(Rev.

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
Harper County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
200 North Jennings — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Anthony — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
No. 5 Joe Skubitz

STATE
Kansas CODE 20

COUNTY
Harper CODE 077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__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	X GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Harper County

STREET & NUMBER
Harper County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Anthony — VICINITY OF

STATE
Kansas 67003

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Harper County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Anthony

STATE
Kansas 67003

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Survey

DATE
1970 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Topeka

STATE
Kansas 66612

077-0180-001

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
X_GOOD	__RUINS	X_ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harper County Courthouse faces west on North Jennings avenue in Anthony. It is a three story rectangular brick structure with full basement, four polygonal tower pavilions at the corners, and a square clock tower rising from the center of the hipped roof. The building measures 100 feet by 70 feet and the central tower is 100 feet tall.

There are entrances on three sides. On the west and east stone porches at the first story level shelter the major entrances to the courthouse. These porches are reached by stairways, behind which are located secondary, basement entrances just below grade level. On the south there is a small porticoed entrance four steps above grade level.

The stone basement is punctuated at regular intervals by rectangular one-over-one windows and rests on a foundation of reinforced concrete. Above the basement, the exterior walls are laid up in "shade No. 11" Coffeyville dry pressed face brick with red mortar and close joints. The stonework of the building (basement and trim) consists of limestone obtained from Cowley county. Red tiling sheathes the roof, and pressed metal ornament adorns the porches.

Each facade of the courthouse is symmetrically arranged around a central axis established by a pedimented roof gable. The east and west facades are virtually identical, the only difference being a subtle variation in window treatment. Each of these facades has polygonal corner tower pavilions that frame the central pedimented bay. These central bays each have a straight roofed stone porch decorated with pressed metal entablature, piers with banded rustication, and balustrade with stones laid in an open checkerboard pattern. The staircases which lead to the porches from ground level have unusual perforated side copings.

Above the porches of the west and east facades are four sets of windows spanning the second and third stories. Throughout the building, the windows of the third and second stories read as a single arched unit. The individual units are linked together horizontally into a series of running arches by a rockfaced band course that runs into each of the arch heads. The uppermost and lowermost windows of the individual arched units vary in size depending on interior arrangements. On the east side, all four arched units illuminate the court room, with the upper window in each unit being shorter and glazed with stained glass decorations and the lower being a long straight-headed one-over-one window. On the west side, where the windows illuminate a stairwell, the two central window units have a larger upper and a smaller lower window, while the two outer window units have a smaller upper and a larger lower window.

Above the arched window units of the east and west facades are the pedimented roof gables. These have dentiled raking cornice moldings and centrally placed elliptical lunettes with spider-web tracery and rock-faced stone surrounds. A modillioned cornice terminates the walls on these two facades and throughout the building.

The south and north facades are the long sides of the building and, like the east and west facades, share many similarities. Once again, the pedimented gable functions as the central axis in these two facades, though this time the gable crowns a slightly projecting pavilion which is then flanked first by sections of flat wall and then by the polygonal corner tower pavilions. The pediments on these two facades contain triple arched openings with rock-faced voussoirs.

No. 7

The south facade has a small classically detailed porticoed entrance four steps above grade level. This element consists of a pedimented gable roof supported by piers with rusticated band. The pediment of the portico contains a polychromed American eagle. The fenestration of this facade consists of the previously described running arch units of the second and third stories but aligned with the straight-headed windows of the first story below. These first story windows have rockfaced lintels. The two lower windows of the two middle arched units of the center pavilion are placed at the mid-story level to illuminate an interior stairway landing. The flat wall bays that flank the projecting center pavilion contain two arched units each.

The north facade differs from the south facade in that it has no entrance and a different fenestration. The central projecting pavilion contains three pairs of doubled running arched units and the flanking flat wall sections contain only one arched unit each. A fire escape extends from the top west window of the central pavilion eastward and downward along the wall to the ground.

The roofs of the four corner tower pavilions are sheathed in red tile and capped with finials. Rising from the main roof of the courthouse is the square clock tower, which in turn is capped by a tiled hipped roof and surmounted by a sculpture of Justice. The design of the clock tower echoes the design of the main walls of the courthouse in that each face is gabled (though not pedimented) and there are small turrets at each of the corners. Moving upward from the base, each face of the tower is adorned with a band of dentil-like elements, a set of three rectangular windows, the circular face of a clock, and just beneath the flank gable, a triadic arrangement of arched openings with rock-faced voussoirs.

A chimney located to the northwest also rises from the roof.

The original plans and specifications for the courthouse still exist and although the elevation drawing shows a somewhat different configuration for the north/south facade and for the shape of the corner tower pavilions, they can aid in determining the nature of original treatments where alterations have taken place. On the exterior, the alterations have been few, the primary ones being removal of balustrades from the tops of the east and west porches, the closing of the doors that gave access to these open rooftop porch areas, the addition of the fire escape on the north, the addition of new downspouts, the replacement of the original doors and door casings with glass and metal elements, and the loss of Justice's scales and sword.

The interior of the Harper County Courthouse also retains many original features and finishes. The courtroom has decorative plasterwork and stenciling on the ceiling, stained glass arched windows that surmount plain rectangular one-over-one windows, and other original finishes. Throughout the courthouse are the original white tile wainscoting, iron ornament and tiled flooring.

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
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907-1908 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George P. Washburn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harper County Courthouse is worthy of preservation because of its association with the history of Harper County at large and of the county seat, Anthony, in particular, because it embodies the distinctive cultural and design values and conditions of its place and time, and because it is a well-preserved example of the work of George P. Washburn, a noted Kansas architect.

On May 21, 1907, Harper county voters approved construction of a new courthouse in Anthony, the county seat. The architectural firm selected to design the new building was George P. Washburn and Son of Ottawa. Plans and specifications were approved by the county commissioners July 25, 1907, and the building contract was let August 30, 1907, to the firm of Matheim and Walters of St. Joseph, Missouri. Other contracts included those for heating and plumbing to Reynolds and Jones of Kingman, wood furniture to J.Q. McAfee, opera chairs to Livingstone Furniture Company, electric wiring to L.L. Livingston and steel furniture for the vaults to Art Metal Construction Company. The cornerstone was laid in February of 1908 after a reinforced concrete foundation had been prepared. The courthouse was dedicated in November, 1908.

The new courthouse symbolized Harper county's growth and prosperity. As the building neared completion, one reporter happily observed that in the early years of the new century, "Harper County now has as good a courthouse as any county in Kansas," implying that the county itself was comparable to any other Kansas county as well. Certainly, the previous courthouse, a plain two story brick structure, had been small and unassuming in appearance; by the first years of the new century its condition was deteriorated. The much larger and more impressive new courthouse, constructed in a period of good wheat crops was then very much "The Pride of Harper County."

The construction of the new courthouse also signalled the end of an era in county history. This is indicated by a 1907 Anthony Bulletin heading which greeted the courthouse construction as, "The Ending of a Long County Seat Fight." The location of the county seat had been disputed from the time of county organization in 1873 until 1907 when a countywide vote resulted in approval of funds for the new courthouse. The Bulletin presumably believed that once county funds were committed to the project, county taxpayers would not readily transfer allegiances to other proposed locations for fear of repeated demands for construction funds out of the county treasury, and thus that the county seat question was finally settled.

No. 8

The primary reason a community would desire to be the county seat was economic. The seat of county business was expected to receive considerable commercial patronage from county residents who would prudently attend to courthouse business and shopping at the same time, to benefit from employment opportunities offered by the county government, and to profit from providing support services to county employees and others associated with the courts.

Accordingly, it was predicted that "when the new courthouse is finished there will be more business on Jennings avenue. Harry Baker thought about this first and will build a cement office building where the frame now stands that he used before moving to the basement of the county building." It was also observed that, "The settlement of the county seat matter by the vote on the courthouse has fixed values for real estate in Anthony and stimulated people to buy and build...." By September, 1908, it could be reported that the population of Anthony had increased by 328 during the previous year, so that the town population was then an impressive 2,538. The new courthouse thus figured prominently in the history of Anthony's development.

As the plans were developed, certain specific values and conditions began to shape the design of the new building. Frugality and practicality were dominating concerns. The board of commissioners felt the most pressing need to be keeping the budget for the project below $60,000. They assured the county's citizens that the board intended "to forego some aesthetic and structural considerations in order to keep the cost of the building below $60,000." But although some frills were eliminated, the quality of what was to be provided was closely monitored to insure that the county got its money's worth. In this respect, the matter that prompted the greatest worry was the foundation. Debate centered on the depth and stability of the foundation, especially the portion beneath the tower. Though the architect gave assurances that the foundation would provide sufficient support, the footings were made deeper and thicker--the citizens of the county meant to insure that they would get a "safe and sensible building."

But if the new courthouse was to be practical and sturdy and contain all the latest mechanical systems, including toilets and lighting, it was also intended that it should "adorn the local seat of government." All who witnessed the cornerstone ceremonies, reported the Bulletin, appreciated that "on this foundation there should rise a building which would be an ornament to the city and a beautiful and useful temple for the use of the people of the whole county." The board of commissioners had traveled about the state to gather ideas from recently completed courthouses, and to contemporary eyes the style of architecture they selected, one that utilized simplified romanesque revival forms, gave "the effect of solidity so much desired in public buildings." Decorative plastering

No. 8

in the courtroom, tiled wainscoting and floors, cast-iron grillwork and other decorative finishes, including the much-admired tower clock and the sculpture of Justice, satisfied the public's sense of aesthetic suitability.

When the courthouse was finally completed, the county commissioners were unreservedly commended because "In this completed building with its wide corridors, its well appointed offices, its strikingly beautiful court room, its plant for heating its water supply, its lights and modern conveniences, its solid foundations and walls, its stately tower, its steps and porticos we have the result of the work of men who have exhibited the highest degree of judgment coupled with a knowledge and love for the artistic." The courthouse seemed a successful marriage of practicality and beauty.

* * *

No. 9

Anthony Bulletin, June 1, 1906--November 13, 1908.

Anthony Republican and Bulletin, May 19, 1938 (60th Anniversary Edition).

"County Building Damaged," Wichita Eagle, December 27, 1938.

Historical Atlas of Harper County, Kansas (Chicago, Davy Map and Atlas Co., 1886), pp.79,80.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A.T. Andreas, 1883), p. 364.

"New Courthouse Erected in 1908," Anthony Republican, May 30, 1948.

Sanders, Gwendoline and Paul Sanders, The Harper County Story (North Newton, Kansas, Mennonite Press, 1968).

Washburn, George P., Plans and Specifications for the Harper County Courthouse, filed at Harper County Courthouse.

Preliminary nomination form submitted by the Anthony Area Historical Society.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	14	586212	4118186	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination includes the courthouse square, which is bounded by Jennings, Spring, Anthony and Steadman streets. The nomination does not include the modern jail and law enforcement center located on the square southeast of the courthouse.

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 Julie A. Wortman, Architectural Historian
Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Preservation Department

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society — DATE

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th — 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 Joseph W. Snell

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE August 7, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

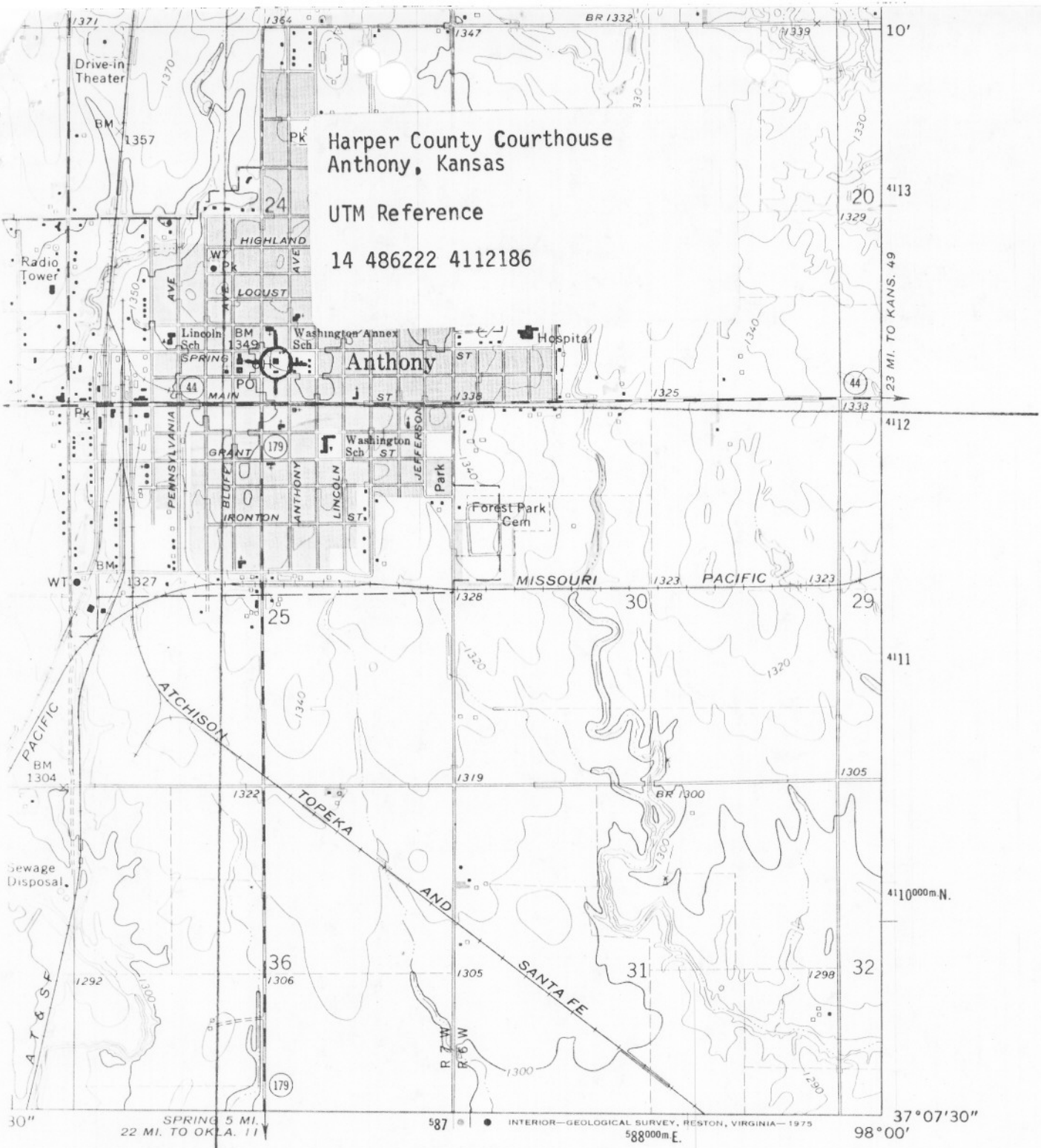
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1975

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

KANSAS

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ANTHONY, KANS.

N3707.5—W9800/7.5

1972

AMS 6358 II NE—SERIES V878