NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

APR 1 8 2007

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Osage County Courthouse

Other name/site number 139-3360-0001

2. Location

Street & number 717 Topeka Ave ☐ not for publication

City or town Lyndon ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Osage Code 139 Zip code 66451

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.)

Patrick Zollner DSHPO 3/2/07

Signature of certifying official/Title 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 official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby 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:)

Osage County Courthouse
Name of Property

Osage 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	
2	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
3	2	objects
5	4	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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE
Walls: STONE: Limestone
BRICK
Roof: ASPHALT
Other:

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

Osage County Courthouse
Name of Property

Osage 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

☒ **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.

☒ **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 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 it 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

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1923-1956

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. E. HULSE

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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:
- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Osage County Courthouse
Name of Property

Osage County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.3 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	26635	4276745
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 Christy Davis

Organization Treanor Architects Date 9/1/06

Street & number 1715 SW Topeka Blvd Telephone 785-235-0012

City or town Topeka State KS Zip code 66612-1410

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Board of Osage County Commissioners

Street & number 717 Topeka Ave Telephone 785-828-4514

City or town Lyndon State KS Zip code 66451

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

Narrative Description

Setting

The Osage County Courthouse and Jail (constructed 1923) are located at 717 Topeka Avenue north of the main historic commercial core in Lyndon, Kansas (population 1038). The courthouse and associated buildings sit on a full square city block bound by Eighth Street (formerly Belvoir) on the north, Seventh Street (formerly Lawrence) on the south, Ash Street (formerly Valley Brook) on the east, and Topeka Avenue on the west. Before the construction of the 1923 courthouse, this block was occupied by a sparse collection of dwellings and free-standing commercial buildings. The first permanent courthouse building, erected by private investors in 1887, occupied the southwest corner of the block. The 1887 building was demolished following the completion of the 1923 courthouse. A jail, constructed between 1893 and 1897, was located on the southeast end of the block. In the 1920s, the old jail building was vacated and a single-family dwelling (no longer extant) on the northeast corner of the block was converted to the sheriff's residence. The old jail was demolished before the construction of the current jail, a non-historic one-story red brick building that lies east of the courthouse building. The 1923 courthouse building faces west toward Topeka Avenue (Highway 75), Lyndon's main street. At present, four buildings, including the historic courthouse, occupy the block. In addition to the courthouse, these include a small non-historic/non-contributing one-story shed on the north (built 1980), a contributing original mechanical/jail building northeast of the courthouse (built 1923), and a non-historic/non-contributing one-story jail building on the east (built 1985). There are also five objects located west of the historic courthouse – World War I Memorial (contributing), 1969 Memorial (non-contributing), Korean War Memorial (contributing), flag pole (contributing), Vietnam Memorial (non-contributing).

Exterior - Courthouse

Overall

The courthouse is a three-story cubed reinforced concrete structure with frame floors and frame/steel truss roof. Its footprint measures 100' X 83'. The building features brick and clay tile curtain walls faced with tooled limestone on the first floor and blond brick on the second and third stories. The architect interpreted Beaux Arts tenets through the use of symmetry and choice of classically inspired architectural features, including a limestone and brick-banded entablature with dentils, fluted ionic pilasters, and a flat parapeted roof. Other features, like the steel doors and windows, are decidedly modern. The majority of the windows are original 12-light steel casements. Windows on the second and third floors of the center three bays of the front and rear elevations are 9-light steel casements. Those on the first floor of the center three bays on the front and rear elevations are 3-pane casements with rounded arched steel fanlights above. The original doors were steel with large panels of beveled plate glass and bronze kick plates. The doors on the front elevation featured decorative bronze-plated grilles over the plate glass.

Front (West) Elevation
The front elevation is seven bays wide. The three center bays are articulated with arched openings on the first floor and four limestone pilasters on the second and third floors. The pilasters rest on a horizontal band that caps the tooled limestone base. With the exception of the three central bays, which have arched openings (two windows and a door) on the first floor, each bay has a rectangular window on each of its three stories. The center bay houses the building's main entrance, articulated by an arched opening with an original arched steel fanlight with an aluminum storefront entrance below.

Rear (East) Elevation
The rear elevation mirrors the front elevation, except that the second and sixth bays do not have third-floor windows. Like that on the front elevation, the main entrance on the rear elevation has an aluminum storefront door below the arched steel fanlight.

North and South Elevations
Although the north and south elevations are narrower than the front and rear elevations, they are also seven bays wide. The fenestration matches that of the front elevation, except that the first floor windows on the third and fifth bays are not arched. Whereas the front and rear elevations feature center-section windows wider than those on the outside sections, all windows on the north and south elevations are equal in size. Whereas pilasters grace the front and rear elevations, the center three bays on the north and south are articulated through the use of slightly projecting planes. Like those on the front and rear elevations, the center bays of both the north and south elevations house arched entries, with aluminum storefront doors and arched steel fanlights above.

Exterior – Jail/Mechanical Building
This two-story free-standing tooled limestone-clad Neoclassical Style building, also constructed 1923, originally served as both a heating plant and jail. The building, which measures 19' X 28', was designed to match the courthouse in both design and materials. A sub-grade level housed a coal pit. The coal-fired boiler was located partially underground. The principal purpose for the building, however, was to serve as the county jail. Reinforced concrete and brick construction faced with limestone, the building was designed to avert both fires and jailbreaks. The front elevation faces east, where stairs lead to a two-story vaulted arch opening with historic steel door and steel casement windows. Two original electric sconces flank the vaulted entry. The north elevation features two two-story arched window openings with steel casement windows. The south elevation mirrors the north elevation. The west or rear elevation, which faces the rear elevation of the courthouse, has no window openings. A brick smokestack, approximately 60' in height, rises from the building's

southwest corner. The building is capped with a simple entablature and flat roof with a simple parapet interrupted only by turned stone railings. Since the new one-story red brick jail building was built to its south in 1985, the historic jail building has been principally used for mechanical use and storage. There are two jail cells on the main floor, now used for storage. The lower level still houses mechanical equipment.

Memorials/Flag Pole

There are four memorials, north to south, on the west side of the courthouse square. The first, a dressed massive limestone World War I memorial (see Photo #8) dates to 1931. This memorial is a contributing object to the nomination. The memorial is topped by a bronze eagle sculpture and includes a bronze plaque inscribed as follows:

American Legion
1931
Dedicated to the
Veterans of the
Worlds War
By
The American
Legion and Auxiliary
Osage County Post
No. – 125

The second memorial (see Photo #9), a rubble limestone battered pier topped by a lantern, is dated 1969 and, therefore is not a contributing object to the nominated property. It reads as follows:

Osage Co. Council
Legion Posts
1969

The third memorial (see Photo #10), located just north of the sidewalk leading to the main entrance to the courthouse, is a Korean War memorial. This is a contributing feature to the nominated property. Like the World War I memorial, the memorial is topped with a bronze eagle statue. A bronze plaque is inscribed as follows:

Dedicated to All Korean Veterans of Osage County
Bergquist, Harold E.
Busch, Charles R.
Cross, Raymond Lee
Scheetz, George W.
Shaw, Albert L.
Waldoch, Edward S.

There is a flag pole (see Photo #1) south of the sidewalk leading to the main entrance. The flag pole appears to date to the courthouse's original construction and is therefore identified as a contributing object to the nominated property. A fourth memorial (see Photo #11) lies south of the flag pole. Like the 1969 memorial, this is a rubble limestone battered pier with an inscribed bronze plaque. This is a non-contributing object to the nominated property. The plaque reads as follows:

Dedicated to
All Osage Co. Veterans
Of the Vietnam War
This Monument Donated By
Vietnam Veterans of Osage Co.

A granite memorial sits on top of the battered pier. It reads as follows:

Honor Roll
Francis L. Arb
Dana J. Kaeberle
David R. Ogle
Charles G. Stultz

Interior - Courthouse

Overall

The interior plan does not necessarily reflect the building's exterior symmetry. Each floor has a unique circulation pattern. There is a cross-shaped corridor on the first floor that reflects circulation from the centered entrances on each of the building's four sides. The first floor houses public meeting and gathering spaces. The main staircase, located on the north end of the building's west hall, provides access to the second floor (called "First Floor" in the original drawings) rotunda. The main county offices were located on this level. On the third floor, the stair opens to a narrow north/south corridor that provides access to the courtroom and court-related offices.

As in most historic public buildings, the finishes on the interior of the Osage County Courthouse, particularly in public spaces, are of a high quality. All walls are smooth flat plaster; ceilings are flat plaster with ornamental plaster cornices. The architect employed black white and gray terrazzo and marble wainscoting and trim in the corridors and rotunda. Both the door trim on most doors throughout the building, and the windowsills are also marble. The stair treads, risers, and handrail cap are marble. Doors that open to public hallways have simple transoms.

When necessary to enhance fire safety or to cut costs, however, the architect specified simple or faux finishes. For instance, whereas the stair treads, risers, and handrail are marble, the balustrade is "Keene's Cement," a highly durable plaster finish with an alum additive. For floors in areas outside of public corridors, the architect specified linoleum, a popular solid surface material made of linseed oil, cork and pigments. Cement floors in utilitarian spaces, such as vaults and toilets, are simply coated with "cement hardener." Some interior spaces, such as the County Treasurer's Office, Clerk of the Court's Office, Probate Judge's Office, County Commission Chambers, have plaster panel wainscoting with faux painted plaster encased with wood panels. The doors are unique in that they are steel-panel doors that are faux-painted to give the appearance of wood. This allowed for the timeless look of wood in the form of a modern, fire-proof material.

Other intact original features include many original light fixtures, chair rails, picture rails, toilet partitions, and furnishings.

First Floor (Called "Ground Floor" in the original plans)
Two perpendicular corridors, connecting the four exterior entrances, cross through a center rotunda. The east/west corridor, which connects the front and rear entrances, is 17' 6" wide. The north/south corridor, which connects the two side entrances, is 14' wide. A coffered ceiling in the rotunda traces the lines of both corridors. These intersecting hallways divide the first floor into four quadrants. The northeast quadrant originally served as the County Engineer's Office (Room 108), Engineer's Work Room (Room 103), Janitor's Closet (Room 111), and a Vault (Room 109), originally only accessible via a steel spiral stair from the County Clerk's Vault on the second floor. With the exception of the Janitor's Closet, the rooms in this quadrant have been recently remodeled to house the offices of the District Attorney. A door has been created to provide access from the large office to the vault.

The southeast quadrant housed a second Janitor's Closet (Room 104), Men's Toilet (Room 110), large office (Room 107), and a second Vault (Room 106), which, like that on the northeast quadrant, was accessible only via a steel spiral stair from the correlating vault on the second floor. Unassigned at the time of the courthouse construction, Room 107 has been divided into two spaces, one for Land Use/Emergency Operations Center Office, another for elections storage. The Vault, Janitor's Closet, and Men's Toilet retain their original configurations.

The southwest quadrant was designed as a to house a small office (Room 102) and Farmer's Assembly Room (Room 101). Farmer's Assembly Rooms, common in early courthouses, provided gathering and resting spaces for men during day-long trips to the county seat. Today, the space is

divided into the county extension office, three small offices, a storage room, an elevator shaft, and elevator equipment room.

The northwest quadrant housed the Ladies Restroom (Room 114), Vault (Room 113), and Women's Toilet (Room 112). Just as the Farmer's Assembly Room provided a lounge for farmers, the Ladies Restroom accommodated traveling women and children. Like the vault in the southeast quadrant, the vault in the northwest quadrant is accessible only from a steel spiral stair from the correlating vault on the second floor. The Ladies Restroom is now the County Attorney's Office. The large space has been divided into a public office, private office, and storage room.

Second Floor (Called "First Floor" in the original plans)
As in many early twentieth-century courthouses, the Second Floor of the Osage County Courthouse provides space for various county offices. The public accesses the Second Floor via the main stair on the north side of the west stair hall. Unlike the First Floor, this floor has no corridors. A rotunda, whose size matches that of the rotunda on the First Floor, provides access to the surrounding offices via seven doors. Working clockwise from the northwest door, the doors access the Mapping/Register of Deeds Office (Room 216 - formerly known as the Recorder's Office), County Commissioners' Chamber (Rooms 212-213), County Clerk's Office (Room 210), County Appraiser's Office (Room 209 – formerly the County Treasurer's Office), Telephone Booth, Motor Vehicle Department (Rooms 205-206 – formerly the Probate Court), and County Treasurer's Office (Rooms 201-204 – formerly the County Superintendent's Office). Vaults on the northwest, northeast and southeast corners provide access via steel spiral stairs to the correlating vaults on the First Floor. There are five total vaults on the Second Floor.

Although the uses of the various Second-Floor offices have changed, there have been few floor-plan changes. Extant original furnishings include a curved service counter in the County Clerk's Office and part of an original service counter in the Register of Deed's Office.

Third Floor (Called "Second Floor" in the original plans)
The third floor is devoted to court-related functions. The stair hall, opposite the District Court Room, opens onto a north/south corridor. Although the uses of the smaller spaces have changed over time, the floor plan has changed little since its original construction.

The 53' X 43' courtroom (Room 310) occupies the majority of the east side of the third floor. It is accessed from the corridor via a double door, from the north via the Jury Room, and from three offices on the south side. A marble railing separates the public seating area from the area on the south side of the courtroom that encloses the judge's bench, witness stand, and jury box. Other

original marble features include door trim and window stools. Enclosures under each of the courtroom's three large windows house radiators. The air is distributed via bronze grilles that are set in recessed openings in the marble stools and through two openings in the marble base below each window.

According to the original drawings, neither the jury box, nor the judge's bench, nor the marble railing was included in the original contract. Although both the jury box and railing were constructed as originally designed, with marble and linoleum, it is unclear whether or not the original judge's bench was ever constructed. It is not extant. The current judge's bench, made of wood, is a recent addition.

Originally covered with linoleum (likely matching that in the jury box), the courtroom floor is now carpeted. The walls have a marble base and flat plaster wainscoting separated from ornamental plaster upper walls by an ornamental plaster chair rail. The ornamental plaster walls culminate in a decorative plaster frieze with alternating wheat shocks and rosettes. A plaster cornice tops the frieze and separates the wall plane from the cove molding that curves to meet the ceiling plane. Between the cove molding and flat plaster ceiling is a plaster ceiling molding. At some point in the building's recent history, the courtroom ceiling was lowered below the ornamental frieze to house ducts and equipment for air conditioning. Fortunately, however, the decorative plaster remains. Plans call for the restoration of the historic courtroom. This will include the restoration of the original ceiling and placement of cooling equipment and ductwork in the attic space above the courtroom.

East and southeast of the courtroom are a variety of offices including Clerk of the Court, Court Services, and Judge's Offices. Rooms formerly occupied by the court stenographer (Room 301) and Sheriff (Room 318) have been modified to create an elevator chase and expanded office for Court Services. The area north of the stair hall and west of the north/south corridor houses four rooms. Originally designed as a Witness Chamber (Room 317), Jury Room (Room 316), Jury Toilet (Room 315) and Ladies Toilet (Room 314), the spaces are now a Law Library, Storage, Storage, and Women's Restroom, respectively. The rooms north of the courtroom, on the east side of the north/south corridor were designed to house a Jury Dormitory (Room 311), and two toilets (Rooms 312-313). The restrooms remain. The Jury Dormitory is now the Jury Room.

Summary

Despite minor floor-plan changes over time, the Osage County Courthouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Character-defining features include tooled limestone, brick marble, decorative plaster, steel doors and windows, original light fixtures, terrazzo floors, and spiral access stairs.

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Osage County Courthouse is being nominated under National Register Criterion A in the category of Government and under Criterion C as an example of the Late-Nineteenth Early Twentieth-Century Revival Style. The registration requirements put forth in the "Multiple Property Nomination Historic County Courthouses of Kansas" are as follows:

> To be listed under National Register Criterion A, the property must retain a strong degree of physical integrity of association, setting, original materials, and overall design to convey feelings and associations with its original appearance and function as a county courthouse ... To be eligible under National Register Criterion C, the property should retain a high degree of architectural integrity of setting, materials and workmanship for its period of significance, and should possess the distinct stylistic and functional characteristics that qualify the resource as a property type.

The Osage County Courthouse meets the registration requirements in that it retains a high degree of architectural integrity that interprets its history as the center of county government in Osage County.

County Seat Wars

The dedication of the Osage County Courthouse on April 27, 1923 marked the end of a decades-long battle over the rightful seat of Osage County government. What is now Osage County, first called Weller County, was opened to white settlement with the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854; Osage County was organized in 1859. The legislature expanded the county's northern boundary in 1860, giving Osage County what had been the southern part of Shawnee County.

County-seat designation was critical to growing towns in the nineteenth century when county seats were centers of community life in an agriculture-based society. The battles over Kansas county-seat designations are legendary. In an attempt to avert a county seat war among the major towns, the first Osage County commissioners created Prescott, a new town between rival cities Superior and Burlingame, to serve as the county seat. When voters rejected the location, the battle lines were drawn. Burlingame, which received the majority of votes in two elections in 1862, became the county seat until the designation was again contested in 1870. Although Lyndon received the greatest number of votes in a series of contentious elections held in 1870, 1872, 1875, Burlingame made fierce efforts to prevent the relocation of county offices. These included the construction of

a courthouse, an appeal to the State Supreme Court, and an armed-mob attempt to keep Lyndon citizens from moving county records out of Burlingame.

To save their town from the destruction of a retaliating Lyndon mob, the Burlingame faction relented – for a time. In 1875, the Supreme Court ruled that Lyndon was the rightful county seat. However, the battle raged on. In an 1878 election, Lyndon, Osage City and Burlingame all vied for county-seat status. This time, Osage City received the most votes. However, when the returns showed that the number of votes cast was twice the county population, the courts threw out the election. Rival cities continued to attempt to wrest control from Lyndon. In order to secure its place as county seat, Lyndon would have to construct a permanent county courthouse. Unfortunately, a publicly funded courthouse would require input from a divided citizenry and rekindle the controversy. In 1887, a group of Lyndon boosters privately funded a building and offered it to the county for use as the courthouse. Even this remarkable effort did not settle the dispute.

In the early twentieth century, as the county outgrew the deteriorating 1880s building, the commission made failed attempts to secure funding for a new courthouse. Unfortunately, state law prohibited the construction of courthouses without a bond election, a daunting prospect for the long-polarized county. The tide finally turned in 1917, when the state legislature passed a law eliminating the bond-issue requirement. County commissions could levy taxes for courthouse construction without a divisive bond election.

The new law enabled the Osage County Commissioners to raise funds for a new building through three successive tax levies. Ironically, none of the county commissioners who finally settled the decades-long county seat dispute were from Lyndon. With the necessary funds in hand, the county solicited proposals from courthouse architects.

William Earl Hulse

Osage County hired Hutchinson-based architect William E. Hulse (1882-1943) to design the new building. Hulse was born in Columbus, Ohio on August 11, 1882. He studied civil engineering at the University of Missouri between 1898 and 1901. Before he began his private architecture practice, Hulse was the resident engineer for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. By the time the Osage County Commissioners hired him, Hulse had earned a reputation as the premier courthouse designer in Kansas, having designed courthouses in Kiowa, Wallace, Sedgwick, Barton and Pawnee Counties between 1913 and 1919. After he designed the Osage County Courthouse, Hulse designed the Brown County Courthouse. Hulse specialized in Classical Revival designs,

which proliferated during the abundant 1920s. In 1931, however, he designed the Reno County Courthouse in the Art Deco Style.

Dedication

The citizens of Osage County dedicated the new courthouse on April 27, 1923 in an unprecedented exhibition of unity among long-time rival communities. Despite rain, thousands attended a mile-long parade featuring floats, cars, bands, and a "pageant of progress." After words from each of the county's mayors, Charles Curtis gave the keynote address. The festivities continued into the late afternoon and evening with a barbecue, boxing exhibition, dance and play. The newspaper account praised the pan-county showing: "Lyndon especially thanks the neighboring towns for the interest taken, their large delegations, their contribution to the parade features and the friendly spirit manifested. This friendly spirit is one of the most valuable assets to any community, county, state or nation. It cannot be too intensively cultivated, and its hearty manifestation by all concerned is a matter of mutual congratulation and pride."

Summary

The Osage County Courthouse has continued to serve as the seat of county government since its 1923 completion. Over the years, small adjustments were made to the buildings and site. The 1923 jail was replaced by a newer building. Rooms that were no longer necessary, such as the Farmers Assembly Room, were converted to offices. But the building retains a high degree of integrity from its original construction. The building is eligible for national register listing under both Criterion C as an example of Late Nineteenth Century/Early Twentieth Century Revival Style and Criterion A for its association with Osage County government under the registration requirements identified in the Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Multiple Property Nomination.

Bibliography

"Court House Dedicated." *The Peoples Herald (Lyndon)* 3 May 1923: 1.

"Courthouse Dedication." *The Osage City Free Press* 3 May 1923: 1.

Historic Preservation Services. *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Multiple Property Documentation Form.* Kansas State Historical Society, 2002.

Hulse, William. Original Drawings for the Osage County Courthouse.

Osage County Courthouse Kansas Historic Reconnaissance Form. Kansas State Historical Society, 1999.

Sanborn Maps. 1893, 1897, 1905, 1912, 1927.

"William E. Hulse." Biographical Sketch. *Illustriana Kansas.* Hebron, Nebraska: Illustriana, Inc., 1933: 569.

1917 Kansas Session Laws.

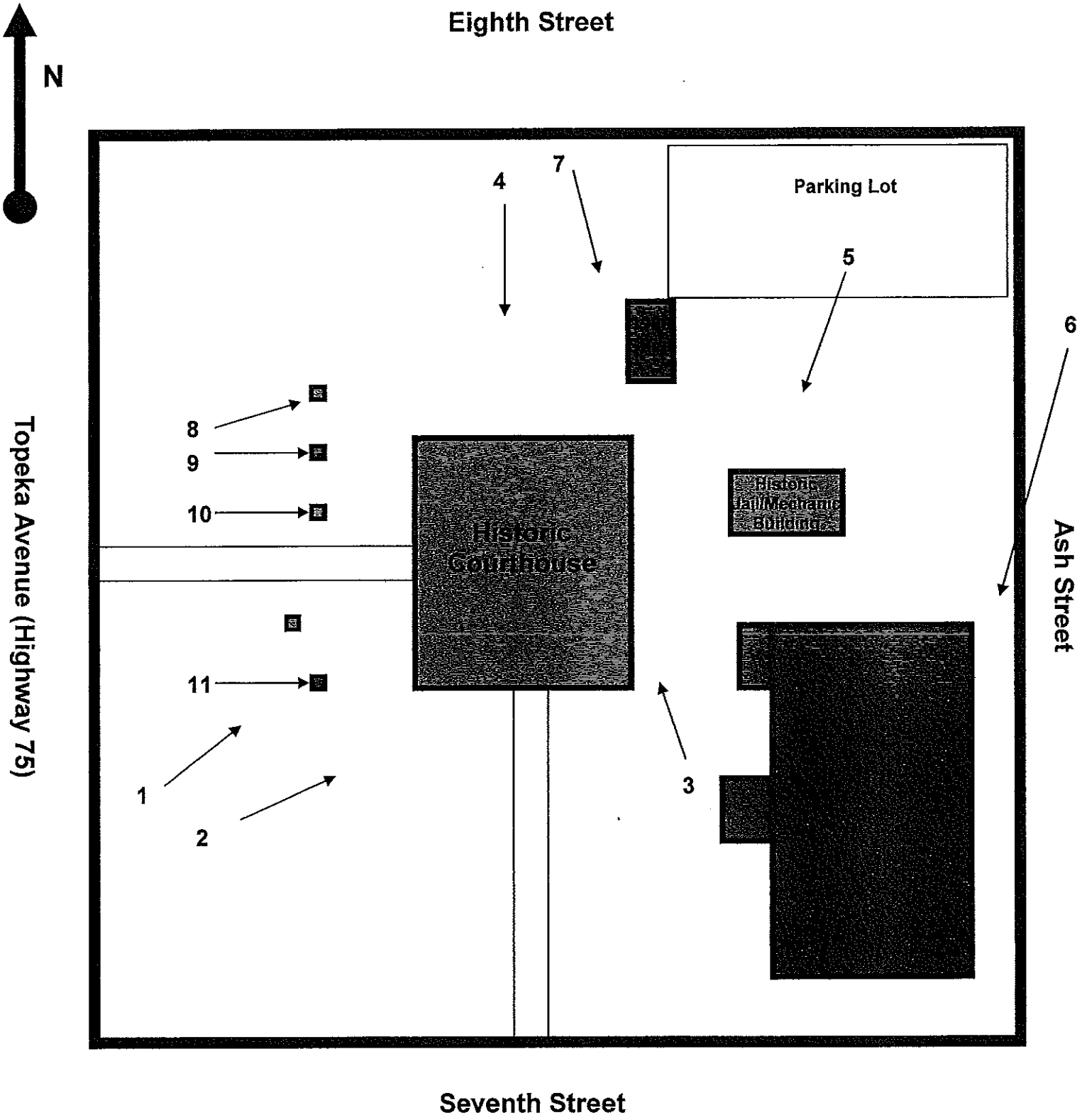
Note: Please also see Section I of the Historic County Courthouses of Kansas Multiple Property Documentation Form for additional sources.

Verbal Boundary Description
Block 15, Original Town, Lyndon, Kansas, bounded by Eighth Street on the north, Seventh Street on the South, Topeka Avenue on the West, and Ash Street on the East.

Boundary Justification
The nominated property includes the entire block on which sits the 1923 Courthouse, historic Jail/Mechanical Building, non-historic 1-story Jail Building, and non-historic wood shed. The block is dedicated to the offices and services of the Osage County government.

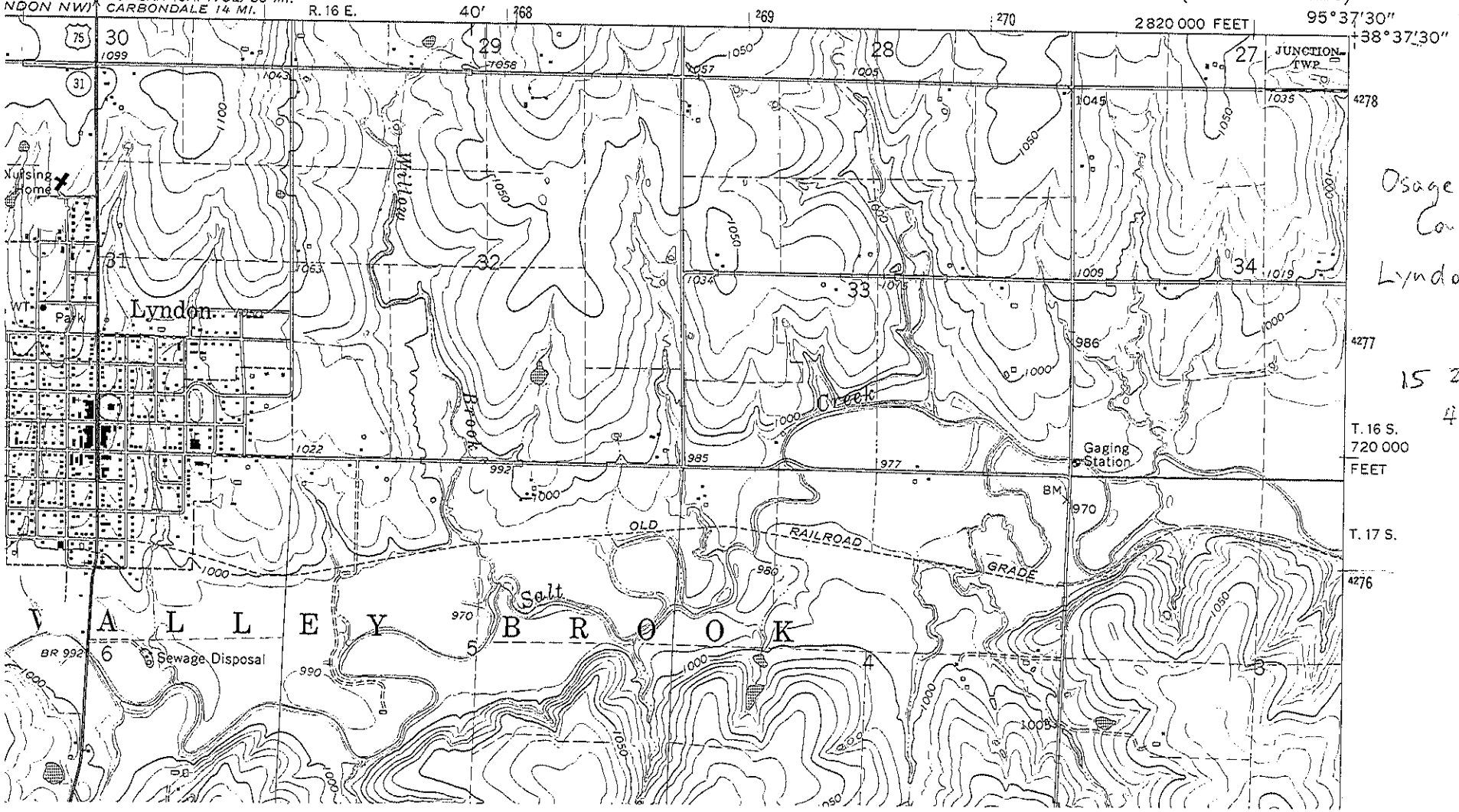
Photo Log:

1 Front (West) Elevation and Flag Pole.
2 Side (South) Elevation
3 Rear (East) Elevation
4 Side (North) Elevation
5 North and East Elevations of the historic Jail/Mechanical Building
6 East (front) and North Elevations of 1985 Jail/Sheriff's Office (Non-contributing)
7 1980 Shed (Non-Contributing)
8 World War I Memorial
9 1969 Memorial (Non-Contributing)
10 Korean War Memorial
11 Vietnam War Memorial (Non-Contributing)
12 Main Hall Looking North, First Floor
13 Intersecting Halls, Northeast Corner, First Floor
14 Main Stair, West Side, First Floor
15 Second-Floor Hall, Looking East
16 Third-Floor Hall, Looking South
17 Courtroom, Third Floor
18 Typical Transomed Door
19 Typical Egg and Dart Molding
20 Terrazzo Floor, Marble Base, Marble Wainscoting
21 Faux-Painted Metal Doors (typical)
22 Sconce, Courtroom



Site Plan and Photo Log
Osage County Courthouse
(Not to Scale)

LYNDON QUADRANGLE
KANSAS–OSAGE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Osage County Courthouse
Lyndon Quad

15 266350 E
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