

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Removal 6/14/00

Building demol

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Elks Club Building

and/or common The Huron Building (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 905 North 7th Street not for publication

city, town Kansas City vicinity of

state Kansas 66101 code 020 county Wyandotte code 209

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Ofc. Bldg.

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Summers, Sr.

street & number 8627 Juniper Lane

city, town Prairie Village vicinity of state Kansas 66207

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wyandotte County Courthouse

street & number 7th and Ann Avenue

city, town Kansas City state Kansas 66101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title K.C.K. Landmarks Ordinance has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 7, 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records City Planning Department, Municipal Office Building

city, town Kansas City state Kansas 66101

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

When it was completed in 1924, the Elks Club Building, a twelve story building standing 134 feet in height, was the tallest building in Kansas City, Kansas, and would remain so for more than 50 years. The building is trapezoidal in shape, with the rear, angled wall running 68'3/4" parallel to the west line of the Huron Indian Cemetery. The construction is a concrete-encased steel frame, three bays (65'0") wide, and five bays, (96'2 1/2") deep on the north and four bays (74'5") deep on the south side. A 20' deep light well recessed into the third bay of the south facade accommodates a fire escape and terminates at the second floor, where a skylight illuminated the rear corner of a ground floor store.

Architecturally the building belongs to the latter part of the period sometimes referred to as the American Renaissance, when classical styles were considered by many to be the appropriate garb for both civic and commercial structures. Thus despite its modern form and structure, the exterior detailing and ornament is in the style of the Second Renaissance Revival.

The building was faced with a reddish brown, mottled brick on all four facades, with the south and east facades being unarticulated and unornamented. On the west (front) facade, the first two floors were originally clad in Bedford stone, with Corinthian pilasters carrying a continuous stone cornice which formed the third floor sill line. A smaller continuous cornice marked the head of the 3rd floor windows.

The 4th through the 10th floors were unornamented, the brick unrelieved save for the terra cotta sills of the paired double-hung windows. There were two such window openings to each structural bay, spaced equidistantly without any differentiation between structural and non-structural divisions. The 11th and 12th floors were treated identically on both the west and north facades, as the latter was visible from the city's main street, Minnesota Avenue. The 11th floor was essentially a reversal of the 3rd, with a small continuous cornice at the sill line, a large cornice at the head, and rectangular brick terra cotta panels between the windows. This larger cornice originally supported a continuous terra cotta balustrade at the 12th floor level. The 12th floor was a story and one-half in height, clad in terra cotta rather than brick, and surmounted by a large bracketed cornice executed in sheet metal, perhaps copper. The tall windows on this floor may have originally been French doors on the front facade.

The ground floor was for the most part divided between two shops, each with a separate entrance and display windows in one of the front bays. The third southernmost bay contained the entrance to the building lobby, which together with the elevators and stairs occupied the southwest quadrant of the building. The 2nd through the 8th floors were basically identical to each other and contained leasable office space. The 9th through the 12th floors contained the Elks Club facilities. The 9th floor was designated the "Billiard Floor" and contained the club's recreational facilities. The 10th floor was the "Lodge Floor," including a two-story ballroom which extended through the 11th or "Mezzanine" floor although this was in no way reflected on the building's exterior. The 12th floor, with its high ceiling and extensive window area, was designated the "Roof Garden."

During the 1930s the building underwent its first alteration, when the two-story ballroom was converted into two additional floors of offices. This remodeling was completed by April 1, 1937.

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In the 1950s, exterior alterations were made to "modernize" the building. One change was the installation of a metal grill on the lower front of the building. The grill covers the 2nd story up to the 3rd floor sill line and extends across the front. Emerging from the grill work are three concrete canopies with three additional chain supports. The original 2nd floor facade remains intact behind the grill.

The ground floor facade was the most extensively remodeled, with the old shop fronts being replaced by new fronts in polished red and grey granite and plate glass windows in aluminum frames. The original entry doors suffered a similar change.

In the 1970s some of the original windows were replaced because of the deterioration of the wood, primarily on the west and north facades. Because the metal windows are similar in color to the originals, it is difficult at first to tell the difference. However, the new windows have three divisions rather than two.

Changes have also been made in the mechanical and structural area, including a modern air-conditioning system and repair of the roof. The most visible change at this upper level was the removal of the 12th floor balustrade, possibly as a safety precaution if the supporting cornice was showing signs of weakening.

Remodeling continued in 1982 when Sun Savings owned the building. Sun Savings remodeled the lobby to its present appearance. Under present owners rehabilitation has been undertaken with the intention to return much of the original appearance and character to the exterior.

B. Significant

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/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1922-24

Builder/Architect W.S. Frank of St. Louis, Missouri

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Huron Building is locally significant architecturally as one of the finest remaining commercial buildings of the Second Renaissance Revival in Kansas City, Kansas, meeting criterion C.

On January 21, 1920, the Elks Benevolent and Charitable Association of Kansas City, Kansas purchased the site for the proposed erection of twelve story building to be utilized by the Association. The previous Elks Club Building was located at 727 Minnesota Avenue and was built in 1907; it now houses the Kansas City, Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The evident purpose of the new building was to include shops and office space that would generate income for the Association.

The architect of the proposed building was W.S. Frank of St. Louis. The engineering was done by J.T. Craven Engineering Company and the contractors were Kiel & Dawes, all also from St. Louis. (Mr. Kiel later became mayor of St. Louis and is commemorated by Kiel Auditorium.) Construction began in 1922.

Architecturally the building belongs to the latter part of the period sometimes referred to as the American Renaissance, when the classical styles were considered by many to be most appropriate for both civic and commercial structures. This era coincided with the second major period of growth in Kansas City, Kansas from 1910 to 1927.

The first major local monument of this period was the Carnegie Public Library in the center of Huron Place, built in 1904. A new City Hall just to the east across 6th Street followed in 1911, and an extensive park system was developed just before World War I. Following a brief recession after the war, the early 1920s saw the Elks Club Building, the Commercial National Bank, and the Federal Reserve Life Insurance Building under construction more or less simultaneously along the edges of Huron Place, together with Memorial Hall, a block to the south. These were shortly followed by the YMCA, additions to the Brotherhood Block, a building to house the new daily newspaper, The Kansan, and finally in 1924-1927, the new Wyandotte County Courthouse. Although none of these buildings were individually great works of architecture, they were all competent designs and their scale and stylistic consistency gave Kansas City, Kansas and urbanity which unfortunately now seems to be lost. The Elks Club Building was the outstanding commercial example of this period locally, and remains the least impaired by subsequent alterations. It expresses the Italian Renaissance motifs characteristic of the Second Renaissance Revival Style.

The Elks Club Building was completed and ready for occupancy by April of 1924. It quickly became a place where many of Wyandotte County's top businessmen established their offices. Many of the city's most prominent physicians, lawyers, and businessmen have had their offices in the Building. Early tenants included the Kansas City, Kansas Real Estate Board, Rand Construction Company, WLBF Radio Station (the first station in Kansas City, Kansas, now using the call letters KFKF), DeGoler and McKain Drug Store, and the Wyandotte County Club.

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The Elks only owned the building for approximately four years. They apparently had over-extended themselves financially, and on June 18, 1926, a Chicago syndicate bought the building from the Elks. Grant J. Rozenzweig, the president of the Chicago syndicate, acted on behalf of his corporation in the transaction. It was Mr. Rozenzweig who later renamed the Elks Club Building the Huron Building. This name has stayed with the building for the last 55 years.

The Huron building was remodeled for the first time during the 1930s to provide for additional leasable space. The building was an excellent location for business and its rentable space was in great demand. At the time there was a waiting list for people to lease space despite that fact that the Depression had forced its owners into bankruptcy. In 1932, the building was sold to Mr. Barnett Rossett, under whose ownership it continued to be a favored office location. In 1933, Western Power, Lighting and Telephone moved its operation from Salina, Kansas to the Huron Building in order to centralize its management organization. The company leased the entire ninth floor, which had to be remodeled to meet its specifications. Eventually, the need for additional space to lease began to arise. The building manager decided to convert the ballroom into two separate floors. This construction, which was completed in 1937, added nine new office suites or forty additional offices.

The building has continued to be used for commercial offices to the present day. It stands today as a major local landmark of the 1920s, an important period of growth and prosperity for Kansas City, Kansas.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Chain of Title, Wyandotte County Courthouse.

Architect's Drawings by W.S. Frank, 1922.

City Directory, Kansas City, Kansas, 1929.

Kansas City Kansan, Nov. 31, 1932; Dec. 27, 1932; July 16, 1933; March 21, 1965.

Harrington, Grant W. Historic Spots or Mile-Stones in the Progress of Wyandotte County, Kansas. 1935.

Telephone interview with Mr. Norvell Smith, building superintendent for original construction, April 1983.

Form compiled from research submitted by Patricia L. Sedlock, president of Summers-Sedlock, Inc. 905 North 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY

Commencing at a point on the East line of Seventh Street one hundred and thirty four and one half ($134\frac{1}{2}$) feet South on the Northwest corner of Huron Place in Wyandotte City. Thence East ninety seven and one half ($97\frac{1}{2}$) feet to the West line of the Huron Indian Cemetery. Thence in a Southwesterly direction along said cemetery line sixty eight and seventy three one hundredths ($68-73/100$) feet. Thence West seventy five and seventeen one hundredths ($75-17/100$) feet to the East line of Seventh Street. Thence North sixty five (65) feet to the place of beginning; all in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Shawnee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>3519</u>	<u>4110</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>51810</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

C						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

D						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

E						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

F						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

G						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

H						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date May 10, 1984

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone (913) 296-3251

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 May 14, 1984

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

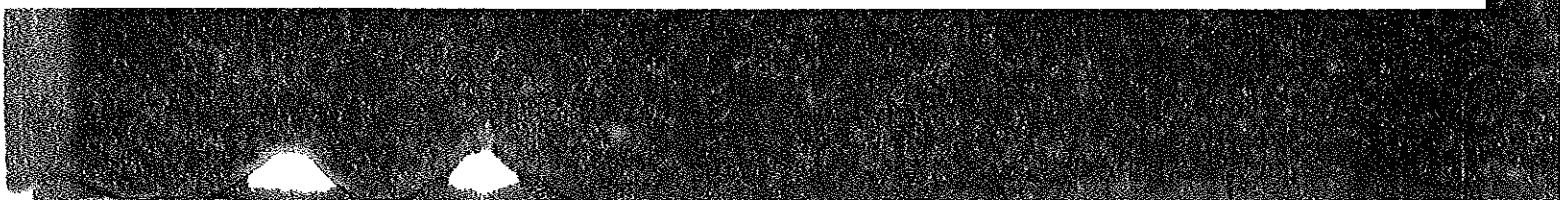
Chief of Registration

Elks Club, Kansas City, Kansas.



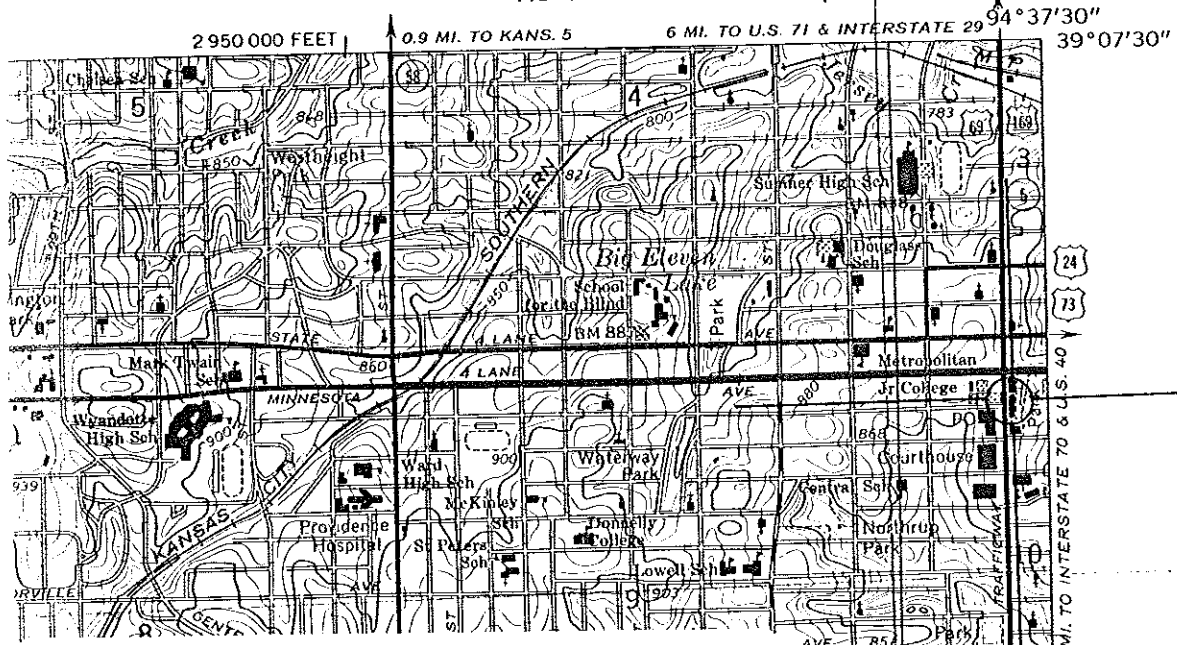






SHAWNEE QUADRANGLE
KANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7062 II NE
NORTH KANSAS CITY



HURON BUILDING
905 North 7th Street
Kansas City, Kansas
Wyandotte County

UTM Reference 15/359410/4330580

