

FORM RECONSTRUCTED Sept. 29, 1975

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**CELGEM****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Morris
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Last Chance Store

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

500 W. Main

CITY OR TOWN:

Council Grove

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

no. 2, Bill Roy

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY:

Morris

CODE

127

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mrs. Helen Prater

STREET AND NUMBER:

19 N. Chautauqua

CITY OR TOWN:

Council Grove,

STATE:

Kansas 66846

CODE

20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Morris County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Council Grove

STATE

Kansas 66846

CODE

20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Records destroyed. A guide book, Kansas was published in 1939.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Morris
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Last Chance Store is a primitive rectangular building constructed of hand-hewn native limestone. The stones vary in size and are randomly coursed. Moderate quoining occurs at the corners. Windows and doors are simple rectangular openings with rough stone sills and flat smoothed stone lintels. The one room, one-story structure has a double gable roof of wood shingles. A very simple cornice treatment graces the gable ends.

It is a good example of a transitional stage between Frontier style and Plains Vernacular architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Last Chance Store was erected in 1857 by Tom Hill on the north side of the Santa Fe trail, some five blocks west of the Neosho river crossing at Council Grove. At the time it was the last store in the settlement going west on the trail, hence its name. (It was also one of the first stores in the settlement.)

The building housed post office facilities for several years and also served as a government trading house. On August 2, 1858, it was the polling place when the people voted on the Lecompton Constitution. It was for a time the last opportunity for freighters bound for Santa Fe to pick up supplies for their journey, and apparently also a place where the Kaw Indians from the nearby reservation could trade for manufactured goods. In later years the structure was a residence and at present serves as a storehouse for the owner's antique collection.

The Last Chance Store is significant for its connection with the Santa Fe trail trade and the early development of Council Grove. The Last Chance Store and the Hays Tavern are the two oldest commercial buildings in Council Grove, both constructed in 1857.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Brigham, Lalla Maloy, The Story of Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail (n. p., 1921).

"The Conquest of the Wilderness," The Kansas City Star Magazine, v. 2, no. 2 (August 2, 1925), pp. 3, 4, 16, 19.

"Historic Council Grove Is Proud of Its Earlier Days," Topeka Capital, August 24, 1924.

"Many Historical Sights at Council Grove," Emporia Daily Gazette, May 7, 1954.

Sharp, Mrs. Mamie Stine, compiler, "Home-Coming Centennial at Council Grove, June 27 to July 2, 1921," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 16 (1923-1925), pp. 563-564.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	0		"	0		"	38	39	47
NE	0		"	0		"	96	29	35
SE	0		"	0		"			
SW	0		"	0		"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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 D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey		
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Kansas State Historical Society	Feb., 1971	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
120 West Tenth St.		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Topeka	Kansas	66612
		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

Title _____

Date Sent to NR: 2/8/71; 3/24/71

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS