1. NAME
   COMMON:
   First Presbyterian Church

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   100 West Seventh Street
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Hays
   STATE:
   Kansas
   CODE:
   67601
   COUNTY:
   Ellis
   CODE:
   051

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   □ District □ Building ✓ Site □ Structure □ Object
   OWNERSHIP
   □ Public □ Private □ Both
   Public Acquisition:
   □ In Process
   □ Being Considered
   STATUS
   □ Occupied
   □ Unoccupied
   □ Preservation work in progress
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   □ Yes: □ Restricted
   □ No
   Unrestricted
   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   □ Agricultural
   □ Commercial
   □ Educational
   □ Entertainment
   □ Government
   □ Industrial
   □ Military
   □ Museum
   □ Private Residence
   □ Religious
   □ Transportation
   □ Other (Specify)
   COMMENTS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME:
   First Presbyterian Church and Society
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   100 West Seventh Street
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Hays
   STATE:
   Kansas
   CODE:
   67601

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:
   NONE
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   □ Federal
   □ State
   □ County
   □ Local
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   STATE:
   CODE:
   FOR NPS USE ONLY
   ENTRY NUMBER
   DATE:
The old First Presbyterian Church is a simple rectangular one-story structure. The exterior walls are of native stone blocks laid in a random ashlar pattern. The hand hewn blocks give a rustic, massive appearance to the building.

The roof is a steeply pitched gable covered with wood shingles. The cornice is constructed of undecorated wood members. A small overhang occurs on all sides. The gable ends are continuations of the stone end walls.

The window openings are simple with arched heads. The central window on the north end is a broad double panel with a semicircular arch of rough hewn stone blocks. Flanking this window are two smaller openings with pointed cut stone arches which give a Gothic flavor to the building. Four identical windows are placed on the west wall. Colored glass is used in all windows. A small tri-part emblem bearing the date "1879" is located in the north gable end.

Old pictures reveal that the original entrance was on the north end, where the large double window is now placed. The entrance was changed when the square tower and east wing were added in 1911-1913. For a time access was gained through the east side of the tower. But with the construction of the brick edifice in 1922-1926, an entrance was made through the north wall of the tower. The present brick chimney on the west wall is not original; old photographs show a chimney at the south end. A small cupola or bell tower was situated at the north end of the structure prior to the additions of 1911-1913.

The building, which is in the Gothic style, is a good example of an early vernacular building with added architectural detailing.

Only the original stone portion together with the 1911-1913 addition and tower are covered by this nomination form, the abutting 1922-1926 section of the church is not included.
The First Presbyterian Church in Hays was organized on May 27, 1873, by Rev. Timothy Hill, the Presbyterian superintendent of missions for Kansas. The founding members, seven women and one man, were under the determined leadership of Mrs. A. M. Wilson.

The city of Hays had been established in 1867 and in its early years it attracted the rough and restless elements of the frontier. These people and the attendant vice and violence distressed the religiously inclined minority in Hays. To combat what they regarded as a bad influence on the community, both the Presbyterians and the Methodists began church services on a regular basis in 1873. Rev. Donald Sutherland from Nova Scotia was the first Presbyterian minister in Hays, serving from November, 1873, to November, 1874.

In 1879 the Presbyterian congregation purchased three lots at the southwest corner of Seventh and Main from Henry Cass for $125.00 and erected a small stone church. The minister at that time was Rev. Abram Steed.

In 1911-1913 an annex to the east and a square tower were added to the structure. The stone used for the additions was from St. George's Episcopal Church at Victoria which had been built for George Grant's Victoria colony of English aristocrats. By 1911 the British colonists had long since departed and the church stood unused so the Presbyterian congregation at Hays purchased and dismantled it. The annex was dedicated April 27, 1913. Much of this east wing was removed in 1922 when construction started on a large brick church alongside the stone building. After the dedication of the new sanctuary in 1926, the old stone structure was used for Sunday school.

Presently the congregation is formulating plans to construct a new sanctuary in another part of Hays. A large group of members as well as many other townspeople would like to see the original 1879 stone church preserved. National Register listing is regarded as an important step toward that goal.

The Presbyterian congregation was the first to be officially organized in Hays (1873) and, according to some sources, the first in western Kansas. The stone church erected in 1879 is believed to be the first permanent church building in Hays, and
8. perhaps in western Kansas. It is one of only a very few buildings in Hays which predate 1880. The church also had ties with nearby Fort Hays. Some of the military personnel attended worship services and other church activities, some of the soldiers were married there and for others funeral services were held.

**GEORGIA**

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**APPROXIMATE ACRES:**

- 10 acres

**DATE:**

- July 14, 1972

**STATE:**

- Kansas

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION:**

- 20

**ORIGIN:**

- Kansas State Historical Society

**ADDRESS:**

- 120 West Tenenth Street

**CERTIFICATION:**

- Hays City

**SIGNATURE:**

- Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant

**NATIONAL REGISTER:**

- Kansas State Historical Society

**SIGNATURE:**

- Richard Panikrutz, Planner

**DATE:**

- July 18, 1972

**RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION:**

- Yes

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

- National

**SIGNATURE:**

- Nyle H. Miller, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society