NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10/90)

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 any 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: Jewell County Courthouse

Other name/site number: _____

2. Location

307 North Commercial Street — not for publication

Mankato — vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Jewell code 089 zip code 66956

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

I recommend that this property be considered significant ___nationally X statewide ___locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz — 3/5/02
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 for additional comments.)

_____ — _____
Signature of commenting or other official — Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
___ private	X building(s)	1	___ buildings
X public-local	___ district	___	___ sites
___ public-State	___ site	___	___ structures
___ public-Federal	___ structure	___	___ objects
	___ object	2	___ 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

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation STONE: Limestone

Walls STONE: Limestone

Roof OTHER: Composite Material

Other

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

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.)

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a 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.)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	1937-50	N/A
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Radstinsky, Joseph W., architect

Mertz, John V., contractor

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

Specify repository:

Library and Archives Division, Kansas State Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property <1

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	1/4	5/6/7/6/5/0	4/4/0/4/3/5/0	3	/	/ / / / /	/ / / / / /
2	/	/ / / / /	/ / / / / /	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 Dana Cloud and Sally F. Schwenk

organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC date April 30, 2000

street & number 818 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1150 telephone (816) 221-5133

city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64106

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jewell County

street & number 307 North Commercial Street telephone (785) 378-4020

city or town Mankato state KS zip code 66956

DESCRIPTION

The Jewell County Courthouse is a restrained, Art Deco style structure that occupies a full block to the north of the Mankato, Kansas historic central business district [*Figure 1: City Map of Mankato, Kansas*]. It is located on the east portion of the block with the primary façade facing east onto Commercial Street. The two- and three-story courthouse is irregular in plan and measures approximately 120 feet wide by 90 feet deep by 40 feet high. A one-story addition (c.1982) to the north façade houses the jail, which is accessed from the exterior or through the sheriff's office in the original courthouse [*Figure 2: Existing Site Plan*]. The courthouse exterior is rough-cut limestone laid in running bond and a reinforced concrete skeleton structure. The building has a tiered, flat roof. The façades are arranged in a series of setbacks that progressively step up from two stories at the end bays to 3½ stories at the central bay. Except for the window replacements, the building retains a high degree of integrity [*Photographs #1, #2 and #3*]. Erected in 1936–1937 as a county courthouse, the structure continues to serves as a county courthouse.

The courthouse has nine bays on the east façade, eight bays on the west façade, and five bays on the north and south façades. The exterior of the courthouse is rough-cut limestone laid in running bond with dressed limestone detailing. A soldier course extends around the perimeter of the building at the lintel location of the first- and third-floor windows. The first-floor soldier course is chamfered at the top, which distinguishes the building base. Dressed limestone highlights the windowsills and projecting frontispiece of the primary façade, and limestone medallions adorn the north and south walls of the west façade [*Photograph #2*]. Metal-clad, double-hung sash window units replace the original wood frame windows. Opaque transom panels enclose the upper third of the second-floor windows, third-floor windows on the west façade, and a band of three bay windows at the staircase.

The building has two public entrances. The primary entrance is on the east façade and features a projecting frontispiece made up of three bays, each with a set of double doors. Vertically grooved panels with low relief corn and wheat ornamentation are set within the frontispiece of each bay. A formal set of stairs leads to the primary entrance and once inside, an additional flight of stairs leads to the first floor. Metal lettering that reads: "JEWELL COUNTY COURT HOUSE" is attached above the frontispiece windows [*Photograph #4*]. An at-grade secondary entrance is on the west façade. The original wood doors with ornate, white metal push bars and glazed transoms are intact [*Photograph #5*].

The floor plan, use, and interior finishes of the Jewell County Courthouse are typical of many Kansas courthouses built during the Works Project Administration period. Each floor has a north and south running corridor and is accessed by the primary staircase on the east side of the building, as well as a secondary enclosed staircase on the northwest corner of the building. The first floor houses the county clerk and register of deeds offices and the second floor houses the courtroom [*Figure 3: Typical Floor Plan; Photograph #9*]. Interior finishes consist of vinyl floor tile, glazed block wainscoting, plastered walls and ceilings, and oak doors and trim [*Photographs #7 and #8*]. The staircase and landings are constructed of concrete and have decorative steel balustrades [*Photograph #6*]. Original light fixtures and sconces also remain intact [*Photograph #10*].

In c.1982, county commissioners erected a one-story jail addition to the north façade of the original courthouse. The addition's exterior is also rough-cut limestone laid in running bond. It has a flat roof and few masonry

openings. Prior to construction of the new addition, the jail was housed in a historic brick structure on the northeast corner of Center and Madison streets in Mankato. In 1981, city officials determined the structure to be unsuitable for jail use and it was closed.[1]

The Jewell County Courthouse has excellent architectural integrity despite the minor alterations mentioned above. The c.1982 addition to the north, while affecting the primary façades, is recessed from the original building's main block and is subservient in size, scale and massing. If removed in the future, little loss of the original fabric of the courthouse would occur. Although a later addition, its understated design, materials, and massing are compatible with the original courthouse. Metal-clad window units replace the original wood frame windows; nevertheless, the overall exterior appearance is not significantly compromised due to the retention of the window and door openings, as well as the remaining original exterior features such as the masonry, projecting frontispiece, and roofline. All of the interior features such as the vinyl floor tile, glazed block wainscoting, plastered walls and ceilings, oak doors and trim, staircase, and light fixtures are also intact. The floor plan configuration of each floor is intact as well. Overall, the Jewell County Courthouse not only has excellent architectural integrity, but it is also in excellent condition as a result of the care and attention given to the maintenance of the structure by a succession of county commissioners.

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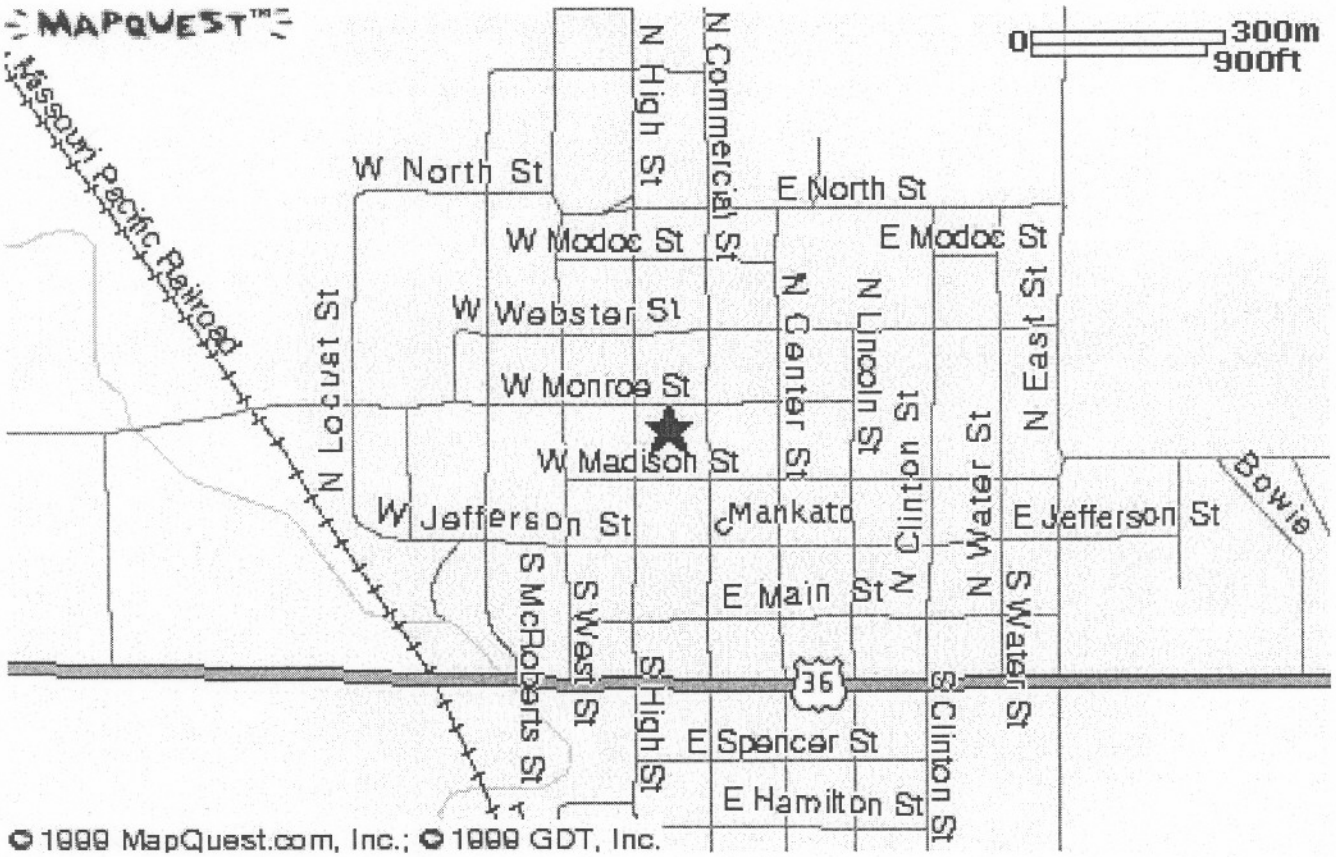
1 Jewell County Clerk, Telephone conversation with author, 24 April 2000.

PHOTO LOG

Photographer: **Dana Cloud**
Date of Photographs: **December 13, 1999**
Location of Negatives: **Kansas State Historical Society**
Cultural Resources Division
6425 S.W. 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

Photo #	Subject	Camera Direction
1.	Exterior of Courthouse	Southwest
2.	Exterior of Courthouse	Northeast
3.	Exterior of Courthouse	Northwest
4.	Detail of East (Main) Entrance	Northwest
5.	Detail of Main Entrance Doors	West
6.	Staircase from First to Second Floor	Southwest
7.	Staircase from First to Second Floor	East
8.	Main Corridor on First Floor	South
9.	Main Courtroom on Second Floor	South
10.	Light Fixture in Second Floor Corridor	West

Figure 1: City Map of Mankato, Kansas



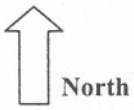
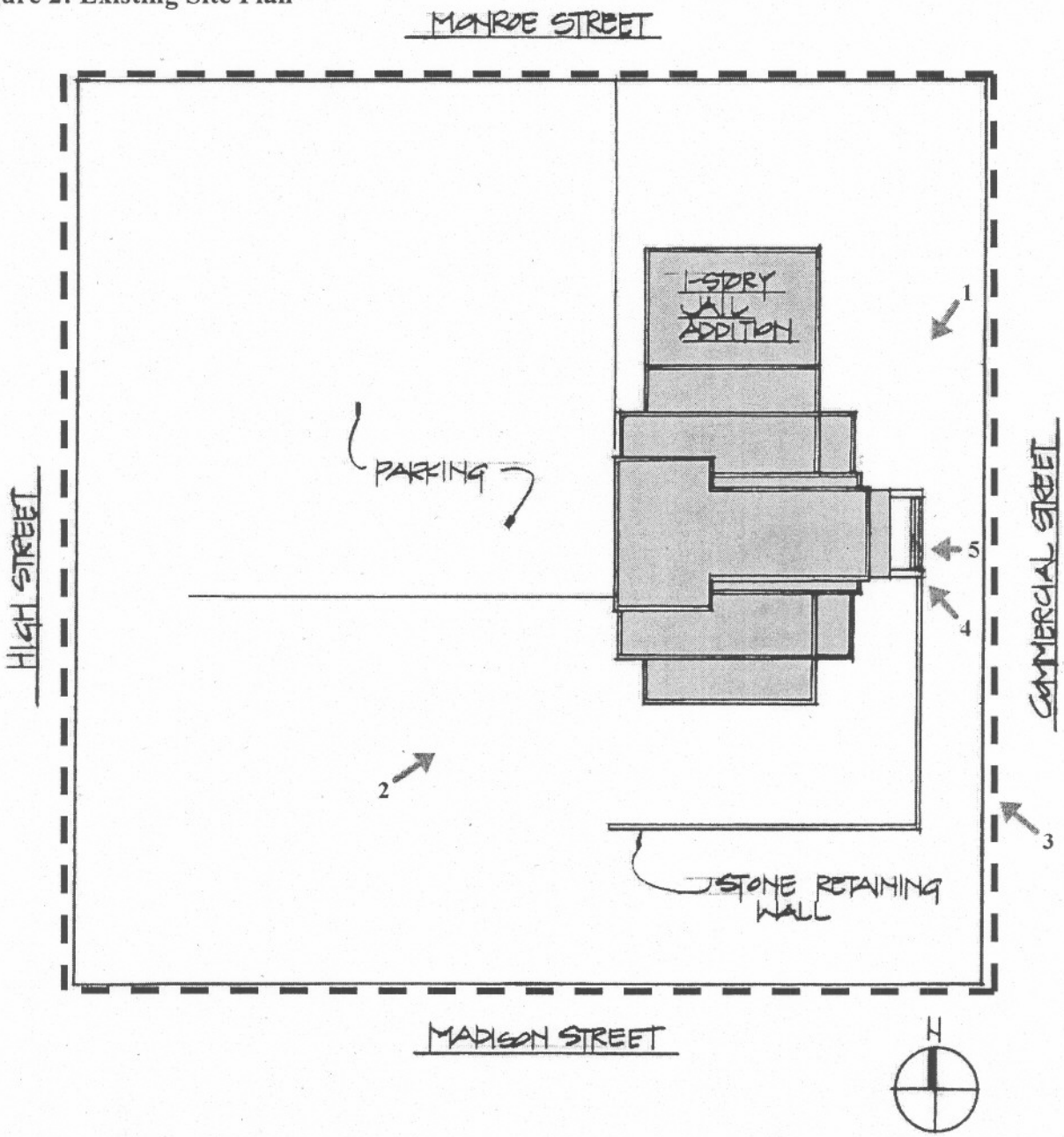
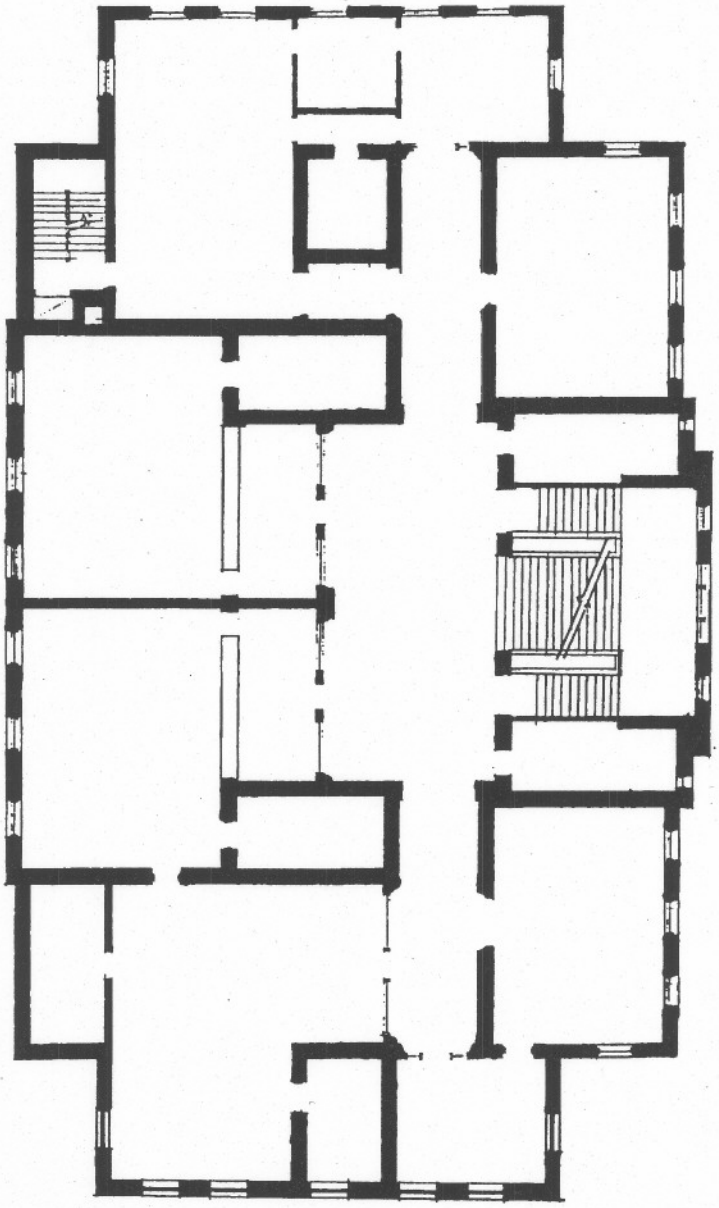


Figure 2: Existing Site Plan



Approximate Scale: 1"=60'-0"
- - - Boundary Line

Figure 3: Typical Floor Plan



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jewell County Courthouse, erected in 1936–1937, is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of **POLITICS/GOVERNMENT** and under Criterion C in the area of **ARCHITECTURE** for its associations with the development of county courthouses in Kansas. The historic significance of the Jewell County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses that are documented in the Multiple Property Form, **"Historic County Courthouses of Kansas."** In particular, the property has direct associations to the historic contexts established in the Multiple Property Form—"The Role of the County Courthouse in Kansas Communities 1856–1950," "Twentieth Century Kansas County Courthouses and their Changing Use: 1900–1950," and the "Architecture of Kansas Courthouses 1861–1950." The property's association with the evolution of Kansas county courthouses and their design dates to its construction in 1936–1937 and continues to 2000, the arbitrary 50-year cutoff date for determining eligibility of National Register properties. The property is significant for its association with public works projects funded under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Kansas and is a rare example of the Art Deco style county courthouse in the state. In addition to this property's retention of association and location, it has a high degree of architectural integrity and is a representative example of its property type. The property type and larger historic contexts relating to the significance of the Jewell County Courthouse are fully documented in the Multiple Property Form. The following commentary expands upon these larger contextual themes as they specifically relate to the Jewell County Courthouse and documents the property's significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Located in north-central Kansas on the Kansas-Omaha state line, Jewell County has several small towns including Mankato, the county seat; and the communities of Northbranch, Webber, Lovewell, Burr Oak, Esbon, Otego, Formosa, Montrose, Ionia, Dispatch, Jewell, and Randall. Highway 36 runs east and west through the middle of the county, including Mankato, and State Roads 128 and 14 run north and south.

Jewell County officials determined Jewell City, located in the southern portion of the county, as the temporary county seat after the county's organization on July 14, 1870; an election later that year established Jewell City as the permanent county seat. However, as the population grew in the central and northern portions of the county, a second election in 1873 declared Jewell Center (Mankato) as the new county seat by 235 votes. An existing wood, frame structure served as the first county courthouse. It took a third election in 1875 to permanently determine Jewell Center (Mankato) as the county seat. County commissioners directed the construction of a three-story, brick, historic-eclectic style courthouse the same year.[1]

In 1937, Jewell County Commissioners selected the architect Joseph W. Radotinsky and the construction firm of John V. Mertz to design and build the current Jewell County Courthouse. The federal government funded the project under the WPA with $122,021 from the federal government and $37,870 from sponsors, with a total construction cost of $159,891. In addition to WPA funding, Kansas Emergency Relief Committee (KERC)

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1 Vertical File, Kansas State Historical Society, Handwritten Notes.

funding released $16,387 to open quarries for the extraction of native limestone for the new courthouse.[2] In c.1982, after the original jail on the northeast corner of Center and Madison streets closed, county commissioners erected the current one-story, limestone addition to house the new county jail.[3]

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This courthouse is a significant under Criterion A as an example of the second and third generation courthouses erected in a wave of new courthouse construction that occurred in the early twentieth century in Kansas. These buildings replaced aged and obsolete courthouse buildings erected in the state's earlier settlement period. It also has important associations with the construction programs funded in Kansas in conjunction with the KERC, created under Governor Alf Landon, and federal agencies such as the WPA. In addition, it is an example of a typical WPA project. Usually, large construction projects were funded under the Public Works Administration (PWA), and more modest projects—those costing less than $55,000 that could be completed within a year or two—were funded through the WPA. However, some projects that exceeded the recommended cost parameters, such as the Jewell County Courthouse, did receive WPA funding.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Jewell County Courthouse is significant under Criterion C as the only Kansas county courthouse designed by Joseph W. Radotinsky, who was noted in the state for his public architecture. Born in 1902 to Hungarian immigrants in Kirkwood, Missouri, Radotinsky grew up in Kansas City, Kansas. He was a 1924 graduate of the University of Kansas. Radotinsky also studied at Columbia University in New York City where he won first place in the *Ecole des Beaux-Arts* architectural competition. While studying in New York, Radotinsky worked at the firm of Thomas W. Lamb, one of the larger architectural firms in the United States at that time. He returned to Kansas in 1928 and joined the Kansas City, Missouri firm of Archier and Gloyd. In the early 1930s, Radotinsky served as the state architect for Kansas for three terms. He continued to carry on a private practice in addition to his state position. In 1931, he became a partner in the firm of Archer, Gloyd and Radotinsky. From 1932 to 1935, the firm continued as Archer and Radotinsky. Beginning in 1938, Radotinsky served as the architect for the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education beginning a long series of additions, remodelings, and new buildings. He also worked with other school districts in the area.

During World War II, Radotinsky's work included Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka, Kansas and O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield, Missouri. After the war, his regional practice continued to expand to eventually include an eight-state area in the Midwest, in particular Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa. He specialized in school, hospital, and office buildings.[4] In 1957, Radotinsky joined with Raymond E Meyn and Fred M. Deardorff to form the architectural firm of Radotinsky, Meyn and Deardorff, with offices in Kansas City, Kansas and in Kansas City, Missouri. In the early 1960s, he returned to private practice. Among the best known of his buildings from the post-World War II period were the 1951 American Hereford Association Building, the 1958–1960 Federal

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2 Author Unknown, "Jewell County Court House," *Kansas Government Journal* (April 1938): 8.

3 Jewell County Clerk, Telephone conversation with author, 24 April 2000.

4 "Architect Turns Farmer to Relax." *Kansas City Kansan*, August 16, 1959. Architecture Clippings Volume: I. 1955–1981. Vertical File. Kansas State Historical Society; and "Former Kansas State Architect Dies in KCK." Clipping file, n.d. Vertical File. Kansas State Historical Society.

Building in Kansas City, Missouri, as well as the Public Library Building and Board of Education Building in Kansas City, Kansas. Radotinsky died at the age of 81 in 1983.[5]

The Jewell County Courthouse reflects Radotinsky's work during the 1930s. During this period, his work reflected diverse modern movement influences such as the work of Dutch architects Williem Dudok and Eliel Saarienen, the Art Deco designs of New York architect Ely Jacques Kahn, as well as the work of Frank Lloyd Wright in California in the early 1920s.[6]

The Jewell County Courthouse is architecturally significant under Criterion C as a rare example of a Kansas county courthouse designed in the Art Deco style. In addition to its significance as the work of Joseph Radotinsky, it is representative of the acceptance of the Modern Movement style for civic architecture in the 1930s. In particular, it conveys information relating to the promulgation of modern styles through the PWA and WPA programs.[7]

This three-story, reinforced concrete structure with rough-cut limestone cladding features a unique arrangement of a series of setbacks that progressively step up from two stories at the end bays to 3½ stories at the central bay, accentuating the verticality of the design. The primary entrance is located in the east façade and features a projecting frontispiece made up of three bays, each with a set of doors and vertically grooved panels with low relief corn and wheat ornamentation.

The courthouse is also architecturally significant for its retention of its original floor plan configuration and hierarchy of space that is typical of many early twentieth century Kansas courthouses. Although the Modernistic exterior form and treatment reflect a change from classically inspired designs, the symmetrical arrangement of the fenestration and massing reference classical elements. The building incorporates a traditional floor plan, despite a published report that an in-depth study of the county's needs guided the plan. Beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing through World War II, Kansas courthouses are generally defined by three or four floors, which have a hierarchy of functions that are accessed by two or more staircases and located off a main corridor. The ground floor is either at grade level or slightly sunken and housed the auxiliary functions such as the boiler room, facility manager's offices, toilets, and storage. The finishes of this floor are often not as elaborate as the upper, more public floors. The first floor, which is the most highly utilized floor, is generally elevated from grade level and approached via an exterior grand staircase. The first floor houses offices frequently utilized by the public such as the county clerk, register of deeds, county treasurer, engineer, appraiser, and county commissioners' offices. The second floor houses the courtroom, judge's office, jury room, and the sheriff and court clerk's offices. The courtroom is nearly always on the opposite side of the primary entrance, just opposite of the central grand staircase, and is 1½ or two stories in height. The third floor historically housed the jail; however, since the Jewell County Jail was located at Center and Madison streets, the courthouse did not have a third floor. The Jewell County Courthouse retains this hierarchy of space and its ground floor through third floor configurations.

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5 "Joseph W. Radotinsky, Architect," (Vertical File. Kansas State Historical Society, n.d.), 2–5.

6 Ibid., 3.

7 See Multiple Property Form Section E for contextual information relating to WPA funded courthouses in Kansas.

The Jewell County Courthouse is also architecturally significant for its association with the designs promulgated by the WPA. It is one of three Kansas county courthouses built with WPA or PWA funding. The other two are the 1940–1942 Ellis County Courthouse (WPA[8]) and the 1939 Kearny County Courthouse (PWA). These courthouses reflect the influences of the Modern Movement style in general and, in particular, elements of the Art Deco style. The Ellis and Jewell county courthouses display the use of reinforced concrete with local limestone cladding that is typical of most structures built in the Post Rock area of Kansas. KERC funding allowed the opening of Jewell County limestone quarries for the construction of the courthouse. All three structures have a vertical emphasis and accent their geometric forms through a series of setbacks or projections of the façades. The Kearny and Ellis county courthouses display vertical strips of windows with decorated spandrels. All three courthouses feature rectangular windows. The Jewell County Courthouse retains nearly all of its original exterior features and is therefore, an excellent representative example of the Kansas county courthouses built during the Great Depression as a WPA/PWA project.

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[8] Under the Reorganization Act of 1939, the agency was renamed the Works Projects Administration and was placed under the control of another new body, the Federal Works Agency. James S. Olson, ed., *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985), 550.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Author Unknown. "Architect Turns Farmer to Relax." *Kansas City Kansan*, August 16, 1959.

Author Unknown. "Former Kansas State Architect dies in KCK." Vertical File. Kansas State Historical Society, n.d.

Author Unknown. "Jewell County Court House." *Kansas Government Journal* (April 1938): 8.

Author Unknown. "Joseph W. Radotinsky, Architect," Vertical File. Kansas State Historical Society, n.d.

Architecture Clippings Volume: 1. 1915–1981. Vertical File. Kansas State Historical Society.

Jewell County Clerk. Telephone conversation with author, 24 April 2000.

Kansas State Historical Society, Research & Collections, National & State Register Listings. Accessed on April 24, 2000; available from http://www.kshs.org.

Olson, James S. ed. *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985.

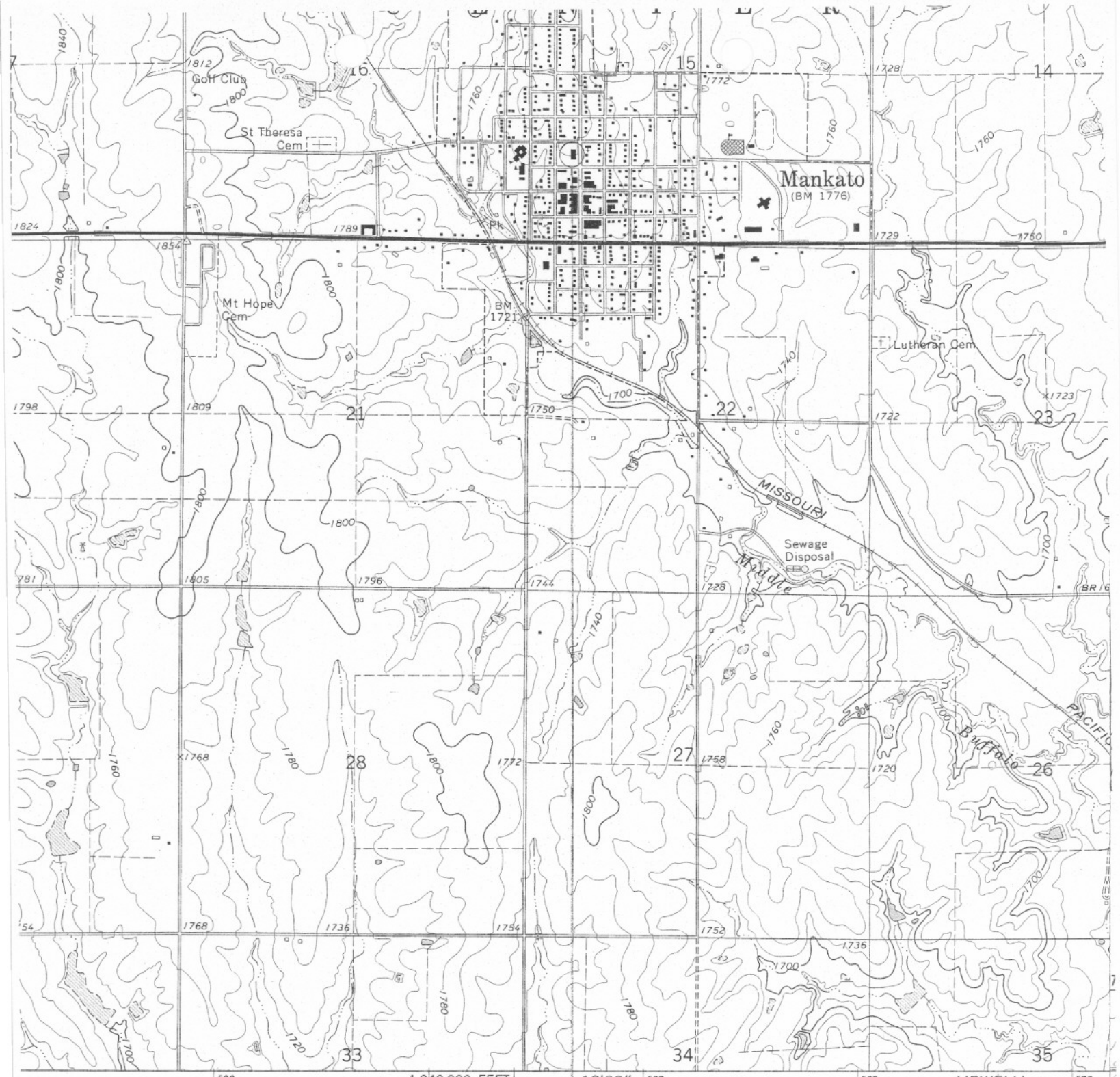
Vertical Files, Kansas State Historical Society, Handwritten Notes.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Entirety of Block 23, Original Town Plat of Mankato, Kansas.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the courthouse.



olished by the Geological Survey
&GS

JEWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MANKATO, JEWELL COUNTY, KANSAS
UTM NO: 14/567 650/4404350

ıetric methods from aerial
Field checked 1969

7 North American datum
Kansas coordinate system, north zone
sverse Mercator grid ticks,

ıte selected fence and field lines where
hotographs. This information is unchecked

MN
GN
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9 MILS
9½°
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UTM GRID AND 1969 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURA
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 8
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRE
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS I