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

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Fort Hays
   - ADDRESS:

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Frontier Historical Park
   - CITY OR TOWN: Hays
   - STATE: Kansas
   - COUNTY: Ellis
   - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 1, Keith Sebelius

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - CATEGORY (Check One): District, Building, Site, Structure, Object
   - OWNERSHIP: Public
   - PUBLIC ACQUISITION: Public Acquisition:
     - In Process
     - Being Considered
   - STATUS: Occupied
   - ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes

   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):
   - Agricultural
   - Government
   - Park
   - Private Residence
   - Religious
   - Military
   - Transportation
   - Other (Specify)

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - OWNER'S NAME: State of Kansas
   - STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol
   - CITY OR TOWN: Topeka
   - STATE: Kansas
   - CODE: 66612

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
   - DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society
   - STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth
   - CITY OR TOWN: Topeka
   - STATE: Kansas
   - CODE: 66612
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Story of the Early Life of Fort Hays and Hays City (Hays, Old Fort Hays Memorial Association, 1959).

GEOPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>NW</td>
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<td>99° 20' 53&quot;</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>38° 51', 33&quot;</td>
<td>99° 20', 53&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

CODE 66612

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 [X] 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
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.
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.
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.
PORT HAYS

9. cont.
