

140050457



STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Ellsworth
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 20 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY BY NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries in complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: \_\_\_\_\_

AND/OR HISTORIC: \_\_\_\_\_

Fort Harker Officers' Quarters

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~at~~ Ohio Street, between Kansas and Colorado 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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Private

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

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: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas

CODE: 66612

CODE: 20

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

In 1867 Fort Harker was laid out on open prairie about one mile north of the Smoky Hill river. The buildings were constructed around a central parade ground 252 by 120 yards. Two of the three surviving quarters were at the eastern extremity of the north side of the parade ground, and the third, the commanding officer's quarters, was at the northern end of the east side. The three buildings are today in a tree-lined residential neighborhood on Ohio street just west of the Kanopolis business district.

Fort Harker was laid out in 1867 according to the magnetic north pole, but the town of Kanopolis was platted according to the true north pole. The three buildings differ from other structures in the town in that they do not sit parallel to the present streets but at approximately 13 degree angles.

(The officers' quarters are located two blocks east of the surviving Fort Harker guardhouse, which was entered on the National Register in 1972, and consideration was given to expanding that nomination form into a district including the three quarters. However, between the quarters and the guardhouse are four houses and the American Legion building. The decision was therefore made to prepare a separate nomination form.)

All three buildings are of native brown sandstone quarried approximately two miles northeast of the fort site. The stone is laid in regular horizontal courses. All buildings have modifications and additions.

The commanding officer's quarters, situated on the south side of Ohio street, was a T-shaped structure with eight rooms and a kitchen. Facing west-northwest, it measures approximately 103 feet long and 28 feet wide, and the off-set extension to the east measures 49 feet by 28 feet. Dimensions include the original open and closed porches. A second story of frame construction was added to the north end of the main section in 1913, and a frame shed has been added at the south end. To the west of the structure is a wide spacious yard which was originally part of the fort's parade grounds.

The other quarters are located to the north and west on the north side of Ohio street facing a south-southwesterly direction. The two buildings each had four rooms and a kitchen and were intended as one-family dwellings, although two families were sometimes forced to share the facilities.

The exterior of the east quarters has been plastered over, except for the west end, with vertical and horizontal markings in the plaster creating a cement block-like effect. The "T" has been extended to the north and the northwest corner of the "T" has been filled in by another addition. A small addition has also been placed at the northeast part of the "T".

The west quarters has had two small frame additions, one on either side of the "T".

In spite of the additions the buildings give evidence of their original appearance and are readily identifiable for what they were.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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 river valley to guard the route to Denver, which passed through the part of Kansas most susceptible to Indian raids. Harker was also a link in the military trail from Fort Leavenworth to Forts Riley, Harker, Zarah, Larned and the Southwest.

Fort Harker was originally founded in June, 1864, as Fort Ellsworth. In November, 1866, the name was changed to Harker in honor of Brig. Gen. Charles G. H. Harker of the Ninth U. S. Infantry, killed in June, 1864, at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. The fort was relocated about three-fourths mile east in January, 1867.

The relocation was made as soon as quarters for the men were ready. The officers' quarters were not yet completed and they had to commute daily from the old location for some time. Buildings at the new site were mainly of frame construction although there were five buildings of native sandstone: the hospital, guardhouse, commanding officer's quarters and two other officers' quarters.

Fort Harker, along with many other Kansas towns and military outposts was hard hit by cholera in 1867. It was estimated that 200 deaths occurred at the post and among the neighboring Ellsworth county settlers.

Fort Harker's history was brief but significant. It provided protection for the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, Eastern Division. A depot of the Quartermaster's and Commissary Department was established there in 1867 and in 1867-1868 all the military posts on the Arkansas river and many in Colorado and New Mexico were supplied from Harker. For a time, until the Union Pacific tracks were laid farther to the west, Harker was a main shipping point for the Santa Fe trade. Goods were shipped there by rail and then on to Santa Fe by wagon train. 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. Harker also had a large, well-equipped hospital and the sick from commands in the vicinity were often sent there for treatment.

Among the famous who quartered or camped at Harker, according to Major Henry Inman who was stationed there, were "Generals Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Harney, Terry, Howard, Schofield, Marcy, Miles, Grierson, Custer, A. J. Smith and Sully." Inman also reported that many great chiefs of the Plains Indian tribes met there to confer with

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baldwin, Alice B., Memoirs of Maj. Gen. Frank D. Baldwin (Los Angeles, Wetzel Publishing Co., 1929).  
 Blackmar, Frank W., editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), pp. 660, 661.  
 Ellsworth Reporter, August 22, 1885.  
 Fryer, B. E., "Fort Harker, Kansas," Circular No. 4: Report on Barracks and Hospitals with Description of Military Posts (Washington, D. C., War Department, Surgeon General's Office, Dec. 5, 1870), pp. 290-298.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

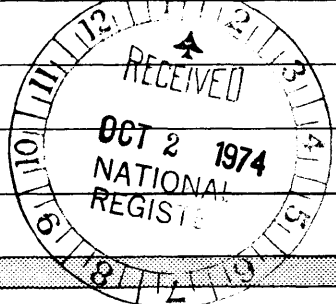
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		38 42 37	98 09 31	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

UTM  
 14/573150  
 4284740

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: About three acres

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Sept. 11, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
120 West Tenth Street

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Title Historical Society

Date September 25, 1974

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

Arthur Worlensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/20/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.14.74

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2.

The Fort Harker Officers' Quarters historic district boundary line commences at the northwest corner of Lot 9, Block 68. Proceed south to the end of Block 68, cross Ohio street and continue south along the west edge of Block 77 to the southwest corner of Lot 7, then east to the end of Lot 7, continue east 44 feet along the south line of Lot 22 (Block 77), from that point north to Ohio street, then diagonally across Ohio street to the southeast corner of Lot 15, Block 68, continue north in Block 68 to the northeast corner of Lot 9 and then west to the point of beginning.

The area contained in the district is described legally as Lots 9-15, Block 68, and Lots 1-7, and the west 44 feet of Lots 16-22, Block 77.

4. Thomas W. Flanders           owner of Lots 1-7 and west 44 feet of  
P. O. Box 61                   Lots 16-22, Block 77  
Kanopolis, Kansas 67454

Milton F. Beighly           owner of the east one-half of Lots 9-15,  
P. O. Box                   Block 68, and the east 6 feet of the west  
Kanopolis, Kansas         one-half of Lots 9-15  
67454

Ray Jewell                   owner of the west one-half of Lots 9-15,  
P. O. Box                   Block 68, excluding the east 6 feet  
Kanopolis, Kansas 67454

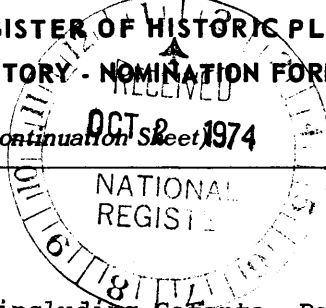


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8.

the military leaders, including ~~Safanta~~, Roman Nose, Little Raven and Black Kettle.

Fort Harker was abandoned by the army on October 30, 1872; the railroad had ended its usefulness. It was reoccupied temporarily in the winter of 1872-1873 by a detachment of the Sixth U. S. Cavalry, but they left in early April, 1873.

On February 11, 1876, the Kansas house of representatives approved a resolution asking Congress to donate the Fort Harker military reservation, 16 square miles, to the state of Kansas. The request was not granted and the reservation was opened to settlement by the act of June 15, 1880.

Some of the buildings of the fort were soon acquired by a Dr. Hodge and in August, 1881, sold to Col. Henry Johnson for \$4,177.50. The Salina Herald account of the sale stated that Johnson planned to acquire the rest of the buildings and establish a town.

In 1885 Johnson sold 4,740 acres, including the buildings of Fort Harker, to a Springfield, Ohio, syndicate headed by John H. Thomas for \$71,200. Johnson retained the use of the headquarters until April 1, 1886.

Apparently some of the buildings had been dismantled at least partially by the military before 1880, and an 1883 account reported that Johnson was dismantling others and selling the material to settlers for building. Standing in 1883 were the stone officers' quarters, some of the barracks, the guardhouse and the stables.

The present town of Kanopolis, which is situated on the old fort site, was established in 1887. Four of the 1867 fort structures still stand: the guardhouse, which was previously entered on the Register, the commanding officer's quarters and two other officers' quarters. The three extant quarters have now served as private residences for around 90 years.

The existing officers' quarters are significant to the history of Kansas because of the role of Fort Harker in protecting and providing a sense of security to travelers and railroad workers and to the settlers flocking into central Kansas.

9.

Hart, Herbert M., Old Forts of the Southwest (Seattle, Superior Publishing Co., 1964), pp. 159-161.

History of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 1274, 1275.

Inman, Henry, "Famous Fort Harker," Kansas City Star, June 19, 1890.

"Outline Descriptions of the posts in the Military Division of the Missouri Commanded by Lieutenant General P. H. Sheridan," (Chicago, Headquarters Military Division of Missouri, 1876), pp. 54, 55.

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9. (continued from page 2)

Salina Herald, August 13, 1881.

Shoaf, Mrs. Raymond, "History of Fort Harker," Ellsworth Reporter,  
Jan. 27, 1938-Feb. 24, 1938.

