071-5440-001

Form No 10-300 (Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Greeley County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON: (Old) Greeley County Courthouse (preferred name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Northwest corner, Harper and Third streets
__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Tribune
__ VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 1, Keith Sebelius

STATE: Kansas 66879
CODE: 20
COUNTY: Greeley
CODE: 071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Greeley County

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Tribune
__ VICINITY OF
STATE: Kansas 66879

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER: Greeley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Tribune
STATE: Kansas 66879

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic Sites Survey

DATE: July 22, 1970
__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN: Topeka
STATE: Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X__ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Greeley county courthouse in Tribune is a plain, almost austere two-story building constructed of Greeley county sandstone and white stone from Hamilton county with a galvanized iron cornice. The stone work is rock-faced and laid in plain ashlar courses. The steps, window and door sills, string courses and voussoirs have been made of Ness county stone. The roof, which is now covered with asphalt shingles, is hipped and gabled. Originally there was a wrought iron railing around a captain's walk. The building measures 48 feet by 52 feet.

The courthouse is located a few blocks from the commercial district and is surrounded by trees. The main entranceway, which is arched, faces south and projects forward from the facade. The arch has been articulated by voussoirs, and the door which is recessed, has a fanlight. Above the archway are two rectangular windows and a painted pediment which crowns the projection rising slightly above the roof ridge. The pediment has been repainted white, but originally there was a painted clock with its hands set a few minutes past nine. The windows, like all other apertures in the building , each have an arched lintel with voussoirs and a keystone. There is a string course that rests on top of the keystone of the first story windows and grazes the top of the entranceway arch. Another string course is even with the top of the keystones on the second story windows. The corners have been quoined.

To either side of this projection are two windows on each story, including the basement, symmetrically arranged. Centered above each of the two sets of aligned windows is a fanlight in the gable. The entablature which has brackets and consoles breaks to a cornice above the gables. This iron entablature has been left unpainted.

The eastern and western facades each have two projecting wings with gables, and a centered stone chimney that breaks the entablature and changes to red brick above the cornice line. Each of the projecting wings has a central pilaster that is capped with a triangular piece of galvanized iron that fits into the roof ridge. Originally red brick chimneys also rose from these pilasters above the roof line. There are eight windows running across each story on these facades. There are also fixed, metal exterior fire escapes from the second story to the ground.

There is a modern addition which serves as a secondary entranceway and toilet facility on the northern facade of the building. Originally the building was serviced by outhouses. Above the addition, flush on the facade is a large arched opening which was filled by cement blocks in the 1930's because it let in too much air and dust. The roofline opens with a gable above this arch. There are two windows on each story on either side of this central bay.

Besides the modernizations mentioned above, some window air conditioning units and partitions on the second story have been added. The roof has been reshingled in a lighter color. A modern courthouse has been built adjacent to the west, but otherwise the building is very similar to its original appearance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889-1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. T. Heaps

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Greeley county courthouse is one of the oldest courthouses in western Kansas. Greeley county, named for Horace Greeley, was the last county in Kansas to be organized (July 9, 1888), and this is the original courthouse. Tribune was designated as the temporary county seat by the governor in July, 1888, and the voters made it the permanent center of government on November 6, 1888.

Begun in 1889, the courthouse was completed in 1890, two years after county organization. The architect was W. T. Heaps, who designed at least one other western Kansas courthouse, Hamilton county, and who was the contractor for the Rush county courthouse. Allen and Oleson of Ness City were the general contractors, and William Ruff of Ness City had the subcontract for the carpenter work.

The county commissioners accepted the architect's plans on October 11, 1889, and bids for the stone and the construction work were taken October 28. Work went on through the winter and spring and by mid-summer the walls were up. The galvanized iron cornice arrived and was installed in July. Oleson had completed his work by September 25, 1890, and in early October Ruff returned to Tribune to finish the work on the interior. The offices of the county clerk and the treasurer moved in November 5, 1889, and the others were in by the following week. The total construction cost was $20,000.

Greeley county had been organized in 1888 on the basis of census returns from mid-1887 which had shown 2,638 inhabitants. 1887 was a boom year for many of the western Kansas counties; many new settlers were taking up homesteads, and the population figures jumped. But by the time the courthouse was finished the boom had collapsed. Economic reverses and repeated crop failures had caused many settlers to lose their confidence and abandon the land they had so eagerly settled a few years earlier. Greeley county's population had dropped to 1400 by 1890. (The present figure for the county is 2,210, the smallest of any of the state's 105 counties.)

In the summer of 1973 plans were prepared for a new courthouse building. Originally the county commission had proposed to build the new structure downtown adjacent to the business district, but the voters insisted the building be located on the present courthouse block, calling for the demolition of the old courthouse. After a strong preservation campaign by the Greeley county historical society, the commission decided to build the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Battle Over Fate of Greeley Courthouse," Hutchinson News, Sept. 9, 1973.
Greeley County Commissioners Book No. 1 (Greeley County Courthouse, Tribune, Kan.
Greeley Co. Journal (Tribune), Apr. 17, July 10, Sept, 25, Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, 1890.
Greeley Co. Republican (Tribune), Oct. 11, 18, Nov. 22, Dec. 6, 1889; Jan. 31, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, 21, 28, 1890; Aug. 9, 23, 30, Sept. 20, 1973 Jan. 31, 1974 May 24, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	14	260090	4261500	B			
C				D			

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
Cornelia Wyma Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society DATE January 22, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Nyle H. Miller

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE February 4, 1976

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

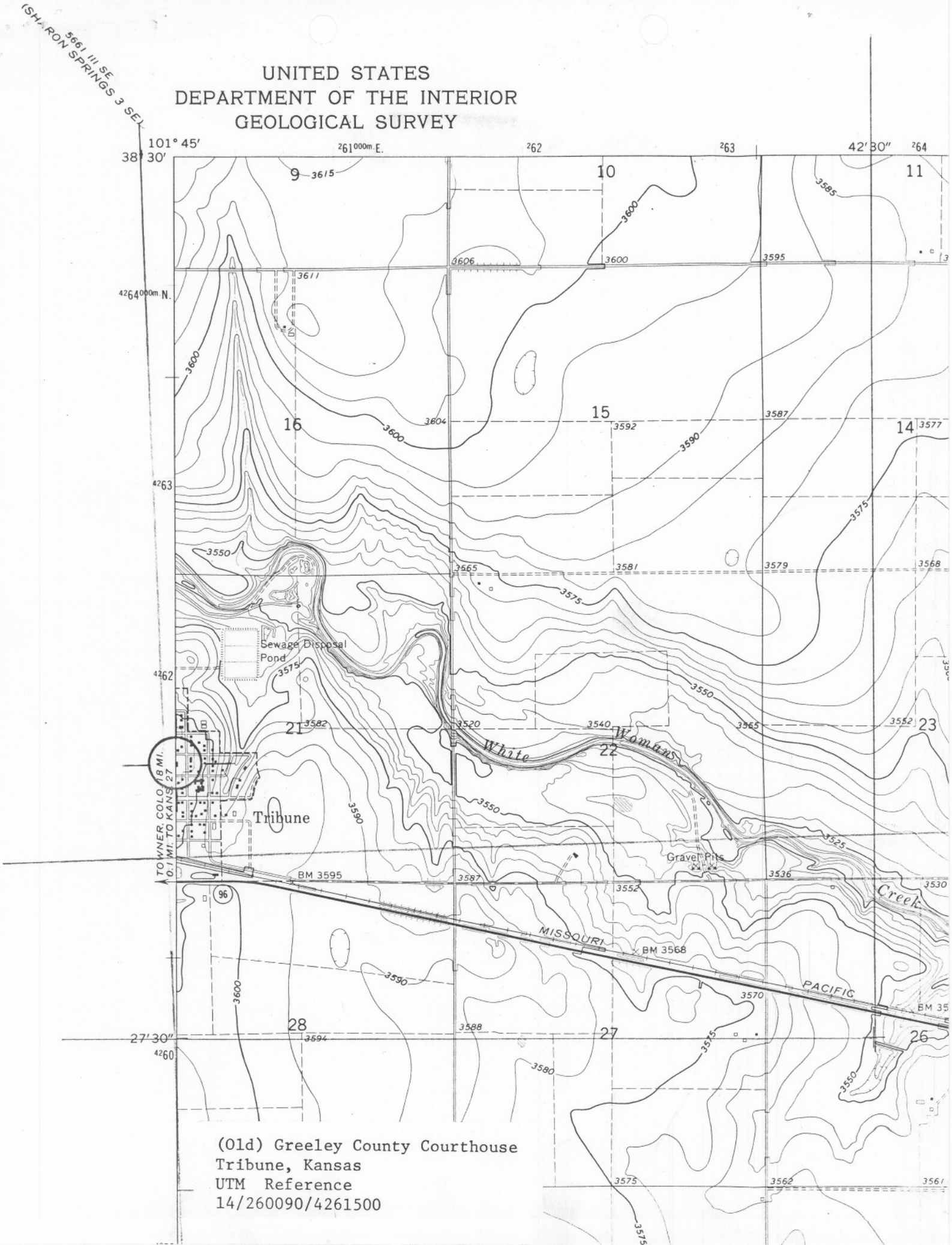
8.

new courthouse next to the old and convert the old building into the Greeley County Historical Society Museum.

The old Greeley county courthouse is one of the most distinctive courthouse buildings still standing in western Kansas. It was the first and until 1975 the only courthouse the county had built.

9.

"The Last County," Topeka Capital, July 10, 1888.
"The New Court House," Greeley Co. Journal (Tribune), Dec. 18, 1890.
"No More County Seat Fights in Greeley County," Topeka Daily Capital, June 13, 1889.
Pile, Margaret, "And Greeley County Began" (Tribune, Kansas., Greeley Co. Republican, 1969), p. 7.



(Old) Greeley County Courthouse
Tribune, Kansas
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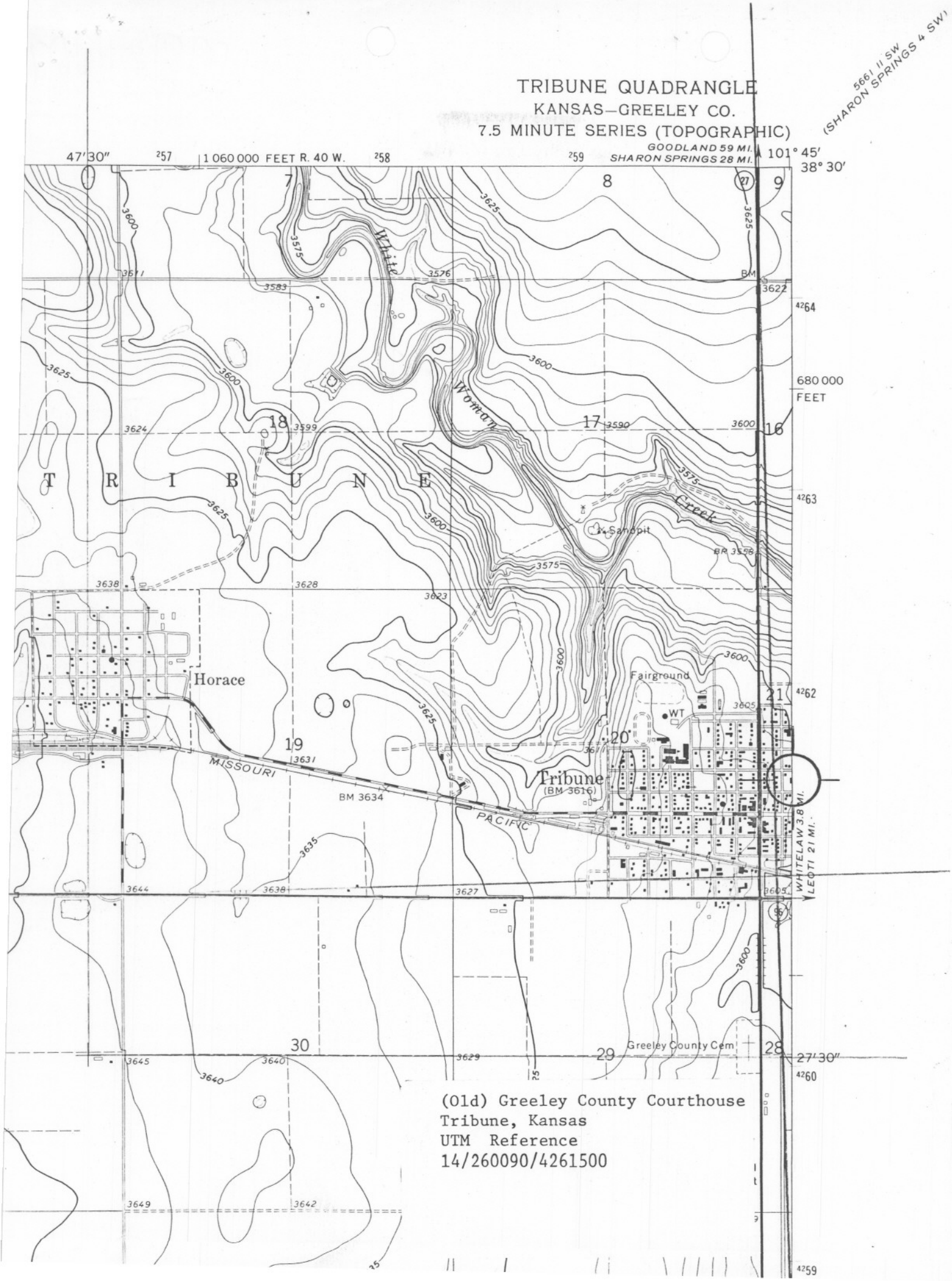

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