NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

077-0180-0005

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Anthony Theater

other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 220 W. Main ☐ not for publication

city, town Anthony ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Harper code 077 zip code 67003

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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] meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Ramon Powers State Historic Preservation Officer November 20, 1990

Signature of certifying official Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Recreation and culture: Theater;
movie theater

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Recreation and culture: Theater;
movie theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Modern movement: Art deco

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick; ceramic tile;
Stone: marble, concrete
roof Asphalt
other Glass; metal: bronze

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Anthony Theater (c. 1936) is located at 220 W. Main in Anthony, Harper County, Kansas (pop. 2,661). The two story, Art Deco, white concrete, buff brick and copper brown tile building stands in the heart of Anthony's commercial district and is part of a block of two story commercial structures. The building has a northern facade elevation and measures forty feet from east to west and one hundred and forty feet from north to south. A sloping, tarred roof covers the building, parapets mask the roof on the north, east, and west elevations. The building maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity, standing as the only example of an Art Deco movie theater in Anthony.

The box office level of the theater is delineated by four brick and tile pilasters. The tile, glass, and aluminum box office stands centrally in a recessed entryway. Two sets of twelve-paned, double wooden doors flank the box office, providing entry into the theater. An office doorway pierces the recessed space on the west side of the building; this is a twelve-paned, single wooden door. A concession stand doorway pierces the recessed space on the east side of the building; this is a twelve-paned, single wooden door. Four wooden, glass, and aluminum upcoming feature display windows are riveted to each of the pilasters.

The original red and white neon marquee provides a visual division between the box office level and the second level. The marquee has three rectangular faces, each face is surmounted by a curved parapet and is terminated by a cylindrical neon tube. The center panel is delineated by a center panel with six vertical stripes.

The second level of the theater is delineated by three wide, projecting concrete panels separated by two brick panels. The concrete panels are channelled to simulate pilasters; this technique provides attentuation to the design. The two exterior panels are double channelled with a center shaft. The center panel has a single center channel.

XX See continuation sheet

The center panel is fenestrated with a colored glass, twelve-paned, rectangular window. A marble sill underscores the center window. A triangulated marble shaft rises from the center of this window, terminating in a tri-stepped, pyramidal, marble antefix surmounting the marble coping which concludes the panel's channelled recession.

Each of the brick panels are fenestrated with a twenty-four paned colored glass window underscored with a marble sill. An exaggerated, tri-stepped, pyramidal marble lintel surmounts each window. A triangulated marble shaft rises from the center of each window, terminating in a point above the marble coping which surmounts each brick panel.

The east, west, and south walls of the theater are exposed brick. The lower southwest corner of the west wall exhibits a continuing deterioration of the courses, caused by the demolition of an adjacent building in the 1980s. Egress is provided by three doors which pierce the building's southern elevation at the floor and stage levels.

The November 19, 1936 edition of the Anthony Republican and the Anthony Bulletin provided this interior description of the theater: "Patrons will enter the building through two large doors on each side of the ticket office, which is in the center. A room to the west of the lobby will be utilized as the office, while on to the east will house a popcorn concession. The lobby has a tiled floor, and from it one will enter the large foyer, carpeted, with indirect neon lighting, and simply but tastefully furnished, with settees, mirrors, and other ornaments. From this large room, of oval shape, recessed openings on either side lead down a short flight of steps to the rest rooms."

"Through a center ramp, one enters the large and commodious auditorium. This if of stadium construction, with a total seating capacity of approximately 600- 380 seats on the main floor, and 220 in the stadium. Both walls and ceilings are so constructed and treated as to secure the best acoustical effects. The walls are decorated with colored plaster moulding. The ceiling, with multiple panels, is decorated with hand-painted fresco designs. Plenty of color is used, and yet the whole effect is one of utmost harmony. There are large ornamental grills on either side of the stage, over the two rear exits. The stage itself is unusually large, with a 22-foot opening, and a 20-foot depth. Indirect neon lighting is used in the auditorium. The projection room, at the rear of and reached from the stadium, is of over-size dimensions. It is absolutely sound and fire proof; has automatic shutters and every approved safety device."

The interior retains its original floorplan, decorative acoustic tile, seats, and neon lights. Some damage to the acoustic ceiling tiles occurred when a leak developed on the roof. The problem has been rectified but the stains on the acoustic tiles remain.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1936

Significant Dates
1936

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Voigt, S.S. (Architect)
Fisher, A.N. (Contractor)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Anthony Theater (c. 1936) is located at 220 W. Main in Anthony, Harper County, Kansas (pop. 2,661). The theater is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance as an Art Deco style movie theater.

Built during the final years of movie palace construction, the Anthony Theater is Anthony's only extant movie theater from this era. Its decorative Art Deco exterior and opulent interior treatments are hallmarks of the movie palaces that were built across America in the 1920s and 1930s. These buildings were designed to be showplaces, with sumptuous appointments, inviting the rich and poor alike to share the lavish surroundings and escape into celluloid fantasies.

The Anthony Theater draws its distinction as an Art Deco building from its setbacks, stepped treatments, and projections, which emphasize the building's geometric form. The elaborate painted geometric decoration on the acoustic tiles, the period neon light fixtures, and the period aluminum grilles provide additional decorative justification for the Art Deco classification. The Anthony Theater stands as a fairly typical mid-western interpretation of the Art Deco style, looking more toward applied ornament as style defining rather than toward a stronger integration of style defining structural units, although the channelled facade panels do reflect an aspect of style defining structural integration.

☒ See continuation sheet

The Anthony Theater was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Barron and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd E. Droz. The Barrons owned and operated theaters for 30 years in Wichita, Ponca City, Augusta, Eureka, Medicine Lodge, Kiowa and Pratt. The Drozes got into the theater business in 1934 when they purchased the Novelty Theater in Anthony.

The building was designed by S. S. Voigt of Wichita. A. N. Fisher of Wichita was the building's contractor. The National Theater Supply Company of Wichita supplied the booth equipment and the carpets. Dodson Manufacturing Company of Wichita supplied the stucco, colored plaster, acoustic plaster and colored floors. Great Western Stage Equipment Company of Wichita supplied the drapes and curtains. Wichita Millwork Company supplied the woodwork, doors, and trim.

The Anthony Theater opened on November 23, 1936. "Love on the Run," starring Joan Crawford, Clark Gable, and Franchot Tone was selected for the premier showing at the theater's grand opening. Admission was $.25 for the matinee and $.30 for the night, children's admission was $.10. Shown as a pre-release feature, "Love on the Run" was "...hailed by photoplay critics as 'one of the outstanding laugh hits of the year...'"

The November 19, 1936 edition of the Anthony Republican and the Anthony Bulletin provided a detailed description of the theater:

"The exterior of the building is of modernistic design, with a touch of the Gothic secured through the use of tall white pilasters. Buff brick is used, with colored stone trim, and the marquee is elaborate and beautiful, with intricate neon lights furnishing a flood of illumination."

"Patrons will enter the building through two large doors on each side of the ticket office, which is in the center. A room to the west of the lobby will be utilized as the office, while on to the east will house a popcorn concession. The lobby has a tiled floor, and from it one will enter the large foyer, carpeted, with indirect neon lighting, and simply but tastefully furnished, with settees, mirrors, and other ornaments. From this large room, of oval shape, recessed openings on either side lead down a short flight of steps to the rest rooms."

"Through a center ramp, one enters the large and commodious auditorium. This if of stadium construction, with a total seating capacity of approximately 600-380 seats on the main floor, and 220 in the stadium. Both walls and ceilings are so constructed and treated as to secure the best acoustical effects. The walls are decorated with colored plaster moulding. The ceiling, with multiple panels, is decorated with hand-painted fresco designs. Plenty of color is used, and yet the whole effect is one of utmost harmony. There are large ornamental grills on either side of the stage, over the two rear exits. The stage itself

is unusually large, with a 22-foot opening, and a 20-foot depth. Indirect neon lighting is used in the auditorium. The projection room, at the rear of and reached from the stadium, is of over-size dimensions. It is absolutely sound and fire proof; has automatic shutters and every approved safety device."

"All of the furniture and furnishings, and the equipment, is of the lastest type. Chairs are deep and comfortable...."

"The sets are heavily upholstered in beautiful "Mandarian red" with multispring construction which gives the effect of air-cushioning. The backs are curved to conform to the shape of one's shoulders; and these, among many other features, will mean that Anthony theater patrons can enjoy the longest programs without becoming tired or restless...."

"The floors has ample "drop," and the stage is high enough so that every one may obtain an unobstructed view of the screen. One of the notable improvements will be the clear, flickerless, and sharply-defined pictures which will be projected on the screen through the installation of Super-Simplex projectors, and the improved Peerless lamps which are operated by a specially built-motor generator set, providing a brilliantly-lighted screen, and avoiding the least eye strain. The Mirrophonic sound equipment....is identical to that recently installed in the new Will Rogers theater in Chicago, and the Newman Theater, in Kansas City."

"'Every sound effect,' says a nationally circulated photoplay magazine, 'from the rustle of leaves to the booming crecendoes of an earthquake or a battle scene, is reproduced by Mirrophonic exactly as it was enacted before the cameras in original scenes.'"
The theater was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ash in 1970 from Hazel Droz and H. A. Swim. The Ashes leased the theaters in Medicine Lodge from 1961 until 1968.

The theater retains a very high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity and continues to be used actively as a movie theater. It is Anthony's one downtown theater, there is a drive-in called the Star-Vue on the highway that the Ashes also operate.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anthony Times; November 19, 1936; November 23, 193 May 25, 1950.

Naylor, David. American Picture Palaces - The Architecture of Fantasy. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1981.

Pildas, Ave. Movie Palaces. New York: Clarkan Potter, 1980.

Wichita Beacon; November 22, 1936.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: Kansas State Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	586020	4112010
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lot 11 and W 10' of Lot 10, E 5', and Lot 12, in Block 48 on W. Main Street in Anthony, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by Main Street, and to the south, east and west by adjacent property lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all extant property historically associated with the theater.

☐ See continuation sheet

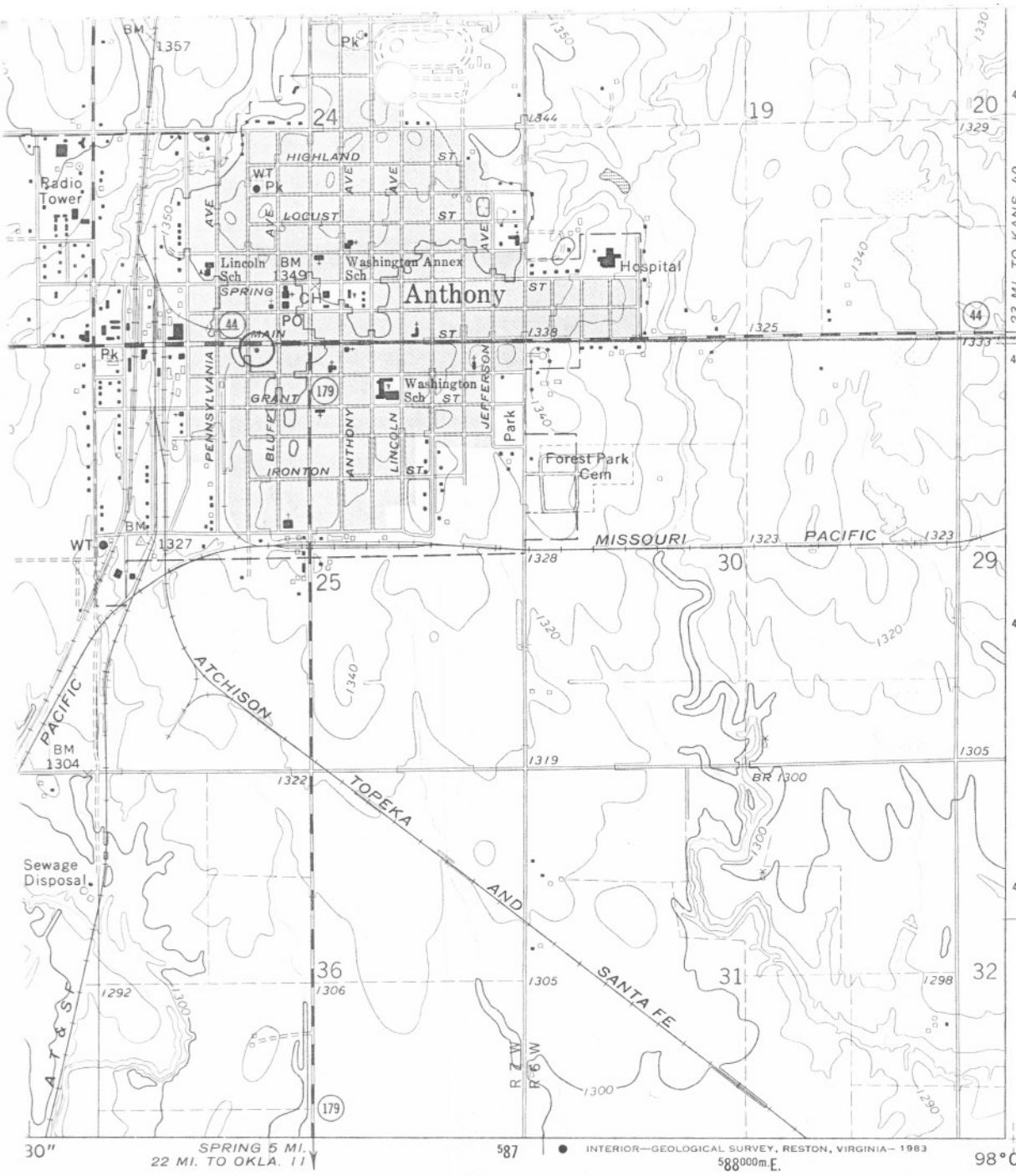
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date January 9, 1991

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612



Anthony Theater
Anthony, KS.
Anthony Quad
UTM COORDINATES
14 586020
4112010

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface

Secondary highway, hard surface

Unimproved road

Interstate Route

U. S. Route

State Route

(BLUFF CITY WEST) 6458 III SW

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ANTHONY, KANS.

N3707.5—W9800/7.5

1972
PHOTOREVISED 1983
DMA 6358 II NE—SERIES V878