

RECONSTRUCTED SEPT. 26, 17

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Ellis
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Hays

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Frontier Historical Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Hays

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
no. 1, Keith Sebelius

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20 COUNTY: Ellis CODE: 051

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Kansas

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ellis County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Hays

STATE: Kansas CODE: 67601

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
A Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West Tenth

CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Ellis
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank W., Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912).
 Connelley, William E., A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., 1918).
 Hart, Herbert M., Old Forts of the Southwest (Seattle, Superior Publishing Co., 1964).
 Kansas State Historical Society, "Fort Hays" (Topeka, State Printer, n. d.).
 "Old Fort Hays," St. Louis Globe, March 12, 1901.
Story of the Early Life of Fort Hays and Hays City (Hays, Old Fort Hays Memorial Association, 1959).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38° 52' 03"	99° 20' 53"		°	'	"
NE	38° 52' 03"	99° 19' 44"		°	'	"
SE	38° 51' 33"	99° 19' 44"		°	'	"
SW	38° 51' 33"	99° 20' 53"		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **177**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey**

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **Oct., 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West Tenth**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas 66612** CODE: **20**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Nyle H. Miller

Title _____

Date **SENT TO NR: 10/12/70**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When the fort was abandoned in 1889, there were 38 buildings still standing. All of the buildings, except the blockhouse, guardhouse, and bakery, were of frame construction. Today only three buildings remain-- the blockhouse, guardhouse, and one frame officers' quarters.

The blockhouse is a stone building hexagonal in shape with a 17 foot radius. It has two wings extending north and south, each 17 feet square. The building was equipped with rifle slits, but the fort was never attacked. The building was used as a post headquarters and adjutant's quarters. Extensive restoration work has been done on the blockhouse and it presently is in excellent condition and looks much as it did when Fort Hays was an active military post.

The guardhouse is also a stone building, 100 feet long and 24 feet wide. In the building were furnished quarters for the Officer of the Guard, a guard room, and a prison room with three cells.

One frame officers' quarters survives; it was moved back to the fort site in 1963 and placed on a location where it was established that one of the officers' quarters had stood. It is a two-story house with two rooms upstairs and two downstairs in the main part of the house. The kitchen and dining room were in a one-story ell at the back; this part of the building needs to be reconstructed and the rest needs renovation.

Archeological investigations of the building have been conducted at the fort site in recent years to ascertain precise locations of the fort's main structures. These will be marked so visitors may better visualize the original appearance of the fort.

A portion of the site administered by the Historical Society is set aside as picnic area and in another part there is a small herd of buffalo.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Amendment to Fort Hays National Register nomination
Ellis County, Kansas

At least four of the original Officers Quarters were sold at auction in the early 1900s and moved into the city of Hays. At the time the nomination was written, it was assumed that only one of the original Officers Quarters survived. This is the one that was moved back to the fort in 1963 and mentioned in the nomination. It was known as OC#3 because it was relocated to the place of the third Officers Quarters in the row of the original ten structures.

However, later research indicated that a second original structure had survived. This structure was returned to the fort in 1987. It was placed in the location of the second structure in the row and is known as OC#2. It is identical to OC#3.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) (1865) 1867-1889

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Hays was one of three posts (Harker, Hays, and Wallace) established after the Civil War to protect the Smoky Hill trail.

It was originally established October 11, 1865, as Camp Fletcher, some 14 miles southeast of Hays. The name was ordered changed to Fort Hays on November 17, 1865. After a flood virtually destroyed the fort in June, 1867, it was relocated at a more favorable site, now just south of the city of Hays. Never a large post its strength ranged from 567 in August, 1867, to 12 in February, 1879. During much of its existence both infantry and cavalry were stationed there. Indian uprisings from 1867-1870 kept the fort active in patrol and scouting activities.

With the coming of the railroad Fort Hays was turned into a quartermaster depot to supply other forts in the West and Southwest. Since the Indian menace had declined by the middle 1870's, post commanders recommended that Fort Hays be abandoned. No action was taken for 15 years; finally the last troops moved out November 8, 1889.

The Department of the Interior then acquired the military reservation. It was given to the state of Kansas in 1900 to establish a branch of the State Normal School, an experimental station to be operated by the State Agricultural College, and a public park. Frontier Historical Park with the three original fort buildings is presently operated as a historic site-museum by the State Historical Society.

Old Fort Hays is an attractive, well-maintained example of a frontier fort on the central plains.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kan.	
COUNTY Ellis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

FORT HAYS

9. cont.

Winter, Maureen, editor, Indians to Industry: A History of Hays and Ellis County (Hays, n. p., 1967).

