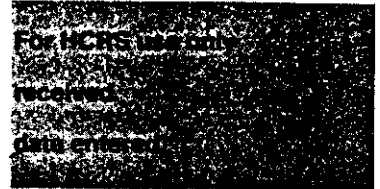


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



## 1. Name

historic Gate City National Bank

and/or common Gate City Bank Building

## 2. Location

street & number 1111 Grand Ave.

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Kansas City

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district #5 -Hon. Richard Bolling

state Missouri

code 29

county Jackson

code 095

## 3. Classification

| Category                                        | Ownership                                   | Status                                              | Present Use                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| ___ district                                    | ___ public                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | ___ agriculture                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | ___ unoccupied                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| ___ structure                                   | ___ both                                    | ___ work in progress                                | ___ educational                                |
| ___ site                                        | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | ___ entertainment                              |
| ___ object                                      | ___ in process                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | ___ government                                 |
|                                                 | ___ being considered                        | ___ yes: unrestricted                               | ___ industrial                                 |
|                                                 | ___ N/A                                     | ___ no                                              | ___ military                                   |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                     | ___ other:                                     |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Joel Pelofsky, Ronald L. Kraft, and C. David Whipple

street & number c/o Ronald L. Kraft, Whipple and Kraft, 1111 Grand Ave.

city, town Kansas City

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Missouri 64106

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Office of Recorder of Deeds

street & number

Jackson County Courthouse  
415 East 12th St.

city, town

Kansas City

state Missouri 64106

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Landmarks Commission of Kansas

title 1 City, Missouri Survey

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes ☒ no

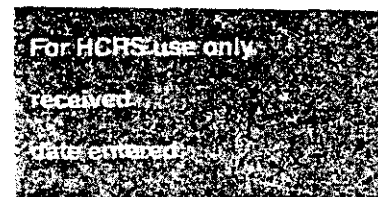
date Dec. 1980

\_\_\_ federal ☒ state \_\_\_ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Gate City Bank Building

Item number 6

Page 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1981  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

State

Missouri 65102

ITEM NUMBER 11

PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

April 1981

(314) 751-4096

Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gate City Bank Building, 1111 Grand Avenue, Jackson County, Missouri is a six-story building constructed of brick and reinforced concrete clad in terra cotta (west facade only). Constructed in 1920, the primary facade faces west and exhibits the Neo-Classical style favored for banks at that time.

### EXTERIOR

#### Over-All Dimensions

The building is rectangular in plan and shape, consisting of six stories and a basement. It is 50 feet wide (frontage on Grand) and 115 feet deep.

#### Construction Materials and Colors

Supporting material is reinforced concrete (fireproof). The primary (west) facade is clad in terra cotta. Buildings on the north and south originally shared walls. (The building to the south has been removed). The rear facade is of brick. The south facade which has been exposed by the removal of the adjoining building is of brick.

#### Openings

Window treatment changes markedly from story to story. Stories one, two and three are divided into three bays. The main entrance (Plate 2) is located in the center. New double doors and transom are surmounted by a terra cotta pediment supported by console brackets and decorated with dentil frieze and a cartouche in the center of the pediment.

Windows flanking the main entrance are identical: A single, rectangular center pane is flanked by two narrow, rectangular side lights (Plate 1).

Windows of the second story are the same in all three bays: A rectangular center pane is flanked by two narrow side lights. Each of these three panes is surmounted by a transom of corresponding width (Plate 1).

Windows of the third story consist of four equal rectangular panes (Plate 4)

Windows of the fourth and fifth stories are also divided into three bays, but are paired in each bay. All windows on the fourth and fifth stories are double-hung, one-over-one sash (Plates 1 and 7).

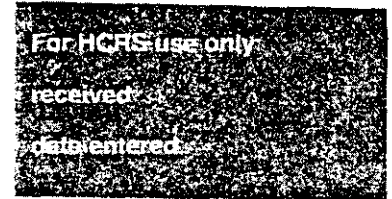
Windows of the sixth story are casement-type, each with eight lights (Plate 8).

#### Decorative Details

The west (main) facade is richly decorated with Neo-Classical detail in pressed metal and buff-colored terra cotta consisting of the following:

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet Gate City Bank Building Item number 7

Page 1

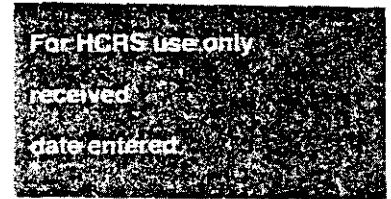
1. Terra cotta pediment, cartouche, dentil frieze, and console brackets over door with terra cotta molding surrounding door.
2. Pressed metal window surrounds: First story windows are surmounted by segmental window heads and flanked by colonettes (Plate 1).
3. Pressed metal spandrels (undecorated) between first and second stories (Plate 1).
4. Spandrels between second and third stories are of highly decorated terra cotta (Plate 4).
5. The first three stories are united under a colossal portico (Plates 1 and 3). The bottom half of the building has been treated as a unit. Two colossal, fluted, Ionic columns divide the portico into three parts laterally. These columns are four feet in diameter and 36 feet tall, extending through the third story. The left and right bays are terminated by pilasters.
6. Plate 5 shows a detail of an Ionic capital and entablature above of plain and decorated friezes.
7. Plate 6 shows decorated moldings surmounting pilasters and richly decorated frieze above including lions' heads, one above each pilaster and column. Above each lion's head rests a relief of an urn (Plate 7).
8. Plate 7 shows decorative terra cotta spandrels between stories four and five.
9. Plate 8 shows decorative terra cotta spandrels between stories five and six.
10. A guilloche band of terra cotta runs below the sixth story (Plate 8).
11. Windows of the sixth story are stepped inward and are flanked by a series of pilasters (Plate 8).
12. Above the sixth story runs another denticulated cornice (Plate 9): egg-and-dart molding, dentil frieze, and projecting molding above.
13. Building is terminated by a pedimented parapet decorated with a terra cotta anthemion band (Plate 9).

**INTERIOR**

1. The lobby walls are sheathed in marble and retain a Neo-Classical design, using pilasters at regular intervals (Plate 10). A curved stairway, also sheathed in marble, leads to the basement level (Plate 11). The marble sheathing was added in a 1954 remodeling.
2. Floors two through five have been remodeled and do not retain their

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Continuation sheet Gate City Bank Building Item number 7

Page 2

original appearance.

3. The sixth floor retains some of its original configuration, if not its original elegance (Plates 12, 13, 14). One large room is surrounded by smaller rooms on two sides. Above these smaller rooms is a mezzanine level with openings onto the central room. Pilasters again decorate the walls. They are topped by pairs of console brackets (Plate 14) made of plaster. These remain intact.

A fireplace on the south wall has retained its ornate mantle piece with Neo-Classical bas relief of vine and tendril motif. Again, a dentil frieze, console brackets, and a central cartouche decorate this piece.

#### ALTERATIONS

##### Exterior

There have been no major alterations to the facade of the building. The entrance doors are not original. The building to the south has been razed leaving a brick wall on the south exposed.

##### Interior

A remodeling of 1954 can be documented (Kansas City Star, Nov. 7, 1954, p. 12E). Lower level, first and second floors were remodeled. Ceilings were lowered and air conditioning added. The marble entrance lobby partially dates from this remodeling.

Office space on other floors has been altered.

#### CONDITION

The building is generally in good condition. Necessary work is of a maintenance rather than a remedial nature.

#### SITE

The Gate City Bank Building shares its north wall with the Professional Building, 1103 Grand, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. A commercial building is situated across an alley to the west, and a surface parking lot is to the south.

## 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/         |
| <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 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 1920

Builder/Architect Fogel Const.Co./Keene & Simpson

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gate City Bank Building is significant architecturally because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. It combines architectural features in a unique way: The Neo-Classical style often associated with bank buildings has been used for a high-rise structure of tall, narrow proportions. The resulting facade is neither that of a classically proportioned temple, nor that of a modern high-rise of the 1920's but an eclectic blend of the two.

### HISTORICAL DATA

The Gate City National Bank was founded in 1906 and opened for business August 1 of that year in the Argyle Building. They built and moved to this building in 1920, occupying the first floor and leasing the upper floors to the Women's City Club and various commercial firms. Through a merger, the bank became known as the Traders Gate City National Bank in 1930. In 1949 the name was shortened to Traders National Bank.

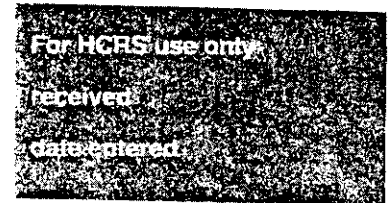
The Gate City Bank Building was designed in 1920 by the Kansas City architectural firm of Keene & Simpson.<sup>1</sup> W.R. Henry was the structural engineer and the Fogel Construction Company was general contractor. The cost of the building was to be \$350,000.<sup>2</sup>

The firm of Keene and Simpson designed many residences in Kansas City prior to this commission. A monumental structure in the Neo-Classical style was designed by them in 1930, the Scottish Rite Temple at Linwood and The Paseo in Kansas City which shows a more severe, studied use of that style than appears in the Gate City Bank Building.

It is important to note that the building was designed originally as a ten-story structure "five of which will go up at once."<sup>3</sup> A drawing which appeared in the Kansas City Journal, Feb. 1, 1920 showed that stories four through nine were to be identical. This configuration would have given the building the typical facade of early high-rise structures: a "base" consisting of several united stories (the portico of colossal columns would serve as this element), a "shaft" consisting of many identical stories, and a "capital" consisting of a decorated upper story. The Gate City Bank Building was constructed with only six stories and while it retains the base, shaft, and capital formula, the shaft section has been compressed. The facade thus appears as consisting of two equal parts rather than as three unequal parts. The building exists, then, as a unique blend of two important architectural trends.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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As with most buildings in Kansas City the craftsman who created the terra cotta ornament remains anonymous. But the design and workmanship are excellent, heightening the all-over quality of architecture of the Gate City Bank Building.

CONCLUSION

The Gate City Bank Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type: the Neo-Classical bank; a period: 1920 when high-rise buildings were constructed in American cities in abundance; and a method of construction: the reinforced concrete structure clad in terra cotta, a method which allows considerable freedom in choice of decoration. The Gate City Bank Building is a unique blend of high-rise structure and Neo-Classical style which was considered appropriate to bank design in the 1920's.

FOOTNOTES

1. Western Contractor, June 2, 1920, p. 32. and Kansas City Journal, Feb. 1, 1920, p. A3.
2. Western Contractor, June 2, 1920, p. 32.
3. Kansas City Journal, Feb. 1, 1920, p. A3.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Kansas City Journal, Feb. 1, 1920
2. Kansas City Star, Nov. 17, 1949
3. Kansas City Star, Nov. 7, 1954
4. Kansas City Star, Nov. 2, 1969
5. Western Contractor, June 2, 1920, p. 32.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name "Kansas City, Mo.-III."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

|      |   |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 92, ex. N. .02 in., SWOPE'S ADDITION, a subdivision in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri

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 1. Joan L. Michalak, Architectural Historian

organization

date 1 March 1981

street & number 905 East 5th Street

telephone (816) 474-5073

city or town Kansas City

state Missouri 64106

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Department of Natural Resources  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

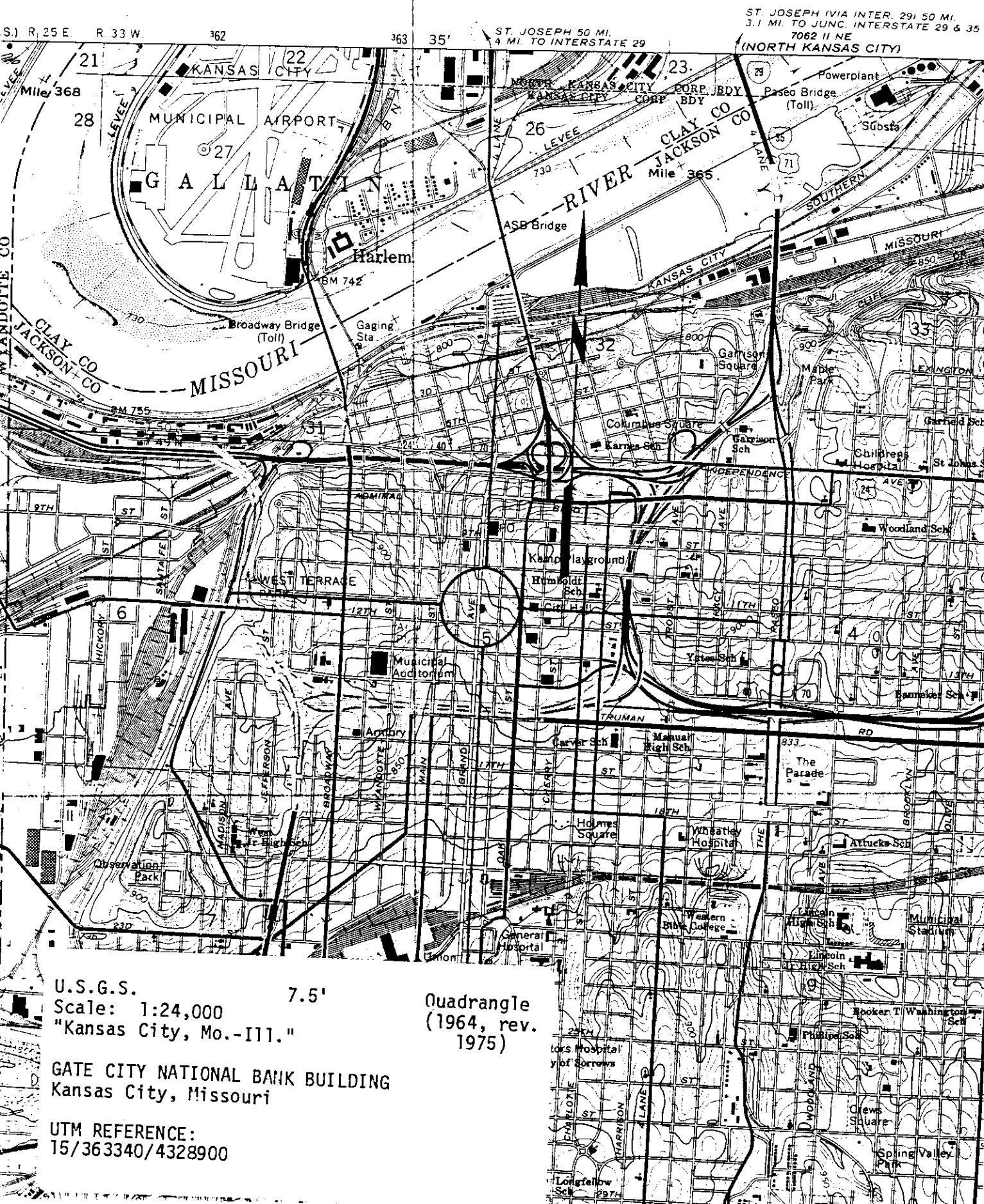
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date



ERIOR



U.S.G.S. 7.5'  
Scale: 1:24,000  
"Kansas City, Mo.-III."

Quadrangle  
(1964, rev.  
1975)

GATE CITY NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
Kansas City, Missouri

UTM REFERENCE:  
15/363340/4328900

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Gate City National Bank Building**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Joan Michalak**

Date

Photographed: **Feb. 1981**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 15. General view from the W of primary façade.
- 2 of 15. View from the W of detail of main entrance.
- 3 of 15. View of W façade. Detail from the W.
- 4 of 15. View from the W of detail of W façade.
- 5 of 15. View from the W of detail of W façade.
- 6 of 15. View from the W of detail of W façade.
- 7 of 15. View from the W of detail of W façade.
- 8 of 15. View from the W of detail of W façade.
- 9 of 15. View from the W of detail of W façade.
- 10 of 15. Interior view of entrance lobby.
- 11 of 15. Interior view of lobby staircase.
- 12 of 15. Interior view of sixth floor.
- 13 of 15. Interior view of sixth floor.
- 14 of 15. Interior view of sixth floor detail.
- 15 of 15. Interior view of sixth floor fireplace.





**1111 GRAND  
BUILDING**

































