: Asphalt
- other:  

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Name of Property: Hoke Building  
County and State: Reno County, KS
Summary Paragraph

The Hoke Building is a four-story painted brick building on the southwest corner of First and Walnut, between the Downtown Core North and Downtown Core South Historic Districts in Hutchinson, Kansas (pop. 40,795). The building, which faces north toward First Avenue, is located less than one block east of Main Street, the major north/south thoroughfare through Hutchinson’s downtown business district. The Hoke Building was the first of a number of prominent buildings and structures built in this block during the first half of the twentieth century. Among them are the Rorabaugh-Wiley Building, a landmark eight-story building built on the northeast corner of First and Main in 1913; the Fox Theater, which opened immediately across the street in 1931; and the Soldiers and Sailors monument, erected in 1918 in the First Avenue median between the Hoke Building and the Fox Theater. Among the building’s character-defining features are its brick construction, original windows, wood doors and window trim, and stacked floor plans.

Narrative Description

Exterior - General
The Hoke Building is a four-story two-part commercial block that measures approximately 25’ X 150’. The exterior of the Hoke Building is divided into two parts – a lower level built to house retail shops, and three upper levels built to house offices. The lower level reflects a 1952 remodel in which the lower level was modified and upper façade was covered with a slip cover that visually tied the Hoke Building to the adjacent building to the west. At that time, the storefront was modified and the first floor was accessed via an entrance into the adjacent building. A few years ago, the slip cover was removed, exposing the historic upper levels. The building has a flat roof with parapet. The principal exterior material on all three exposed elevations is painted brick. Window openings have cast-stone sills; wood window frames; and 1/1 double-hung wood windows, which are covered with wood.

Exterior – Front (North) Elevation
The lower level of the front (north) elevation has a two-part aluminum storefront with aluminum mullion, dating to the 1952 remodel. A man door east of the storefront was created after the two buildings were once again separated a few years ago. There are three windows on each of the upper levels. After the façade was removed, the two buildings were divided – and a new entrance, a door on the east end of the lower level, was added to the Hoke Building. The upper-level windows reflect the configuration of interior spaces. The three stacked windows on the west end light the single-loaded corridor that runs north to south along the west end of the building. The other two bays of windows on each of the upper levels light the best offices on the building’s north end. Brick corbelling tops the building. Lettering between the fourth-floor windows and corbelling reads “HOKE.” Although they are covered, the original wood 1/1 upper-level windows are extant.

Exterior – Side (East) Elevation
The side (east) elevation, which faces Walnut, is divided into eight bays by brick pilasters. There is a masonry opening on each of the lower level’s bays. Bays one through four and six have openings of storefronts and man doors. Bays seven and eight have storefront openings only. Although the storefronts appear to have been modified/infilled over time, the masonry openings are original. Other original materials include wood storefront frames. Five of these storefronts have or were designed to house storefront windows, transoms, and entrances. The two northernmost bays have storefronts only. The fifth bay houses the historic public entrance to the building and marks the location of the historic elevator and stair tower. The fenestrations of the second through fourth floors are identical, reflecting the consistent interior use. There are fourteen windows on each of the upper levels. From south to north, the first through third bays are two windows wide; the fourth and fifth bays are one bay wide; the sixth through eighth bays are two windows wide. Although they are covered, the original wood 1/1 upper-level windows are extant.

Exterior – Rear (South) Elevation
The south (rear) elevation, which faces the alley between Sherman and First Avenues, has less ornament than the primary elevations on the east and north. There is a door and small window on the lower level and three windows on each of the upper levels. The upper-level windows follow the pattern of those on the front elevation, with the westernmost window bay lighting the stacked corridors and two windows lighting each of the south-end offices. Although they are covered, the original wood 1/1 upper-level windows are extant.
Exterior – East (Side) Elevation
The side elevation abuts the adjacent building to the west. Although the roofs of the buildings are the same height, the parapet of the Hoke Building creates the illusion that it is taller. Although the Hoke Building pre-dates the adjacent building, it was designed as part of a continuous commercial block. That is, the west wall does not appear to have ever had window openings. The building to the west was constructed in 1914 as a one-story building. It was still a one-story building in 1922. The building had been expanded to three stories by 1929, when it was the location of a Montgomery Ward’s store.

Interior – First Floor
The first floor was historically divided into seven spaces, a wholesale jewelry shop on the north end, followed by a tailor’s shop, the entrance/stair bay, a retail store, two clothing stores, and an office. Over time, especially as part of and after the 1952 remodeling, the first floor was modified. Today, the first floor is divided into four major spaces, corresponding with the north storefront and east-facing storefronts. Four storefronts on the south end open to two interior office areas. The fifth and sixth bays historically housed entrances. There are two offices, one of which is now a barber shop, on the north end. The majority of first-floor finishes, which include carpeting, suspended acoustical tile ceilings, and paneling, are non-historic. The floor level of the entire first floor is raised approximately thirty inches from sidewalk grade. The floor level is accessible via stairs at the north and east entrances.

Interior – Upper Floors
Although the first floor has been modified over time, the second through fourth floors retain a high degree of architectural integrity. Each floor retains its historic single-loaded corridor circulation pattern with central stair corridor. Character-defining features include plaster walls, historic wood trim, baseboards, radiators, two-panel wood doors, wood and linoleum floors, original ceiling heights and stairs. The second through fourth floors, accessible via a U-shaped stair/elevator tower at the center of the building, have stacked floor plans. On each floor, the stair and elevator open to a public lobby that opens to the main north/south corridor, which runs along the west side of the building. There are restrooms on the east wall opposite the stair/elevator tower. Each restroom has a window on its south wall. Walls that angle toward the stair corridor open to two offices that flank the restrooms. The fenestration pattern and bays on the south elevation reflect the location of offices on the building’s upper floors. There are six offices north of the stair corridor. There are seven office offices south of the corridor.

The upper floors have not been occupied or temperature controlled for decades. As a result, the upper floors are in deteriorated condition. Plaster is failing in places, particularly on ceilings.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark “X” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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Criteria Considerations
(Mark “X” in all the boxes that apply)

<p>| | | |</p>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>removed from its original location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>a birthplace or grave.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>a cemetery.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>a reconstructed building, object, or structure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>a commemorative property.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.</td>
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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Hoke Building stretches from the time of its construction in 1910 until 1952 when the building was remodeled to house the offices of The Great American Life Company and by which time the great majority of agriculture-related businesses had vacated the building. In recent years, the 1952 façade was removed. Today, the building largely interprets its original period of construction, with the exceptions of modifications that remain on the lower-level exterior and post-1952 changes to the first-floor interior. Because they are no longer accompanied by their corresponding upper-story modifications, the changes to the lower-level elevations are out of context and, therefore, have no historic significance in their own right.
The Hoke Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A in the area of Commerce under the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled “Commercial and Industrial Resources of Hutchinson.” It is an example of the “Early Twentieth Century Commercial” subtype of the “Two-Part Commercial Block” property type identified in the MPDF.

A Brief History of Hutchinson
The paragraphs below are intended to provide an overview of Hutchinson’s history. Complete historic contexts may be found in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled “Commercial and Industrial Resources of Hutchinson.”

Hutchinson was founded in 1871 by Indian Agent and Baptist Preacher C. C. Hutchinson, who sited the new town at the junction of the proposed Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe’s (ATSF) bridge over the Little Arkansas River. From the beginning, the city was a trading center for the surrounding agricultural counties which in the 1870s were populated by farmers who purchased rich farmland from the railroad. Success in wheat farming created a market for a local milling industry. By 1880, the fledgling city’s population had grown to 1540.¹

The city experienced its first period of rapid growth in the 1880s. By 1888, the city boasted three main railroads, the ATSF, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, and Missouri Pacific. Town boosters attracted the railroads, which in turn attracted new industries, including milling, salt, coal and meat packing. After the first grain mill opened in 1874, the city’s milling industry took off. Among the many early grain-related interests in downtown was the Kansas Grain Company, founded 1883. In the 1880s, Hutchinson earned its reputation as the “Salt City.” Although the extraction of salt began in 1875, the salt industry exploded after 1887 when Ben Blanchard first discovered an underground deposit. In 1889, the city’s ten salt plants shipped 2 million barrels of salt.² The Carey Salt Company was founded in 1900.

A nationwide recession followed the 1880s building boom. In 1890, at the beginning of the boom’s end, Hutchinson’s population stood at 8682. However, in 1893, after two of the city’s banks failed, over 1000 disheartened residents left Reno County to seek a new start in Oklahoma.³ The community’s economy rebounded in the first decade of the Twentieth Century. Between 1900 and 1910, the city built a library, courthouse, electric streetcar system, and paved streets. Despite periods of population loss, the number of Hutchinson residents doubled from 1890 to 1910, when it stood at 16,364.⁴

During World War I, Kansas farmers saw record-high crop prices – and this had a positive impact on businesses in county seats like Hutchinson. During the 1920s, Hutchinson experienced a second boom, driven in part by the discovery of oil in the region. In 1934, Reno County was the state’s largest oil producer.⁵ Although the oil business road out the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl and low crop prices took a serious toll on the local economy. In Hutchinson, the dust storms, which formed drifts of fine dirt, were followed by rainstorms, which turned the dirt into mud piles.⁶

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¹ 1880 US Census.
³ Rexroad, 7.
⁴ 1910 US Census.
⁵ Rexroad, 16-17.
⁶ Rexroad, 17.
Despite these obstacles, Hutchinson continued to grow and expand. Today, Hutchinson continues to be a regional trading center for central and western Kansas.

**Hutchinson’s Grain and Agricultural Industries**

The construction of the Hoke Building, which housed many grain-related businesses, corresponded with the nation’s “Golden Age of Agriculture.” Hutchinson’s unique place in the state’s new cash-crop economy, at the center of the Kansas wheat belt, is well documented in the Statement of Historic Contexts in the Multiple Property Documentation Form “Commercial and Industrial Resources of Hutchinson,” specifically in the historic context entitled “Grain and Agricultural Industries: 1875-1956.” Kansas farmers harvested ninety million bushels of wheat in 1911, with “sixty percent of this...harvested within a seventy-five mile radius of Hutchinson.” The wheat industry exploded during World War I when Kansas farmers supplied grain to battle-ravaged Europe. The state’s role in the international grain trade and commoditization of wheat was only possible through a new network of grain dealers, many of which were housed in the Hoke Building.

James and Mattie Hoke

The Hoke Building was commissioned by Hutchinson real estate speculator and agri-businessman James S. Hoke. Hoke was born in Illinois in September 1860 and married his wife Mattie Robinson in September 1881. The Hokes were living in Hutchinson by 1900, when James was employed as a stock dealer. Soon, “Mr. Hoke had large holdings in city and county real estate,” investing heavily during the booming first decade of the twentieth century.

Among Hoke’s best-known endeavors was his development of so-called “Hoke Houses,” modest homes designed to house the city’s growing number of working class families. Hoke commissioned seventeen houses in 1905. In 1908, he announced the construction of twenty-four more, eleven on West A “and others on Campbell and Carpenter Streets.” By 1915, he had built hundreds of the homes all over town.7

In the Golden Age of Agriculture, especially in the wheat state, many businessmen, like Hoke, intertwined their in-city agribusiness endeavors with thriving farm operations. Although the Hokes retired to Los Angeles in about 1915, Mr. Hoke returned to Hutchinson to monitor his investments and introduce local farmers to advanced farming techniques. In 1925, James Hoke returned to “introduce irrigation on his Cow Creek farm.” He died soon thereafter.

James Hoke’s wife, Mattie Hoke, created her own Hutchinson legacy. In October 1905, she founded the Kansas Holiness Bible College, later known as Bresee College, affiliated with the Nazarene Church. Originally housed in a single-family residence, the college expanded into a 50-room building by 1915. Mattie served as the school’s first president, a position she held for ten years. Mattie Hoke died in 1938.

The Hoke Building

The construction of the Hoke Building corresponded with the city’s evolution from farm town to agricultural and industrial powerhouse. The Hoke Building was built in 1910, after a two-decade-long period in which Hutchinson’s population doubled to 16,364. As Kansas farmers turned to wheat as a cash crop, Hutchinson found itself in the center of Kansas wheat country. In the words of the MPDF, “Most of the grain trading occurred in the grain company offices, several of which were first located in the Hoke Building.”

The Hoke Building provided office space for a growing list of wheat-related businesses and organizations. Among the original occupants was the Hutchinson Board of Trade, a grain exchange founded in 1910. In addition to Hoke’s real estate office, the building housed the following occupants in 1912: French-Noll Grain Co., Liberal Elevator Co., Millers Grain Co., Hutchinson Board of Trade, Ferguson-Shircliff Grain Co., Hutchinson Grain Co., Globe Grain and Milling Co., Golden Grain Co., and CA Tabb Grain Co.8 Later, the building was associated with Gano Grain Corporation and the “empire” of George E. Gano (1871-1952). In 1928, Gano “held 15,000 acres of wheat under cultivation” and “owned and operated a chain of forty-five elevators in southwestern Kansas.” By the time of a merger in 1947, the corporation owned seventy grain elevators.9

The building also housed agricultural industries that were non-grain-related. In 1923, bacteriologist Martin Dupray opened a laboratory in the Hoke Building. Originally located in Room 33, then on the third floor, the company developed animal

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8 1912 City Directory.
inoculations, tested water and feed, and even performed some non-animal medical testing. In about 1950, the company became Dupray-Hodges. The firm outgrew its space in the Hoke Building and moved in 1961 or 1962.  

The building changed hands many times following the deaths of James and Mattie Hoke, selling in 1947, 1948, and 1949. In 1952, The Great American Life Insurance Company remodeled the building’s first floor and exterior, covering the upper-story facade and modifying the lower level to coordinate with the adjacent building to the west. By the 1950s, the majority of the upper stories, which remained unchanged since their original construction, were occupied by real estate, insurance, finance and accounting offices. The upper stories were mostly vacant by the 1960s. The upper-story windows on the east elevation were apparently covered as part of the 1952 remodel.

With the recent removal of the 1952 façade, the upper-level facades of both the Hoke Building and the building adjacent to the west were returned to their original appearance. The upper-story windows remain covered; and the lower-level retains its 1952 appearance.

Registration Requirements

The Hoke Building meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPDF entitled “Commercial and Industrial Resources of Hutchinson.” The registration requirements state that in order to be nominated under Criterion A in the area of Commerce, a building must be “directly associated with Hutchinson’s period of commercial expansion in one or more of the historic contexts noted in Section E of the MPS.” The Hoke Building is one of the buildings mentioned in the context entitled “Grain and Agricultural Industries: 1875-1956.”

Of course, in order to be eligible for listing, a building must not only have historical significance, but also historical integrity. Although the building was altered during a 1952 remodel, the upper-story façade has been removed and the lower-level changes, still extant are consistent with the registration requirements set forth in the MPDF, as follows:

It is typical with historic commercial buildings for some sort of alteration to occur over the years, either with a change in function, ownership, or merely in a desire to ‘keep up with appearances’. Hutchinson’s downtown commercial buildings were no exception to this phenomenon. However, these alterations may not affect the building’s individual eligibility, providing a high degree of integrity in the overall building design remains, and the integrity of materials on the upper stories is still evident … Buildings whose storefronts have been altered may still be individually eligible, however, if the arrangement of the storefront design features remains, such as pattern of fenestrations, and proportion of window to bulkhead and transom area. The distinction between first and second story should also still be clearly represented by architectural features…Materials, design features, decorative details and stylistic features are secondary characteristics by which these buildings are evaluated, and are not as critical for Criterion A.

Although the building’s lower level has been altered, the building retains a high degree of integrity elsewhere. For instance, original upper-story windows, although boarded over, are extant; and the interiors of the second through fourth floors retain many character-defining features, including original floor plans, plaster walls, and historic wood trim. The integrity of the first floor, the only floor to have been altered over time, is, in the words of the MPDF, “not as critical,” since the building is being nominated under Criterion A.

The Hoke Building is significant for the role it played in Hutchinson’s early grain and agricultural industries.

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10 1961-1962 City Directories. The business was later known Dupray-Hodges, then Peterson Laboratory. It is now known as SDK Laboratories.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography


Hutchinson City Directories.

*Hutchinson Daily News.*

*Hutchinson News.*

*Hutchinson News-Herald.*

*Hutchinson Weekly News.*


*Legacy: The Journal of the Reno County Historical Society.*


Reno County Deed Records.


US Census.


preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
previously listed in the National Register  
previously determined eligible by the National Register  
designated a National Historic Landmark  
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #  
Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 155-2660-00786

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less than 1 acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The parcel ID for the nominated property is 126-13-0-10-27-001.00-0. The legal description is as follows: East 25ft of Lot 11, East First, Hutchinson Original Town.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The above is the legal description for the parcel the Hoke Building occupies.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Christy Davis  
organization  Davis Preservation, LLC  
date  2/14/2011  
street & number  909 ½ Kansas Ave, Suite 7  
telephone  785-234-5053  
city or town  Topeka  
state  KS  
zip code  66612  
e-mail  cdavis@davispreservation.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  
  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
Hoke Building
Name of Property

Reno County, KS
County and State

- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

1915 and 1922 Sanborn Maps

Photographs:
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Hoke Building
City or Vicinity: Hutchinson
County/State: Reno County, Kansas
Photographer: Christy Davis

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 11 Exterior, Overall view, looking southwest toward north and east elevations.
2 of 11 Exterior, Overall view, looking northwest toward south and east elevations.
3 of 11 Interior, Barber shop on north end of first floor, looking northwest. The first floor lacks historic integrity.
4 of 11 Interior, Second Floor, looking southeast corner, looking southeast toward windows on east and rear.
5 of 11 Interior, Second Floor, stair/elevator corridor.
6 of 11 Interior, Second Floor, door to Room 206, typical.
7 of 11 Interior, Second floor, Room 207, looking east, finishes are typical.
8 of 11 Interior, Third floor, looking south in main north/south corridor, typical of stacked corridors on upper floors.
9 of 11 Interior, Third floor, stair corridor, typical of stacked corridors on upper floors.
10 of 11 Interior, Stair from third to fourth floors, typical of stair tower that runs from first through fourth floors.
11 of 11 Interior, Fourth floor, stair corridor.

Property Owner:
(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name  4Results, Inc. (James Davis)

street & number  111 East 30th  telephone  620-662-7577

city or town  Hutchinson  state  KS  zip code  67502

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
1915 Sanborn Map

1922 Sanborn Map