

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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JFOO-072

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Reynolds, Nebr.-Kans.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference

Zone 14, Easting 639228, Northing 4429040

Verbal boundary description and justification

The area to be nominated is a square measuring 14.14 feet per side, totaling 200 square feet. This area will include the monument and the two extant witness stones. It is determined by the location of the four original witness stones, which were set 10 feet from the monument in each of the cardinal directions. The square is created by connecting the location of the four stones. This follows the trench line that was dug in 1856. The result is a triangular parcel of land in each section that measures 10'x10'x14.14' and totals 50 square feet (see figure below). The triangular parcel is in the extreme corner of each of the following:

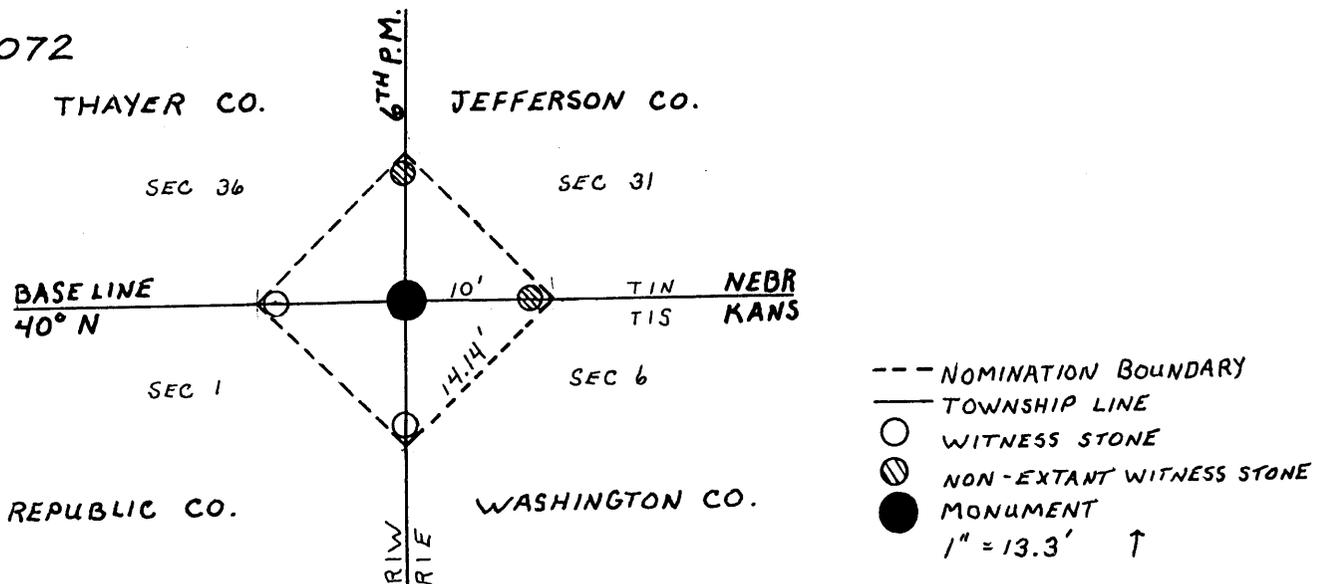
- SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36 R1W T1N
- SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 31 R1E T1N
- NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 1 R1W T1S
- NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6 R1E T1S

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries.

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Kansas	code 020	counties	Republic	code 157
			Washington	201
Nebraska	code 031	counties	Jefferson	code 095
			Thayer	169

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7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

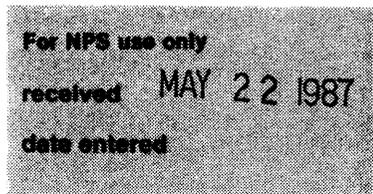
The cast iron monument marking the point of intersection of the 40° North latitude line and the bluff on the west bank of the Missouri River is six feet high and tapers from a 16" base to 7" at its top. Its north side is marked "Nebraska", the south "Kansas", the east "1854", and the west "40° N. Lat.". It is located by four witness stones 12" x 3", set 10 feet from the monument. The sandstone monument marking the point of intersection of the Sixth Principal Meridian and the 40° N latitude base line is 14" high with small stones anchoring the base. This is the extant portion of the original 48"x15"x6" monument. Also extant are two of the four witness stones set 10 feet from the monument. The stone to the south is sandstone and measures 21"x11"x2" and the one to the west is limestone, measuring 18"x10"x3". This is a thematic nomination that consists of two separate sites with a total of eight contributing objects (five and three each).

RH00:062 This monument is a hollow cast iron shaft 1" thick, weighing between 500 and 600 pounds. It is six feet high with a flange base 16"x16". Directly above the base it is 11"x11" tapering to 7"x7" at the top which is beveled. The monument is marked on its four sides with raised cast upper case Roman letters that are 1 1/4" high. The north side reads "Nebraska", the south "Kansas", the west "40° N. Lat.", and the east "1854". A St. Louis company cast the monument in 1854. It was set in place on May 8, 1855, by Charles A. Manners, a U.S. Deputy Surveyor. Manner's field notes state that "said monument or cast iron post was erected by setting the same two feet in the ground with a flat stone well bedded underneath it for a foundation and the excavation around the post well rammed with earth and small stones...the sides of the monument facing the cardinal points". Manners also set four stones about 12 inches in width and 3 inches thick in the ground ("witness stones") about one foot deep and ten feet from the monument, one in each of the cardinal directions, which he connected by a trench ten inches deep. He marked four black oak trees, one in each of the four sections that meet at the monument, indicating the appropriate section, township and range for each.

In 1924, after having been toppled and set upright in an erroneous location, the monument was reset in a sturdier foundation. Leo M. Petersen set a cement base 14x30x30 inches on top of the original limestone base. At the exact point of intersection of the lines connecting the witness stones he set (14 inches deep in the cement base and resting upon the limestone) an iron

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pipe three feet long and three inches in diameter, with a brass cap on the top marked "Kansas Initial Corner 1924" and "SC TIN", "R18E S36" and "R19E S31." He then placed the original cast iron shaft down over the iron survey pipe and secured it with two strap irons on four bolts set firmly in the cement base. This monument stands today in an excellent state of preservation. It is six and one-half miles southeast of Rulo, Nebraska, about 200 feet west of the road between Rulo and White Cloud, Kansas, and on top of the first bluff bank overlooking the Missouri River to the east. It stands on the point where the parallel of 40° N latitude (Kansas-Nebraska state line) intersects the top of the bluff on the west bank of the Missouri River, and marks the initial point of survey for Kansas and Nebraska.

JF00:072 This monument was set June 11, 1856, by Charles A. Manners in a flat area of prairie at the point where the Sixth Principal Meridian intersects the 40° N latitude base line (the point where present day Thayer and Jefferson Counties, Nebraska, and Washington and Republic Counties, Kansas, meet). Made from red sandstone, the mounument measured 48"x15"x6" and was set to correspond with the cardinal points, with its flat sides facing north and south and its edges east and west. The north face was inscribed wthih the letter "N" and "T1N", while the south face read "K" and "T1S". The east side was inscribed with "R1E" and the west with "1856" and "R1W". Manners field notes state that the stone was set "2 ft in the ground and firmly fastened with smaller stones about its base". Following accepted procedure, Manners also set witness stones at a distance of ten feet from the monument in each of the cardinal directions. He describes them as follows:

- "on the North Limestone 20x10x2
- on the East Limestone 19x11x3
- on the South Limestone 21x11x2
- on the West Limestone 18x10x3"

Present day surveyors had taken the location of this monument for granted, although it was not visible above ground. It was unearthed in 1976 by the U.S. Geodetic Survey and then re-buried, since it lies in the center of a county road. On October 25, 1986, 16 surveyors representing five states once again unearthed the monument. Buried in the ground was the bottom 14" of the sandstone marker with small stones about its base. Also found was the sandstone set ten feet to the south and the limestone set ten feet to the west. The upper approximately 34" of

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the monument had apparently been broken off at a much earlier time. The top 8" had been found in a nearby ditch by the owner of adjacent property. Visible on that portion was "1856" and "R1W". The group of surveyors spearheading the project to locate the monument intend to excavate the adjacent area in the spring of 1987 hoping to locate the two remaining witness stones and the middle portion of the monument, with the goal of restoring it.