

RECONSTRUCTED: Oct. 6, 1975

177 - 5700 - 001

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SELECTED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Shawnee
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: State Capitol

AND/OR HISTORIC: State House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 2, Bill Roy

STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20 COUNTY: Shawnee CODE: 177

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 Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State of Kansas

STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Records destroyed. A guide book, Kansas, was published in 1939.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Shawnee
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 State Capitol of Kansas is a combination of French Renaissance and Corinthian style architecture. The limestone building is cruciform in shape with a high dome and rotunda to tie together the four wings. Dimensions of the building north to south are 399 feet, east to west 386 feet, and to the extreme top of the dome 304 feet. The area covered by the capitol is 57,600 square feet.

The main entry of the building on the south is approached by a long series of stone steps and the entablature above the entrance is supported by eight Corinthian stone columns. Entries of the other wings are similar.

The windows in all four stories of the central part of the building (i.e., the north and south wings) are rectangular in shape. The east and west wings have three different types of windows; flat arched windows on the first floor, full arched windows on the second, and rectangular main windows with small circular windows above on the east wing third floor. The third floor windows of the west wing are similar to those of the second floor. The three floors of the rotunda above the roof line have arched, rectangular, and square windows, and there are circular windows in the copper dome. All windows except the circular dome windows have cut limestone sills and lintels. The roofs are a combination of hip and gable. The cornice is cut stone and intricately detailed. The sides of the building are ornamented with pilasters bearing Corinthian capitals.

Many different types of marble were used for the interior. The wainscoting in the center of the building on the first floor is of Tennessee marble; in the west corridor Manual tile; and in the east corridor it is of Georgian marble. The large upper panels in the wainscoting on the second floor are Siena and Lambertin marble from Italy. The base and capstones are Numidian marble from Africa. The mopboard is of rouge Royal marble from France. Tennessee marble is used in all wings of the second floor. The third floor rotunda features Georgian marble.

The governor's offices on the second floor are finished in white mahogany from Mexico. The ornate Senate chamber and the House of Representatives are located on the third floor. The Senate chamber was decorated in 1885 at a cost of \$3000,000 and is regarded as one of the finest and most ornate legislative chambers in the country.

The murals on the first and second floors are outstanding examples of Kansas art depicting the state's development. The murals in the first floor rotunda were designed and executed by David Overmyer, a Topeka native. The eight murals are entitled "The Coming of the Spaniards," "The Chisholm Trail," "The Coming of the Railroad," "The Santa Fe Trail," "Lewis and Clark in Kansas," "Building a Sod House," "The Battle of Mine Creek," and "The Battle of the Arickaree."

The second floor murals were painted by John Steuart Curry, a native of Dunavant, Jefferson county, Kansas. A two-panel mural in the east corridor entitled "Tragic Prelude" features a gigantic figure of John Brown. In the west corridor, "Kansas Pastoral" portrayed the Kansas of modern times. Curry's work was not finished. Plans for eight murals in the main rotunda of the second floor were blocked by a controversy over removing marble wainscoting to provide space for the pictures.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1866

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 | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input 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 State Capitol of Kansas was constructed on a twenty-acre tract donated to the state for that purpose by the Topeka Association in 1862. The legislature authorized construction of the capitol in 1866, and work soon began on the east wing. The cornerstone was laid on October 17, 1866 and the east wing was partially ready for occupancy by state officials in late 1869. The legislature met there in 1870 although the building was not entirely completed until 1873. Construction of the west wing began in 1879, and it was first used by the legislature in 1881. In that session authorization was given for the completion of the main part of the building, which included the north and south wings and the rotunda which tied the four wings together. Construction proceeded by stages as money was available. By June, 1903, the building was basically finished. Total cost was \$3,200,588.92

The capitol was based on designs by E. Townsend Mix. The first state architect selected by the statehouse building commission was John G. Haskell of Lawrence, one of Kansas' foremost architects. A total of eight state architects served during the years of construction.

The building has been a source of pride to Kansans since its completion. Adding to its significance as the state capitol are such features as the intricate and elaborate ornamentation, especially of the legislative chambers, and the murals painted by John Steuart Curry and David Overmyer.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Shawnee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

STATE CAPITOL

7. cont.

Parts of the capitol have never been finished. It was planned to have the dome terminate with a statue of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture. So many Kansans objected that the model submitted was not worthy enough to adorn the capitol that the legislature refused to appropriate the necessary funds. Also, on the north and south porches, there are large triangular spaces in the gables of rough stone. It was intended to have high relief sculptures adorning the gables, but the sculptures have never been authorized.

The present outward appearance of the capitol differs little from its appearance in 1903.

Some alterations have been made to the interior particularly to office areas, to adapt space to modern business practices.

9. cont.

Mechem, Kirke, "Skeletons in the State House Closet." The Kansas Teacher, v. 59, no. 3 (Nov., 1950), pp. 38-40.

Message from the Governor, Jan. 13, 1903, "Senate Journal (Topeka, State Printer, 1903), p. 21.

Seventh Biennial Regular Report and Recommendations of the Kansas Legislative Council (Topeka, State Printer, 1946), pp. 160-173.

Curry, John Steuart, "The State House Murals," (n.p., n.d.), 4 page pamphlet.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank W., editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), v. 1, pp. 283-287.
 Crawford, S. J., Annual Message of the Governor of Kansas, 1867 (Leavenworth, Bulletin Book and Job Printing Office, 1867), pp. 12-14.
 Giles, F. W., Thirty Years in Topeka (Topeka, Geo. W. Crane and Co., 1886), pp. 256-265.
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 546.
 "The Kansas Capitol Building" (Topeka, State Printer, n.d.), 16 pp. pamphlet.
Kansas Facts (Topeka, State Printer, 1928), pp. 15-17.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	39° 03' 00"	95° 40' 43"		°	'	"
NE	39° 02' 57"	95° 40' 33"		°	'	"
SE	39° 02' 47"	95° 40' 38"		°	'	"
SW	39° 02' 50"	95° 40' 48"		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 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: Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Feb., 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 Local

Name Nyle H. Miller

Title _____

Date Sent to NR: 2/8/71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS