

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Osborne
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 9 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Geodetic Center of the U. S. (preferred name)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Meades Ranch Triangulation Station; North American Datum

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SW 1/4, Sec. 34, T9S, R11W
Meade's Ranch; 17 miles southeast of *Osborne*

CITY OR TOWN: Osborne *Meade* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 1 Keith Sebelius

STATE: Kansas 67473 CODE: 20 COUNTY: Osborne CODE: 141

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. A. Josephine Robinson

STREET AND NUMBER: 713 West Main

CITY OR TOWN: Osborne STATE: Kansas 67473 CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Osborne County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Osborne STATE: Kansas 67473 CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects 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:

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 rolling terrain of a pasture some 17 miles southeast of Osborne contains the triangulation station commonly referred to as the geodetic center of the United States. Marking the exact spot is a circular concrete marker about 24 inches in diameter and not more than six inches above ground. A small bronze plate is located in the center of the concrete. The marker is located on a high point from which the rugged grassland appears to slope downward in all directions.

There are additional markers underground.

The site is not readily accessible; the only approach is by way of rough ranch trails.



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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)

1891, 1901, 1913

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A circular concrete marker no more than six inches high and two feet across is situated in an isolated pasture on what is known historically as Meades Ranch. A bronze disk embedded in the concrete contains a triangle. The dot in the center of that triangle is the geodetic center of the United States. Known officially as the Meades Ranch Triangulation Station, it was established in 1891 by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and was one of many such stations along two great arcs of triangulation. One arc extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the other from the Canadian to the Mexican border. These two arcs intersect in the Meades Ranch area.

In 1901 the Meades Ranch station at 39° 13' 26.686" north latitude and 98° 32' 30.506" west longitude was selected as the U. S. Standard datum, the fixed point to which all maps and land measures in this country are related. This station was chosen for several reasons. It was located approximately 40 miles south of the geographic center of the United States (near Lebanon in Smith county, Kansas) and at the juncture of two great arcs of triangulation. Also of importance was that checking by the Coast and Geodetic Survey indicated that the geodetic determination and the astronomical determination of this station were closer in agreement than for other stations being considered.

Geodetic survey officials from Canada and Mexico decided in 1913 that it would be advisable to fit the triangulation of their nations to that of the United States. As a result the entire North American continent has accepted the Meades Ranch station as the North American datum.

It is in relation to this spot in an Osborne county pasture that all property lines, all maps, and city, county, state and international boundaries in North America are established.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Insignificant Rock in Kansas Marks Center of United States," Kansas City Times, January 19, 1948.
 Isley, Bliss, and W. M. Richards, Four Centuries in Kansas (Wichita, Ks., The McCormick-Mather Co., 1936), p. 221.
 Kerbey, McFall, "A Network of Surveyed Lines," National Geographic Magazine, v. 63 (May, 1933), pp. 648, 649.
 Lapham, Jim, "For Map Makers It All Begins in Kansas," Kansas City Star, May 3, 1970.
 "Meades Ranch North of Lucas Base for All Maps in America," Abilene Daily Reflector, July 22, 1939.

HR
NO
UTM

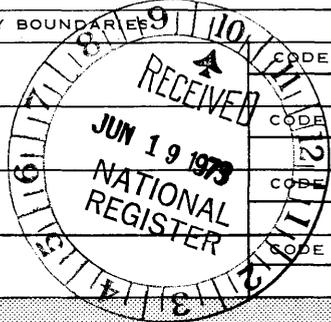
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"	39	13	26.686
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	98	32	30.506
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: May 1, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

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
Nyle H. Miller

Title Exec. Dir., Kans. State Hist. Soc.

Date June 12, 1973

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Associate Director
 Professional Services
 OCT 9 1973

Date _____

ATTEST: Edw. Huntley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-3-73

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Osborne	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
001 8	1973

(Number all entries)

9. "Meades Ranch Will Get Marker As Survey Center," Osborne County Farmer, April 11, 1935.
- "N. A. Maps All Based on Kansas Point," Kansas City Star, December 11, 1927.
- "New Measurement of the Earth Is Being Started by the United States," Kansas City Times, January 2, 1948.
- "Point on Kansas Ranch Base for All Map Making," Topeka Capital, March 16, 1924.
- Schoewe, Walter H., "Kansas and the Geodetic Datum of North America," Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, v. 51, no. 1 (1948), pp. 117-124.
- Socolofsky, Homer, and Huber Self, Historical Atlas of Kansas (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1972), p. 1.
- "Stone Block on Ranch in Osborne County Is Geodetic Center of U. S.," Topeka Journal, June 30, 1928.

