NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: STATE BANK OF HOLTON

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Southwest corner, Fourth and Pennsylvania

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Holton __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 2, Martha Keys

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

COUNTY: Jackson CODE: 085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X 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: Dale Kellerman

STREET & NUMBER: 722 Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN: Holton __ VICINITY OF

STATE: Kansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER: Jackson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Holton

STATE: Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic Sites Survey

DATE: 1969 __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas

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 State Bank of Holton--a two story brick building with a native stone foundation--is located on the southeast corner of the courthouse square. The bank forms the end to one of the blocks of business buildings which surround the square on all four sides. It is constructed of a tan brick and trimmed with red sandstone. The design mixes motifs influenced by the Italian Mannerist style,and it is one of the most visually interesting buildings in the commercial area.

The main entrance to the bank is on the northeast corner of the building. It is accented by an imposing carved red sandstone door surround. This doorway, which is especially reminiscent of the Italian Mannerist style, is crowned by an open-topped pediment formed by inward curving volutes. The volutes are connected by a festoon which forms the base for a cartouche with the intertwined initials of the State Bank of Holton. The archway around the door has been formed by intermittent voussoirs and a dropped keystone. The entablature which separates the arch from the pediment has been embellished with dentils. The archway is supported by two shortened Ionic columns on sandstone pedestals. The native stone foundation projects outward to form another base under the pedestal. There are two rectangular windows set in sandstone arches and divided by a short pilaster with an Ionic capital. Small stone wreaths have been set in the spandrels of this double arch. A wide simply treated entablature which encircles the roofline of the building forms a base for a parapet wall and an imaginative grouping of motifs at the corner composed of two small temple representations framing the name of the bank and capped by a curving tile roof with a finial at each peak.

The north facade is divided into two non-repetitive bays by unevenly spaced brick pilasters. The bay to the west of the doorway contains an elaborately decorated window which lights the interior of the main banking room on the first story. The window has been recessed and is framed by sandstone Ionic pilasters and a carved lintel depicting a festoon and a wreath. A sandstone stringcourse divides the first and second stories. There are two rectangular windows divided by a sandstone pilaster on the second story. Above each window is a sandstone panel with a carved festoon. There are also small wreaths on the brick surface above each window. There is a first story doorway in the second bay of the north facade. The native stone foundation extends midway up the door opening. The upper half of the door is framed by brick pilasters. This doorway also has a finely carved pediment, but it has been more flatly treated. This pediment is also open-topped and formed of inward curving volutes. Between the volutes is the base for a three quarter round vase set in an oval frame which has been in-filled with a delicate metalwork pattern. A carved swag above the oval frame completes the grouping. There is a single rectangular window above the doorway on the second story. A sandstone panel carved with a festoon has been set above the window.

The east facade has been divided into five symmetrically arranged bays by raised brick pilasters. The first bay to the south repeats the first bay on the north facade. The remainder of the facade has been more plainly treated and does

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	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alfred Meier

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The State Bank of Holton was built in 1906 from plans prepared by St. Joseph, Missouri, architect Alfred Meier to replace the former bank building destroyed by fire on the morning of November 28, 1905. It is an unusual example of 20th century Mannerist Revival, and it is also interesting as a late work of Meier who has previously been identified as the architect of the W.W. Hetherington house (Atchison, 1879-1880) and the old Logan County Courthouse (Russell Springs, 1887), both already listed on the National Register. This structure shows the diversity and scope of his architectural ability.

The State Bank of Holton was chartered December 6, 1888, and opened for business January 1, 1889. The general economic conditions prevailing in Kansas at that time would not have seemed favorable for establishing a new bank. The economic boom which Kansas had enjoyed in the 1880's had come to an end in 1887. However, the crash and subsequent hard times had more of an impact on the western regions of the state than on the eastern third. The eastern third, which included Holton and Jackson county, had been settled earlier and more of the farmers owned their own farms and the small businessmen were more solidly established than their counterparts further west. A small town like Holton, the trade center for a sizeable agricultural territory, did not have as severe an economic setback as many of the western Kansas towns. The necessary capital to organize the State Bank of Holton appears to have been readily obtainable, and the bank was greeted with public enthusiasm.

At first the new bank used rented quarters, but after a few months it moved into its own building at the southeast corner of the courthouse square, the site now occupied by its replacement. The founders of the bank were local residents. John Q. Myers was the first president, and Alex Dunn, Jr., the first cashier.

The State Bank of Holton prospered and became an important part of the town's commercial activity. After the fire of unknown origin destroyed the bank building, Myers immediately announced that the bank would rebuild. In early December, 1905, the bank's board of directors selected Myers, Henry Meyer and J.G. Hinnen as a committee to have charge of building the new bank. Work on clearing the rubble of the burned building was soon underway under the supervision of William Friend, who was a tenant in the bank building as well as the insurance agent holding the bank's policy.

A number of architects from Topeka, St. Joseph and Holton met with the directors at various times. In mid-February, 1906, the directors selected Alfred Meier of St. Joseph, who had also prepared the plans for the former bank building. On April 19, 1906, the construction contract was awarded to G. W. (or G.C.) Grote of St. Joseph

not have any carved sandstone ornamentation, though a sandstone string-course has been continued underneath the windows across the facade. The bay farthest to the south corresponds proportionally to the other end bay, but there is a staircase from the sidewalk up to a landing at the top of the foundation which opens out from a single door with a transom. There are two windows above this doorway on the second story. Another single doorway with one window above on the second story has been placed in the central bay. To either side of this bay are wider bays containing three evenly spaced windows on each story.

Many of the original wood window frames have been replaced by aluminum frames, but otherwise the exterior has not been substantially changed.

No. 8

for $13,755. Grote subcontracted the brick work to Mitchell and Frank Thomas, also of St. Joseph. (Grote also had the contract for the adjacent structure to the west, a one-story double building which replaced another one destroyed in the fire.) The contract called for completion in 120 days. That deadline wasn't met because of periodic delays in the arrival of the dressed and carved stone from Wisconsin. In mid-July, the Holton Signal reported, "The cut stone for the elaborate front has been placed, . . . When completed, it will be one of the handsomest bank buildings in the west."

Some of the tenants of the bank building were able to occupy their rooms before the bank itself because of delays in the shipment of the bank fixtures. Webster and Webster, a men's furnishings store, had its grand opening on September 29, 1906. Harland Graham, a lawyer, occupied his second floor suite around the same time.

The State Bank of Holton opened for business in its new quarters October 11, 1906. Other tenants in the building were Webster and Orr, Abstractors, and John Stratton and Tom Condron, barbers, in the basement. G.W. Zimmerman, insurance agent, Guy L. Hurst, lawyer, and William Friend, insurance agent, had offices on the second floor.

The bank remained in business at the same location,and under the same management, until March 10, 1927. Alex Dunn, Jr., had succeeded Myers as president of the bank. On March 10 the bank failed to open its doors and went into the hands of the state bank commissioner. Efforts were made either to reorganize it or to consolidate it with one of the other banks in the community but to no avail. (Dunn, who had been in poor health and divorced from the bank management for several years, died on March 13, 1927.) The official reason given for the failure in the state bank commissioner's report was "Mismanagement and bad loans." Depositors were returned fifty per cent dividends on June 30, 1927, and additional payment followed later.

The building was then used for other commercial activities and various parts were remodeled into apartments. In recent years the old banking room has housed an insurance and real estate firm.

The State Bank of Holton was a significant factor in the economic and commercial affairs of Holton for 38 years (1889-1927). The building also has architectural merit; it displays an unusual usage of classical detailing for a bank in a small midwestern town, and it serves as an anchor at one corner of the courthouse square.

No. 9

Barr, Elizabeth N., Business Directory and History of Jackson County (n.p., 1907), pp. 44, 50.

Beck, W.T., compiler, "Holton's Colorful History," Holton Recorder, October 26, 1950--July 10, 1952.

Blackmar, Frank W., editor, Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, Biography Supplement, Vol. 3A (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., ca. 1912), pp. 130, 131.

Historical and Descriptive Review of Kansas, Volume I (Topeka, John Lethem, 1890), pp. 133, 134.

Holton Recorder, October 13, 1881, March 17, 1927--August, 1927.

Holton Recorder-Tribune, November 30, 1905--November 1, 1906.

Holton Signal, November 16, 1905--November 1, 1906.

Nineteenth Biennial Report of State Bank Commissioner (Topeka, State Printing Plant, 1929), p. 10.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allard, Mary Margaret, Holton, Kansas 1856-1970 (Holton, Kan., Gossip Printery, 1970).

Allard, Mrs. Willard, and Mrs. Robert Shoff, editors, Liberty Clicks in '76 (Holton, Kan., Jackson County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), pp. 30, 31, 58.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	15	264730	4371555
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 February 22, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th

TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka

STATE Kansas

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 Edgar Langsdorf

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE March 15, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

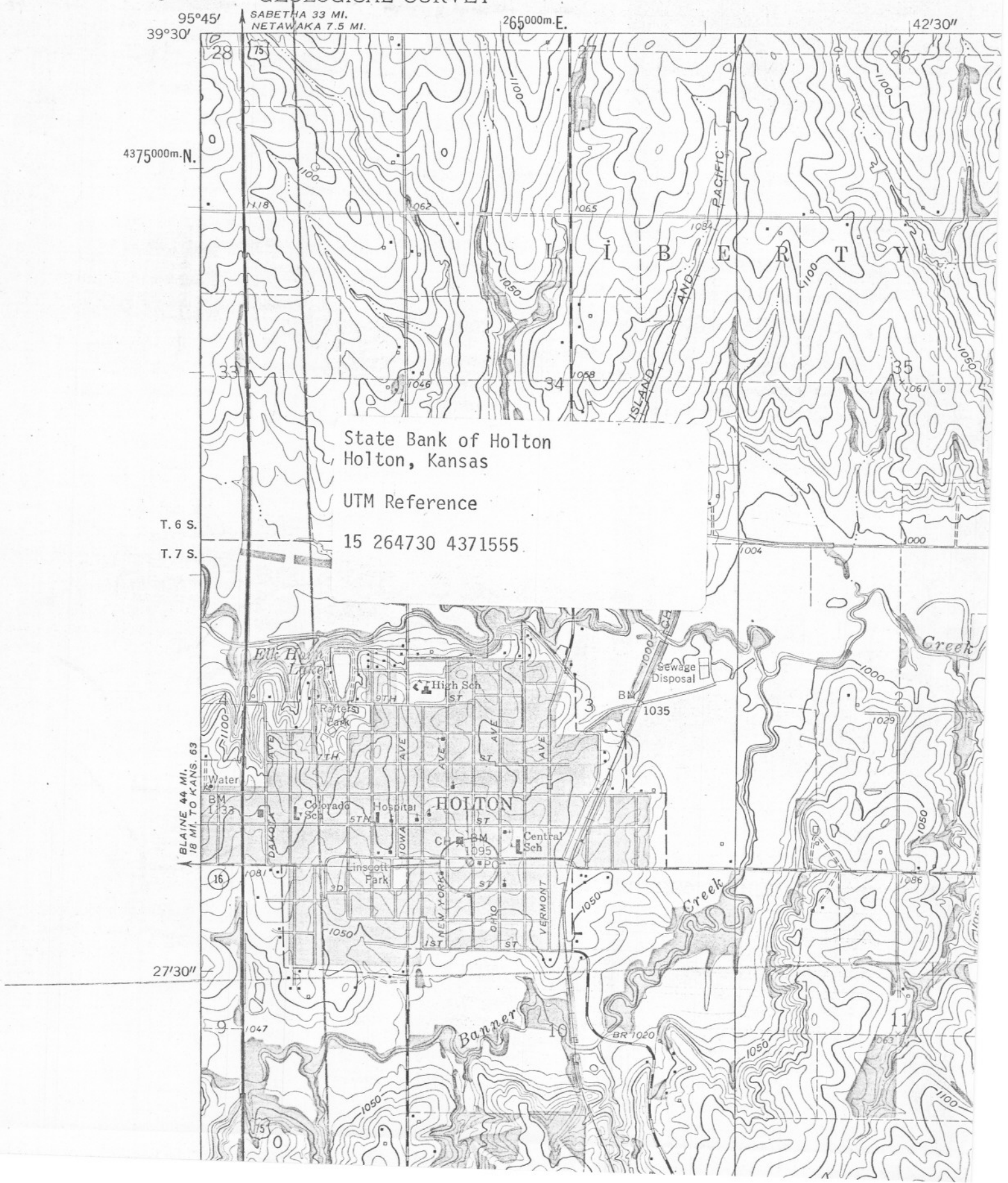
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Holton
Quadrangle

(HIAWATHA 1:125 000)

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