

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

OLD GERMAN-AMERICAN STATE BANK

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

435 Kansas Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2 Jim Jeffries

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Shawnee

CODE

177

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Howard Paul

STREET & NUMBER First Rule Properties
P.O. Box 5318

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66605

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

3-2-74

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old German-American State Bank is a two-story rectangular structure with flat roof located on the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Kansas Avenue in Topeka. The main facade faces east on Kansas Avenue and is approximately 26 feet wide while the side elevation faces south on Fifth Street and is a little more than twice as long. On these facades the surfaces are clad in white glazed brick and ornamented with white glazed terracotta elements.

Four segmentally arched window bays articulate the south facade and one arched bay twice as wide as those on the south stretches across the shorter Kansas Avenue facade. The two-story wall piers are ornamented with glazed terracotta pendants, while a console graces the arch of the main facade. The window spandrels are recessed and contain inset panels ornamented with bands of discs. The second-story windows are tripartite in form with a large single-light central panel flanked by narrower side panels having one-over-one sashes. The mullions, jambs and frames are made of brown-painted wood. The larger windows of the first story have transom-level horizontal rails running across all three divisions and are proportioned differently from those of the second story. All windows in the building have panes of dark tinted glass.

The entablature is elaborately ornamented with terracotta detailing, the most notable feature being a band of small arches that enclose foliate forms. Above the entablature is a straight parapet whose horizontality is interrupted by merlon-like projections at points above the piers.

There are two first-story entrances and one basement entrance in the main portion of the building, occurring at the south end of the main facade and at the west end of the side elevation. A light trough runs the length of the Fifth Street facade, providing a source of natural light for the basement, which is reached by exterior stairs running down from the sidewalk level at both east and west ends. Several buttresses bridge the trough just below street level. On the Kansas Avenue side glass bricks set into the pavement also light the basement where it reaches out under the sidewalk.

ALTERATIONS

The building has been totally renovated on the interior. All of the windows have been replaced: the new second-story windows duplicate the original second-story windows in design and materials (excepting the tinted glass), but the first-story windows do not duplicate the historic treatment of these elements. While the complete original first story window treatment is not at present known, these windows appear to have had metal frames, transoms vertically divided into square panes, and large plate glass openings below.

Finally, to the rear, a structure containing stairways and an elevator has been constructed to facilitate circulation from floor to floor and to provide handicapped access. Originally, each floor had a separate exterior entrance. Access to the second floor was attained by using the stairway in the adjacent building to the north. The elevator addition has been recessed from the plane of the southern facade.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Leeper and Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old German-American State Bank building at 435 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, is a small-scale commercial structure which evidences a significant aspect of Topeka's ethnic heritage and exemplifies early twentieth-century trends in American commercial architecture.

Millard F. Rigby, owner of a Topeka confectionary business, acquired the lot at 435 Kansas Avenue in 1908 for a sum of \$20,000. In April of 1910 he ordered the demolition of the building which had been occupying the site. By May, the local contracting firm of Leeper and Smith had commenced construction of a new two-story commercial structure on the lot. The \$15,000 building was one of many being erected in Topeka during what was at the time recognized to be a minor city-wide building boom.

The first tenant to occupy the new building was George M. Noble, who ran a real estate/insurance business from the second floor offices. A 1913 Sanborn Insurance Map indicates that a drugstore was in operation on the ground floor at that time. By 1916, however, the building had become the home of the German-American State Bank. On December 21, 1917, the name of the bank was changed to the Guaranty State Bank and that institution remained at this location until the 1950s.

The German-American State Bank first opened its doors at another location in January of 1908. The name reflected the institution's association with Topeka's German community. Like the German-language newspapers and the German national parish church of St. Joseph's located a few blocks away, the bank catered to this distinct immigrant population within the city. Primarily German Russians, these people had begun to settle in Kansas in the 1870s. Many were attracted to Topeka by the job opportunities offered by the railroads and other industries centered here. Alteration of the bank's name in late 1917 undoubtedly reflected the anti-German sentiment that accompanied World War I.

Architecturally, the new structure was derived from a combination of design idioms. In overall design, the building reflected the style of commercial architecture popularized by the so-called "Chicago School" of architecture beginning in the late 1880s and continuing into the second decade of the twentieth century. In this style of architecture, the building was treated like a box pierced by a regular arrangement of large windows to provide maximum natural illumination of the interior. Often the box approximated the appearance of a cage, with widely spaced masonry piers and relatively narrow window spandrels. While in tall structures this arrangement frequently reflected a system of steel cage construction, in the small Topeka building the cage effect is achieved entirely by masonry construction.

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STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Shawnee	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

8. Significance (Continuation Sheet) No. 1

(Number all entries)

White had become a popular color for the exteriors of commercial buildings beginning in the 1890s. The Chicago World Fair of 1893, with its "White City" image, and skyscrapers such as Root's Reliance Building, encouraged a taste for light-colored masonry design. Glazed terracotta and brick as found at 435 Kansas Avenue were favored materials for achieving the desired effect.

Finally, the detailing of the new building displayed characteristics of both romanesque revival and classical revival design idioms, each of which were commonly employed in commercial design since the later 19th century although a taste for classical features was by this period in the ascendancy.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT.

9. Bibliography

Abstract, lot 143 (party wall agreement May 21, 1910)

"Coming Season Promises Much in Building Line," Topeka Daily Capital, March 3, 1910, p. 12.

"German-American Bank Began Business Yesterday," Topeka Daily Capital, January 8, 1908, p. 10.

Radges Topeka City Directory, 1912.

"Rigby Will Build at Fifth and Kansas Avenue," Topeka Daily Capital, April 14, 1910, p. 5.

Wallace, Douglass and Bird, Roy, Witness of the Times: A History of Shawnee County, Bulletin No. 53, Shawnee County Historical Society, 1976.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximate .5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	2,6,7,9,0,0	4,3,2,5,7,4,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are the east 62½' of Lot 143, Block 15, original plat of Topeka.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Julie Wortman, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

2-29-80

STREET & NUMBER

120 West Tenth

TELEPHONE

913 296-5294

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

TITLE Executive Director
Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

2-29-80

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

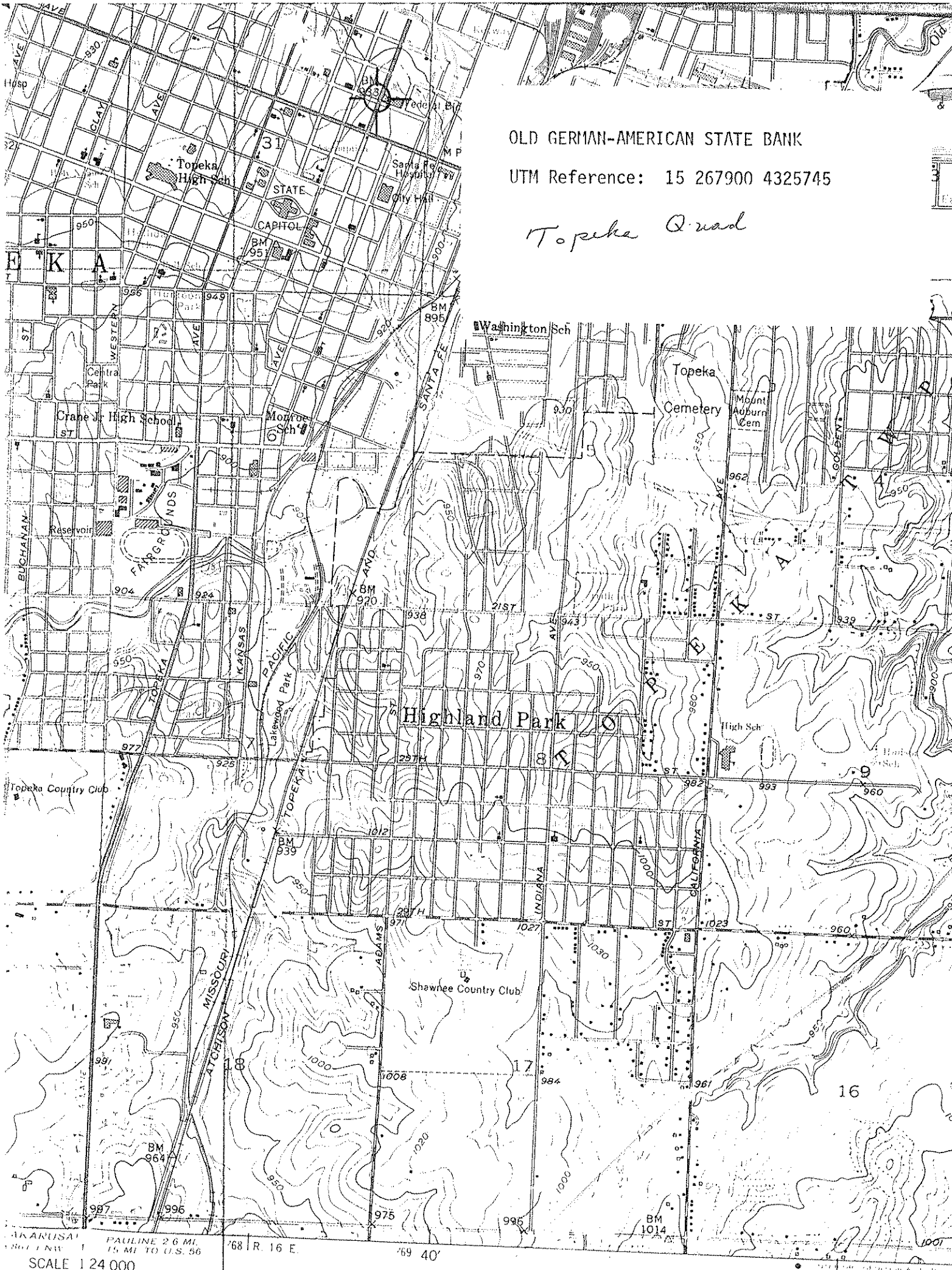
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OLD GERMAN-AMERICAN STATE BANK

UTM Reference: 15 267900 4325745

Topeka Quad



PAULINE 2.6 MI.
1.5 MI TO U.S. 56

68 R. 16 E. 69 40'

SCALE 1:24 000