

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS HISTORIC RESOURCES

Resource No. 65

1. Property name, present **Excelsior Springs Historical Museum**
 Property name, historic **Clay County State Bank**
2. Address/location
**101 E. Broadway
 Excelsior Springs, MO**
3. Owner's name and address
**Excelsior Springs Historical Museum
 101 E. Broadway
 Excelsior Springs, MO 64024**
4. Building Structure
 Site Object
5. Use, present **Vacant**
 Use, original **Commercial, hotel**

6. Location Map



7. Date of construction (or estimate) **1906**
8. Changes
 Altered Addition Moved
 1920
9. Architect/engineer/designer
Louis Curtiss
10. Contractor/builder/craftsman
11. Style: High Style **Italian Renaissance**
 Elements
 Vernacular

12. Plan Shape **Rectangle**
13. Number of stories **1-1/2**
14. Roof type and material **Gable & flat/tile**
15. Type of construction **Masonry**
16. Exterior material(s) **Bedford sandstone**
17. Foundation material(s) **Stone**
18. Porch(es) **n/a**

19. Additional physical description

This Italian Renaissance bank building was originally thirty feet by sixty feet, but was expanded in 1920 to add four feet on the west, eight feet on the east to connect it with an adjacent building, and several feet on the south. It presents a classical temple front on the main (north) elevation. A shallow pitched, gable roof of red tile ends with a massive stone parapet on the north. Beneath is a recessed entrance fronted by columns set between sections of enframing wall that read like thick piers (distyle in antis). The tall center recessed opening, which has the appearance of a vault, has glass sections with metal frames. The present entry door is also glass with metal frame. The enframing Ionic columns are of solid smooth stone. The Ionic entablature above, which encircles the entire building, is composed of a fasciated architrave, continuous smooth frieze, and a dentil band in the cornice. Small recessed rectangular windows are set within the frieze band on the west elevation. Flat roofed wings project from the west and east. The east wing connects to the adjoining commercial building, and the west wing

features large square, fixed pane windows divided by square engaged columns. Each window has a transom with three panes. On the front (north) of each wing is a one-over-one, double-hung sash window with stone lugsill and radiating stone voissiors. The wings have a smaller version of the Ionic entablature. The Bedford sandstone is dress-faced, laid in coursed ashlar. The interior features a barrel or cylindrical vault ceiling, studded with electric light bulbs and details of foliage, shell and scroll work. Other original features include mahogany fixtures, wood work, wrought brass grating, tile floors, ornamental support columns, bronze statuary, and safety vaults.

20. Description of environment and outbuildings.

The Clay County State Bank building is set back from the road a short distance, but otherwise fills the entire lot at the southeast corner of Main and Broadway. It is located within a linear commercial district.

21. History and significance

The Clay County State Bank building was designed in 1905 by Louis Curtiss, a noted Kansas City architect. It was completed in 1906 at a cost of \$25,000.00. It operated as a bank building until 1968, when the Clay County State Bank built a new structure. At this time, it was given to the City to be used as a museum, which is its present use today. The building was expanded in 1920, but the appearance of the west elevation remained identical according to historic photographs. The paintings on the upper walls of the interior were apparently added during this remodeling. The Clay County State Bank was founded by William Stone Woods. In 1932, W.T. Kemper Sr. and his sons purchased controlling interests in the bank. The bank is an important example of the work of Louis Curtiss, in spite of the alterations. Historic photographs reveal that the bank has retained much of its integrity of the original design, particularly in the elaborate interior decorative elements -- a hallmark of Curtiss's style. The additions themselves have achieved their own significance over time as well. The Clay County State Bank has been listed as an Excelsior Springs Historic Landmark, and would be eligible for National Register listing as well.

22. Sources of information.

Excelsior Springs Historical Museum, "Clay County State Bank" file & Excelsior Springs Historic Landmark nomination

23. Prepared by

Deon Wolfenbarger
Three Gables Preservation
9550 NE Cookingham Drive
Kansas City, MO 64157

24. Date of survey

January, 1993

25. On National Register
Eligible for listing

- Individual
 - District
 - Local designation
- Eligible for local designation
-
-

24. Negative: roll# B frame# 33

