

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1 NAME

COMMON:
Fort Harker Guardhouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2 LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
northwest corner of Wyoming and Ohio streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Kanopolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
no. 1, Keith Sebelius

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20 COUNTY: Ellsworth CODE: 053

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Ellsworth County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
104 South Main St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Ellsworth

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
67439

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ellsworth County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Ellsworth

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
67439

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West 10th St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
66612

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Ellsworth

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Harker guardhouse, a substantial two-story native brown sandstone building, is situated at what was the west end of the parade ground. The stones, which measure as much as 36 inches long, 12 inches high, and 12 inches thick, are laid in regular horizontal coursing. The building has a hipped roof extending over a two-story porch on the east side. The upper floor was originally divided into two large rooms and six small cells. This floor, which can be reached only by an outside stairway, has six windows, three in front and three in the rear. There are no windows on either the north or the south side of the guardhouse. The lower floor was divided into three rooms: a guardroom, 26 by 15 feet; a non-commissioned officers' room, half that size; and a small tool room. The guardroom has three windows.

Today it looks much as it did originally--the cells are gone from upstairs and one partition downstairs has been removed. Bars on the upstairs windows are said to be original.

The building is now operated as a museum by the Ellsworth County Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1867

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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Harker was one of three forts (Harker, Hays, and Wallace) established along the Smoky Hill valley to guard the route to Denver, which passed through the part of Kansas most susceptible to Indian raids.

Fort Harker was originally established in the summer of 1864 as Fort Ellsworth. In November, 1866, the name was changed to Harker, and in January, 1867, it was relocated about three-fourths mile east.

For a time Harker was the headquarters of the district of the Upper Arkansas and the supply depot for all military forts west, including Colorado, New Mexico, and portions of Arizona.

It was at Harker in the fall of 1868 that Gen. Phil Sheridan planned his winter campaign of 1868-1869 which finally subdued the southern Indians.

In 1873 the military abandoned the fort; the railroad had put an end to its usefulness. The military reservation was opened to settlement and the buildings were sold.

The present town of Kanopolis is situated on the old fort site, and the guardhouse was for a time the Kanopolis city hall. It is the only surviving original building which has not been greatly altered. (Some officers' quarters stand two blocks east of the old guardhouse, but they have been altered into residential buildings.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank W., Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), v. 1, p. 661.
 Ellsworth Messenger, August 10, 1950.
 "Fort Harker Museum," broadside of the Ellsworth County Historical Society (n. p., n. d.).
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), v. 2, p. 1274.
 "Kanopolis, the City of Great Expectations," Kansas City Star, April 30, 1911.
Salina Herald, August 13, 1881.
 Shoaf, Mrs. Raymond "History of Fort Harker," Ellsworth Reporter, January 27, February 3, February 10, 1938.

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	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		38	42	37
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		98	09	40

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: Aug. 23, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West 10th St.

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: 9/1/71

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
K. AS	
COUNTY	
Ellsworth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

FORT HARKER GUARDHOUSE

6. cont.

Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration
1939 Federal

Records destroyed. A guide book, Kansas, was published in 1939.