NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name HODGEMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

other names/site number 083-2760-0004

2. Location

street & number 500 MAIN STREET ☐ not for publication

city or town JETMORE ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county HODGEMAN code 083 zip code 67854

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally, ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz, DSHPO 12-14-01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ 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:)

HODGEMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Name of Property

HODGEMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSES OF KANSAS MPS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: COURTHOUSE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: COURTHOUSE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: GRANITE
walls BRICK
roof TERRACOTTA; SYNTHETICS: RUBBER
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

HODGEMAN COUNTY COURTHOUS
Name of Property

HODGEMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

ROUTLEDGE AND HERTZ, ARCHITECTS & BUILDERS
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [x] Other

Name of repository:
HODGEMAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JETMORE, KANSAS

HODGEMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Name of Property

HODGEMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.06 ACRES

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	421730	4215320
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ALISON GUTHERIE

organization _____ date JUNE 2001

street & number P.O. BOX 128 telephone _____

city or town JETMORE state KS zip code 67854

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

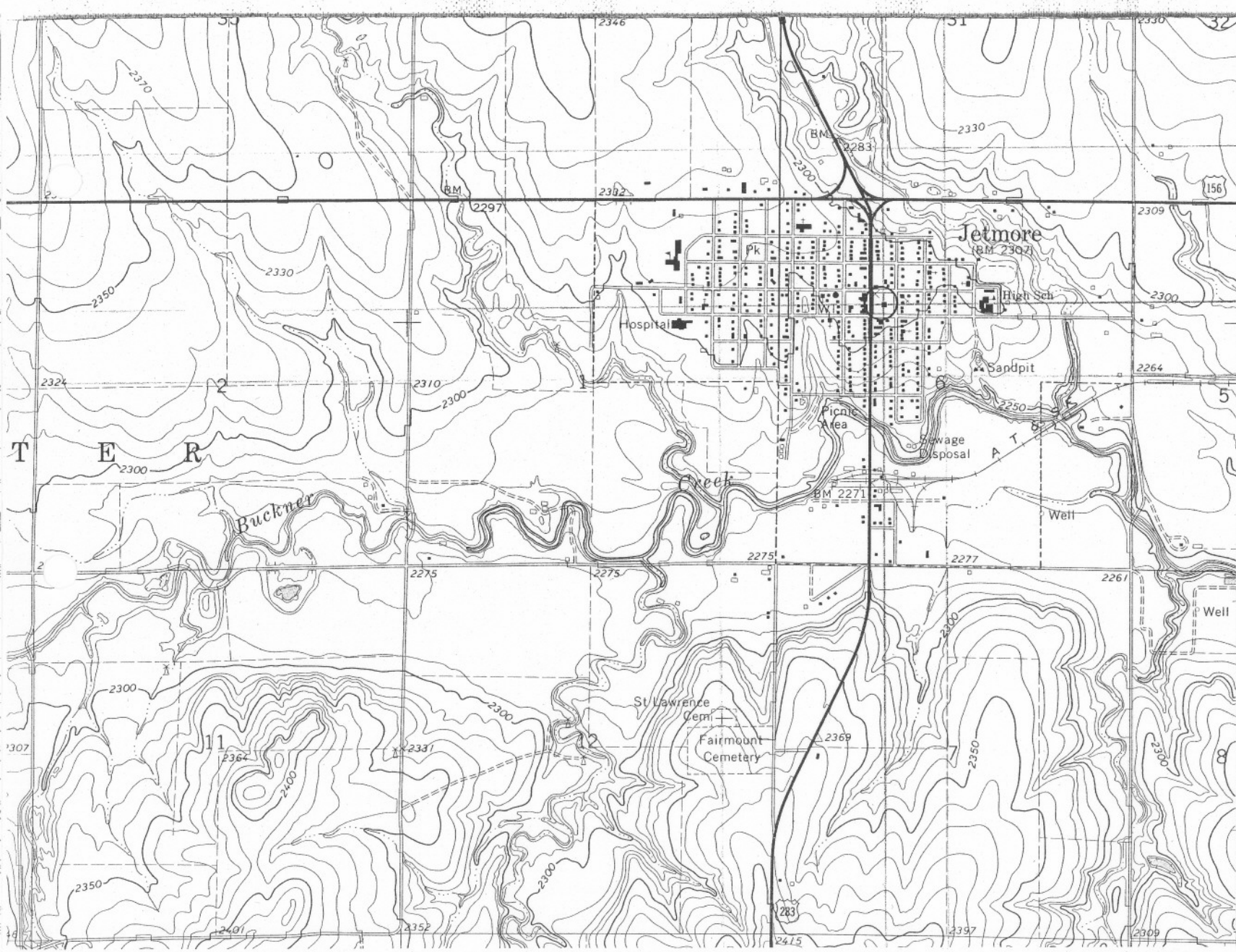
name HODGEMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

street & number HODGEMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE 500 MAIN ST telephone _____

city or town JETMORE state KS zip code 67854

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



HODGEMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JETMORE QUAD
UTM Coordinates
14 421730
4215320

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Hodgeman County Courthouse (c. 1929) is a three and one half story rectangular building constructed of fine gray brick and cut gray Carthage granite with white stone trimmings. Influenced by the Second Renaissance Revival style, the building represents an eclectic interpretation of that style. The courthouse faces the west on Main Street, measuring 80 feet from north to south and 68 feet from east to west. The structure rises 43.5 feet above grade to the roof line plus additional estimated two to three feet to the top of the parapet and roof tiles. The garden level basement is estimated to be two feet below grade. The courthouse stands in the center of Block Three of the Original Townsite of Jetmore on a 2.06 acre public square. The structure replaced the previous limestone courthouse built at the same location in 1886.

The uppermost feature of the facade is a decorative coping or top of the parapet of green terra cotta roof tiles above a modest cornice that is underscored by a belt of green terra cotta diamond-shaped tiles. Header and stretcher courses are placed above with a soldier course below the terra cotta trim. Beneath the windows of the top story is a wider dentiled cornice, typical of the Italianate style, that balances the rusticated granite blocks that complete the base of the building. The focal point of the base is the entrance, consisting of three arcades with steel doors that are painted a complementary shade of green similar to the terra cotta tiles, as are all the casement windows. The fenestration of the windows is consistent on all levels except in the facade where the central windows are elongated.

The second story windows all have granite lintels and the third story windows all have granite sills. Above the entrance stand six pilasters. On a granite plane above them are bronze letters spelling the words "HODGEMAN COUNTY." Beside each outermost pilaster is a sculptured decoration in relief. Three granite panels are located above the entrance doors. The main entrance, on the west side of the building is enhanced by a raised granite porch, flanked by a stone balustrade on both the north and the south ends. An access ramp for the handicapped was added in 1980's. Four metal light fixtures, placed beside the entrance, provide illumination.

The ground level entrance presents, to the left, a staircase leading to the second floor and to the right, a lower garden level basement accommodating offices, a meeting room, restrooms, and a furnace room with natural light from the above-grade windows. Seven newel posts with bronze caps accent the granite stairways. The original plastered walls were painted with a faux finish in browns and golds. The walls of all the levels except level four and the walls beside the stairways to the upper stories have wainscoting of smooth-faced random-coursed ashlar finish stone, specified in the building plans as Carry Zenetherm Wainscot. The marble treads and risers of the stairways to the various floors have metal balustrades with oak detailed railing.

The windows of the facade have a classic metal grillwork specified to be Browne Windows that gives a sense of openness to the lobbies which have offices on the north, east, and south sides. The staircase to the third floor

leads past the elongated windows of the western facade to the law enforcement area. The sheriff's office is on the north, the judge's chambers occupy most of the eastern wall and the legal offices are on the south.

All three levels of the building have smooth terrazzo floors with the exception of the court room and garden level meeting room which had a synthetic floor tile. The gray marble stairway steps contrast with the darker textured wainscoting walls of the three lobbies. The offices and lobbies now have plastered ceilings and walls painted wheat straw ivory, with a walnut stained oak picture molding trim. Lobby lighting is provided by opaque glass and brass fixtures hung from the ceiling with applied Grecian design globes. Natural light comes in from the nearly full-length windows in the offices.

All three floors have slab oak doors and frames with milled details that give added interest Transoms throughout give added ventilation. The ceiling height is 9.5 feet on the ground floor, 10.5 feet on the second floor and 9 feet on the third floor. Plaster consoles decorate the ceiling under the stair on the ground level and second floor.

The courtroom is the largest and most elaborate room in the building. The plastered walls have a stippled finish with a decorative frieze around the entire room. Ornamental plaster columns are spaced around the exterior of the room. The doors have a decorative panel at the top which has been finished out giving them a total height of nine feet. The ceiling is 18.5 high and covered with acoustical tile. The floor has synthetic black and white tiles, which have been covered over with carpet. The judge's bench, the jury box, and the bar are made of oak and finished in medium brown, as are the chairs for the jury and the long benches for the gallery. Decorative chandeliers hang from the ceiling and two lamps balance the bench.

The top floor was originally designed to house the living quarters for the county sheriff and to serve as the jail. Many years ago, the sheriff ceased to live in the apartment but the area was a good location for the dispatcher's office which was recently moved there from the third floor. The plastered walls were painted white with 9 foot ceilings. The ceilings in the jail area are somewhat lower to accommodate a crawl space. The cement floors had linoleum on them. A spartan, business-like appearance has been maintained throughout its history. Two rooms on the south end of this floor are used for storage. The public is not allowed in this part of the courthouse.

The back or east side of the building has no indentation and the windows are level. The gray brick chimney is near the northeast corner. On the second story, a window space on the southeast corner was bricked in as specified by the architect to create a vault for the adjoining office. One door on the east side gives ground level access to the boiler room. The basement consists of the boiler room and a storage area. It has one entrance off the ground floor lobby and one service entrance at the back of the building. The original roof consisted of four layers of plastic elastigram, flashing strips of tarred felt, gravel and slag and finished with sheet mineral surfaced roofing. The building has one recessed entrance on the south side, at the ground level. There is an indented stone pediment in the arch above the curved door.

Hodgeman County Courthouse Square is centrally located in the Original Townsite of Jetmore on Block Three. The structure sits in the center of the 300 x 300 foot square block as the most prominent building of the town. The level terrain is landscaped with trees, a few shrubs and native buffalo grass. Several original trees remain with new ones planted in 1998. Park benches and night illumination of the entire front of the building were added since then. Three wide sidewalks lead from the north, south and west streets to the main and south entrances of the

courthouse. A memorial marque on the northwest corner and a flag pole at the main entrance are the only distractions from the commanding view of the structure.

The courthouse is structurally sound and in relatively good condition. The quality of the original construction is evident in the solidness of the outside walls. Little settling or movement can be determined. Some minor cracks are apparent on the interior. An elevator and lift were added in 1990, but were completed creating as little distraction of the original as possible. A small ramp was added at the front outside steps. The roof has been repaired and terra cotta tiles have been replaced as needed. The windows are no longer as tight and draft free as desired.

8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hodgeman County Courthouse (c. 1929) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Kansas County Courthouse Multiple Property Submission under criterion A for its historical association with the growth and development of Hodgeman County and under criterion C for its architectural significance as an eclectic example of the Second Renaissance Revival style.

The courthouse was designed at a time when several different types of classically inspired styles were being used. Among them are the Beaux Arts, Neo-Classical Revival and the Second Renaissance Revival. The 1920s was a time of eclecticism in this country and that trend influenced the design for the Hodgeman County Courthouse. While not a pure, high style example of the Second Renaissance Revival, the building demonstrates many of the general stylistic characteristics. The building derives its eclecticism through the use of brick for its main body, the slightly exaggerated scale of the entablature, the green tile frieze that runs across the top floor and the green tile roof, which mimics the balustrade in an academically interpreted rendition of the Second Renaissance Revival.

The three and half story brick and granite building is organized into distinct horizontal divisions that are delineated by different window articulation on each floor. The building stands on a partially arcaded, rusticated ground level. Above that, Doric pilasters define the center bay and terminate in an exaggerated granite entablature. These classical features along with the massing and materials used for the building are simplified, resulting in a streamlined interpretation of the Second Renaissance Revival.

The construction was funded with local tax dollars. The original courthouse was a small wooden structure used for a short time. It was replaced by a locally quarried limestone structure built in 1886 at the present location. The erection of the present structure was a testament of the times, reflecting a positive optimistic attitude of local residents. The contrast of the simple elegant style of the cut gray Carthage granite and fine gray brick with white stone trimmings and green terra cotta roof courthouse and the surrounding one story wooden buildings, two story locally quarried limestone block buildings of the 1880s and the emerging 1920s red brick facade of main street businesses was dramatic and represented forward thinking. Traces of the pioneer frontier were gradually being replaced by a more cosmopolitan look and business atmosphere.

The economic climate of Hodgeman County was affirmative and hopeful in the years preceding the building of the 1929 Courthouse. The Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture shows in 1926 that the assessed valuation was 12 times greater in 1924 than in 1900; acreage of crops had tripled to 214,000 acres and the value of farm products increased from $376,000 to $2,300,000 in value and livestock from $521,000 to $1,160,000. Over 300,000 acres were put into oil leases. A red brick Masonic Temple was built along with brick Main Street buildings. School improvements and additions were being developed to meet the educational needs. Jetmore built a power plant and let contracts for a municipal sewer system. In 1927 Main Street was paved with brick using bonds. County population from 1900 to 1925 had increased from 2,019 to 3,611 and continued to increase into the depression for a high of 4,382 in 1933. Beginning in 1934 a gradual decline followed as people left the area for places free of dust storms.

Hodgeman County came into temporary existence in 1868, through an act of the legislature, but the organization was not complete until 1879, according to early day historians, E. W. Harlan, L.W. Hubbell,

C.E.Roughton and Elfrieda Kenyon. The name was derived from Amos Hodgeman, Captain of Company H, 7th Kansas Cavalry and noted buffalo hunter. Petitions were circulated collecting the required number of signatures. In March of 1879, Governor John Pierce St. John proclaimed Hodgeman Center, located 2 ½ miles east of the present town of Jetmore, as the temporary county seat and named the first county officers. The people of Hodgeman Center constructed the first frame building to be used as a courthouse. In late 1879 a group from Buckner went to Hodgeman Center, gathered up the county records and brought them to the stone Haun house in Buckner (The Jetmore Republican,10/4/29, 5/4/25) As noted in the Hodgeman County Commission Journal A 1879-1889, p 29, the Kansas Supreme Court declared Buckner the county seat on January 31, 1880. The name was later changed to Jetmore which was the geographical center. As noted (Journal A p 29), the one and half story, 12 x 24 foot frame building called the Buck House, located on the NE corner of Section 1- Township 23-Range 24 in Jetmore was leased for use as a county courthouse from Elizabeth Haun beginning on Feb. 2, 1880. By Jan. 1881 the courthouse offices had been moved back to the stone Haun house on Main Street and a lease taken on the upstairs rooms.

In the spring of 1882 the frame courthouse building originally built by the people of Hodgeman Center, was purchased by the county commission. It was moved by 13 yoke of oxen to the NW corner of Block 3 of the Original Townsite of Jetmore, to land which has been given by T.S. and Elizabeth Haun according to historian Harlan and page 74-75 Journal A entries. A petition and motion to issue bonds for $20,000 to build a courthouse and jail were initiated. The special election failed 510 to 495 as shown on p 200 of Journal A. A second election was held for $10,000 and passed 576 to 527 on March 30, 1886. Bonds were issued and a Topeka architect and general contractor were hired. The original frame courthouse was sold at public auction with the completion of the Stone Courthouse and moved a block west where it was variously used for many years.

According to *Early Day Recollections of the (Stone) Courthouse* by a former resident of the 1890s, she wrote "that everything was measured from the courthouse square. . .the courthouse was considered a safe shelter in time of storm or in case a prairie fire burned the rest of town; it contained the assembly hall for court trials, political conventions, and also for religious meeting, entertainments, spelling schools, Christmas trees and patriotic occasions"(The Jetmore Republican, 2/15/29). With the completion of the Stone Courthouse, the county was in a "booming" period and at a peak in 1887. Prosperity was soon followed by a depression when drought and heat caused crop failure. The depression was keenly felt and people had a hard existence. Many who had failed joined the procession eastward; one had a sign which said " In God we trusted in Kansas we busted." Finally in 1900 a change for the better took place as related by historian Hubbell.

The Stone Courthouse served the county for 43 years until it was razed in 1929 to make way for the new courthouse. As written by historian Hubbell in *The Passing of the Old Court House*, "Hodgeman possessed one of finest looking public buildings in Western Kansas. . .walls made of stone that was quarried upon the hill side overlooking the City of Jetmore.... beautiful archways, east and west, welcomed the public....cupola with stateliness and grandeur....looked.....over the broad expansive prairies beyond and expressed in silent terms its gratitude to a grateful and generous people. Thousands have crossed its thresholds: it has served almost every purpose." (The Jetmore Republican, 3/22/29)

In May 1928 petitions were circulated to build a new courthouse and jail for $125,000, in accordance with

the provisions of Chapter 139, Laws of Kansas, 1917 (R.S. 19-1506 et Seq). As shown in Journal F (pp. 81, 82, 84 & 85) the county commission began to work and plan. On May 26 a resolution was adopted. They accepted the proposal of W.G. Haun of Wichita to purchase the warrants at 4 1/2% annually in $1,000 increments and proceeded to make the necessary levy. Agreement was reached with the firm of Routledge and Hertz, Architects and Builders, Hutchinson. By August the commissioners, N.P. Rasmussen, Lee Jackson, and C.W. Lyman had visited courthouses in Lane, Scott, Finney, Gray Counties and others and approved plans and specifications for the Hodgeman County Courthouse. The building was to have steel frame windows and casings using the Browne Patent. The court room was to be covered in battleship linoleum to deaden sound. Vacuum steam heat was to be installed. Once the site was clear, the time to build was estimated to be eight months. Payment of the architect's bill was delayed for almost six months, but by Jan. 7, 1929 contracts had been made with Wm B. Seller, St. Francis for $83,900 - construction; D.G. Zimmerman & Sons, Hays for $9,969 - heating and plumbing; and Frank C. Sutton, Lincoln, NE, $3,090 - electrical (p. 115). The bid of $500 for removing the old building was given to W.D. Sinclair. The stone arches of the east and west entrances were given to be used at the cemetery for entrances.

Since the new courthouse was to be built at the same building site, county offices needed temporary locations. Some were relocated to the basement of the Masonic Temple, the United Methodist Church, the upstairs rooms of the Haun house and Citizens State Bank. Kenyon relates that sheriff's sale notices. . .stated that sales would be held at "the north door of the Methodist church in the City of Jetmore." (The Jetmore Republican, 4/25/29)

On March 11, 1929, a resolution providing for the erection, equipment and furnishing of a courthouse and jail and the issuance of warrants for the purpose of providing funds was passed (Journal F pp 131& 132).Building materials begin to arrive in the community on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe rail line. The Wilson Dray Co. assisted with the hauling of the steel beams and rods and wire for concrete reinforcement. Proposals for furniture, court room fixtures, jail fixtures and interior decorating were opened and accepted on May 7, 1929 (Journal F p. 140). Each week the publisher and editor of The Jetmore Republican, Frank F. Bailey and his wife and Associate Editor, Lula E. Bailey gave an account of the building progress. On March 22, "contractor Stellar and a force of men are at work.....Mr. Stellar is a contractor of experience and standing and our county will undoubtedly get the worth of the money for the job." (The Jetmore Republican, 3/22/29) Then on March 29 it was recorded that "men and teams were excavating on site ditches for outer foundations, cavities for pillars, on the east part a basement for furnace and coal bins (fuel supply). Almost ready to run concrete." (The Jetmore Republican, 3/29/29) The community watched as the concrete frame of the building began to go up in a manner made possible through the use of steel beams, rods, wire and concrete. By June 28 the forth floor has been poured.

In the Record of Bonds, County Treasurer on page 203, bond # 1 was dated June 1, 1929 @ 4 ½ % in $1,000 increments and on page 241 bond # 119 was listed at same interest. Total bond indebtedness was paid off by July 1, 1939 (at $21.25 twice yearly). On June 3, 1929 A resolution concerning issuance of bonds to fund the new courthouse was passed. (Journal F p. 146) Changes were made to the electrical contract and for finishing and furnishing the jail. All out buildings including the jail tower were sold by auction on Dec. 3, 1929. Finishing the fourth floor and adding cement walks leading up to the courthouse were approved. Some of the original 1880s furniture was refinished and is used today. On January 24, some county officials started moving their records into

the new courthouse. By February 7, 1930 arrangements had been made to contract for painting and cleaning and waxing the floors (p. 182). Telephones were soon installed by the Jetmore Telephone Company.

The date of May 1st was set for the dedication. According to newspaper accounts nearly 5,000 people came and began arriving in mid-morning for the day long celebration and open house. A band concert by the Dodge City Band began the festivities. A free barbeque was served at the county building. Judge Roscoe H. Wilson presided at the dedication program. Bucklin Band provided the afternoon music. County Commissioners were introduced and gave short remarks. In the 51st year of the organization of the county, historian Kenyon relates that it was almost Pioneer Day, since the old timers were introduced and honored with red arm bands. Short speeches from five of those in attendance gave glorious testimonials of the hardships and rewards of being the early settlers. The Hon. John S. Dawson, Justice of the State Supreme Court, gave the address emphasizing that people must be dedicated to a respect for law.(The Jetmore Republican, 5/9/30) A historical pageant was presented by the county schools on the Jetmore High School Grounds.

With the new courthouse in place and the community full of pride for all the improvements that had been made, the county was headed for hard times. On April 22, 1933, (Journal F p 333) a petition was filed with the Kansas State Tax Commission to temporarily issue warrants to pay county operating expenses and care for the poor until January 1934. The prospects were for total crop failure. As the years went on, delinquent tax lists lengthened and the economy continued to worsen. An undated document in the form of a petition was circulated in the late 1930s collecting 276 signatures. The petition asked that all unnecessary expenses be cut, along with elimination of jobs and decreases of salaries. All unnecessary road work should crease. On the outside of one of the rolled petitions, it was written in red pencil "Tax Payers Kick." With the end of the 1930s, World War II brought many changes as young men went off to war and those that remained at home learned to conserve and make do through rationing. With the ending of the war many returned to complete the last years of the high school they had missed and to become a part of the community. Times and the rural economy had improved and it was good to be back home.

The Hodgeman County Courthouse has served the county well, meeting the needs of the community since 1929. Not only is it the most prominent building in town, it is the focal and central part of much activity over the years. Gatherings, reunions and community events are held on the courthouse lawn, as people gather to get reacquainted, make new friends and visit with one another. The courthouse is the hub, the very core of the community.

Bibliography

Blumenson, John. Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms. Nashville: AASLH, 1997.

Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression. New York: Harper-Collins, 1992.

McAllester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alford Knopf, Inc.

Hodgeman County Commissioners Journals. Journal A, 1879-1889 and Journal F, 1928-1934

Record of Bonds, County Clerk and County Treasurer

The Biennial Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture 1879-1940

Contracts for Court House Building, County Clerk File

County Clerk Vault, Drawer 51 Drawer 19

Index Book A-2

Numerical Index p.3

Deed Record Book A

Box 19 of 1st Stack Original hand written deeds dating 1879

The Jetmore Republican, Jetmore, Kansas. 2/4/27, 4/29/27, 7/1/27, 10/14/27, 5/18/28, 6/1/28, 6/8/28, 11/30/28, 12/7/28, 12/14/28, 1/29/29, 1/18/29, 2/8/29, 2/15/29, 3/8/29, 3/22/29, 3/29/29, 4/12/29, 5/17/29, 5/31/29, 6/14/29, 6/21/29, 6/28/29, 8/16/29, 3/28/30, 4/25/30, 4/30/30, 5/9/30, 5/16/30, 5/22/30, 6/18/30, 6/28/30, 8/1/30.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property stands on Block Three of the Original Townsite of Jetmore, located on the NE corner of Section 1- Township 23- Range 24. Block Three encompasses the Courthouse Square, which is a 300 x 300 Foot Square, bounded by Highway Street on the north, Bramley Street on the south, Bowlus Street on the east and Main Street (also called U. S. Highway 283) on the west.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property contain all land historically associated with the Hodgeman County Courthouse.