



Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Pearl Opera House

Other names/site number KHRI # 197-363

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas

2. Location

street & number 601 Main Street not for publication

city or town Alta Vista vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Wabaunsee code 197 zip code 66834

3-4. Certification

The above property has been determined eligible for both the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The property has been documented and recorded on a National Register of Historic Places nomination form, which serves as the official register nomination for this property.

The Historic Sites Board of Review has determined that this property meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

I hereby certify that this property meets the criteria for and is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria: x A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title Katrina Ringler, Deputy SHPO

June 1, 2024

Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State agency

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Pearl Opera House
Other names/site number Pearl Theater KHRI # 197-363
Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas

2. Location

Street & number 601 Main Street

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 not for publication
City or town Alta Vista

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 vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Wabaunsee Code 197 Zip code 66834

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D


Signature of certifying official/Title Katrina Ringler, Deputy SHPO Date 6/25/2024

Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Pearl Opera House
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <u>1</u> | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone

walls: Limestone

roof: Synthetic

other: _____

Pearl Opera House

Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas

County and State

Narrative Description

Summary

The Pearl Opera House is located at 601 Main Street in downtown Alta Vista, a community of 400 in Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Constructed in 1904, the Pearl is a two-story building constructed of native limestone by local masons. Designed with two storefronts for commercial businesses at the front of the building, the opera house had a separate entrance off Center Street on the south. The property took its current form in the 1920s when the original owner's ice house (built to support his meat market in the north commercial storefront) was removed and the existing dwelling constructed. The southwest corner of the original site was separated from the Opera House property at that time.

The limestone structure is unadorned, a pedimented metal cornice was formerly removed which was the only decorative element on the facade aside from the extant inscribed date and name stones. The configuration of the original storefronts is intact with limestone and cast iron columns, an iron floor at one recessed entrance and one panel of the original wood bulkhead and transom window. The existing display windows and sheathing are replacements. The interior of the ground floor also retains two commercial spaces that remain open with the original wood floor and metal ceilings. The south building entrance provides access to a wood stair leading to the upper-floor opera house/community hall. The second floor remains a large open hall with its original configuration and finishes largely intact. The wood stage with curved front and elliptical proscenium arch are intact as is the pressed metal ceiling and wood floor. Trim including window and door casings and wood wainscoting are also in place. The original plaster finish on walls is the only missing finish; the existing perimeter walls are exposed limestone with wood wainscoting. The space clearly communicates its original design and function as a community hall/opera house.

Elaboration

Setting

The Pearl Opera House is situated in the heart of Alta Vista's commercial area, one mile east of K-177 and one-half mile north of K-4. Located at the northwest corner of Main and Center Streets,¹ the building faces east fronting Main Street. Alta Vista's downtown is atypical in that most extant commercial buildings are free standing or in small clusters rather than in a continuous block with shared parting walls. Main Street has diagonal parking on both sides with concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Center Street, running along the south side of the building has diagonal parking on an unpaved grass section next to the concrete sidewalk that abuts the building.

The building measures approximately 50' x 80' on Lots 12 and 13 in Block 3 spanning to the west boundary of the legal parcel. Historically the Opera House parcel extended to the alley west of the building and the original owner who had his meat market in one of the commercial storefronts, built a one-story ice house behind the building. As seen in *Figure 3* at the end of the nomination, Star Mercantile had expanded into both storefronts by 1912 and by 1928, the ice house had been replaced by a dwelling west of the Opera House building. The dwelling remains in place with a shed addition on the east that spans to the rear facade of the Opera House. The legal parcel for the Opera House is a flag-shape generally reflecting the building footprint with a strip along the north side of Lot 13 extending to the alley on the west (*See Figure 1 at the end of the nomination*). This north strip provides access to a rear door to the ground-floor north commercial space and formerly provided access to an exterior stair that served the second floor. Exterior steel fire escapes remain in place on the south facade providing access to the roof and sidewalk. A one-story commercial building abuts the Opera House on the north. The site took its current form when the early ice house was replaced by the existing dwelling in the 1920s.

Exterior

The Pearl Opera House is a two-story limestone building with a rectangular footprint and shallow gable roof obscured by a plain parapet. Historically the building had a pressed-metal cornice on the front facade with central pediment inscribed 'Pearl Opera House' (*see Figures 4 and 6 at the end of the nomination*). The cornice had been removed by 1976. The parapets on the side walls step down to the rear and have a simple stone cap. The shallow gable form is visible on the rear/west facade. Constructed of native limestone by local masons J. P. Day and Son, the only detailing on the stone facade is a date and name stone on the front inscribed 'U. Thomas, 1904.' The front facade is four bays in width as defined by single windows on the upper facade. The masonry openings have stone sills and lintels. Replacing the

¹Sometime after 1928 the two primary avenues (Grant and Main Street) in Alta Vista exchanged names and block numbers were adjusted readdressing the Pearl Opera House in the 600 block of Main Street. The original address of the Pearl was 516-517 Grant Street. The local centennial history book suggests this change took place in 1916, but no evidence was found to support that date. The 1928 Sanborn Map retains the same addresses as the 1905 and 1912 maps (*See Figure 3 at the end of the nomination*).

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original 1/1 double-hung units, fixed single-light windows were formerly installed in the original openings on the upper facade.

Limestone columns divide the lower front facade into two storefronts where a steel lintel separates the storefront opening from the upper facade. Four ornate cast iron columns (G.L. Mesker & Co., Evansville, Ind.) divide each storefront into three bays. The existing storefronts retain the original configuration although the existing materials are largely replacements and the transoms have been covered. Display windows over paneled wood bulkheads flank recessed central entrances with storefront panels angling back to the doors. The original paneled wood bulkhead and glass transom are extant at the angled panels on the south storefront. A single course of limestone is in place across the base of the storefront with a cast iron floor extant at the south entrance.

The south facade is five bays wide, defined by regularly-spaced single windows across the upper facade. These windows have replacement fixed-light units like on the front facade. The fourth bay, from the west end, is a single door with an exterior fire escape. Windows in bays three and five also have fire escapes, the third window's escape extends up to the roof while the unit at the fifth window originally extended to the ground (components missing). There are no openings on the east half of the lower facade but there are two doors and two windows at the west end of the lower south facade. It appears that the door and adjacent window at the west end were likely installed to accommodate access into a rear commercial room. A single door to the east is the exterior access to the second-floor opera house/community hall. This entrance opens onto the landing at the stair leading to the second floor. The opera house entrance was clearly purpose-built as a dedicated entrance to the upper floor but was never adorned as a prominent entry. A single window is adjacent to the east. The doors and windows are currently boarded. The upper level of the north facade is visible above the adjacent one-story building and composed of five regularly-spaced single windows just like the south facade.

Given the presence of the residential addition that abuts the west facade of the Opera House, it is difficult to ascertain the precise original configuration. Fenestration on both levels is asymmetrical. There are three existing masonry openings on the upper facade, the two southern openings are windows, matching the size and configuration of openings on the other facades. Toward the north half of the upper facade, a single door corresponds to the exterior stair illustrated on the 1912 Sanborn Map – providing exterior access directly into upper-level Opera House. Remnants of the original 1/1 double-hung wood windows and a paneled wood door are in place. The lower rear facade has three openings on the north half and no visible indication of former openings on the south half. A single door, matching the paneled wood door on the upper facade, is in place providing rear access to the north commercial space. Single window openings are in place flanking the door although openings are boarded.

Interior

The two commercial spaces remain on the ground floor, each with a storefront entrance and an opening in the demising wall between the two spaces with a pair of French doors. Each side is a large open space with original pressed metal ceilings and wood floors exposed. Both sides have wood cabinets and shelving units along the north and south walls with faux wood tile on the walls above the shelving. A rear wall encloses a small work room and bathroom on the north. The rear wall separates the south commercial space from the stairway to the second floor. A small room in the southwest corner of the building is accessible from the south, west of the second-floor entrance. Metal ceilings and remnants of plaster walls and ceilings are in place in the rear rooms behind both storefront spaces.

The upper level of the building is remarkably intact reflecting its original design and construction. There are two entry points, one on the south and one on the west, the latter via a former exterior stair. The south entrance accesses a small landing with a semi-enclosed wood stair to the second floor, entering near the west end of the floor. A small room or storage area is located west of the stair. The stair is a single run with wood slat enclosure and beadboard wainscot on one side. Aside from the rear stair and stage, the second floor is a large open room with windows down each side. A central wood beam, running E/W is supported by round steel columns down the center of the hall. The ceiling is pressed metal with a worn painted finish. Perimeter walls are primarily exposed stone with beadboard wainscot and wood molding at the ceiling. Although windows are former replacements, original wood casings are in place. The original wood floor is in place in fair to good condition. Wood wainscot and wood trim is generally in place throughout with isolated areas of missing sections. A majority of wood components retain their original stained and varnished finish with the rear stair enclosure and wainscot on the rear wall having a painted finish. Isolated remnants of plaster remain, primarily at the junction with trim. There is a significant bulge in the south limestone wall, one of the areas of deteriorated and missing wainscoting.

The stage is located along the east end of the floor with wood steps up to cased openings at each end that lead back stage. The wall enclosure is plaster, with some wall paper finish, above beadboard wainscoting. The wide proscenium

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arch is a shallow elliptical form with simple wood surround. The wood stage curves outward at the opening along the proscenium. The stage area has plaster walls with beadboard wainscoting and sections of metal and wood ceiling. There are two small rooms backstage, one in each corner. The structure supporting the proscenium opening is partially visible backstage and includes a cast iron flange hung from roof structure above.

At its 1904 completion, the interior was described as containing two elegant store rooms, with a basement under half the building. The upper story would be home to the 50x80 foot opera house with an ample stage and space for scenery. The stage had a scroll down curtain of heavy canvas with advertisements printed on it.²

Integrity

The exterior of the opera house building retains its primary vernacular characteristic – the exterior facade built of native limestone. Primary components of the original storefront remain including the storefront lintel and cast iron columns as well as the iron floor, a panel of the original wood bulkhead and transom at the south recessed entrance. Known exterior alterations include removal of the metal cornice (pre-1976), replacement of upper windows, and replacement storefront components. Additionally, the site took its current form in the 1920s when the site was reduced in size. The original owner's free-standing ice house west of the building was replaced by a dwelling that remains in place today (on separate legal parcel).

Opposite of many historic commercial buildings, it is the interior of this building that retains a remarkable degree of historic integrity clearly portraying its original design and function. The ground floor retains two storefront commercial spaces with original metal ceilings and wood floors exposed. The multi-function open hall on the second floor retains its original exterior entrances, its original open configuration with stage on one end, and its original finishes with the one exception that little plaster remains on the perimeter walls. Overall, the Pearl Opera House retains a moderate degree of historic integrity, maintaining integrity of design, setting and location, feeling and association, with a somewhat compromised integrity of materials and workmanship due to past modifications. Considering the intact second-floor community hall, the Pearl Opera House clearly communicates its original design and function.

² Rachel Tucker. "Pearl Opera House: Phantom of the Flint Hills: Alta Vista, Wabaunsee County, Kansas 1880s-1970s." Student paper submitted to the Chapman Center for Rural Studies, Fall 2015. 11. Tucker is quoting from an interview with Janice Swallow (daughter of Robert & Olive Smith) 13 Dec 2015; and *Alta Vista Journal* 29 Oct 1904, 1.

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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.)

- 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 is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Period of Significance

1904-1974

Significant Dates

1904

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

J. P. Day and Son, Stone Masons

J.H. and A.W. Syring, Contractors

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1904-1973, the date of construction to the fifty year threshold when no other date exists to support the end of significance.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Pearl Opera House, Alta Vista, Wabaunsee County, Kansas, is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the *Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas MPS* as a representative of the *Community Hall* property type. The Pearl is locally-significant resource under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation and Social History. The period of significance for the property is 1904-1974, the date of construction through the fifty-year threshold for historic significance when no other date exists to support ending the building's significance.

Built by local meat market owner Union Thomas, the building housed two retail spaces on the first floor and a large open hall with a stage on one end, on the second floor. The Pearl was designed to provide an entertainment and meeting venue for the town and surrounding area, hosting numerous traveling shows in the early years including plays, musicals, lectures, comedy acts, magicians, the first moving picture shows in town as well as roller skating, wrestling matches and basketball. The building served as a Community Hall, as defined in the *Theaters and Opera Houses MPS* with local civic groups, schools, and fraternal organizations using the hall for meetings and functions in addition to the entertainment and recreational activities. The upper floor was used daily for entertainment through the 1920s, then as a hall for local entertainment, movies, social events, and community activities through at least the late 1970s.

Typical of the *Community Hall* property type, the Pearl is a vernacular commercial building constructed of native limestone by Alta Vista stone masons J.P. Day and his son Amos. The firm was responsible for many stone residences, arches, bridges and commercial buildings around Wabaunsee County. Although original features including the metal cornice and windows are missing from the Pearl Opera House's exterior, the building retains the native limestone walls, cast iron columns at the storefronts and two ground-floor commercial spaces. Most importantly, the Pearl Opera House retains the characteristic features that define the property type – its original large open hall with raised stage and proscenium arch on the east end with original finishes include a hardwood floor, metal ceiling, and plaster walls, and a separate entrance to the second-floor hall. The building never had fixed seating as was common in such spaces to maximize flexibility for a wide variety of functions. The building retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Integrity of design has been somewhat compromised with the removal of the metal cornice and replacement of upper windows but the windows fill the original masonry openings and the missing cornice can be replaced. The building retains a sufficient level of integrity required for listing and meets the registration requirements defined in the *Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas MPS*.

Elaboration

A Community Hall in a town of 500 residents

Completed one year prior to Alta Vista's incorporation in 1905, the opera house reflects the early period of the town's settlement, its desire to serve non-essential needs of early residents, and their optimism and faith in the future (defining aspects of the property type's historic significance as outlined in the MPS).³

Built of locally quarried limestone, the Pearl Opera House is classified as a Vernacular structure meaning it utilized locally-available materials and skills of local craftsmen as was common in Kansas with a dearth of native hardwoods. Lying at the north end of the Flint Hills region, Wabaunsee County has an abundance of stone outcroppings used to build many of the early residential and commercial buildings such as the Pearl Opera House. As early as 1878 the county was noted for its superior quality of blue and white limestone found in every township.⁴ An 1885 directory further noted, "every part of the County is underlaid with a fine quality of limestone, both magnesium and common. A hard limestone, quarried in the Mission Creek Township, is being used in the many buildings in the county, and large quantities are exported to neighboring localities."⁵ The stone masonry contract was let to J. P. Day and Son of Alta Vista. Jesse Price Day (1852-1936) and son Amos Hans Day (1876-1944) were noted local stone masons responsible for many stone residences,

³ Rosin, Elizabeth and Dale Nimz. *Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas Multiple Property Submission*. Washington DC: National Register of Historic Places. 2004. F59.

⁴ *First Biennial Report of the State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of the State of Kansas, for the Years 1877-8*. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Rand, McNally & Co., Printers and Engravers, Chicago. 1878. Transcribed by Jeremy Shultz, January 2002. Accessed online on 10 Sep 2023 at <https://www.ksgenweb.org/archives/1878/wabaunsee.html>.

⁵ Dale E. Nimz. Alma Downtown Historic District Nomination. Washington, DC: National Parks Service, 2008, 8-11, quoting R. Sorren Magee. *Magee's History and Directory of Wabaunsee County*. Winchester, KS: Argus Job Printing Office, 1885. 13.

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arches, bridges and commercial buildings around Wabaunsee County including the extant 1906 People's State Bank Building in Alta Vista.⁶ When work on the opera house was completed, the local paper noted that the quality of the stone work proved that Day and Son could handle any job.⁷ The local contractor J.H. and A.W. Syring supplied the carpentry work for the Pearl building. Herman Emil Syring (1871-1923) came to the Wabaunsee County from Warpe, Germany with his family in 1884. He was a carpenter all his life, responsible for the construction of many residences and commercial buildings in Alta Vista and Wabaunsee County. Grentner Hardware from Junction City roofed the building in steel, making the building "as near fire-proof as it is possible to get."⁸

The Pearl hosted countless entertainment, social, educational, and sporting events during the first seven decades of its existence. From the outset, owner Union Thomas scheduled traveling troupes including theater, comedy acts, music of all types, magicians, and lecturers. Often these nightly events were performed by out-of-town companies that traveled across the United States and whose movement was facilitated by the rail access Alta Vista could provide. Thomas was a shrewd businessman, selling tickets to events from his shop, a fact often noted in the announcements in local newspapers.⁹ Other businesses shared his business acumen as shown by the fashion shows in the early 1920s that were sponsored by a local clothing store.

The touring acts from the earliest shows at the Pearl may have included moving pictures in their performances. By December 1909, Thomas was showing moving pictures independent of other performances including those sponsored by companies such as the 1914 Maxwell Motor Co. from Detroit, MI that showed how a car was manufactured.¹⁰ Additional movies included serials by popular actors Francis Ford and Grace Cunard, which sometimes ran for as long as fifteen weeks.¹¹ The Pearl Theater ran pictures at least twice a week with roller skating on Wednesday and Saturday after the show.¹² Admissions for most events ran fifteen to thirty-five cents and later increased to seventy-five cents with the addition of a war tax during WWI. Productions by local groups including schools were performed as well. The Pearl served the community much as the multipurpose arenas of later decades did for larger cities. In addition to entertainment, sporting events from roller skating and basketball to wrestling events were held (See *Figure 7*).¹³

From the moment it opened the Pearl provided the community a meeting space the town had lacked. Groups including the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis Club, Alta Vista Farmers Union Cooperative, the American Legion, and the Modern Woodmen held their banquets, meetings, and dances both for children and adults. Local school events for Alta Vista and nearby communities such as Dwight and Alma held plays, concerts, dances, and high school commencement in the opera house. Political meetings, Liberty Loan drives, and Chautauqua lectures from a variety of speakers including presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan (1912) were hosted. The Alma Orchestra Christmas concert (1904), a Schubert concert (July 1908), a revival meeting (1912), American Legion pie supper (1920), commencement exercises (1915, 1917), Farmers District Mutual Telephone Company annual meetings (1907 & 1911), monthly Ladies Aid Society and Social Circle Club (1910-1920s), Alta Vista Orchestra concert (1920), Waters Clothing Store seasonal fashion shows (1920s),¹⁴ a Thanksgiving masquerade ball, where masks required to dance (1907), and the Dubinsky Crothers "Pickings from Puck" with fifteen great song hits, whistled by thousands, sung by everybody (1908) are but a few events that took place at the Pearl and noted in local newspapers. According to Alta Vista residents, the Pearl continued to host movies through the early 1970s and events sponsored by the Kiwanis Club as late as the 1985.¹⁵

Alta Vista: Over 130 Years of Commercial Viability & Resiliency

Formed in 1859, Wabaunsee County was sparsely settled until the 1870s when the Pottawatomie Reserve land was opened for settlement. During the following decade, the railroads built lines in surrounding counties but had yet to connect them in Wabaunsee. As the railroads progressed through the county in a southwesterly direction toward Morris County, the towns of Alma, Volland, Templin, and Alta Vista were founded. Among the first settlers to the area were

⁶ *Alta Vista Journal*. 17 Aug 1906, 1.

⁷ "A Fine Building." *Alta Vista Journal*. 9 Sep 1904, 1.

⁸ *Ibid*.

⁹ *Alta Vista Journal*. 10 Jan 1908, 4.

¹⁰ *Alta Vista Journal*. 31 Dec 1914, 1.

¹¹ Rachel Tucker. "Pearl Opera House: Phantom of the Flint Hills: Alta Vista, Wabaunsee County, Kansas 1880s-1970s." Student paper submitted to the Chapman Center for Rural Studies, Fall 2015. 6.

¹² *Alta Vista Journal*. 3 Dec 1909, 4 and 4 Apr 1918, 1.

¹³ *Alta Vista Journal*. 10 Jun 1920, 1.

¹⁴ *Alta Vista Journal*. 10 Apr 1924, 4.

¹⁵ Tucker, 10. Ms. Tucker interviewed Janice Swallow, daughter of long-time owners, Robert and Olive Smith, on 13 Dec 2015; and *Council Grove Republican*. 9 Dec 1985, 2.

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Percival Hawes, Isaac Johnson, Ross and Robert Cooper, L.J. Woodward, H.H. Bailey, A.L. Orton, and the Alexander brothers who were joined later by George Gantz, J.W. Spencer, M.H. Viets, John and Christian Langvardt, Nels Toft, Ben Johnson and Union Thomas.¹⁶ These men became the first tradesmen, merchants, and founders of Alta Vista.

Established in 1886 as Pike, a name that was changed to Cable City then to Alta Vista, a name meaning "high view," the town was platted one year later by surveyors of the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railroad (later the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, CRI&P). Located in the heart of Garfield Township on Mill Creek, Alta Vista quickly became a beacon for settlers who constructed their homes and commercial buildings including the Messenger store, the Fairview Hotel, L.J. Woodard's grocery store, the Kistler hardware and implement business, George Bolten's millinery and dry goods, Satell's feed store, and the railroad's two-story depot.¹⁷ Union Thomas ran a butcher shop and restaurant by 1888.¹⁸ The meat market proved profitable so Thomas closed the restaurant in 1897, and added ice dug from a pond on his land to his shop offerings.¹⁹

With the growing trade facilitated by rail, the county population expanded from roughly 1,000 people in 1860 to more than 7,750 twenty years later.²⁰ Alta Vista became a flourishing center of trade for 560 families in Wabaunsee County.²¹ Corn was the principal grain grown by farmers in the area with the pasturelands capable of supporting large herds of cattle and pigs, which were raised in abundance. Poultry, eggs and cream were bought and sold locally at creameries. By the early 1900s the population of Wabaunsee County topped 12,000 and Alta Vista had gained telephone service, a bank, two barbers, two carpenters, four stone masons, a dentist, a furniture store, five general stores, a meat market, a hardware store, jewelry store, physician, two restaurants, and a newspaper.²²

In March 1904 the local paper announced that local meat market owner Union Thomas would build a 50x80 foot two-story stone building in the heart of Alta Vista. The building, costing \$9,000, was to be constructed of local native limestone and when finished would be the largest building in town.²³ Excitement was building in September 1904 as the finishing touches were being completed. The local paper crowed that the building would do credit to a town of 10,000 to 50,000 inhabitants.²⁴ Union Thomas and his wife and Rachel chose to name the building the Pearl Opera House after their son, Union Pearly Thomas.²⁵ Raised lettering on galvanized bulkhead carried the name Pearl Opera House and "U. Thomas" in stone. A cement sidewalk in front of the building was a final finishing touch.²⁶

Over three hundred people attended the October 21, 1904 grand opening of the Pearl Opera House that featured magician Victor Lee on Friday and Saturday night. The first show was crowded and chaotic with the purchasing of tickets and lack of orderly seating, a problem solved by the second night. The *Alta Vista Journal* editorial declared that they doubted there was a better hall or stage in county.²⁷

The 1905 Sanborn Map of Alta Vista shows the Pearl Opera House in the 500 block of Alta Vista at the corner of Grant and Center Streets, with the stone ice house immediately behind the building on the same lot. Across the back alley were the slaughter house and supply sheds for Thomas's butcher shop. The first floor was occupied by a meat and grocery (Thomas's meat market and confectionery) and the general store in the south bay (Star Mercantile). By 1912 the Star Mercantile was occupying both spaces. The 1928 the Sanborn Map indicates the first floor housed a drug store in the north bay alongside a store on the south. The building was no longer labeled "opera house" on the map although the town continued to utilize the hall for numerous community events including movies.

¹⁶ Carol Swenson. "A History of Alta Vista, Kansas." Unpublished college thesis, 1968.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ *Alta Vista, Kansas 1887-1987, 100 Years*. Alta Vista, KS: Centennial Committee, 1987, and *Alma Enterprise*. 18 Nov 1904, 4.

¹⁹ *Wabaunsee County Folks, 1907*. Topeka, KS: The Kansas Directory Co. 1907. 59.

²⁰ William Cutler. "Wabaunsee County." *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883. [transcription online] Kansas Collection Books <https://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/wabaunsee/wabaunsee-co-p1.html>. Accessed online on 2 Sep 2023.

²¹ *Alta Vista, Kansas 1887-1987, 100 Years*. 9.

²² *Alta Vista Journal*. 10 Aug 1900, 1, and William Cutler. "Wabaunsee County."

²³ *Alta Vista Journal*. 25 Mar 1904, 1.

²⁴ "A Fine Building." *Alta Vista Journal*. 9 Sep 1904, 1.

²⁵ *Alta Vista Journal*. 30 Sept 1904, 1.

²⁶ "A Fine Building." *Alta Vista Journal*. 9 Sep 1904, 1.

²⁷ *Alta Vista Journal*. 28 Oct 1904, 1.

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In 1907, Alta Vista hosted competing telephone exchanges and added a second bank.²⁸ The People's State Bank was organized with \$10,000 in capital by Chris Langvardt, U.G. Slack, J.W. Spencer, Union Thomas, Ross Cooper and Henry Dierking.²⁹ By 1920 it held more than \$350,000 in deposits, but it did not survive the Great Depression as its competitor the Alta Vista State Bank did. Alta Vista State Bank was in business from 1900 through 2016 when it was taken over by the Farmers and Drovers Bank that is extant today.

In 1908 the Alta Vista Light Co. provided electricity to the town. Fourteen local men, including Union Thomas, E.J. Syring and J.F. Eberle, organized a volunteer fire department in 1910.³⁰ The 1912 Polk directory described the town as an incorporated city of 499 on the CRI&P Railroad on Mill Creek in Garfield Township, seventeen miles southwest of Alma, the county seat. Alta Vista was noted as one of the busiest towns in Kansas with "a number of high-class mercantile houses, a good public school system, express and telegraph offices." The town "does considerable shipping, and its money order post office is the starting point of three rural delivery routes which supply mail to the surrounding country."³¹

Nearby stone quarries provided enduring employment for Alta Vista residents. The quarry north of town, founded in 1887, supplied the railroads ballast for grading, employing as many as fifty local men. The quarry ceased operations after the railroad lines were complete, but opened again in 1928 to provide the same support to the new Rock Island line. The *1921 Pocket Directory of Alta Vista* included both banks, Newgard's Poultry & Eggs, Nelson's Shaving Parlor, Johnsons Jewelry Store, the Fairview Hotel, Kruger & Cory's Tire Service, Faidley's Poultry & Cream, Water's General Merchandise, Wolgast Hardware, Wolgast Lumber, JR Rector's shoe repair and Burgner-Bowman Hardware & Implements dealer. A city hall was completed in August 1929 and replaced in 1965, then in 1997 Alta Vista citizens voted to fund an expansion that extended the fire station and adding a small library on the building.³²

Agriculture-related and construction businesses were a mainstay in Alta Vista from the pioneer days until present. Carpenters J.H. Syring and Bill Kahle constructed many of the early commercial buildings, buying supplies from the M.L. Hull Lumber yard, later owned by William Wolgast. Wolgast was joined by his brother Herman and the two operated the business until 1945 when Herman bought out his brother. The firm is still in business today and run by the Wolgast family. Another long-term business, Buchman Farm Supply, opened in 1956 when the Buchmans bought the Fisher Implement Co. Contemporary businesses in Alta Vista include construction, masonry, and real estate firms, agricultural supplies, livestock sales and farrier, farm implement repair, welding shops, meat processing, a bison reserve, and an agriculture-related history museum, many of which have been in business for decades or are operated by descendants of early business owners. While small towns often struggle to survive, Alta Vista has maintained a relatively stable population through the decades continually numbering over 400 (428 residents in 2023), while nearby Volland, and Templin have ceased to exist. Much of that resilience can be attributed to families and businesses that have remained for generations.

Union Thomas

Union Purley Thomas (1861-1945) was born to John and Mariah (Cash) Thomas in Antrim, Guernsey County, Ohio. He married Rachel A. Snodgrass (1866-1943) in Washington, OH in March 1883 and the couple briefly lived in Warren Township in Morris County, Kansas near Rachel's Snodgrass family. By 1888 the couple had moved to Alta Vista where Union operated a butcher shop and restaurant. Union Thomas was one of the founders of People's State Bank in Alta Vista in 1906,³³ manager of the telephone exchange, and twice mayor of Alta Vista 1917-1920.³⁴ His wife Rachel played slide trombone and may have played in the Alta Vista band, which had female members. She played at the Pearl on numerous occasions.³⁵ The couple built a new home in Alta Vista at the same time as building Pearl. Later Thomas built the commercial brick building across the street from Pearl that was known as "Thomas building."³⁶ The couple celebrated

²⁸ *Wabaunsee County Folks, 1907.*

²⁹ *Topeka Daily State Journal.* 30 April 1906, 2.

³⁰ Carol Swenson.

³¹ Frank Blackmar. *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons...* Vol. 3. Chicago: Standard Pub. Co., 1912, 891-93. Transcribed by Tom & Carolyn Ward. Accessed online on 29 Aug 2023, at https://www.ksgenweb.org/archives/1912/a/alta_vista.html

³² John E. Chambers. "Alta Vista 'high view' in Wabaunsee County." *Topeka Capital Journal.* 11 Jun 1999.

³³ *Alma Signal.* 11 Sep 1908, 8.

³⁴ *Alma Signal.* 21 Sep 1922, 1; *Council Grove Republican.* 21 Sep 1922, 1 and *Alta Vista Journal.* 12 Aug 1920, 1.

³⁵ *Alma Signal.* 19 Aug 1920, 1, *Alta Vista Journal.* 14 Sep 1911, 1, 6 May 1915, 1 and 12 Aug 1920, 1.

³⁶ The earliest mentions of the "Thomas Building" in the local newspapers refer to the Pearl Opera House, however, later mentions clearly indicate the building is across the street from the Pearl. *Alta Vista Journal.* 20 Mar 1913, 3.

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their twenty-eighth wedding anniversary with 100 guests at the Pearl with music by the local band and orchestra.³⁷ They resided in Wabaunsee County for over thirty years before moving to Arizona in 1922. While he was a farmer, cattleman, butcher, town booster, mayor, and bank director, Union Thomas's death certificate listed his occupation simply as a "retired merchant."³⁸

In June 1920, Thomas announced he was selling the Pearl to George L. Dunlap, from Hope, Kansas. One newspaper reported that Thomas traded the Pearl and his large brick garage in town for 240 acres of farmland five miles north of Council Grove in Morris County, near where he and Rachel had lived when they first arrived in Kansas.³⁹ The Thomas family held a farewell dance at the Pearl on June 16, 1920. The sale of the Pearl became official in September 1922 with the land transfer from Thomas to Dunlap for Lots 12-13 in Block 3 of Alta Vista for \$800.⁴⁰ George L. Dunlap and family moved to Alta Vista and operated the Pearl Theater much as Thomas had done, until George died unexpectedly in 1924.⁴¹ The Dunlap family retained ownership of the building, living near Hope in Dickinson County, Kansas until 1954 when they sold the Pearl Opera House building and the house west of it to Robert A. and Olive Smith.⁴²

Mercantile and Meat Markets to Pharmacies and Sundries

On the ground floor, the Pearl Opera House offered two commercial spaces that through the years housed many types of businesses vital to the community. The stores provided not only commercial value but they also acted as a community gathering space as occurred in June 1912 when Buster Brown arrived in town to entertain the children and encourage the parents to buy their shoes. A photograph was taken of the crowd and remains a lasting image of the town.⁴³ A soda counter in the drug store was in place by the 1930s (and later Smith's Sundries) would pull in crowds from events at the Pearl as well as nearby locations well into the 1980s when Smith's Sundries offered frozen Coke as a hometown treat.⁴⁴

In November 1904 the Star Mercantile moved into the south side of the opera house from another location in town. Within eight years, the firm would occupy both sides of the first floor with groceries on the north and dry goods on the south.⁴⁵ The Star was founded by C.F. Ifland and H.E. Syring, who changed the name of their existing concern to Star Mercantile when they added Henry Dierking as a partner.⁴⁶ In 1908, Ifland sold his interest to John Eberle; he had been a merchant in Alta Vista since 1902.⁴⁷ Eberle retained the store until September 1922 when he took over long-time Alta Vista merchant J.N. Bolton's general store and closed the Star Mercantile.⁴⁸ The Star was replaced in the Pearl building by Ora Tilton's dry goods concern. The south side continued to house a dry goods/mercantile store including the Granger Store (1920s), followed by Smith's Sundries (1954-1993).⁴⁹

The north store space was occupied by Union Thomas for his meat market and confectionery carrying fresh and cured meats, fish and oysters, as well as candies, nuts, fruits.⁵⁰ Due to his involvement in operating the Pearl, farming, and his additional community roles, Thomas closed his meat market in 1909 and rented the space to W.F. Kahle.⁵¹ Dr. Ralph Hull opened a drug store in this location and was replaced by Little's Pharmacy by 1920.⁵² Clarence and Gladys Perry bought the pharmacy from Little's widow and they sold it to David McClain who had operated a Rexall franchise there. Robert A. and Olive Smith took over the space from McClain expanding "Smith's Sundries" into the entire first floor, removing the archway between the north and south sides and adding dry goods, clothing, gifts, glass, and housewares to their

³⁷ *Alma Enterprise*. 10 Mar 1911, 1.

³⁸ "Union Thomas." Arizona Department of Health Services. *Arizona Death Records*. Accessed online 2 Sept. 2023 at Ancestry.com. *Arizona, U.S. Death Records, 1887-1968*. Lehi, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2016.

³⁹ *Alta Vista Journal*. 10 Jun 1920, 1.

⁴⁰ *The Alma Signal*. 21 Sep 1922, 1.

⁴¹ *Herington Sun*. 26 Jun 1924, 8.

⁴² *Alta Vista, Kansas 1887-1987, 100 Years*. 16.

⁴³ The photograph shows a crowd in front of the Star Mercantile in the Pearl Opera House. Accessed online at the Wabaunsee County Museum 6 Sep 2023 at <https://wabaunseecomuseum.org/2016/10/23/alta-vista/#:~:text=The%20town%20of%20Alta%20Vista,and%20Nebraska%20Railroad%20in%201887.>

⁴⁴ *Council Grove Republican*. 2 Nov 1994, 1.

⁴⁵ *Alta Vista, Kansas 1887-1987, 100 Years*. 4.

⁴⁶ *Alma Enterprise*. 11 Nov 1904, 4 and 21 Oct 1904, 4.

⁴⁷ *Alma Enterprise*. 11 Sep 1901, 1 and *Alta Vista Journal*. 19 Dec 1902, 4.

⁴⁸ *Alma Enterprise*. 8 Sep 1922, 1.

⁴⁹ *Alta Vista Journal*. 10 Jun 1920, 1. Two other names (Montague and Sizemore) were listed in the Centennial book but no information was found on them.

⁵⁰ *Alta Vista Journal*. 6 Jan 1905, 4.

⁵¹ *Alma Signal*. 19 Mar 1909, 4.

⁵² *Alta Vista Journal*. 10 Jun 1920, 1

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offerings.⁵³ According to the *Alta Vista Centennial* book the store hours were expanded to fit the town needs in the 1950s and 1960s, especially on Saturdays, when people came in for a soda and to visit after the movies and dances ended upstairs.⁵⁴ Advertisements also note that Smith Sundries stayed open evening hours and on Sundays during December when Christmas shoppers kept the store busy. Bob Smith died on March 4, 1987, but the family ran the store until February 1993, when the building and store were sold to Clelen and Bill Stephenson who renamed it "Alta Vista Sundries."⁵⁵ In 2004, the store was purchased and reopened as "Sunflowers and Sodas" by Gina and Larry Hutchinson.⁵⁶ The building has been minimally used in recent years and the current owner plans to return the second floor to its community function.

⁵³ *Alta Vista, Kansas 1887-1987, 100 Years*. 16.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Council Grove Republican*. 4 Feb 1993, 1.

⁵⁶ Mark Scott. "Various and sundry developments in Alta Vista." *Manhattan Mercury*. 7 Jun 2004, 1.

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Wabaunsee County Museum. "Alta Vista." Accessed online on 29 Aug 2023 at <https://wabaunseecomuseum.org/2016/10/23/alta-vista/#:~:text=The%20town%20of%20Alta%20Vista,and%20Nebraska%20Railroad%20in%201887.>

Wabaunsee County Museum. Clipping files and photographs.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Wabaunsee County Historical Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1 38.864328 -96.489971
Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

LT 12 & 13 LESS N 10.5" OF E 80 LOT 13 & LESS S 40' of W 43', BLOCK 3, CITY OF ALTA VISTA

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The above description reflects the parcel on which the building was built in 1904 and took its current form in the 1920s (extant on 1928 Sanborn Map). See Figure 1 at the end of the nomination for plat boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda and Michelle Spencer
organization Spencer Preservation date 1 October 2023
street & number 10150 Onaga Road telephone 785-456-9857
city or town Wamego state KS zip code 66547
e-mail brenda@spencerpreservation.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Highview Dev., LLC (Ben Kormanik)
street & number PO Box 96 telephone 785-499-3500
city or town Alta Vista State KS Zip 66834

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Additional Documentation

Photographs

Photograph Log

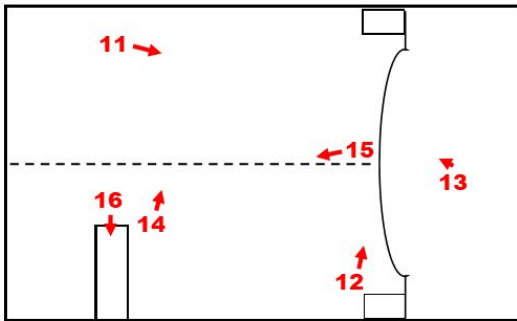
Name of Property: Pearl Opera House
City or Vicinity: Alta Vista
County: Wabaunsee State: Kansas
Photographer: Brenda Spencer
Date Photographed: 11 July 2023

| Photo Number | View | Description |
|--------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #1 | W | East/front facade from Main Street |
| #2 | NW | South and east facades from corner of Main and Center Streets |
| #3 | NE | South and west facades from Center Street |
| #4 | SE | West and north facades |
| #5 | SW | East and north facades |
| #6 | W | Datestone on front facade |
| #7 | SW | Storefront detail |
| #8 | E | North storefront space, looking toward front of building |
| #9 | E | Detail of original pressed-metal ceiling in north storefront space |
| #10 | W | South storefront space, looking toward rear of building |
| #11 | E | Second floor opera house/community hall, looking east toward stage |
| #12 | N | View of stage with proscenium arch |
| #13 | W | Detail of iron bracket supporting proscenium arch, with Union Thomas' name, Alta Vista Kansas |
| #14 | S | Detail of metal ceiling with wood beam and trim |
| #15 | W | Second floor opera house/community hall, looking west toward rear with stairs to exterior |
| #16 | S | Looking down stairs at rear of second floor, to exterior door on south |

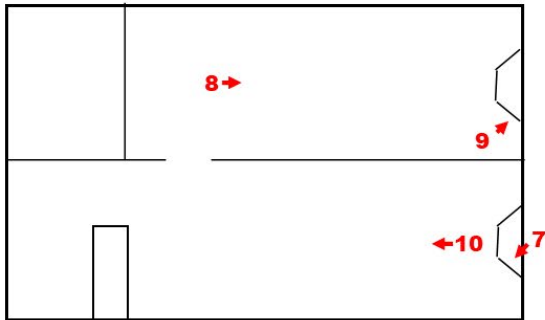
Photo Key on following page.

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SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

PHOTO KEY
The PEARL OPERA HOUSE
601 N. Main Street
Alta Vista, Wabaunsee County, KS
Site Plan from Google Maps online 9-26-2023

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Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

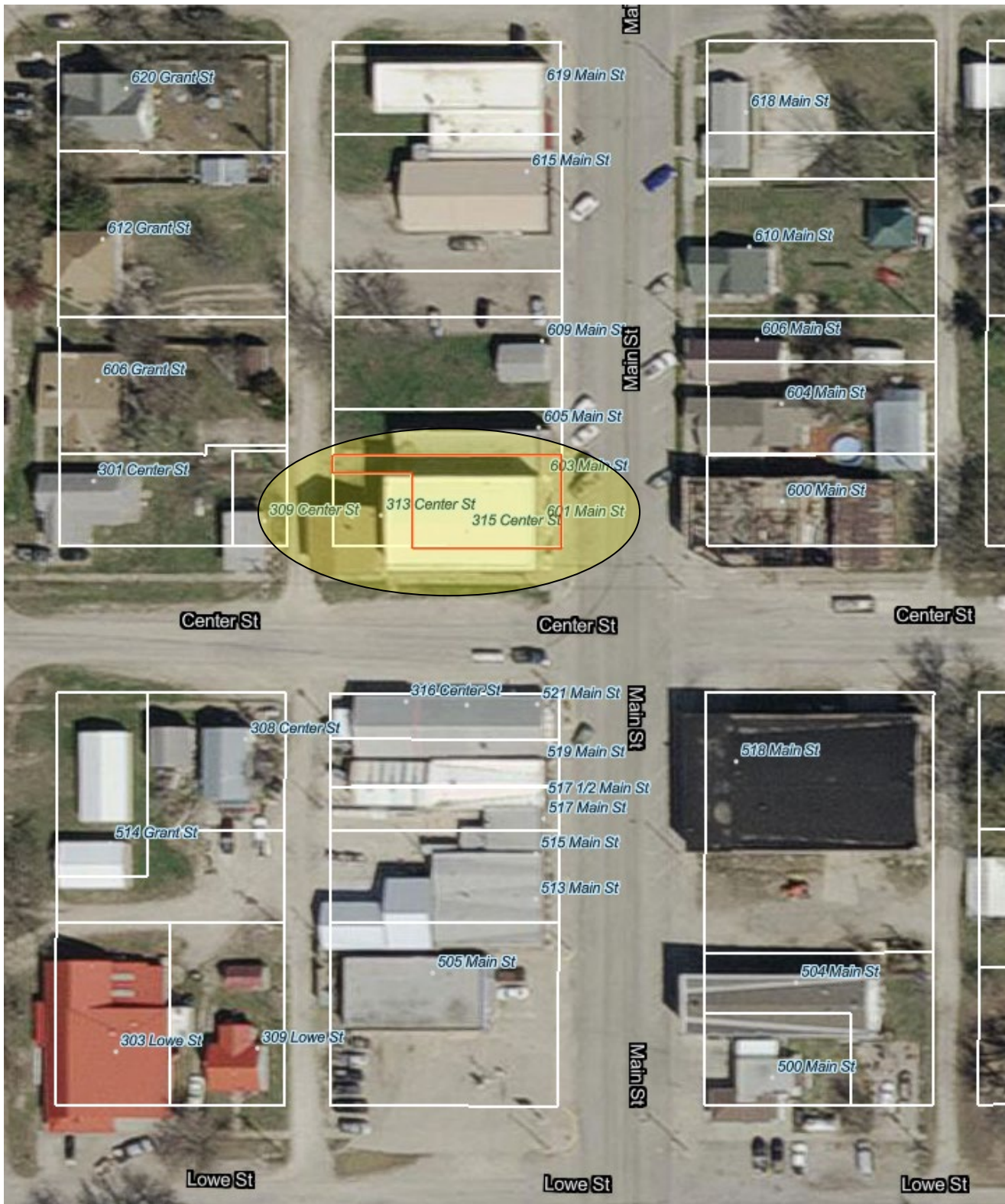


Figure 1 – Pearl Opera House – Downtown context and plat map of site, 601 Main, Alta Vista.
Map accessed online 27 Sept 2023 online at ORCA: Open Records for County Appraisers – Wabaunsee County
<https://www.kansasgis.org/orca/map.cfm>.

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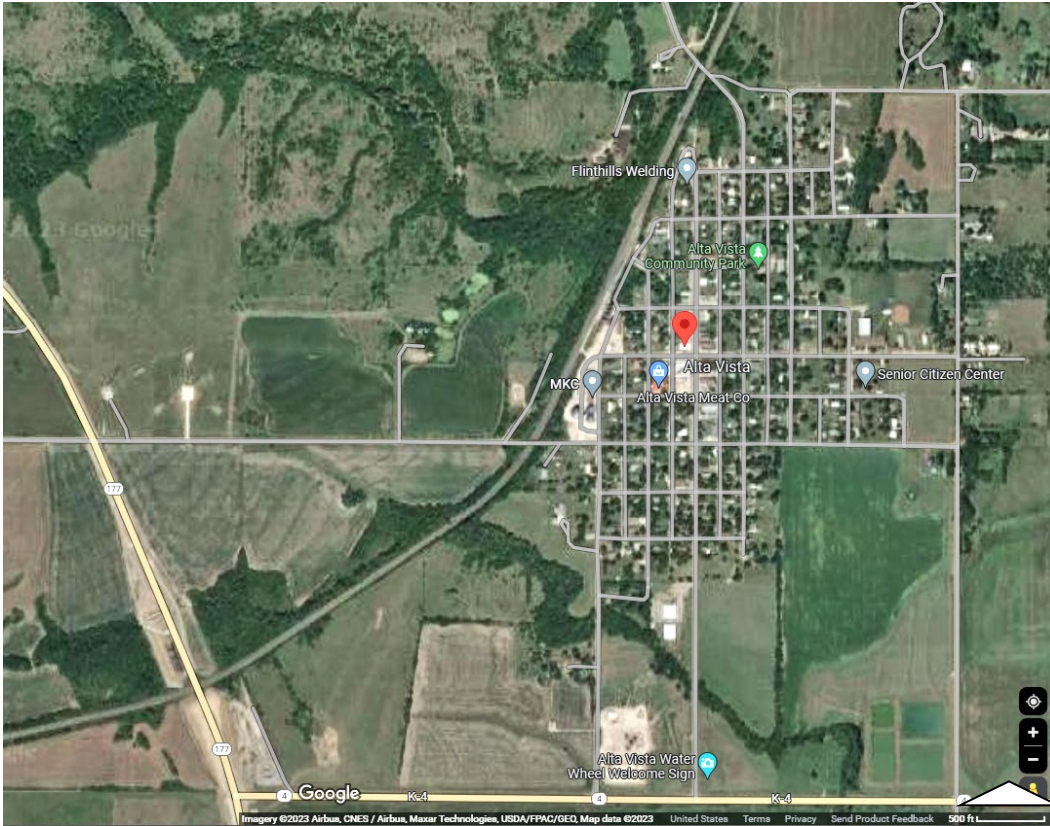


Figure 2 – Pearl Opera House - Town context and site map

Google Maps, September 2023

601 Main Street, Alta Vista, KS

WGS 84 Latitude 38.864328, Longitude -96.489971

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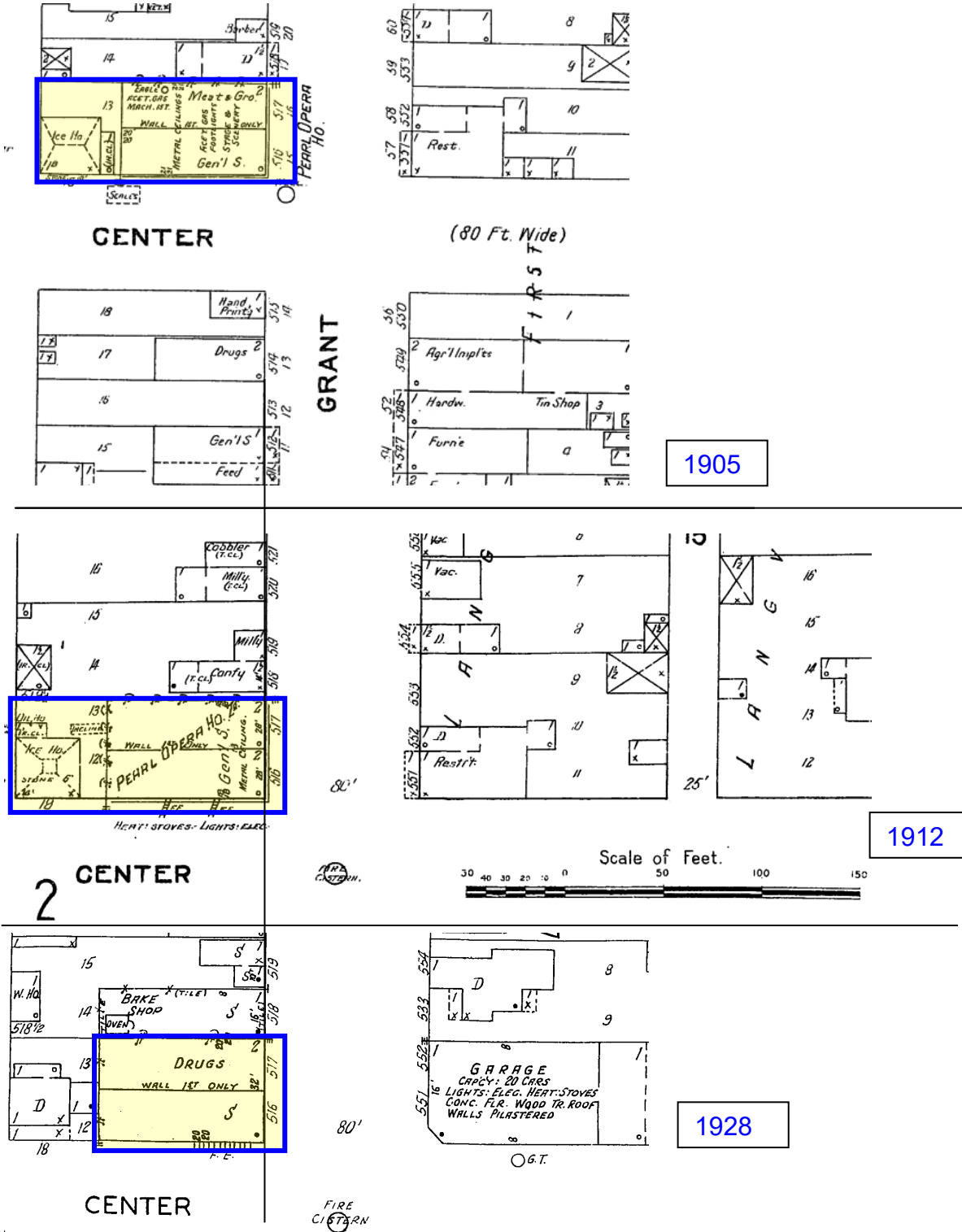


Figure 3 – Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Illustrating Building

Upper: October 1905, Excerpt Sheet 1

Center: June 1912, Excerpt Sheet 1

Lower: June 1928, Excerpt Sheet 1

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Figure 4 – Undated Historic Views of Building from Wabaunsee County Historical Museum
Upper: Crowd in front of building during 'Buster Brown' sale at Star Mercantile
Lower: Building with cornice visible in background of Chautauqua Parade.

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Figure 5 – Undated Historic View from Wabaunsee County Historical Museum Interior view of south storefront occupied by Star Mercantile.



Figure 6 – 1976 View of Pearl Opera House building – note cornice had been removed prior to 1976 (John Margolies, Library of Congress)

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AROUND! AROUND! AROUND!

We will open a SKATING RINK on
Monday Night, March 2
at 7:30 p. m. in PEARL OPERA HOUSE

Roller skates is all the rage in all adjoining towns. Why need we take a back seat when we have such a fine room. We purchased a fine line of skates, all sizes. 10c admission to hall will be charged. Those wishing to skate will be charged the usual fee, 15c. Free admission opening night. Rink will close promptly at 10 p. m. Open 3 nights each week, Monday, Thursday & Saturday nights from 7:30 to 10 p. m. Everybody invited. Bring your ladies; the best of order will be maintained. We will have three experts from Herington to assist those wishing to learn.

UNION THOMAS, Mgr.

The Alta Vista Journal, 28 Feb 1908.

WRESTLING MATCH

AT THE
PEARL THEATRE
Alta Vista, Kansas

Saturday, July 21st, '17

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lewis Hoffman of ONAGA, KANSAS Weight 155 lbs | John M. Hyde of ALTA VISTA, KANSAS Weight 150 lbs |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|

Both Men are in Splendid Condition.

The match will start immediately after the Chautauqua program in the Afternoon.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Ring Side Seats | 35c |
| General Admission, Adult | 25c |
| Children | 15c |
| Ladies Free | |

The Alta Vista Journal, 19 July 1917.

Pearl Opera House
ALTA VISTA
ONE NIGHT ONLY
Friday, March 25

SPECIAL ENCAGEMENT
FRED RAYMOND
Presents His Famous Comedy
"THE MISSOURI GIRL"

The Great "SHOW ME" play that has made MILLIONS of people happy from coast to coast. Introducing
MISS SADIE RAYMOND
as **Daisy Crubb**, and
FRANK F. FARRELL
as **Zeke Dobson**.

All Special Scenery which will positively be used here. New and novel Specialties. You'll laugh till you're blue in the face. An entire performance that is "worth while."

Prices, 50 and 35c; Children, 25c.
Order Seats Now, at City Restaurant.

The Alta Vista Journal, 18 Mar 1910.

Band Entertainment

To be given in Pearl Opera House Thursday evening October 5th, 1911.
Every body invited come one and all. Your patronage will be appreciated
Doors open at 8 p. m.

Program in part.

- Band Music.
- Address.
- Orchestra.
- Violin and Cello, duet.
- Trio, 2 Mandolins and Banjo.
- Vocal duet.
- Quartett, Cornet and Clarinett solo.
- Orchestra.
- Reading.
- Trombone and Cornet duet.
- Cornet solo.
- Musical Farce by Quartet.
- Orchestra.
- Violin duet.
- Vocal solo.
- Burlesque—Band or Orchestra.

The Alta Vista Journal, 28 Sep 1911.

DANCE

Sept. 24 -- 9 P.M.
ALTA VISTA OPERA HOUSE
Music By
The Country Squires

Sponsored By Alta Vista Chamber of Commerce

Council Grove Republican, 23 Sep 1966.

Figure 7 – Advertisements for activities at The Pearl.