

- 1 - **Gospel Hill** - The Armes Dance Hall, originally named the Globe Theater, was built on this site in 1867 by Major George A. Armes with money raised by his younger brother in Leavenworth, ostensibly to erect an Episcopal church. Later the building was moved to Fort Hays by Hill P. Wilson and became an officers' annex to the post trader's store. Ironically the Catholics (1879), Lutherans (1879), Baptists (1883) and Episcopalians (1910) all built churches in this neighborhood, and the area became known as Gospel Hill.
- 2 - **Town and County Jail** - Hays City and Ellis County co-operated in constructing a jail on this site in 1868. "Wild Bill" Hickok occupied the sheriff's office from August 1869 to January 1870. On August 22, 1872 accused horse thief "pony" Donovan was accidentally killed by avengeful friends of John F. "Jack" Wright who had been murdered by Bill McClellan. The Wright avengers poured shots into the jail hoping to kill McClellan, but got Donovan instead. The jail burned the following week.
- 3 - **The Sporting Palace** - More than a dozen brothels lined this and Fort Street during Hays City's untamed years, 1867-1878. On this site stood a house owned at various times by the notorious Jim Curry and Alfred J. Peacock, who fought Bat Masterson at Dodge City in 1881. The house also served as the "crib" for "soiled doves" Ida May, Emma Bowen and Nettie Baldwin. In the late 1870s open prostitution slowly but inevitably disappeared from Hays City as homesteaders, who were not inclined to patronize the establishments, arrived in ever greater numbers.
- 4 - **Jim Curry's Restaurant** - The Star Restaurant was opened by Henry P. Field in November of 1867. In 1869 it was purchased by Jim Curry, who allegedly killed several men in Hays City following his return from service with the famous Forsyth's Scouts from 1868 to 1869. Curry lost the building to John F. "Jack" Wright through a mechanic's lien in 1870. In one of the many racially-related incidents that marred the early history of the town, Cpl. Albert E. Cropper mortally wounded Cornelius Doyle, who was standing in the corner doorway, on December 21, 1867. The building was razed in 1969.
- 5 - **White's Barber Shop** - John White, a former slave, operated his shop on this site from 1868 to 1879 when he was killed by a train. John White was highly respected and well-liked and was elected justice of the peace in 1870. His barbershop was the scene of an unfortunate accident in 1872. Five year old Cyrus Goddard was killed by a stray bullet while seeking safety behind White's barber chair during a street fight. The trigger-happy drunks involved were fined \$50 for shooting pistols in town and endangering lives.
- 6 - **Cy Goddard's Dance Hall** - Cyrus Goddard's saloon and dance hall was here from 1870 to 1876. A notorious place even by Hays City standards, it may have been the site where Hickok mortally wounded Bill Melvin (or Mulrey) on August 22, 1869. In 1873 the hall was the scene of the murders of Pvt. Frank Glissman, Peter Welsh and George H. Sumner, as well as the mortal wounding of buffalo hunter D. W. Gann. Dance hall girl Lou Sherwood was probably here when she stabbed herself to death on February 15, 1874. William F. Cody was hired to kill 12 buffalo a day for the Goddards and this helped give him the nickname "Buffalo Bill".
- 7 - **The Perry House** - Joseph Perry built the Perry House in 1867 in Rome. Because Hays City overshadowed Rome, he moved the house to Hays. Cody and his wife resided at Hays Perry House for a time, and Tom Custer's name appears on the only extant page from the hotel's register. Kit Carson, the great scout, probably stayed here on the nights of January 28-29, 1868 while on a trip to Washington D.C. Reportedly Hickok also made this two-story hotel his home, while in Hays City during the two years of 1867-1869. By 1896 the hotel, renamed the Commercial House, was run by Fergus Keeler.
- 8 - **Paddy Walsh's Gambling Hall** - John D. Walsh was a former soldier of several years' service. A tough man, Walsh killed ex-Leavenworth policeman Charles Blunt in a saloon brawl at Ellsworth on September 26, 1867. By November he was in Hays City, located on south Fort Street. He later opened a saloon and gambling hall on this site. The saloon was probably the site of Hickok's fight with members of the 7th U.S. Cavalry on July 16, 1870, in which Private John Kile was mortally wounded. Walsh died of old age in 1905.
- 9 - **Kansas Pacific Depot** - The first depot on this site was completed in November 1867. Here on September 18, 1869, Deputy U.S. Marshall John L. "Jack" Bridges arrested Bob Connors, an accused murderer, who was fleeing on an east-bound train. Bridges jailed him at Fort Hays because of threatened mob violence in town, and the post commander flatly refused to turn the prisoner over to Sheriff Hickok. Bridges broke up the infamous Ledford gang of horse thieves, eventually killing John E. Ledford at Wichita in 1871. He became marshal of Dodge City in 1882.
- 10 - **R. W. Evans' Grocery Store** - One of Hays City's earliest post offices was in Evans' grocery store. He moved on to help found Dodge City as did many early Haysites. On July 23, 1869, clerk Alonzo B. Webster, afterwards mayor and marshal of Dodge City, shot and mortally wounded Joseph N. Weiss. Joe was the proprietor of the local Omaha Saloon, a former inmate of the Kansas State Penitentiary and recent deputy U.S. Marshal. Weiss and Sam Strawhun had been served with notices to get out of town by the Hays vigilance committee to which Webster belonged. They took exception to this notice and tried to beat up Webster who killed Weiss. Strawhun escaped, only to be killed two months later by Hickok.
- 11 - **Waters and Murray's Saloon** - Moses Waters (1841-1889) and Henry Murray opened a saloon on this site in 1869. In partnership with James Hanrahan, Waters operated a second saloon, the Occident, in Dodge City. Waters was post sutler at Fort Riley from 1875 to 1889. Legend has it that Jack Hill, supposedly one of the Boot Hill's earliest "residents," was killed while being returned to Hays City after stealing Moses Waters' mule.
- 12 - **Kate Coffey's Saloon** - Kate Burns and Mike Coffey ran a saloon on this site, probably as early as 1869. On the very day Hickok became the bogus sheriff of Ellis County, August 23, 1869, Father Sebastian Favre united Kate and Mike in matrimony at Hays City. In early 1872 the Coffeys' moved their saloon onto the Fort Hays - Fort Larned trail near Walnut Creek, and there on June 22, 1872, John J. Barker mortally wounded Kate with a butcher knife during a drunken brawl. For some years thereafter tales of Kate Coffey's ghost circulated in the area.
- 13 - **Tommy Drum's Saloon** - Tommy Drum was one of the most respected citizens of Hays City. His saloon became the favorite gathering place for soldiers from nearby Fort Hays, British Colonists from Victoria and such famous personages as Hickok, Cody, and Generals Custer, Phil Sheridan and Nelson A. Miles. Drum was a generous person to a fault. He always made sure that everyone was taken care of at Christmas, leaving food and clothing for those who needed it. When prohibition was voted in 1880, Drum continued his business serving lemonade and soft drinks. Tommy Drum was in Hays from 1868 until 1883.
- 14 - **Ed Goddard's Saloon** - Brothers Cyrus F., George W. & Edwin F. opened a provisioning store for freighters, plainmen, railroaders and others on this site under the curious name of the Cheap Store. In 1867 or 1869 they contracted to board construction workers on the westward-building Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division. They hired Cody to kill 12 buffalo a day for their meat. Later Edwin ran a saloon and dance hall here.
- 15 - **Judge Joyce's Court** - One of Hays City's most colorful characters was M.E. Joyce. Judge Joyce was a Union spy during the Civil War and well-known journalist of this day. He presided from 1867 to 1868 as justice of the

peace for most of the western Kansas. "Chief Justice" Joyce often said there was no higher court than his and that no appeal could be made from his court. Joyce's office was the scene of many a court action on the morning after. Guilty and innocent were judged and fined according to the amount the accused had in their pockets. Joyce moved from Hays City to Leavenworth in 1870.

16 - **"Dog" Kelley's Faro House** - Kelley was known in Hays City for his collection of dogs, both racing and hunting dogs. Thus his nickname "Hound Dog." Kelley also ran a saloon and gambling hall. Kelley moved to Dodge City in the early summer of 1872 and then the former site in Hays was occupied by the home of Sheriff Alexander Ramsey. Ramsey was killed by a horse thief on June 7, 1875. Ramsey's grief-stricken wife, Mary died a few days later, and both are buried in Mount Allen Cemetery at Vine & 27th streets.

17 - **The Pioneer Store** - County Commissioner Dennis Ryan and County Treasurer Mike Caplice ran the Pioneer Store, a general outfitting firm on this corner from 1867 to 1870. By 1870, Caplice and Ryan were the richest and 3rd richest men in Hays City (Tommy Drum was 2nd). They remained in Hays in 1873 when black-smith Mike Haffmanier moved onto the corner and planted a peach tree, giving the area the name Peach Tree Corner.

18 - **Otero & Sellar's Warehouse** - A freighting business started by Otero and John Sellar in Leavenworth, KS and they moved from one terminal town to another. From Hays City they moved to Sheridan then Kit Carson, eventually moving to New Mexico. Otero Sr. was instrumental in gaining the right-of-way for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway.

19 - **Santa Fe Mail Co. Depot** - When the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division reached Hays City in October of 1867, this site became the temporary starting point of the Santa Fe trail until mid 1868. The 5 Mile Conrod Coaches of the Santa Fe Mail Co. left here daily on the 4 1/2 day run to Santa Fe. During these months, Hays City was also the eastern terminus for the coaches of the United States Express Co. going to and from Denver. In 1871 M.J.R. Treat moved the old Perry House to this site from across the railroad tracks and renamed it the Gibson House. The building was destroyed by fire on January 12, 1877. During the blaze, Mrs. Louie Lord, a well known actress of the day, and her troupe had to leave the building by ladders.

20 - **Union Pacific House** - This second largest house built in 1867 was run by George Boggs and Thomas Ranahan, who sold the hotel in 1868 to Bob Wright, post trader at Fort Dodge. Later that year, Ranahan was one of only 20 Hays citizens who signed up with the famous Forsyth Scouts.

21 - **The Opera House** - This building was erected in 1877 as Krueger's Dry Goods and Groceries, also has served as an opera house, a courthouse and the exclusive Essex Club. The original stonework can be seen at the rear of the building. Located in earlier days on this site were Judson E. Walker's grocery store (1867); J.L. Wolf & Bro. clothing store (1868); the first school, run by a man named Reese (1869); and the home of the first resident Catholic Priests, Fr. Sammereisen (1876).

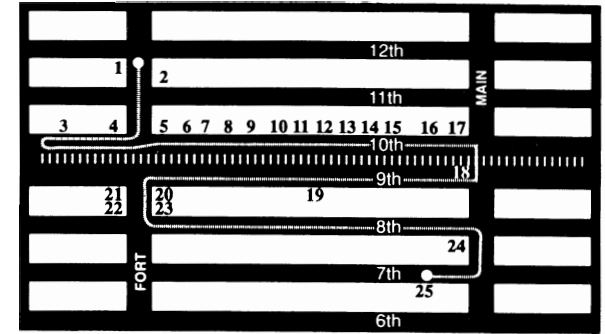
22 - **Sheriff George Bardsley's Home** - Sheriff Bardsley resided on this site from 1869 to 1880. An early day saloonkeeper, restaurateur, and county commissioner, Bardsley was elected Ellis County Sheriff in 1875 in a bitter contest with Jack Bridges. Bardsley was one of the few sheriffs to live through his first term of office. He also helped capture two of the Sam Bass's gang who pulled off a train robbery near Ogalala, Neb.

23 - **Leavenworth Beer Saloon** - This saloon was located on the road to Fort Hays. On September 27, 1869 Hickok and his deputy Peter R. "Rattlesnake Pete" Lanahan were called to quell a disturbance caused by Strawn and others at this saloon. Hickok ended the disturbance by killing Strawn. M.E. Joyce presided at the inquest which exonerated "Wild Bill".

24 - **United States Land Office** - Originally built as a dry goods store by Hill P. Wilson in 1874, this stone building was the home of the government land office from 1875 until 1877 and quite possibly as late as 1879 when the office was moved to Wakeeney. In 1896 this building became the hardware store of George Philip, who had come to Ellis County from Scotland in 1873 as a member of George Grant's Victoria colony.

25 - **First Presbyterian Church** - The year 1879 was a special one for religion in Hays City. Catholics, Lutherans and Presbyterians all built churches that year. The first two were frame buildings and were later replaced. The Presbyterians, who were organized as a congregation in May 1873 under the leadership of "Grandma" Annie Wilson, dedicated this stone church on April 4, 1880. It is the oldest church building still standing in Ellis County.

WALKING TOUR OF HISTORICAL HAYS CITY



- 1 Gospel Hill, 12th and Fort
- 2 Town and County Jail, 11th and Fort
- 3 The Sporting Palace, 10th Street
- 4 Jim Curry's Restaurant, 10th and Fort
- 5 White's Barber Shop, 10th and Fort
- 6 Cy Goddard's Dance Hall, 10th Street
- 7 The Perry House, 10th Street
- 8 Paddy Walsh's Gambling Hall, 10th Street
- 9 Kansas Pacific Depot, Railroad Tracks
- 10 R.W. Evans' Grocery Store, 10th Street
- 11 Waters and Murray's Saloon, 10th Street
- 12 Kate Coffey's Saloon, 10th Street
- 13 Tommy Drum's Saloon, 10th Street
- 14 Ed Goddard's Saloon, 10th Street
- 15 Judge Joyce's Court, 10th Street
- 16 "Dog" Kelley's Faro House, 10th Street
- 17 The Pioneer Store, 10th Street
- 18 Otero & Sellar's Warehouse, 9th and Main
- 19 Santa Fe Mail Co. Depot, 9th Street
- 20 Union Pacific House, 9th and Fort
- 21 The Opera House, 9th and Fort
- 22 Sheriff George Bardsley's Home, 8th and Fort
- 23 Leavenworth Beer Saloon, Near 8th and Fort
- 24 United States Land Office, 8th and Main
- 25 First Presbyterian Church, 7th and Main

The famous and infamous walked the streets of old Hays City including Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill Cody and General George Armstrong Custer.

Twenty-five bronze plaques mark the route and explain the significance of the sites. We encourage you to walk, learn and enjoy!

HAYS KANSAS

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The Hays Convention & Visitors Bureau would like to thank Mary Ann Thompson and Ron Parks for their contribution to this brochure.