

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

**SELGEM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Memorial Building

177-5400-120

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 120 W. 10th

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

no. 2, Martha Keys

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Shawnee

CODE

177

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State of Kansas

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

June, 1974

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Memorial Building is a four-story structure of steel and reinforced concrete with a granite and marble exterior. It measures 102 feet north to south and 185 feet east to west and has a high basement for storage purposes. The fourth floor is hidden behind the cornice and parapet. Located at the northeast corner of Tenth and Jackson streets, the French Renaissance influenced building has major entries centered on both the west and south facades. To the west and northwest of the Memorial Building is the four square block area on which the State Capitol is placed; to the north is the Santa Fe railroad office building; to the east is an alley and then commercial structures; to the south across Tenth street are commercial buildings.

The foundation is of large granite blocks; the cornerstone and water table are also of granite. All of the exterior but the north side was faced with large blocks of white Georgia marble. Brick and terra cotta were used on the north. The basement walls are 32 inches thick and the rest of the exterior walls measure 24 inches. Large marble quoins are used at the four corners of the structure and at the corners of the loggia on the south side. A protruding cornice circumscribes the building between the first and second floors.

The building has basically a flat "built-up" roof which is hidden from view by the cornice and parapet.

The dominant feature of the structure is the loggia located on the second and third floors on the south side. Centered on the facade, the porch measures about 88 feet long and 15 feet wide. It has six fluted columns of the Corinthian order. Above the loggia the parapet wall has carved stone decorations and a balustrade which cover the length of the loggia. Much carved stone ornamentation is also placed on the loggia's balustrade. At the first floor centered beneath the loggia is a recessed porch which measures about 32 feet long and 15 feet wide. Three double doors provide entry to the building.

The entry on the west is not so elaborately treated. Two engaged Corinthian columns are located above the first floor entry and reach the height of the third floor. A balustrade is placed at the second floor level but no balcony exists. The double door entrance is located under a flat lintel with radiating voussoirs and a keystone.

The building's rectangularity is emphasized by the strongly defined Corinthian influenced cornice. Above the cornice the parapet with its carved stone ornamentation and the balustrade adds a decorative touch to the building.

The windows on all floors are uniformly aligned and all are rectangular openings except for the seven semicircular arched windows on the south side of the third floor. These seven are centered between the columns of the loggia. The semicircular arched openings on the north side were bricked up when the large meeting hall that formerly occupied part of the second and third floors was remodeled in 1960 into a smaller auditorium and additional exhibit and storage areas.

The first floor windows have no ornamentation or trim; the sills and lintels are part of the wall. On the second floor almost all the windows on the two street facades have decorated lugsills and consist of two sash and a transom. The third floor windows are similar but have more elaborate trim and decorated slipsills. On the south side two windows are paired in each opening; those on the west, east and most of the north sides are single. Sash windows with sidelights are centered on the second and third floors above the west entry. Copper window frames were originally installed on the north and east sides. Some still remain on the first floor of the north side.

# **B** SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Charles Chandler

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Memorial Building at Tenth and Jackson in Topeka was built as a memorial to the Kansas soldiers and sailors of the Civil War. The movement for such a building, which would also house the State Historical Society's valuable collections, was initiated by the state officers of the Grand Army of the Republic in June, 1908.

Several earlier efforts had been made to secure a soldiers' monument. Bills had been introduced in the legislature in 1889, 1901, 1903 and 1907. The time was more propitious in 1908 and 1909 since the state's claim against the federal government for money expended by the state in defense against the Confederacy had been approved. Kansas was to receive \$522,000; the evidence needed to substantiate the claim had come from records in the possession of the State Historical Society.

An appeal was made by state Commander W. A. Morgan of the G.A.R. for all Civil War soldiers and all citizens to support the campaign for a memorial building. The concept of a serviceable memorial building, instead of some unusable monument, interested many state legislators. At the time this issue was brought to the public attention in 1908 and 1909, the Historical Society occupied the fourth floor of the State Capitol. The Society had been quartered at one spot or another in the Capitol since its founding in 1875. The 1909 law authorizing \$200,000 for a new building contained this preamble:

"The Kansas State Historical Society is the custodian of one of the largest and most valuable collections of original historical material in the United States; and the present quarters of this Society are inadequate and unsatisfactory and without fire protection and is thereby in great danger of being lost, and is a menace to the state capitol, and should be provided a fire-proof building accessible to the general public."

A building commission was appointed and after some debate, a site was chosen at the northeast corner of Tenth and Jackson, across the street from the southeast corner of the capitol square. By June 3, 1909, Gov. Walter Stubbs had written to state architect Charles Chandler, directing him to prepare plans for the building. The plans were completed in November, 1909, and the contract for the excavation was let on November 20 to Douglas and Evans of Topeka. Bids were opened for construction on April 12, 1910, but all bids utilizing the type of building materials desired by the commission far exceeded the appropriated funds. Therefore, the decision was made in May to delay any further construction efforts until after the 1911 legislative session. The 1911 legislature appropriated \$250,000, enabling the commission to award a construction contract to Leeper and Smith of Topeka. The structural steel was obtained from Capitol Iron Works in Topeka, and the Salina Plumbing Co. had the plumbing contract. Fred Lewis of Marion was the construction superintendent.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7, 8 PAGE 1

7.  
Wood window frames were used on the south and west sides. In 1974 aluminum window frames were installed which had the same transom pattern as the original. Aluminum frames have also been installed in the west and south door openings.

The basement elevation is 16 feet, the first floor 17 feet, the second and third floors each 16 feet and the fourth floor 12 feet.

The interior halls are finished in polished Creole marble from Georgia. Marble wainscoting is used in the halls and restrooms of the first floor and in the halls of the second and third floors. The hall floors are also of marble. All office areas and reading rooms have oak wainscoting and oak door and window trim and white terrazzo floors with colored decorative patterns.

Interior alterations have been made occasionally as other occupants moved out and as the Historical Society assigned new functions to various areas. In addition to the auditorium remodeling mentioned above, other major changes included construction of the first archives stacks on the north side of the first floor in the late 1940's and the double decking of the southwest corner of the first floor in 1971 to provide additional storage for archival materials. An automatic elevator replaced the original one in 1960 and the open elevator shaft was boxed in at the same time. The Memorial Building was in the path of the devastating tornado which struck Topeka in 1966. Skylights were broken; almost 200 window panes were broken or cracked; 14 metal window frames were twisted beyond repair; all trees south of the building were destroyed. But no irreparable damage was done to the building.

Many areas of the building, such as offices, reading rooms and hallways, have been little changed and serve basically the same functions as they did originally. On the exterior and particularly on the street sides the building presents much the same appearance as it did originally.

8.  
On September 27, 1911, the cornerstone was laid by Pres. William H. Taft, who was at that time making a swing through eastern Kansas. In Topeka for only five hours Taft participated in a two-mile long veterans' parade through the city, laid the cornerstone of the Memorial Building following impressive G.A.R. ceremonies, and then addressed a huge crowd from the steps of the State Capitol just across the street. The crowd which gathered to see and hear Taft and the ceremonies was estimated at 50,000.

The Memorial Building was dedicated May 27, 1914. An estimated 25,000 people were on hand for the festivities, including 5,000 veterans. Flags were flown from every window of the new structure as well as from many other nearby buildings. A military parade was reviewed by national and state officers of the G.A.R. from the south balcony of the Memorial Building, and the dedicatory address was given by Washington Gardner, national commander of the G.A.R. Gov. George Hodges and other state dignitaries also participated in the ceremonies.

The total cost of the building was over \$500,000. It was constructed of the finest materials and built to last many years as a memorial to Kansas soldiers.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 8, 9 PAGE 2

8. (cont.)

The Memorial Building was constructed at a time when many veterans of the Civil War yet remained, and public sentiment was highly favorable toward commemorating the efforts of those who had fought to save the Union. The G.A.R. was still a viable organization even though it no longer had the political potency it had in the 1870's and 1880's.

The Kansas State Historical Society today occupies the entire structure. Other original occupants who had office space for a time were the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, Ladies of the G.A.R., Women's Relief Corps, and the Academy of Science. All but the latter are now defunct, and it is located at the University of Kansas. The American Legion had offices there from the 1920's until the late 1960's when it moved to its own building, and the Spanish War Veterans had an office until 1971. Plans for a new state historical museum are under consideration, but the Historical Society has no intention of leaving the Memorial Building. Only the museum and perhaps the archeology department would be relocated, thus making more space available for the expansion of other Society departments.

The Memorial Building is significant for the purpose of its construction--to honor the Kansas soldiers who fought in the Civil War. It is significant as an excellent example of the French Renaissance style of architecture favored for government buildings after the turn of the century. It is significant as the home of the Kansas State Historical Society since 1914.

9.

Topeka Capital, Apr. 28, 30, May 1, June 3, Aug. 13, Nov. 6, 1909; Apr. 13, May 26, 1910; Jan. 28, Feb. 2, Sept. 27, 28, 1911; May 26, Aug. 23, 1914; Aug. 30, 1953; Nov. 17, 1959.

Topeka Journal, May 25, Aug. 13, Nov. 3, 1909; May 13, 25, 26, 1910.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kansas Historical Collections, Vol. XI (1909-1910), pp. 269-271.  
 Kansas State Historical Society, Seventeenth Biennial Report (1911), pp. 21-24;  
Eighteenth Biennial Report (1913), pp. 6-11;  
Nineteenth Biennial Report (1915), pp. 9-13, 48-54.  
 Markey, Walt, Builders of Topeka (Topeka, Capper Printing Co., 1934), p. 152.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
---	---

2	6	8	4	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	2	5	1	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

June 20, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

120 West Tenth Street

TELEPHONE

(913) 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Nyle H. Miller  
 Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

June 20, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER