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ш ш UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Type all entrie		EED 23	1972					
1. NAME				,	1016			
COMMON:								
Hart	ford Collegiate 1	Institute	<u> </u>					
AND/OR HISTORIC:								
2. LOCATION								1/)
STREET AND NUMBER:					/	/c		\sim
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☐ Entertainment ☐ M	useum Scie	ntific	civi	ic center				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY								
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7.	DESCRIPTION								
					(Chec	ck One)			
	CONDITION	☐ Excellent	X Good	☐ Fair	☐ Det	eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
			(Check Or	ne)			(Che	ck One)	
			·ed	☐ Unaltered		·	☐ Moved	💢 Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hartford Collegiate Institute building in Hartford is a twostory rectangular structure with no basement. The walls are built of hand-hewn native stone laid in a random ashlar pattern. A simple hip roof, covered with wood shingles, overhangs the walls below. Four small brick chimneys rise from the roof, two each on the east and west sides. The wood cornice creates simple horizontal lines and adds a positive termination to the stone walls. Window and door openings are simple rectangles with stone lintels and sills. The lintels are one-piece slabs of cut stone while the sills are integral parts of the stone wall pattern. The windows on both the first and second floors are of the two-light double hung type with wood frames. The main entrance on the north has a double door opening with a glass transom above it. A dominant feature of the building is a square frame tower located at the center of the roof. The tower, which is the only ornamental feature of the building, rises from a wood platform just above the roof. It is built of horizontal wood siding and has openings on all four sides. A low hip roof tops the tower. The tower cornice is very decorative with coupled brackets at each corner to support the roof overhang. Between the brackets is a dentil treatment.

Access to the second floor is by an interior staircase to the right of the main entrance. The second floor is now one large room and has been remodeled to serve as the community's library. The ceiling has been lowered, new windows installed, and the walls repainted. The first floor consists of two rooms; the larger one, located on the south, is a meeting room, and the smaller room to the north is a kitchen and storage area. A concrete floor has replaced the original wood of the first floor.

A first floor window opening in the center of the south side has been blocked shut. Also on the south wall there is a door opening at the second floor level, which evidently provided an outside exit or fire escape for the second floor. However, the outside stairs have been removed.

The Hartford Collegiate Institute building is a good example of Kansas Vernacular architecture executed in stone.



SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔲 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) 1863		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appro	priate)	
: "Aberiginal :: 1 1	KX Education	~ ~ - Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	🔲 Industry 🕝		
Agriculture	Invention	Science	<u> </u>
☐ Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture 1	<u>.</u>
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 RECENS 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

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9. MA	JOR	BIBLIOGI	RAPHIC	AL RE	EFERENCES								
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	Emporia Times, June 16, 1949.												
	"Facts in Hartford's History are Revealed at a Community Meeting," Emporia												
	Gazette, February 11, 1950. The First One Hundred Years: A History of the City of Hartford, Kansas,												
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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. Hartford centennial. Presently the building is used as a library and civic activity center.

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. "History of College Building," Hartford <u>Times</u>, May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15, 22, July 6, 14, 20, 1956.

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