

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SELGEM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Seth Hays Home

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

203 Wood Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Council Grove

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
No. 5, Joe Skubitz

STATE

Kansas 66846

CODE

20

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

127

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Morris County Historical Society

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Council Grove

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66846

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Morris County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Council Grove

STATE

Kansas 66846

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

127-1180-031

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE       

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Seth Hays home, located at the southwest corner of Wood and Hall streets in Council Grove, is an example of Vernacular architecture. It is two blocks south of the town's main street and two blocks south of the business establishment which was operated by Hays. The house is one block west of the Neosho river and is one-half block outside or east of the boundaries delineating the Council Grove Historic District, a National Historic Landmark. In the block to the north are school facilities; to the immediate south are other residences and a block or so south is a football and track facility. Missouri Pacific railroad tracks run along Hall street directly north of the property.

The Hays home was built in 1866-67 as an L-shaped, four-room, one-story brick house with a basement under the two east rooms. The east front measures approximately 30 feet long and the north facade about 50 feet. The width of the east wing is approximately 17 1/2 feet and of the north wing 14 feet. The basement and the foundation are of locally quarried stone. The basement had a fireplace and its walls were covered with horse hair plaster; it was reportedly the quarters of Seth Hays' former slave, who continued as his housekeeper after being freed. The exterior walls are of locally made brick which was painted white at some undetermined time.

The east facade has a door and two windows. There is evidence in the wall of another door opening having been bricked shut just to the south of the existing door. Hand cut stone steps are at the door and the sidewalk is also of stone slabs. The north facade has one door, four windows and a fireplace chimney. The windows are all double hung sash and have six panes, both on the upper and the lower. The flat, slightly protruding lintels are of soldier bricks. The sills are of cut stone.

The roof, which has recently been resingled, is now of cedar shingles.

The southwest corner of the ell was filled in with a 16 by 33 foot frame addition many years ago. The Morris County Historical Society plans to restore the house for museum use and retain the frame addition for the caretaker's quarters.



# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Western Settlement	

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1866-1867      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Seth Hays home was built around 1866 or 1867 for the first white settler in Council Grove. Hays had come to the area in 1847 as the agent of Boone and Hamilton of Westport, Mo., with a U. S. government license to trade with the Kansa Indians. The Kansa had that same year been moved from eastern Kansas to a 20 mile square reserve on the upper Neosho river. Council Grove, the trading area, was located near the center of the reserve.

Born in Calloway county, Mo., in 1811, Seth Hays was a descendant of Daniel Boone. As a young man he had moved west, settling for a time at Westport and Independence, Mo. There he had become familiar with the overland trains which plied the Santa Fe trail and had learned the rudiments of trading with the Indians.

In 1847 Council Grove was an important stopping point on the Santa Fe trail since it had the three essentials for overland travelers--grass, water and timber, but there was no settlement or trading post. Hays and his employers recognized the site's potential for a lucrative trading operation. Also, Hays had profitably traded with the Kansa for a number of years at their previous reserve, and after the necessary license was secured, he moved to their new location in the summer of 1847.

Council Grove existed as a trading post on the Santa Fe trail after 1847, but the town was not legally formed until after the 1858 territorial legislature passed an act by which the Council Grove Town Co. could incorporate. One of the four incorporators was Seth Hays who was also president of the town company for a time.

Hays had built a log cabin in 1847 at the site of the present Hays Tavern (an 1857 structure identified as a key structure of the Council Grove Historic District, a National Historic Landmark). His second dwelling was a small brick structure erected in 1860, and his final home--and the one that survives--was built several years later. Hays had never married; perhaps that was one reason for Boone and Hamilton's selecting him as their agent for the remote location of Council Grove. When Hays came from Missouri in 1847, he brought with him an old slave known only as Aunt Sallie. After receiving her freedom some 10 to 12 years later, she continued to work as his housekeeper until her death in 1872. Her living quarters were in the basement of the Hays home, and her funeral, like that of her employer in 1873, was held in the home.

Seth Hays was one of the founders of Council Grove as well as the first permanent white settler in the area. He built the first house and was the first businessman. He achieved success as a trader, merchant, saloon keeper and hotel operator, among others. He worked actively to promote the town and its early development, printing a newspaper at his own expense for a time to publicize the community. His house stands as a link from the present to the beginnings of the Council Grove community.

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ITEM NUMBER 9

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Council Grove Republican, Dec. 5, 1972; Jan. 13, 1973; July 8, Aug. 8, Oct. 8, 1974;  
Mar. 6, April 8, 1975.

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Maloy, John, "History of Morris County, Kansas," Council Grove Cosmos, Feb. 26, 1886--  
Dec. 24, 1886.

"An Old Citizen Gone," Council Grove Democrat, Feb. 6, 1873.

Oliver, Lillian Hays, Some Boone Descendants and Kindred of the St. Charles District  
(Chedwato Service, 1964), pp. 267-270.

Sharp, Mamie Stine, compiler, "Home-Coming Centennial Celebration at Council Grove,  
June 27 to July 2, 1921," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 16 (1923-1925),  
pp. 528-569.

Unrau, William, E., "The Council Grove Merchants and Kansa Indians, 1855-1870,"  
Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 34, no. 3 (Autumn, 1968), pp. 266-281.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barry, Louise, compiler, Beginning of the West (Topeka, Kan., Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), pp. 383, 537, 569, 570, 671, 1059, 1138, 1153.  
Brigham, Lalla Maloy, Council Grove on the Old Santa Fe Trail (n. p., 1921).  
The Centennial, Council Grove, Kansas, 1825-1925 (Council Grove, Kan., Chamber of Commerce and Morris County Historical Society, 1925), p. 4.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 718565 4281730  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C                  

B                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

July 22, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

120 West Tenth 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 X

LOCAL   

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Nyle H. Miller

TITLE

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE July 23, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



