

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 8 1982
DATE ENTERED MAR 1 8 1982

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME Philip Hardware Store
HISTORIC Hill P. Wilson Store
AND/OR COMMON Philip Hardware Store (preferred name)

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 719 Main Street
CITY, TOWN Hays N/A -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Kansas N/A -- VICINITY OF No. 1 Pat Roberts
COUNTY Ellis CODE 051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. & Mrs. George Philip
STREET & NUMBER 204 West Seventh Street
CITY, TOWN Hays N/A VICINITY OF STATE Kansas 67601

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Ellis County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Hays STATE Kansas 67601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Kansas Historic Sites Survey
DATE 1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kansas State Historical Society
CITY, TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Philip Hardware Store, located on the northwest corner of 8th and Main Streets in Hays, Kansas, is a two-story rectangular block with a three-bay front.

The building is constructed of coursed, rock-faced native limestone. There are stone lintels and smooth-cut sills. A front entrance and flanking display windows are framed in wood. The front eave cornice is wood; it is ornamented with brackets and a dentil molding.

There are no windows in the first story on the north side, only a rear door. In the second story wooden, double-hung windows are arranged regularly on the east and north sides. There are three chimneys in the north wall.

ALTERATIONS

The Philip Hardware Store is remarkably unchanged. On the Eighth Street side the eave cornice has been removed. All three chimney tops have been rebuilt. In front a wooden awning over the first story has been replaced by corrugated metal roofing on a metal frame. A frame addition has been built to the rear of the building and is not a part of the nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

"unknown"

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Philip Hardware Store in Hays, Kansas, housed various activities important to the town of Hays as it developed, and today it remains essentially unchanged in use or form from the day that it was built.

In March, 1874, Hill P. Wilson let the contract for construction of a two-story stone building in Hays. At the same time, Wilson, who was the first post trader at Fort Hays, closed his store at Buffalo Park. Later, the Junction City Union of May 16, 1874, reported, "Mr. Hill P. Wilson's new stone building is rapidly approaching completion. It is a structure well worthy of the enterprising spirit of Mr. Wilson, large and commodious, and quite a conspicuous feature of Hays." By August Wilson and his partners William Patterson and J. C. Connor had opened a store for the sale of general merchandise in the new building.

About a year later, in September, 1875, W. H. Courtney took over as manager. In October the United States public land office moved into the building, probably on the second floor. Hill Wilson built another building and moved his stock of goods into the new location during January, 1876. The Hays City Sentinel reported on February 2, 1876, that the first floor of Wilson's former store room was being fitted and partitioned for the use of the land office.

Before the land office was moved west to Wakeeney in 1879, thousands of homestead and timber claims were filed at the Hays office. L. F. Eggers and A. J. Vickers, register and cashier, managed the office from December, 1874 until fall, 1877.

Vickers and his wife lived above the land office after it was moved to the ground floor. They were popular hosts during their residence in the frontier community of Hays. The local newspaper reported several social occasions with dining and dancing in the second story of the Wilson building.

Colonel William Hunter succeeded Vickers as cashier on November 26, 1877. The Hayes administration later moved the land office to another location before transferring it from Hays in 1879.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LIBRARY

Articles

"Chronological Record of Interesting Events During the Past Three Years,"
Hays City Sentinel, January 5, 1877.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25 acres USGS Quadrangle: Hays South
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 4	4 7 1 2 8 0	4 3 0 2 3 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots 16 & 18, Block 7, Subdivision 1 & 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Julie Wortman, Architectural Historian
Dale Nimz, Program Assistant; Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian
ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society DATE _____
STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th Street TELEPHONE 913 296-3251
CITY OR TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Executive Director, Ks. State Historical Society

DATE Jan. 27, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Krathman

DATE 3.16.82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Wilson building then housed the offices of the Hays Free Press, edited by Harry Freese. George Philip, who had acquired a hardware business in Hays in 1894, moved his store into the Wilson building in 1896. The Philip family had emigrated to the Kansas plains from Scotland in the 1870's as part of George Grant's Victoria colony. The Philip Hardware Store is one of the oldest businesses in Hays.

In form and in ornament the Philip Hardware Store is a typical frontier retail establishment. Built in a style which can only be termed commercial vernacular, it stands as a reminder of the earliest days of Main Street.

Characteristic of this building type are the narrow frontage, extreme depth, two-story height and large plate-glass display windows on the front facade. Originally this building was free-standing. From historic photographs it is apparent that the broad eaves decorated with dentils and supported by scrolled brackets ran at least the length of the east and north facades, and presumably the south as well. This vaguely Italianate treatment was common in buildings of this type.

Today a building abuts the hardware store on the south side and the decorative cornice remains only on the front facade, but the building still retains the character of a frontier commercial establishment. The most important facades--those fronting on Main and Eight Streets--are unaltered except in decorative detail. Their massing and material remain the same as the day they were constructed.

Throughout its long history the building has fulfilled a vital need in the growing community of Hays. When it was first constructed it made an imposing contribution to the streetscape. It housed one of the earliest general stores, the land office, the offices of a local newspaper, and finally returned to its original function as a commercial establishment. At all times it housed services important to the community, and it continues to function today as a vital commercial establishment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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"Fort Vickers," Hays Daily News, June 18, 1972.

"From Hays City," Junction City Daily Union, December 27, 1873.

"From Hays City," Junction City Daily Union, May 16, 1874.

"From Hays City, Junction City Daily Union, June 20, 1874.

"From Hays City," Junction City Daily Union, September 12, 1874.

"Local News," Hays City Sentinel, February 2, 1876.

Books

Burkey, Blaine. Ellis County Gold. (Hays, Kansas: Thomas More Prep, 1979).