NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON: Hartford Collegiate Institute

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford
STATE: Kansas

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One):
District ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object
Building ☑ Public ☑

OWNERSHIP:
Public Acquision:
In Process ☐ Being Considered ☑

STATUS:
Occupied ☑ Unoccupied ☐
Preservation work in progress ☐

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:
Yes: ☑ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐
No ☐

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):
Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐
Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☑
Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☐ Other (Specify) ☑
Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific ☐
Library and civic center ☑

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
City of Hartford

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER:
Lyon County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Emporia
STATE: Kansas

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas
DATE OF SURVEY: 1957
DEPOSITORY OF SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER:
120 W. Tenth
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka
STATE: Kansas

FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☑ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE:

10/15/75

KANSAS 66854
LYON
111

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
The Hartford Collegiate Institute in Hartford was established in 1861 as a branch of Baker University in Baldwin to prepare students for entrance into the Methodist university. Its location was chosen by the Methodist Episcopal Conference in 1860, and a group called the Neosho Valley Educational Association of the M. E. Church first met on December 11, 1861, to make plans for the school. During the next meeting on January 2, 1862, a committee of two persons was appointed to investigate the possibility of erecting a building.

Local citizens agreed to donate funds and land, and by the spring of 1862 the institute showed contributions of cash, materials and labor amounting to 1,530. The Hartford town company and individuals gave 1,116 acres of land in the Hartford vicinity and 294 town lots, some of which were sold to raise money for construction and later for the operating expenses of the school. The Board of Trustees made a contract with John Griffith and Richard How for the construction of the two-story limestone building. Work was to begin in July, 1862, and the building was to be completed by October, 1862. Pledges were difficult to collect, however, and by April, 1863, the walls were only one-fourth completed. The structure was finished in the fall of that year and the first classes were held October 14, 1863.

An executive committee had been appointed in August, 1862, by the Board of Trustees to prescribe courses of study, fix tuition costs and determine the opening date. Classes that would correspond to the upper two grades of high school and the first year and a half of college were desired. Solomon Lewis was the first teacher in the new building, with several others being added as the attendance increased. In 1866 Asa D. Chambers leased the institute building for ten years and in 1867 opened it as a first class academy. By 1870 there were 120 pupils, although during the period from 1865 to 1868 the school operated only under extreme hardship.

The institute had to close in 1875 because of insufficient funds, but the public school district used the lower floor of the building until 1877. Methodist church services were held in the Collegiate Institute building for approximately 20 years until 1887. The local high school met in the building 1903 to 1912. Since then it has periodically been used as a civic and social center for the community. Restoration began May 18, 1956, in preparation for the 1957 Hartford centennial. Presently the building is used as a library and civic activity center.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emporia Times, June 16, 1949.
"Facts in Hartford's History are Revealed at a Community Meeting," Emporia Gazette, February 11, 1950.
French, Laura M., History of Emporia and Lyon County (Emporia, Emporia Gazette Print, 1929), pp. 130, 131.
"Historical, Descriptive and Commercial Review of the City," Neosho Valley Times, November 26, 1897.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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 Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey
ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society
DATE: Oct., 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 W. 10th
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 [X]

Name: Nyle H. Miller
Title: 
Date: Sent to NR: 11/24/71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-147/1442 3-1
HARTFORD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

8. cont.

The Hartford Collegiate Institute is the oldest building in Hartford and the oldest school building in Lyon county. It has not only been used as a college preparatory school, high school and grade school, but it has been an important center for social and religious activities as well.

9. cont.

"History of College Building," Hartford Times, May 11, 18, 25; June 1, 8, 15, 22; July 6, 14, 20, 1956.
Minutes of the Sixteenth Session of the Kansas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (Lawrence, Kansas, Republican Journal Book and Job Printing Rooms, 1871), pp. 20, 44, 46.
The historic Coldwater Institute is the oldest building in the area.

It was built in 1838 and is the oldest school building in Iowa County. It has not only been used as a college preparatory school, high school, and grade school, but it has also been an important center for social and religious activities as well.


"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1884.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1885.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1886.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1887.


"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1889.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1890.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1891.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1892.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1893.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1894.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1895.


"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1897.

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"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1904.

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"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1907.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1908.


"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1911.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1912.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1913.


"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1918.


"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1921.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1922.


"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1924.

"Historical Sketch of the Iowa Preparatory Institute," Exposition, 1925.