

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Other names/site number KHRI #045-5939 (Segment) & 045-6072 (DAR Marker)
Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail

2. Location

Street & number N 550 Rd & E 1100 Rd not for publication
City or town Baldwin City vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 045 Zip code 66006

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D



3-5-19

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO

Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

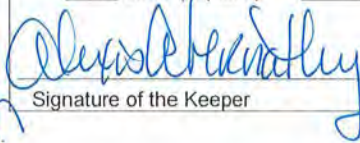
entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)



4/22/19

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
1	1	objects
2	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: Road-related (vehicular)

Recreation & Culture: Marker

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agricultural: Agricultural Field

Recreation & Culture: Marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: Stone

Metal

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker is located a little over six miles northwest of Baldwin City, Douglas County, Kansas, near the former town site of Willow Springs (Figure 1). Willow Springs was a well-known watering stop along the eastern portion of the Santa Fe Trail. The nominated property, containing about 0.25 acres, includes two contributing resources: one trail segment (a Transportation Site property type) in the northwestern part Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East and one Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) marker (a Monument & Memorial property type) in the eastern portion of Section 21, Township 14 South, Range 19 East.

Elaboration

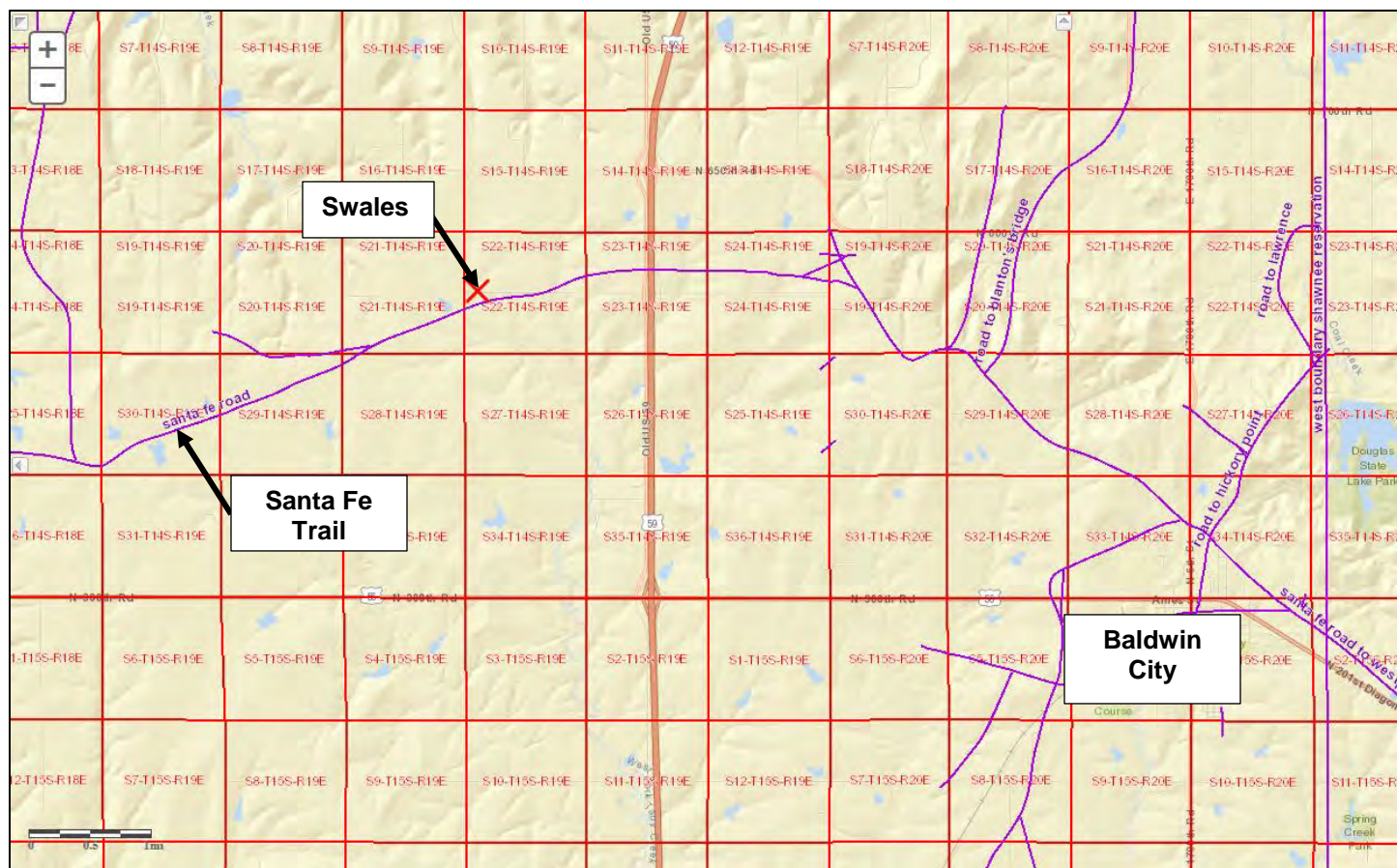


Figure 1: Contextual map, showing the nominated site labeled "swales." (Source: Kansas Historic Resources Inventory)

Landscape and Setting

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker is located within the Osage Cuestas division of the Osage Plains section of the Central Lowland province of the Interior Plains division of North America.¹ The bedrock of the region consists of interbedded limestone, shale, and sandstone formations of Pennsylvanian age. Exposure and differential erosion of the unequally resistant, westward sloping strata at the ground surface has created a series of low parallel ridges. These "cuestas" have steep, rugged, east facing escarpments that front on broad, gently inclined, westward sloping vales. Thus, the topography consists of long, low rolling hills and wide, shallow valleys. In general, the escarpments exhibit an irregular

¹ W.E. Schoewe, "The Geography of Kansas, Part II: Physical Geography," *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* 52, no. 3 (1949): 283-266.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

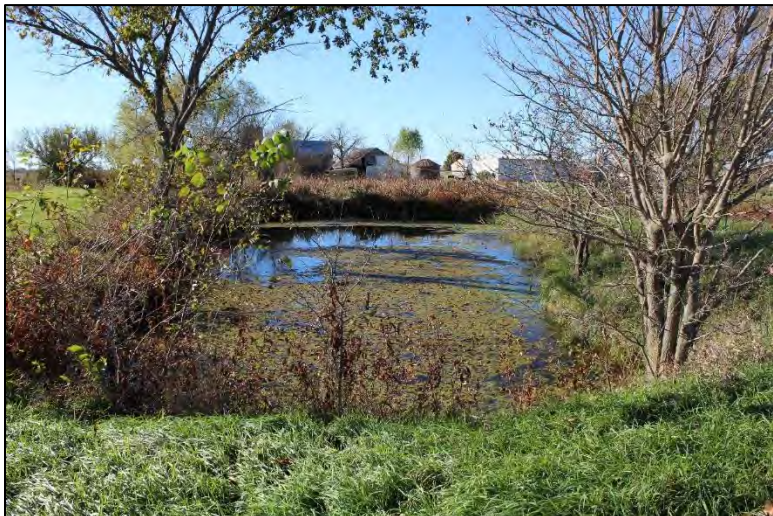


Figure 2: The northernmost spring feeding Willow Springs Creek. No surface stream leads into or flows out of the spring.

northeast-southwest trend. The major stream courses, however, flow to the east and southeast, transverse to the direction of the escarpments and against the westward dip of the rock formations.²

The prehistoric vegetation of the Osage Cuestas was open prairie penetrated by thin ribbons of riverine forest. The Cuestas are part of the tall grass bluestem prairies, described more specifically as an area with extensive interspersions of forest and prairie.³ Soil survey data and early historical accounts indicate that the wooded areas were confined to the floodplains and valley edges of the major stream courses and their tributaries. The timber consisted of medium tall to tall broadleaf deciduous forests, often with dense undergrowth and many lianas. Oak, black walnut, hickory, hackberry, cottonwood, willow, and elm were common along with a variety of smaller species such as persimmon, papaw, elderberry, serviceberry, chokecherry, and wild grape. Forestation was

apparently not pervasive even in bottomland locations, however, since many of the common stream course soils have characteristics indicating that they developed under a native vegetation of both tall grasses and hardwood trees. This site is currently used as cultivated grassland for cattle.⁴

Natural springs are common in the land surrounding the property. Like all springs the Willow Springs are an effect of local water flow in the rocks beneath the ground. The rock in Douglas County was deposited on the floors of the vast inland seas which covered the interior of the continent during the Ice Ages. The shells of sea creatures accumulated on these sea bottoms and over time the calcium-rich shells compressed into limestone. In subsequent interglacial periods clay-rich "carbonated mud" was compressed into shale. Wave action produced sand that was compressed into sandstone. The limestone and shale layers are nearly horizontal, not very thick, and as these processes were repeated, the limestone-shale couplets were built up over each other with layers of sand stone sandwiched between them.⁵

At Willow Springs rain water seeps into the limestone through cracks that are there in the rock, and then the water makes its way down to the layer of shale below it, which is not cracked like the limestone. The water then goes down along the shale, in a shallow subsurface flow. As it moves along downhill the water passes through spots on the slope where a limestone/shale couplet has been exposed on the surface through erosion. At these spots the water seeps out onto the surface as a spring. The first spring in Willow Springs Creek is located about 3/8 of a mile north of the nominated site, where the ground slopes away to the south (Figure 2).

The hydrology of Willow Springs Creek is complicated by a series of surface streams that add their water to the total volume in the creek. By the time the flow from the first and second springs reaches the creek, sufficient water has accumulated to be visible on the surface of the ground. It is the subsurface flow that makes this creek different. Because the Willow Springs area is fed by both springs and surface run off, the creek flows all year long. This was important for merchants returning to Missouri in the dry months of the year, on their way back from Mexico.

The landscape of the nominated property appears similar to its historic character, with the physical features found in an area of natural vegetation consisting of grasses and scattered deciduous trees. The surrounding terrain is used primarily as pasture; although, there are also acres of cultivation. Farmsteads dot portions of the area today.

² Paragraph is adapted from standard language used in reports written by Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Archeology Department.

³ A.W. Kuchler, "A New Vegetation Map of Kansas," *Ecology* 55, no. 3 (1974): 586-604.

⁴ Paragraph is adapted from standard language used in reports written by Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Archeology Department.

⁵ O'Connor, Howard G, "Geology and Ground-water in Douglas County," *State Geological Survey of Kansas* 148 (1960): 90.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Remnants of the Santa Fe Trail in Section 22

The Santa Fe Trail historically crossed the entire width of Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East (Figure 3). The trail entered the section from the east in the SE/4 of the NE/4 at an approximate elevation of 1080 feet. From there, the road traveled the rolling terrain in a west-southwesterly direction, crossing branches of Willow Springs Creek before exiting the section in the NW/4 of the SW/4. There are several small intact portions of the trail within Section 22, but only that segment described below is being nominated.

Santa Fe Trail Segment (Archeological Site #14DO393)

The Santa Fe Trail Segment is bounded on the south by the west-east running North 550 Road (Figures 4 and 5). The road itself was likely part of the trail later adapted into a county road. The trail segment contains at least one swale, which is a contributing site to this nomination. The nominated swale is 45 feet wide, which is consistent with the width of the swales at other places where it is preserved. The swale starts at the top of a hill to the east of the creek and travels west down the hill for 555 feet (Figure 6). There are two narrower, deeper ruts inside of this wide swale with a secondary shoulder pushed up between them. The secondary swale was formed by two files of wagons inside of the wide swale passing around the space where the secondary mound is now, probably because that space was muddy at the time. The two deep, narrow ruts in the swale join together where they enter a cut-down in its east bank of Willow Springs Creek. The cut-down has been filled with rocks, probably to prevent head ward erosion.

Willow Springs DAR Marker (Contributing Object)

The Willow Springs DAR marker sits 750 feet off to the west of the creek, on the west side of East 1100 Road at the T-intersection with North 550 Road. The marker is in the NE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 21, Township 14 South, Range 19 East, within the defunct townsite of Willow Springs.

The granite piece is a typical DAR marker planned in 1906 and erected in 1907 to commemorate the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas. The triangular stone faces east and is set within a buttressed square rubblestone base. The marker measures approximately 18 x 18 x 30 inches at the base and 30 inches high on its southeast corner. The side facing the road is polished and inscribed, "SANTA FE TRAIL / 1822 – 1872 / MARKED BY THE / DAUGHTERS OF THE / AMERICAN REVOLUTION / OF THE / STATE OF KANSAS / 1906" and has been recently lithographed. Directly behind (west of) the marker is a non-contributing modern-era historical marker (Figure 7).

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

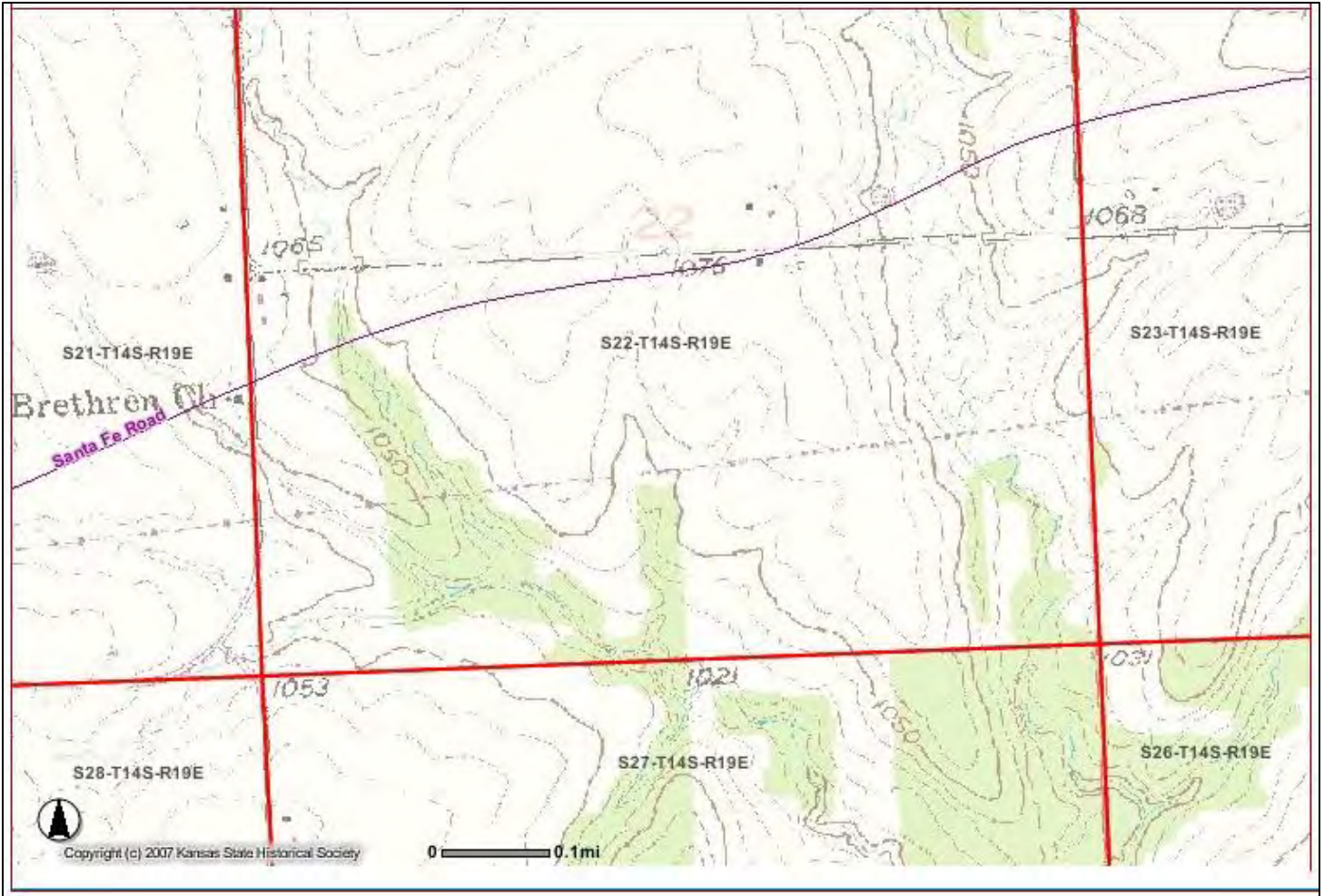


Figure 3: Topographical map of Section 22, showing the route of the Santa Fe Trail as mapped by the General Land Office in 1856.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 4: Aerial photo of the Willow Springs area in Section 22 showing the locations of the trail segment and DAR marker. The trail segment is depicted by its archeological site boundary.

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Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

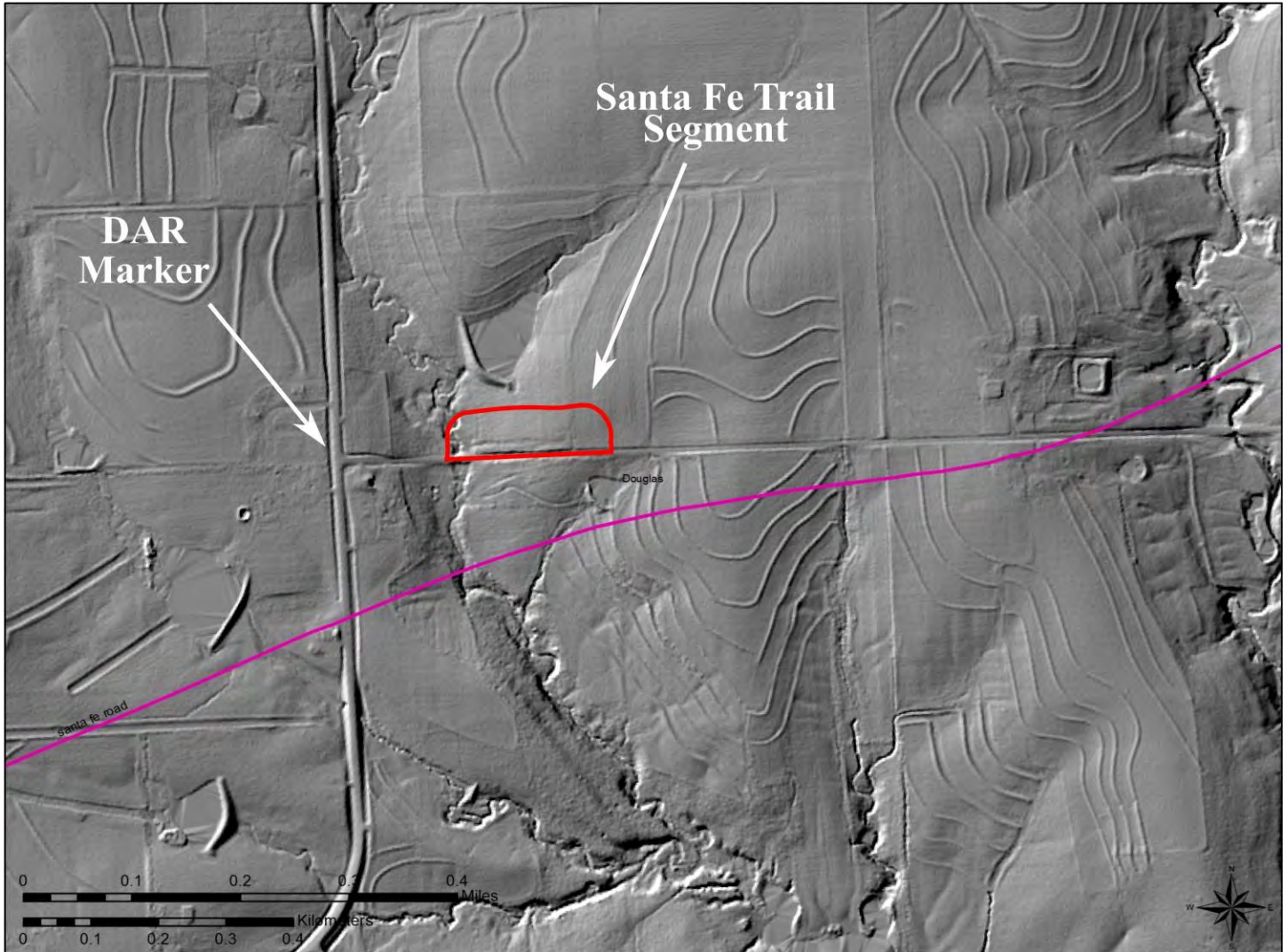


Figure 5: LiDAR imagery of the Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker. North is up. Bold line around the trail segment indicates the boundary of archeological site 14DO393.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 6. View NE at the Santa Fe Trail Segment east of Willow Springs Creek.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 7. View west at the Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail DAR Marker.

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Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Integrity

This property is nominated under the revised *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail* multiple property submission. The nominated trail segment in Section 22 retains good integrity of location and setting, and the swales themselves show the pattern of travel in the area, thus supporting its integrity of association and feeling. The DAR marker likewise illustrates an historic connection to the trail. While not in its original location, it is nearby and retains a close visual association with the nominated swales.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance

Areas of Significance

- Transportation
- Commerce
- Archeology: Historic (Non-Aboriginal)
- Social History

Period of Significance

- 1821-1866
- 1906-1907

Significant Dates

- 1821, 1866
- 1906

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not Applicable

Period of Significance (justification)

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker has two distinct periods of significance. The first covers the years the trail was active in this area of the state, 1821 to 1866. The later period incorporates the year the DAR marker was installed and dedicated at the site, 1906-1907.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

As discussed in the revised multiple property nomination, the commemorative DAR marker is eligible because the age, intent, and symbolic value of this resource contribute to the marker's own historical significance. This significance is in large-part directly tied to the effort to memorialize the trail by those who were associated with the trail.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker is nationally significant as part of the *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail* revised multiple property nomination under Criterion A for its association with transportation and commerce along the Santa Fe Trail from 1821 to 1866 and under Criterion D for its potential to yield information about the trail in eastern Kansas. The property is also significant in the area of social history for its commemoration of the Santa Fe Trail by the DAR in 1906. Its earliest period of significance begins with the initiation of commercial traffic over this segment in 1821 and ends in 1866 when the Kansas Pacific Railroad reached Junction City, thus shifting the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail to that city. This period of significance is associated with the historic contexts, "International Trade on the Mexican Road, 1821-1846," "The Mexican-American War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1848," "Expanding National Trade on the Santa Fe Trail, 1848-1861," "The Effects of the Civil War on the Santa Fe Trail, 1861-1865," "The Santa Fe Trail and the Railroad, 1865-1880," and "The Santa Fe Trail in Kansas." The district's later period of significance includes the year the DAR erected and dedicated the marker at Willow Springs; this period of significance is associated with the MPS historic context "Commemoration and Reuse of the Santa Fe Trail, 1880-1987."

Elaboration

History of the Santa Fe Trail through Douglas County 1821 to 1866

Traffic between the United States and Santa Fe began in 1821 with the independence of Mexico from Spain. That year William Becknell led an expedition from Franklin, Missouri, into the Southwest for the purpose of "Trading for Horses and Mules."⁶ His real destination was Santa Fe, at that time a little mountain town in Mexico. He found trade with the United States newly legalized and the officials eager to make money regulating it. Becknell took the first wagon train back to Santa Fe the next year and is considered the Father of the Santa Fe Trail.⁷

Two years later, in 1825, the U.S. government recognized the importance of commerce on the trail and commissioned George C. Sibley to survey the route. In 1827 Sibley went back over the trail to "justify" the route, but the traders had already done a good job of situating the trail. Sibley found that, "Generally the traveled Road Runs pretty well & cannot be bettered."⁸ After Sibley's course corrections the route was more or less fixed except that in the rainy season wagons would sometimes go around ruts left in the ground from previous years.

All the commercial wagons went through the muddy "Narrows" as they approached Willow Springs on the west side of Douglas County (Figure 8). A successful Santa Fe trader, Josiah Gregg, who had spent years on the trail related that, "On reaching the 'The Narrows'... it is quite common for a wagon to sink up to the hubs in mud, while the surface of the soil all around would appear perfectly dry and smooth."⁹ This was probably due to the shallow subsurface water flows which feed the springs in parts of Douglas County.¹⁰ In the years leading up to the Mexican-American War, Gregg's 1844 best seller, *The Commerce of the Prairies*, helped open the nation's eyes to the wealth available in a part of the country Zebulon Pike had called the Great American Desert.

People began moving west to Oregon and California to farm in 1840, and in 1845, Colonel Stephen Kearney led an expedition from Fort Leavenworth to South Pass in the mountains of Wyoming. On his return trip he went down the Front Range to Santa Fe and came back up the Santa Fe Trail to Fort Leavenworth. A detachment of his expedition left the trail and took a short cut to the mouth of the Wakarusa River, where it flows into the Kansas River, crossed the Kansas River at

⁶ *Missouri Intelligencer* June 25, 1821, cited in Stephen G. Hylsop, *Bound to Santa Fe* (Norman, Okla.: Oklahoma University Press, 2010), 40.

⁷ Hylsop, *Bound to Santa Fe*, 42.

⁸ Journal of George C. Sibley on correction of the Survey and making of Report, May 12 to October 27, 1827, cited in Kate L. Gregg, editor, *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952), 175.

⁹ Josiah Gregg, *The Commerce of the Prairies*, edited by Max L. Moorehead (Norman Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954), 28.

¹⁰ Personal communication Dr. Gwen MacPherson, Geological Hydrologist at the University of Kansas.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

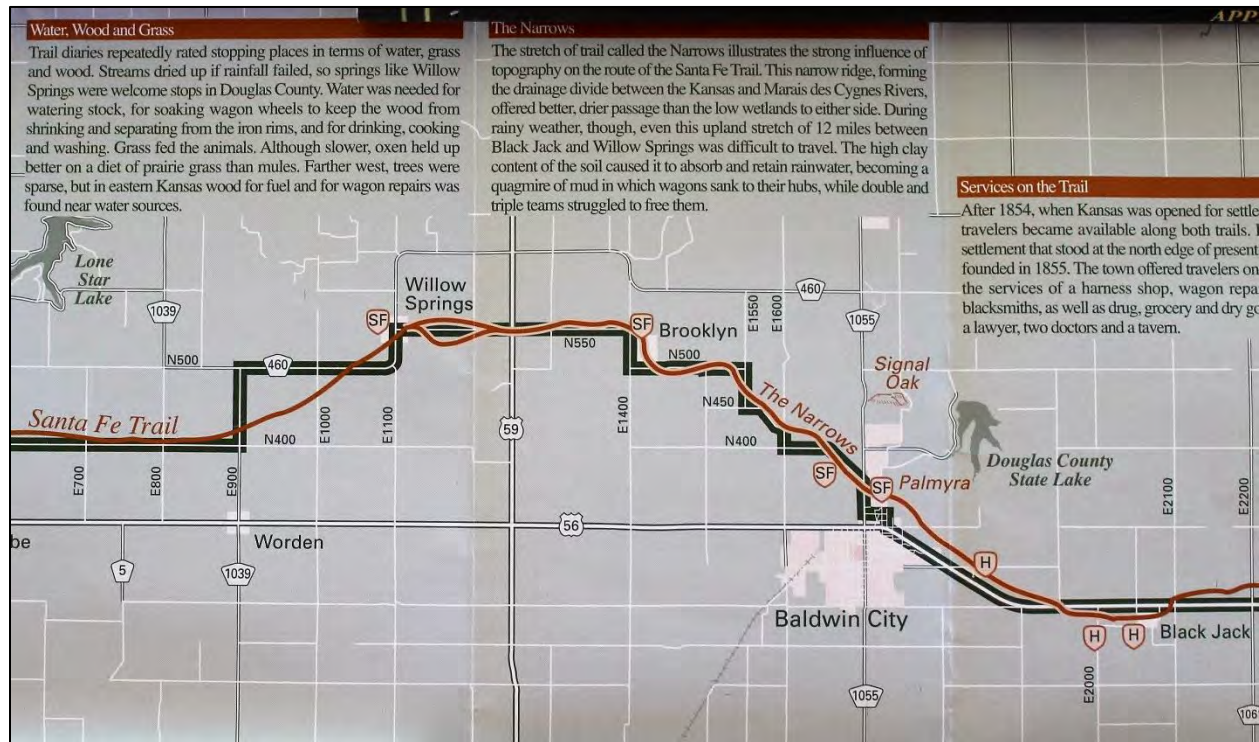


Figure 8: The Douglas County Historical Society's Map of the Narrows including Willow Springs.

that point and returned to the Fort across Leavenworth County.¹¹ An analysis of their mileage shows they left the trail at the nomination site at Willow Springs.

President Polk had his eyes on land in Mexico, and war broke out in 1846. Alexander Doniphan led an expedition of some 1,000 volunteers from Missouri to Mexico following Kearny's route in reverse.¹² They fought Mexican forces at the Sacramento River outside the City of Chihuahua. Doniphan's forces captured 12 artillery pieces in the battle of Sacramento, and when their period of enlistment was completed his men brought them back with them to Missouri.¹³ On their way back from Mexico, the Army Topographic Engineers came back up the Santa Fe Trail and took the same short cut back to Fort Leavenworth, one of them identifying the point where they left the Trail as "Willow Springs."¹⁴

The nominated section of the trail provided a route for freight supporting military bases in the newly acquired territories from 1847 up until 1853, when military traffic was rerouted through from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley, in Junction City, Kansas. The Santa Fe Trail at Willow Springs saw continued use from travelers to the Southwest and it helped provide the infrastructure for economic development and trade in the lands acquired in the war with Mexico.

The Mexican-American War opened up a vast new area of land to U.S. settlement and under the terms of the Compromise of 1820 almost all of it would come into the Union as free states. Pro slavery forces agreed to abrogate the Compromise of 1820 and in the Compromise of 1850, any new territories would enter the Union as free or slave states based on a vote of the settlers.

¹¹ Lt. William B. Franklin, *March to South Pass*, #1 Engineer Historical Series (Washington DC: U.S. Governmental Printing Office, 1979), 34-35.

¹² George Rutledge Gibson, *Journal of a Soldier under Kearny and Doniphan 1846-1847*, edited by Ralph P Bieber (Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark, Kaiser Legacy Reprints, 1934), 133 & Lt. J.W. Abert, "Report of Lieut. J.W. Abert of His Examination of New Mexico in the Years 1846-'47," in Lt. Col. W.H. Emory, *Notes of a Military Reconnoissance [sic] from Port [sic] Leavenworth in Missouri [sic], to San Diego, in California, including part of the Arkansas, del Norte and Gila Rivers*, 13th Congress-First Session, Ex. Doc. No. 41 (Washington DC: Wendell and Van Benthuyzen, 1848), 545 [digitized online]; available from Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/notesamilitaryr00emorgooq> (accessed 04/26/2018).

¹³ Artillery Commander Merriweather Lewis Clark's report to Doniphan, cited in William E. Connelley, *War with Mexico 1846-1847* (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, 2008 reprint of 1907 publication), 433-434.

¹⁴ Abert, "Report of Lieut. J.W. Abert..." 545.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

In 1854 The Kansas Nebraska Act opened up Kansas to Euro-American occupation, and a year later a man named Charles Dow was murdered as, "a d___d Abolitionist"¹⁵ in a little settlement called Hickory Point that had sprung up alongside the Santa Fe Trail four miles east of Willow Springs. This started a chain of events culminating in the sack of Lawrence two years later, in 1857.

In 1858 pro-slavery forces in Missouri took possession of four of the cannon which Doniphan's Expedition had brought back with them up the Santa Fe Trail. On May 21 they hauled them to Lawrence and set them up facing the Free State Hotel. Its owner, Shalor Eldridge, tells that it was "Captain Hiram Bledsoe, who had served under Colonel Doniphan at the Battle of Sacramento, in the Mexican War, where these cannon had been captured was in charge of the gun trained on the hotel."¹⁶ The pro-slavery men shot holes in the walls of Eldridge's hotel, and when it didn't collapse, blew it up with barrels of gunpowder and then burned down the other buildings in the business district. These were the first cannon shots between pro slave and free state forces and are thus arguably the first cannon shots of the Civil War.

The violence spread throughout Northeast Kansas and later that same month a band of pro slavery "boarder ruffians under Colonel Henry K. Fate (sic) [actually H.K. Pate] stopped at Willow Springs on the Santa Fe Trail, setting the buildings on fire and robbing the people of their horses, money, and guns."¹⁷ Four months later, in August 1858, free state men retaliated against a group of pro slave "boarder ruffians" in a blacksmith shop along the trail back at Hickory Point, and in the gunfire three free state men were wounded, one "in the leg," another, "in the breast" and "a lad of sixteen wounded in the abdomen."¹⁸

Kansas became a state in January 1861. More and more free state people from back east poured into Kansas and pushed slave state settlers out of Kansas Territory. The "Bleeding Kansas" Era demonstrated to the slave-owning states that the compromise of 1850 was not going to go their way. They seceded and three years into the Civil War, Lawrence was sacked once again by pro slavery forces under William Quantrill. After the raid his men fled south along the Santa Fe Trail. They stopped at another little settlement that had sprung up along the Trail and was named for a city back east. When they moved on they had left "Brooklyn...burning."¹⁹

Work on the first of the "pioneer railroads" in Kansas had started in 1861,²⁰ but like railroad construction across the country, work had been halted by the outbreak of Civil War. Railroad construction started up again after the war and in the second week of December 1867 the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Fort Gibson Railroad laid its track across the Santa Fe Trail a mile southeast of Hickory Point.²¹ Over the next ten years passage on the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County was reduced to local traffic.

The Narrows

Willow Springs is located in a section of the Santa Fe Trail called the Narrows. The Narrows was a big northern detour away from the more or less direct southwest course of the trail. The wagons negotiated the Narrows by going along the tops of a series of ridges running east and west along the south bank of the Kansas River Valley.

The land in the Narrows generally falls away sharply to the north of these ridges, dropping down into the river valley, in what geologists call a "cut bank." The ground slopes down less sharply but still very definitely away to the south from these ridges. Water from rain falling on the north slope of these ridges flows into the Kansas River, and rainwater on their south slopes runs off into the Marias des Cygnes River.

The four branches of Tauy (pronounced "Toy") Creek also run off to the south from these ridges, getting deeper and more difficult to cross as they go downslope.²² The lower reaches of Tauy Creek caused muddy and difficult conditions for the

¹⁵ [Lawrence] *Kansas Tribune* (December 10, 1855): 1.

¹⁶ Shalor Winchell Eldridge, *Recollections of Early Days in Kansas* (Topeka: Publications of Kansas State Historical Society, Volume 2, 1920), 53.

¹⁷ *Topeka Daily Journal* (March 18, 1906): 16.

¹⁸ *Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, KS (November 22, 1856): 1.

¹⁹ *White Cloud Kansas Chief* (August 27, 1863): 3.

²⁰ *Wichita Daily Eagle* (August 27, 1921): n.p.

²¹ *Kansas Daily Tribune* (December 8, 1867): n.p.

²² Tauy creek is named after George Tecumseh (Taui) Jones, who was the son of a mixed Native American and White marriage. Taui had a successful trading business in the Baldwin area and is the founder of Ottawa University, in Ottawa City, 16 miles

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

big, lumbering merchant wagons trying to cross them during the rainy season, so the merchants naturally tried to go as far north around the heads of these branches as they could, without going over the steep banks down into the Kansas River valley.

Willow Springs Creek is the westernmost branch of Tauy Creek, and once the wagons crossed it they no longer had any reason to stay so far north. After camping overnight on Willow Springs, with its excellent water, the wagon trains left camp the next morning and turned off back to the southwest. Because wagons going into the Narrows turned off northwest when they entered the Narrows, and then back southwest again after they crossed Willow Springs, they called each end of the Narrows a "cut off."

The Santa Fe Trail crossed Willow Springs creek in Section 22, but south of that point aerial photos show the creek heading away to the southeast, as it crosses the boundary and continues into Section 27 below it. That this creek is indeed Willow Springs is as confirmed by the 1856 General Land Office survey notes: "I run east on a random line between sec. 22 & 27. 20.00 (chains) South East corner of Willow Springs Township. 38.60 (chains) Willow Springs branch 10 lks. wide bears South East."²³ Ten links makes Willow Springs Creek eight feet wide where it crosses the section line. From Willow Springs, the creek flows on south until it becomes the west branch of Ottawa Creek, and flows into the Marias des Cygnes ("Sea of Swans") River, ten miles south of Baldwin and six miles north of Ottawa. The Marias des Cygnes River was also called the Osage River by early travelers, as it got closer to the Missouri River.

The earliest known mention of this creek is in 1811 when George C. Sibley surveyed the sources of the Kansas River, and on his way camped "on a very pretty creek, a branch of the Marias de cygnet [sic], which is a branch of the Osage River."²⁴ The editor of this book says that this branch was called "the Big Cut-Off Crossing... [and that] later it became an established stopping place on the Santa Fe Trail."²⁵

In 1825 George C. Sibley surveyed the Santa Fe Trail. He got started a week after the survey crew, and when he got to the Narrows, Sibley recorded in his journal that he, "...halted at a camp lately occupied by our company."²⁶ By comparing distances in Sibley's journal and the survey crew's notes, it can be concluded, "This camping site... was on the Big Cut-Off Crossing of what is known as the West Fork of Ottawa Creek."²⁷ In 1827 Sibley was commissioned to go over the trail again, rerouting the way to save a mile here, half a mile there. He revisited the Narrows "marking the Cut off...Round the Circuitous Ridge...I think the road must always pass *Round* on this Ridge; the ground across which a more direct Route would pass is low & flat, and is crossed by Several muddy gullies."²⁸ [see Figure 2]

The Town of Willow Springs

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 set aside the land that is now Douglas County as an Indian reservation outside the boundaries of the U.S. The passage of the Kansas and Nebraska Act in 1854 opened the land to settlement by Euro-Americans, and the General Land Office completed its survey of the Willow Springs area in 1856. The surveyor included the boundary lines for the Town of Willow Springs on his plat. The land for this proposed town on the well-known stopping place on the Santa Fe Trail had been purchased by a company of investors headed by William Wells.

Four years later, in 1860, the town site was purchased by Edwin .H. VanHoesen who had built a hotel a stone's throw from the nominated swales in 1857.²⁹ The hotel was probably an attempt to attract the railroad that that was under construction in northeast Kansas. But in 1867 the L. L. & G. Railroad line came through Douglas County four miles east of Willow Springs and the L.S.W. line went through Overbrook, in Osage County, ten miles to the west.

to the south of Baldwin City. Loren A. Litter, *Self-Guided Tour of Baldwin City's Historic Sites* (Baldwin City, KS: Champion Publishing, 1997), n.p.

²³ 1856 General Land Office survey notes, Roll #128 Unit # 178, p. 435, T.14S R.19E.

²⁴ George R. Brooks, editor, "George C. Sibley's Journal of a Trip to the Salines in 1811," *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin* 21, no. 3 (1965): 170.

²⁵ Brooks, "George C. Sibley's Journal of a Trip to the Salines in 1811," 170.

²⁶ Kate Gregg, *The Road to Santa Fe*, 55.

²⁷ Kate Gregg, *The Road to Santa Fe*, 252.

²⁸ Kate Gregg, *The Road to Santa Fe*, 180-181.

²⁹ *Baldwin [Kansas] Ledger* (Feb. 21, 1908): n.p.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

In February 1855, a post office known as Davis was established at the present site of Willow Springs. It may possibly be considered the fifth post office in Kansas Territory as four other offices had been established before that date and five, including Davis, were authorized that day. All stops were along the Santa Fe Trail. In July 1861, VanHoesen became postmaster and the name was changed to Willow Springs. It remained until closing on November 1, 1900.

In addition to the hotel, the Old German Brethren Church (still standing south of VanHoesen's barn) and the Willow Springs School formed the nucleus of a "country corner" that served as an important socializing center for the scattered population of Willow Springs in the days before automobiles.³⁰ By the early twentieth century a small cluster of business were located in Willow Springs along East 1100 Road (Figure 9); although, the hotel burned in 1907.

Willow Springs exists today as a voting township in Douglas County, and according to the current property owner, until recently the remains of the Willow Springs Hotel's foundations were still visible in the ground about 30 feet south of the DAR marker.

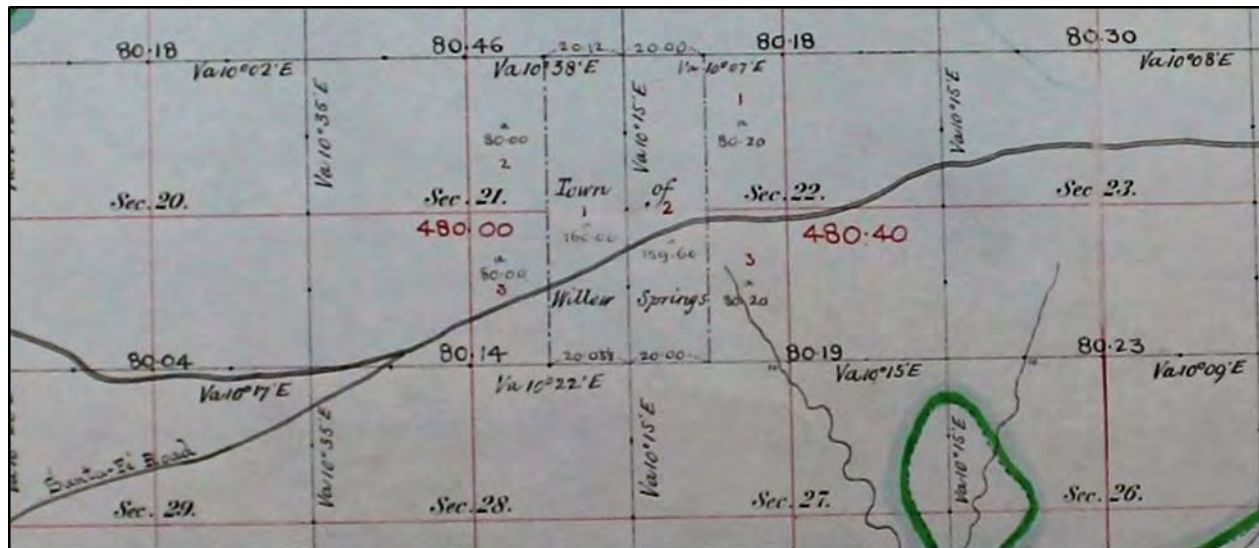


Figure 9: 1853 GLO Survey plat showing the path of the Santa Fe Trail and borders of the town of Willow Springs

The Willow Springs DAR Marker (1906-1907)³¹

In 1902 the Kansas State Conference of the of the Daughters of the American Revolution, held that year in Ottawa, began discussing a project to mark the route of the Santa Fe Trail across Kansas with a series of monuments.³² They petitioned the State Legislature for funds, received \$1,000, and then raised another \$584 from a penny collection on Kansas Day in 1906.³³ A historian was hired to chart the route,³⁴ and to save costs while still employing a quality medium, irregular fragments of granite for the markers were purchased from a quarry in Oklahoma.³⁵

In 1906 the Willow Springs marker was placed by Edwin VanHosen in the center the T-intersection of East 1100 and North 550 roads in the center of the west line of Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East.³⁶ The Santa Fe Trail had split in two about 200 yards east of the intersection to go around a short section of Willow Springs Creek that was impassable to

³⁰ Dennis Domer, *Commons on the Prairie*, Master's Thesis, University of Kansas (1990), 67.

³¹ Katharine B. Kelley, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County, Kansas: A Brief History of the Seven D.A.R. Marker Sites and Town Sites Along the Route of the Trail in Douglas County, Kansas*, (Privately Published, 1987), 25-27 & Mrs. T.A. Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail by Daughters of the American Revolution in Kansas* (Topeka: Crane & Company, 1915), 107.

³² Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail*, 15.

³³ *Baldwin Ledger* (Oct. 18, 1907): 1.

³⁴ Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail*, 24.

³⁵ Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail*, 68.

³⁶ Kelly, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County Kansas*, 26.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

wagons, and then the two arms rejoined just west of the intersection. The marker was thus placed in the middle of the trail.³⁷ Like many of the DAR markers there is no record of a formal dedication of the Willow Springs marker. The dedication of the Trail Parker Marker may have served as the dedication date for all of the Douglas County markers, October 11, 1907.

The marker was moved to the west edge of the right-of-way when East 1100 Road was widened and paved in 1969, and the road crew reset it on a base of glacial rock from the Clinton (Douglas County) area.³⁸ That was in 1969, and the Douglas County Public Works Department records show a historical marker located in the road when its bed was graded for the paving.³⁹

Criterion D: Archeological Potential

This segment may have the potential to yield important archeological information. Archeological prospection, geophysical survey, and metal detector survey of similar trail segments have been shown to reveal associated artifact assemblages, sometimes buried and sometimes not, that can inform on the use of the trail during its period of significance. Though no such surveys have been undertaken on this trail segment, there is every reason to believe that the presence of such an assemblage is possible. These swales and their contributing land area have the potential to yield important information to understanding the use and nature of this road, including patterns of use and change over time, evolving trade patterns, cultural interactions, and possibly even be able to narrow the dates of use. Study of both the remnant trail segment and any hypothetical adjacent archeological features can provide valuable insight into the evolving patterns of historic development in this region. This site likely contains data which may be vital to any wider study of the 19th-century trade and economic development. Further investigation could address key questions regarding trade and transportation variability and change. Excavation could also provide additional social data including better estimates of the frequency of use during various phases of history, the role played by various ethnic and social groups, and the nature of trail users, material culture and the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.⁴⁰

Conclusion

In its day Willow Springs was at a well-known watering spot on the Santa Fe Trail. Very few people besides the residents of Willow Springs Township know that there is a DAR marker located here to mark the spot. Even fewer know that the creek running just 250 yards east of the sign is *the* Willow Springs Creek. And hardly anyone knows that there is a swale and a cut-down from the Santa Fe Trail right by the side of the road, still there for anyone to see.

³⁷ Kelly, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County Kansas*, 26.

³⁸ Kelly, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County Kansas*, 26.

³⁹ Personal communication Kith Browning, Director Douglas County, Kansas, Public Works Department.

⁴⁰ Kansas Historical Society, "Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Revised (August 2012): F116. Citation covers paragraph.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Brooks, George R., editor. "George C. Sibley's Journal of a Trip to the Salines in 1811." *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin* 21, no. 3 (1965).
- Connelley, William E. *War with Mexico 1846-1847*. Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, 2008 reprint of 1907 publication.
- Cordry, Mrs. T.A. *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail by Daughters of the American Revolution in Kansas*. Topeka: Crane & Company, 1915.
- Domer, Dennis. *Commons on the Prairie*. Master's Thesis. University of Kansas. 1990.
- Eldridge, Shalor Winchell. *Recollections of Early Days in Kansas*. Topeka: Publications of Kansas State Historical Society, Volume 2, 1920.
- Emory, Lt. Col. W.H. *Notes of a Military Reconnoissance [sic] from Port [sic] Leavenworth in Missouri [sic], to San Diego, in California, including part of the Arkansas, del Norte and Gila Rivers*. 13th Congress-First Session, Ex. Doc. No. 41. Washington DC: Wendell and Van Benthuyzen, 1848 [digitized online]; available from Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/notesamilitaryr00emorgoog> (accessed 04/26/2018).
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- Gibson, George Rutledge. *Journal of a Soldier under Kearny and Doniphan*. Edited by Ralph P. Bieber. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark, Kaiser Legacy Reprints, 1934.
- Gregg, Josiah. *The Commerce of the Prairies*. Edited by Max L. Moorehead. Norman Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954.
- Gregg, Kate C. *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952.
- Hylsop, Stephen G. *Bound to Santa Fe*. Norman, OK: Oklahoma University Press, 2010.
- Kansas Historical Society. "Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Revised (August 2012).
- Kelley, Katharine B. *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County, Kansas: A Brief History of the Seven D.A.R. Marker Sites and Town Sites Along the Route of the Trail in Douglas County, Kansas*. Privately Published, 1987.
- Kuchler, A.W. "A New Vegetation Map of Kansas." *Ecology* 55, no. 3 (1974): 586-604.
- Litter, Loren A. *Self-Guided Tour of Baldwin City's Historic Sites*. Baldwin City, KS: Champion Publishing, 1997.
- O'Connor, Howard G. "Geology and Ground-water in Douglas County." *State Geological Survey of Kansas* 148 (1960).
- Schoewe, W.E. "The Geography of Kansas, Part II: Physical Geography." *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* 52, no. 3 (1949): 261-333.

Newspapers

Baldwin Ledger (Baldwin City, Ks.)

Herold of Freedom (Lawrence, Ks.)

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Kansas Daily Tribune (Lawrence, Ks.)

Kansas Tribune (Lawrence, Ks.)

Topeka Daily Journal (Topeka, Ks.)

White Cloud Kansas Chief (White Cloud, Ks.)

Wichita Daily Eagle (Wichita, Ks.)

Survey Notes

1856 General Land Office Survey notes, Roll #128 Unit # 178, T.14S. R.19E.

Survey Plat

1856 General Land Office Survey Plat, T.14 S. R.19 E. Kansas State Historical Society Research Library, Topeka Ks.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 4

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates SEE BOUNDARY MAP

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

SWALE

A 38.818984 -95.295424 B 38.819014 -95.293901
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

MARKER

C 38.818762 -95.297897
Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The discontinuous district includes:

- 1) A four-acre linear site in the SW/4, NW/4 of Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East. The west, north, and east boundary are arbitrarily drawn at 50 meters (164 feet) away from the documented swale; the south boundary is the fence line along N 550 Road's right-of-way.
- 2) The DAR marker containing the granite stone and is stone rubble base located in the western right-of-way of E 1100 Rd in the NE/4, NE/4, SE/4 of Section 21, Township 14 South, Range 19 East. Only the marker is considered to be part of the district.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the documented trail swale and a 50-meter (164-foot) contributing land area around the swale as required in the revised multiple property nomination. The DAR marker is located about 800 feet southwest of the segment on the west side of E 1100 Rd. The space between the marker and the swales is interrupted by later non-trail development, so the boundary was drawn to exclude these features.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Craig Voorhees with Shirley Coupal (Kansas Society DAR) and Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)
organization Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association date May 2018
street & number 3826 Crossgate Ter. telephone 785-856-3201
city or town Lawrence state KS zip code 66047
e-mail voorheescraig@gmail.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Private owner (trail segment) & Kansas Society DAR (marker)
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker

City or Vicinity: Willow Springs (Baldwin City vicinity)

County: Douglas State: Kansas

Photographer: Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)

Date
Photographed: January 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 4:** View looking ENE from west end of swale (photo by Craig Voorhees, Fall 2016)
- 2 of 4:** View looking east from west end of swale
- 3 of 4:** View looking west from middle of swale
- 4 of 4:** View looking west at DAR marker

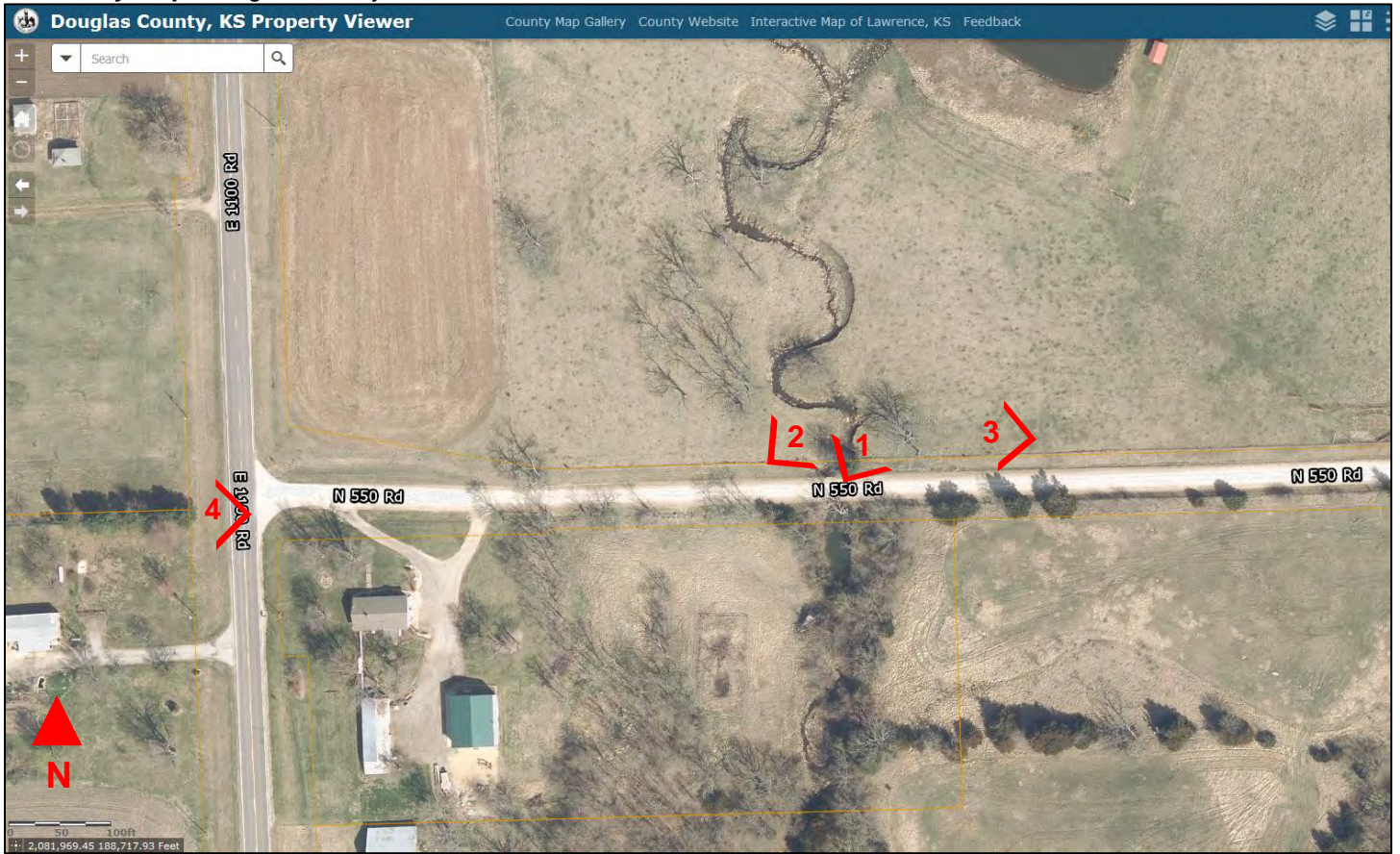
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

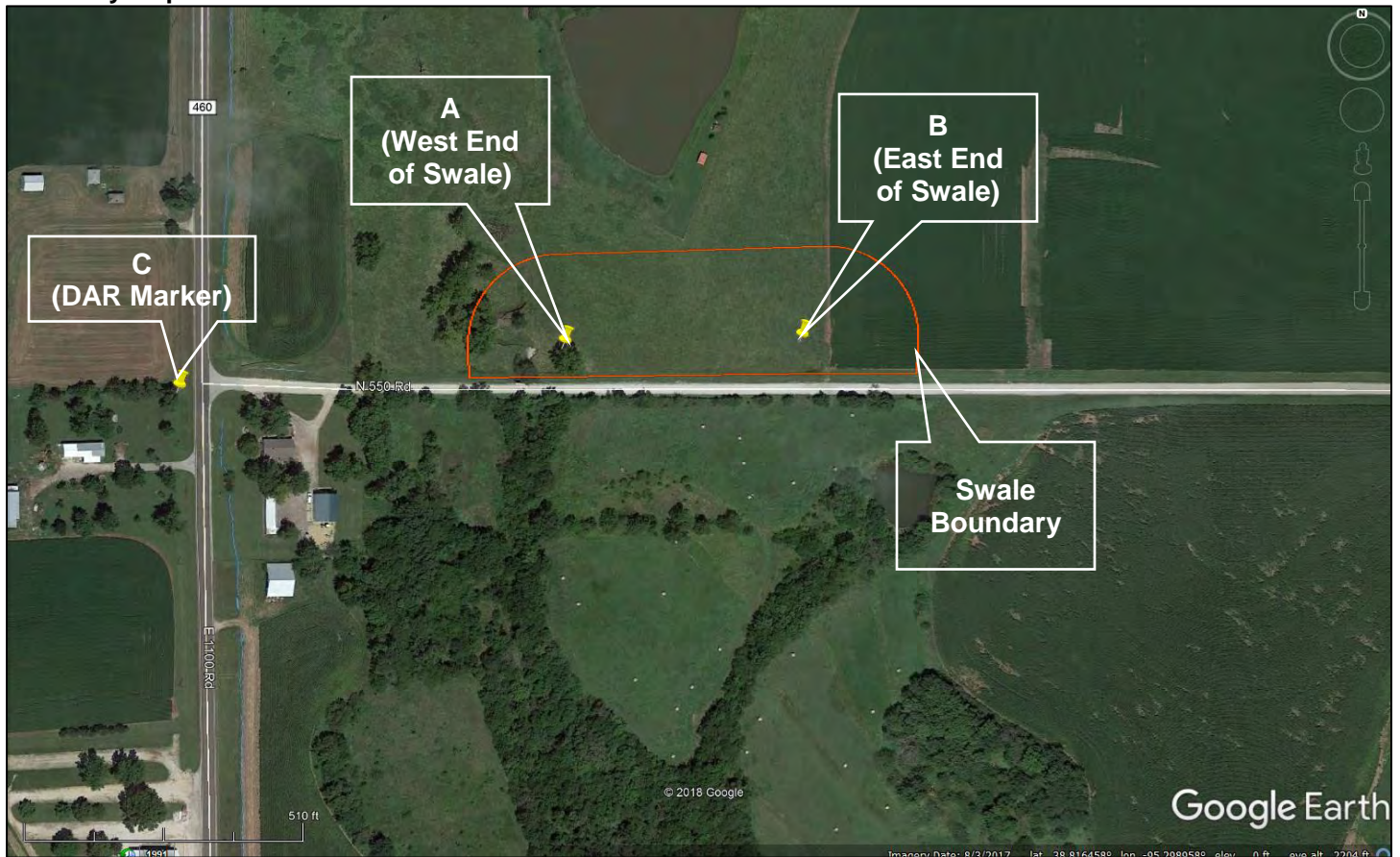
Photo Key Map. Douglas County, Kansas, GIS.



Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Boundary Map.



SWALE

A 38.818984 -95.295424
Latitude: Longitude:

B 38.819014 -95.293901
Latitude: Longitude:

MARKER

C 38.818762 -95.297897
Latitude: Longitude:







WILLOW SPRINGS

Water stop on the Santa Fe Trail.
One of the very earliest Post Offices in
Kansas Territory.
Called Davis from Feb. 1855 to July 1881.
Name changed to Willow Springs July
1881 to Nov. 1900.
Store - P. O., Blacksmith Shop, Creamery
and School.
Old German Baptist Brethren Church built
in 1885 is one of only five in Kansas.

SIGN ERRECTED 1946 BY TWO LIFE MEMBERS OF SANTA FE TRAIL HISTORICAL SOC.

SANTA FE TRAIL
1822-1872
MARKED BY THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
AND THE
STATE OF KANSAS
1906

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/6/2019 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

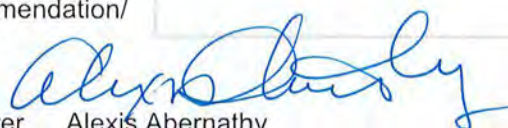
Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 4/22/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Name changed according to resubmission
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date 4/22/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099



Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

August 6, 2018

Dr. Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Re: National Register documents for Kansas

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:

NEW NOMINATIONS in Certified Local Government (7)

- **Casson Building; Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and a PDF of letter of support and Part 1 approval;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

- **Western Union Building; Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and a PDF of letter of support and Part 1 approval;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

- **Pioneer Log Cabin; Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and a PDF letter of support;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

- **St. John's Hospital; Salina, Saline County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination's first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination, a PDF with letter of support, and a PDF of notarized letter of objection from owner of Medialle Center and copy of Part 1 approval;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs

- **Marion Springs School; Baldwin City vicinity, Douglas County, Kansas** (new nomination under “Historic Public Schools of Kansas” MPS)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination’s first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.
- **Appanoose Church of the Brethren & Cemetery; Overbrook vicinity, Franklin & Douglas counties, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination’s first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination, a PDF of letters of support, and .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs
- **Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District; Baldwin City vicinity, Douglas County, Kansas** (new nomination under “Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail” MPS)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination’s first page;
 - 1 DVD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

NEW NOMINATION in non-CLG communities (1)

- **Dunlap Colored Cemetery; Dunlap vicinity, Morris County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination’s first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination and a letter of support;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

RESUBMITTED NOMINATION (1)


- **Harmon Park Swale; Prairie Village, Johnson County, Kansas** (resubmitted nomination) (NRIS #13000880)
 - Physical, signed copy of the nomination’s first page;
 - 1 DVD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the nomination , a PDF letter of support, and a .kmz file;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photographs.

REMOVAL REQUEST (1)

- **Lyons High School; Lyons, Rice County, Kansas** (additional documentation; removal request)
 - Physical, signed copy of the documentation’s first page;
 - 1 CD (disk #1) with a PDF of the true and correct copy of the documentation;
 - 1 CD (disk #2) with photograph.

If you have any questions about these enclosed items, please contact Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, at ext. 217 or Patrick.Zollner@ks.gov.

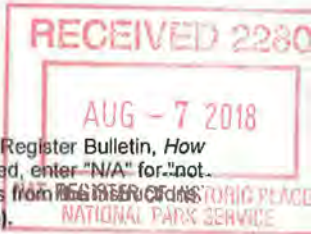
Sincerely,



Amanda K. Loughlin
National Register Coordinator
Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

MP 2964

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Other names/site number KHRI #045-5939 (Segment) & 045-6072 (DAR Marker)
Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail

2. Location

Street & number N 550 Rd & E 1100 Rd not for publication
City or town Baldwin City vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 045 Zip code 66006

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Patrick Zollner
Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date 8-7-18

Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
1	1	objects
2	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: Road-related (vehicular)

Recreation & Culture: Marker

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agricultural: Agricultural Field

Recreation & Culture: Marker

Returned

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: Stone

Metal

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District is located a little over six miles northwest of Baldwin City, Douglas County, Kansas, near the former town site of Willow Springs [Figure 1]. Willow Springs was a well-known watering stop along the eastern portion of the Santa Fe Trail. The nominated discontinuous district, containing about 0.25 acres, includes two contributing resources: one trail segment (a Transportation Site property type) in the northwestern part Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East and one Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) marker (a Monument & Memorial property type) in the eastern portion of Section 21, Township 14 South, Range 19 East. The nominated resources are part of a larger group of swales that are discussed in the following narrative; they are not included in the nominated boundary due to lack of owner support.

Elaboration

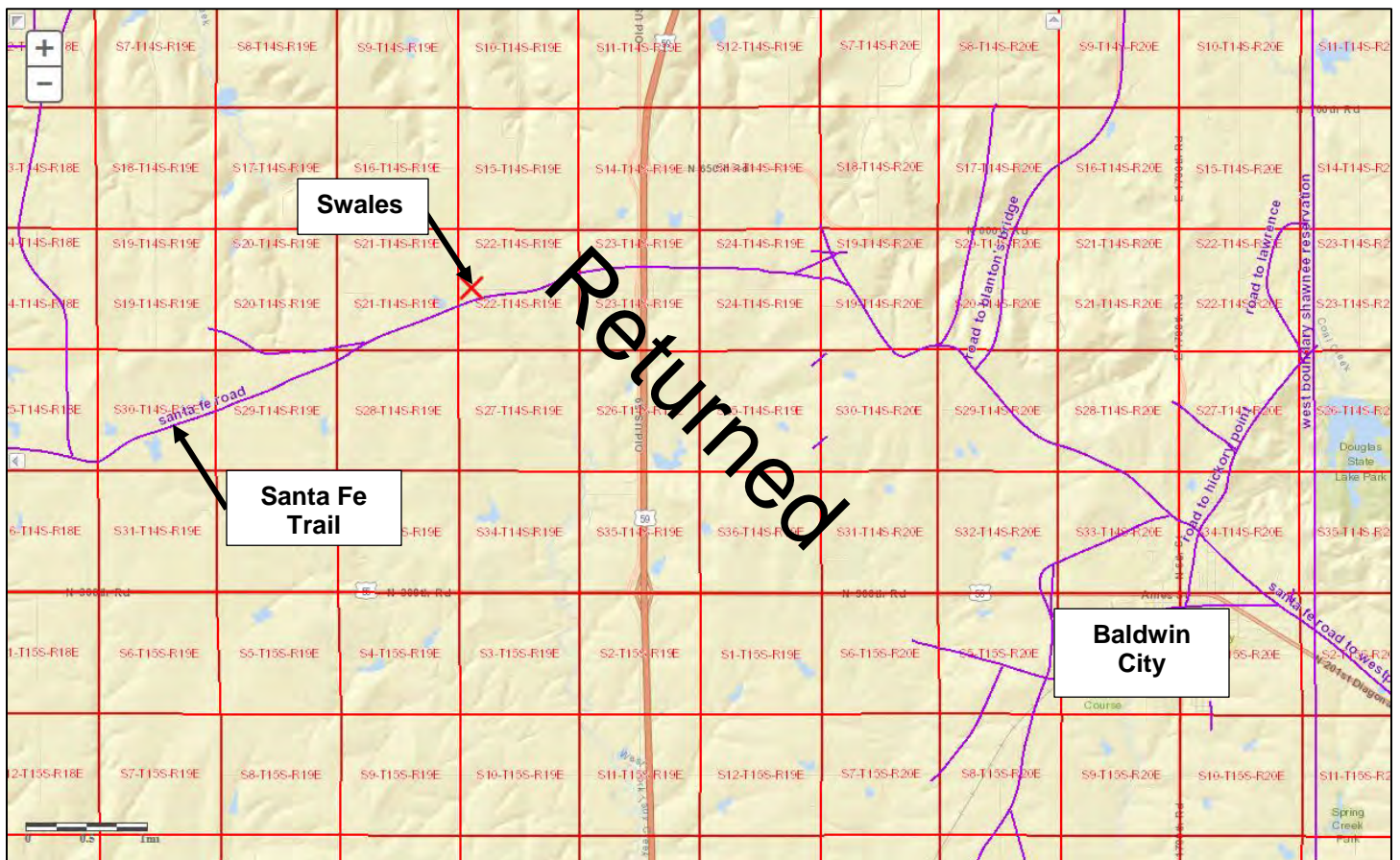


Figure 1: Contextual map, showing the nominated site labeled "swales." (Source: Kansas Historic Resources Inventory)

Landscape and Setting

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District is located within the Osage Cuestas division of the Osage Plains section of the Central Lowland province of the Interior Plains division of North America.¹ The bedrock of the region consists of interbedded limestone, shale, and sandstone formations of Pennsylvanian age. Exposure and differential erosion of the unequally resistant, westward sloping strata at the ground surface has created a series of low parallel ridges. These "cuestas" have steep, rugged, east facing escarpments that front on broad, gently inclined, westward sloping vales. Thus, the topography

¹ W.E. Schoewe, "The Geography of Kansas, Part II: Physical Geography," *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* 52, no. 3 (1949): 283-266.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District

Douglas County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

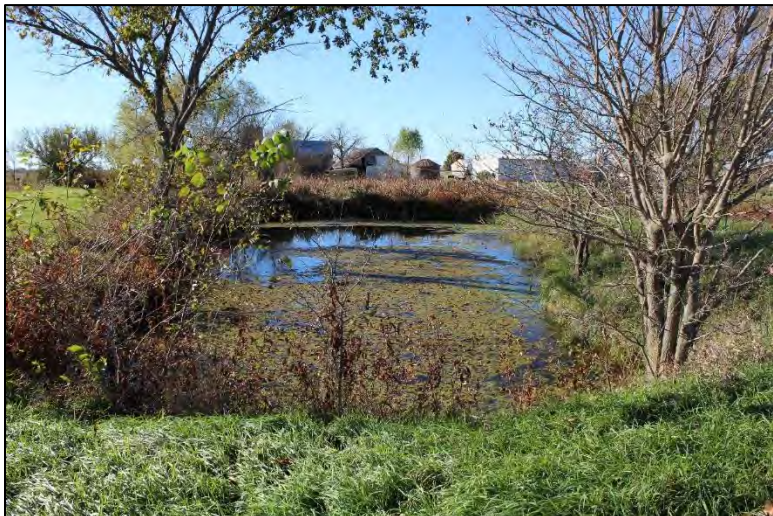


Figure 2: The northernmost spring feeding Willow Springs Creek. No surface stream leads into or flows out of the spring.

consists of long, low rolling hills and wide, shallow valleys. In general, the escarpments exhibit an irregular northeast-southwest trend. The major stream courses, however, flow to the east and southeast, transverse to the direction of the escarpments and against the westward dip of the rock formations.²

The prehistoric vegetation of the Osage Cuestas was open prairie penetrated by thin ribbons of riverine forest. The Cuestas are part of the tall grass bluestem prairies, described more specifically as an area with extensive interspersions of forest and prairie.³ Soil survey data and early historical accounts indicate that the wooded areas were confined to the floodplains and valley edges of the major stream courses and their tributaries. The timber consisted of medium tall to tall broadleaf deciduous forests, often with dense undergrowth and many lianas. Oak, black walnut, hickory, hackberry, cottonwood, willow, and elm were common along with a variety of smaller species such

as persimmon, papaw, elderberry, serviceberry, chokecherry, and wild grape. Forestation was apparently not pervasive even in bottomland locations, however, since many of the common stream course soils have characteristics indicating that they developed under a native vegetation of both tall grasses and hardwood trees. This site is currently used as cultivated grassland for cattle.⁴

Natural springs are common in the land surrounding the District. Like all springs the Willow Springs are an effect of local water flow in the rocks beneath the ground. The rock in Douglas County was deposited on the floors of the vast inland seas which covered the interior of the continent during the Ice Ages. The shells of sea creatures accumulated on these sea bottoms and over time the calcium-rich shells compressed into limestone. In subsequent interglacial periods clay-rich "carbonated mud" was compressed into shale. Wave action produced sand that was compressed into sandstone. The limestone and shale layers are nearly horizontal, not very thick, and as these processes were repeated, the limestone-shale couplets were built up over each other with layers of sand stone sandwiched between them.⁵

At Willow Springs rain water seeps into the limestone through cracks that are there in the rock, and then the water makes its way down to the layer of shale below it, which is not cracked like the limestone. The water then goes down along the shale, in a shallow subsurface flow. As it moves along downhill the water passes through spots on the slope where a limestone/shale couplet has been exposed on the surface through erosion. At these spots the water seeps out onto the surface as a spring. The first spring in Willow Springs Creek is located about 3/8 of a mile north of the nominated site, where the ground slopes away to the south [Figure 2].

The hydrology of Willow Springs Creek is complicated by a series of surface streams that add their water to the total volume of water in Willow Springs Creek. By the time the water from the first and second springs reaches travels down slope much farther, sufficient water has accumulated to flow on the face of the ground. It is the subsurface flow that makes this creek different. Because the Willow Springs area is fed by both springs and surface run off, the creek flows all year long. This was important for merchants returning to Missouri in the dry months of the year, on their way back from Mexico.

The landscape of the nominated district appears similar to its historic character, with the physical features found in an area of natural vegetation consisting of grasses and scattered deciduous trees. The surrounding terrain is used primarily as pasture; although, there are also acres of cultivation. Farmsteads dot portions of the area today.

² Paragraph is adapted from standard language used in reports written by Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Archeology Department.

³ A.W. Kuchler, "A New Vegetation Map of Kansas," *Ecology* 55, no. 3 (1974): 586-604.

⁴ Paragraph is adapted from standard language used in reports written by Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Archeology Department.

⁵ O'Connor, Howard G, "Geology and Ground-water in Douglas County," *State Geological Survey of Kansas* 148 (1960): 90.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

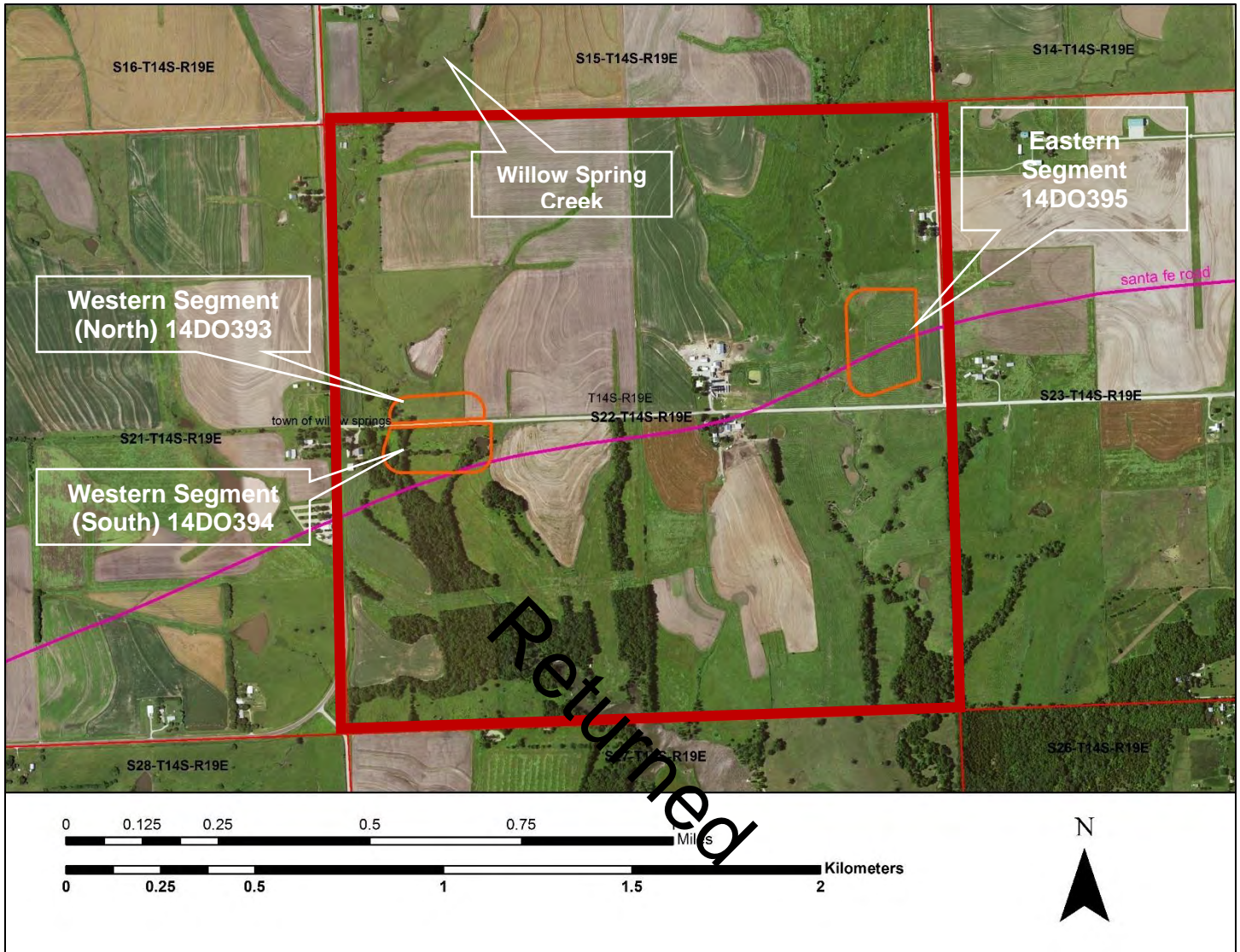


Figure 3: Aerial photo of the Willow Springs area. Section 22 is outlined with bold line for clarity. The three extant trail segments are depicted by their archeological site boundaries.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

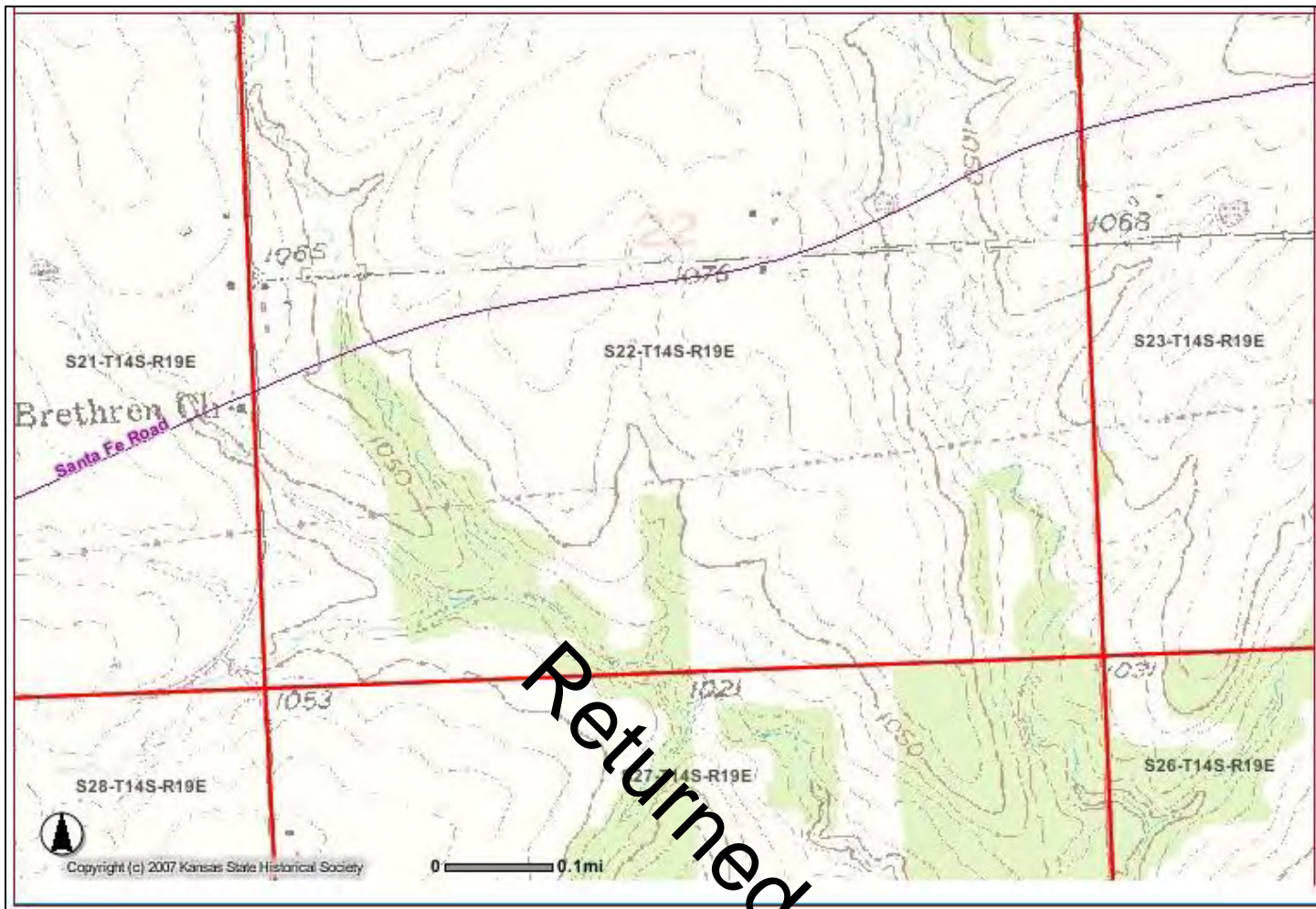


Figure 4: Topographical map of Section 22, showing the route of the Santa Fe Trail as mapped by the General Land Office in 1853.

Remnants of the Santa Fe Trail in Section 22

The Santa Fe Trail historically crossed the entire width of Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East [Figure 4]. The trail entered the section from the east in the SE/4 of the NE/4 at an approximate elevation of 1080 feet. From there, the road traveled the rolling terrain in a west-southwesterly direction, crossing branches of Willow Springs Creek before exiting the section in the NW/4 of the SW/4.

Within the one-mile square section are distinct segments of this former historic road. While only a portion of the extant trail is nominated at this time, each of the segments in the Willow Springs area is inventoried below. This is for two reasons. Firstly, it documents the larger historical landscape context, and secondly, it allows for these other segments to be included within a boundary expansion at a future date.⁶ The Eastern Segment (not included in the nomination at this time) contains six individual swales in a pasture. The Western Segment is bisected by North 550 Road; the northern portion, which is included in this nomination, contains at least one swale while the portion on the south side of the road contains at least two swales. The southern portion of the segment is not included in the nomination.

Eastern Segment (not included in this nomination) Archeological Site #14DO395

The largest intact remnant of the trail is located in the center of the SE/4 of the NE/4 of Section 22 [Figures 5 & 6]. This segment includes at least six individual swales, and each appears to head in a mostly east-west direction. The segment abruptly begins on the east at the west edge of a cultivated field and extends approximately 415 feet west, abruptly ending

⁶ As of the preparation of this nomination, the owners of the other segments did not consent to listing their properties.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 5: October 2016 aerial view of the swales of the Eastern Segment.

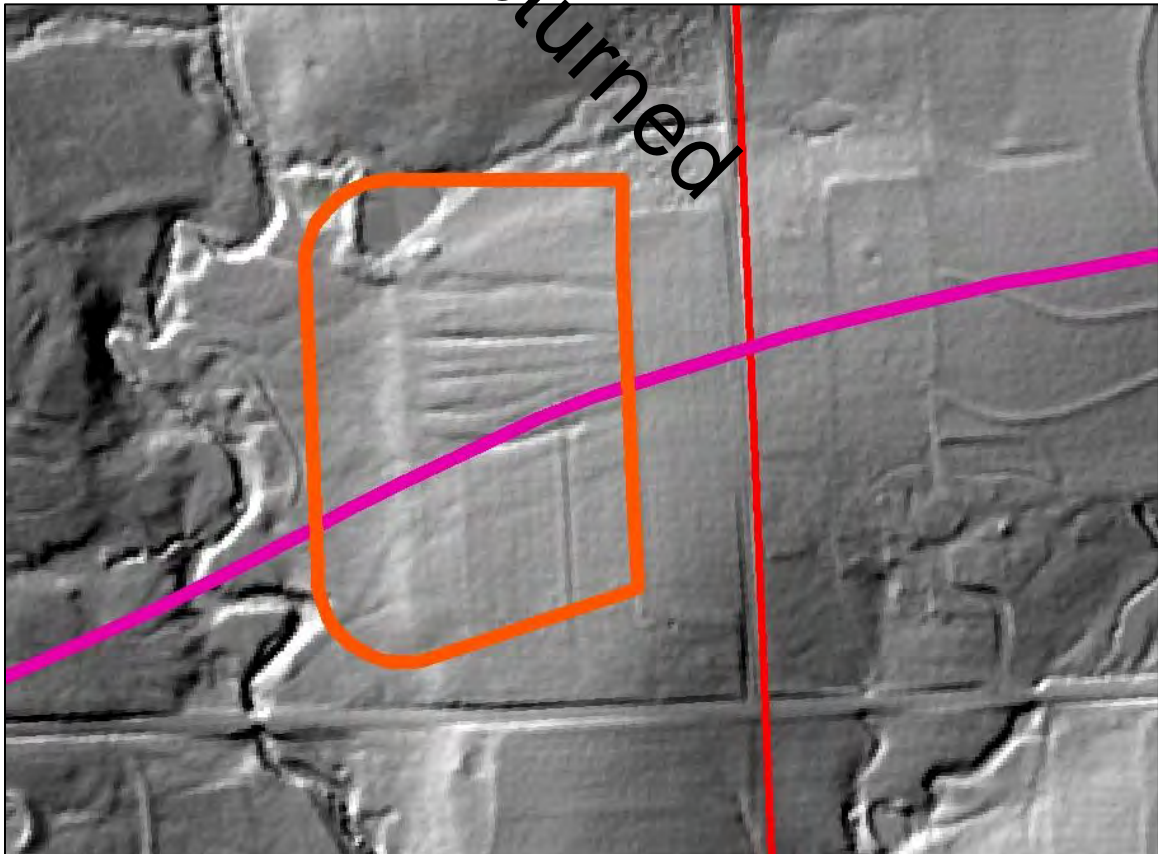


Figure 6: LiDAR imagery of the Eastern Segment, showing at least six individual swales.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 7: LiDAR imagery of the Western Segment. North is up. Bold lines around swales indicate the boundary of the archeological sites.

at an established livestock gathering area. North-to-south the segment is approximately 310 feet. The northern three swales are relatively evenly spaced and straight linear runs. The southern three swales curve to the southwest.

Western Segment, North of 550 Road (Contributing Site) Archeological Site #14DO393

The Western Segment, which contains at least three swales, is bisected by the west-east running North 550 Road [Figure 7]. The road itself was likely part of the trail later adapted into a county road. The north portion of this segment contains at least one swale, which is a contributing site to this nomination. That portion of the Western Segment south of the road is discussed below; it is not included within this nomination.

The nominated swale to the north of 550 Road is 45 feet wide, which is consistent with the width of the swales at other places where it is preserved. The swale starts at the top of a hill to the east of the creek and travels west down the hill for 555 feet. There are two narrower, deeper ruts inside of this wide swale with a secondary shoulder pushed up between them. The secondary swale was formed by two files of wagons inside of the wide swale passing around the space where the secondary mound is now, probably because that space was muddy at the time. The two deep, narrow ruts in the swale join together where they enter a cut-down in its east bank of Willow Springs Creek. The cut-down has been filled with rocks, probably to prevent head ward erosion.

Western Segment, South of 550 Road (not included in nomination) Archeological Site #14DO394

The Western Segment continues to the south of 550 Road as two swales. These swales begin about 80 feet south of the road in a pasture directly east of the creek. The swales are oriented in a northeast-southwest angle, extending approximately 280 feet to the east bank of the creek. Together the two swales are almost 60 feet wide.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Willow Springs DAR Marker (Contributing Object)

The Willow Springs DAR marker sits 750 feet off to the west of the creek, on the west side of East 1100 Road at the T-intersection with North 550 Road. The marker is in the NE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 21, Township 14 South, Range 19 East, within the defunct townsite of Willow Springs.

The granite piece is a typical DAR marker planned in 1906 and erected in 1907 to commemorate the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas. The triangular stone faces east and is set within a buttressed square rubblestone base. The marker measures approximately 18 x 18 x 30 inches at the base and 30 inches high on its southeast corner. The side facing the road is polished and inscribed, "SANTA FE TRAIL / 1822 – 1872 / MARKED BY THE / DAUGHTERS OF THE / AMERICAN REVOLUTION / OF THE / STATE OF KANSAS / 1906" and has been recently lithographed. Directly behind (west of) the marker is a non-contributing modern-era historical marker.

Integrity

This discontinuous district is nominated under the revised *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail* multiple property submission. Although only a portion of the extant trail is included in this nomination at this time, the extant trail in Section 22 retains good integrity of location and setting, and the swales themselves show the pattern of travel in the area, thus supporting its integrity of association and feeling.

Returned

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance

Areas of Significance

- Transportation
- Commerce
- Archeology: Historic (Non-Aboriginal)
- Social History

Period of Significance

- 1821-1866
- 1906-1907

Significant Dates

- 1821, 1866
- 1906

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not Applicable

Returned

Period of Significance (justification)

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District has two distinct periods of significance. The first covers the years the trail was active in this area of the state, 1821 to 1866. The later period incorporates the year the DAR marker was installed and dedicated at the site, 1906-1907.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

As discussed in the revised multiple property nomination, the commemorative DAR marker is eligible because the age, intent, and symbolic value of this resource contribute to the marker's own historical significance. This significance is in large-part directly tied to the effort to memorialize the trail by those who were associated with the trail.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District is nationally significant as part of the *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail* revised multiple property nomination under Criterion A for its association with transportation and commerce along the Santa Fe Trail from 1821 to 1866 and under Criterion D for its potential to yield information about the trail in eastern Kansas. The discontinuous district is also significant in the area of social history for its commemoration of the Santa Fe Trail by the DAR in 1906. Its earliest period of significance begins with the initiation of commercial traffic over this segment in 1821 and ends in 1866 when the Kansas Pacific Railroad reached Junction City, thus shifting the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail to that city. This period of significance is associated with the historic contexts, "International Trade on the Mexican Road, 1821-1846," "The Mexican-American War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1848," "Expanding National Trade on the Santa Fe Trail, 1848-1861," "The Effects of the Civil War on the Santa Fe Trail, 1861-1865," "The Santa Fe Trail and the Railroad, 1865-1880," and "The Santa Fe Trail in Kansas." The district's later period of significance includes the year the DAR erected and dedicated the marker at Willow Springs; this period of significance is associated with the MPS historic context "Commemoration and Reuse of the Santa Fe Trail, 1880-1987."

Elaboration

History of the Santa Fe Trail through Douglas County 1821 to 1866

Traffic between the United States and Santa Fe began in 1821 with the independence of Mexico from Spain. That year William Becknell led an expedition from Franklin, Missouri, into the Southwest for the purpose of "Trading for Horses and Mules."⁷ His real destination was Santa Fe, at that time a little mountain town in Mexico. He found trade with the United States newly legalized and the officials eager to make money regulating it. Becknell took the first wagon train back to Santa Fe the next year and is considered the Father of the Santa Fe Trail.⁸

Two years later, in 1825, the U.S. government recognized the importance of commerce on the trail and commissioned George C. Sibley to survey the route. In 1827 Sibley went back over the trail to "justify" the route, but the traders had already done a good job of situating the trail. Sibley found that, "Generally, the traveled Road Runs pretty well & cannot be bettered."⁹ After Sibley's course corrections the route was more or less fixed except that in the rainy season wagons would sometimes go around ruts left in the ground from previous years.

All the commercial wagons went through the muddy "Narrows" as they approached Willow Springs on the west side of Douglas County. A successful Santa Fe trader, Josiah Gregg, who had spent years on the trail related that, "On reaching the 'The Narrows'... it is quite common for a wagon to sink up to the hubs in mud, while the surface of the soil all around would appear perfectly dry and smooth."¹⁰ This was probably due to the shallow subsurface water flows which feed the springs in parts of Douglas County.¹¹ In the years leading up to the Mexican-American War, Gregg's 1844 best seller, *The Commerce of the Prairies*, helped open the nation's eyes to the wealth available in a part of the country Zebulon Pike had called the Great American Desert.

People began moving west to Oregon and California to farm in 1840, and in 1845, Colonel Stephen Kearney led an expedition from Fort Leavenworth to South Pass in the mountains of Wyoming. On his return trip he went down the Front Range to Santa Fe and came back up the Santa Fe Trail to Fort Leavenworth. A detachment of his expedition left the trail and took a short cut to the mouth of the Wakarusa River, where it flows into the Kansas River, crossed the Kansas River at

⁷ *Missouri Intelligencer* June 25, 1821, cited in Stephen G. Hylsop, *Bound to Santa Fe* (Norman, Okla.: Oklahoma University Press, 2010), 40.

⁸ Hylsop, *Bound to Santa Fe*, 42.

⁹ Journal of George C. Sibley on correction of the Survey and making of Report, May 12 to October 27, 1827, cited in Kate L. Gregg, editor, *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952), 175.

¹⁰ Josiah Gregg, *The Commerce of the Prairies*, edited by Max L. Moorehead (Norman Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954), 28.

¹¹ Personal communication Dr. Gwen MacPherson, Geological Hydrologist at the University of Kansas.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

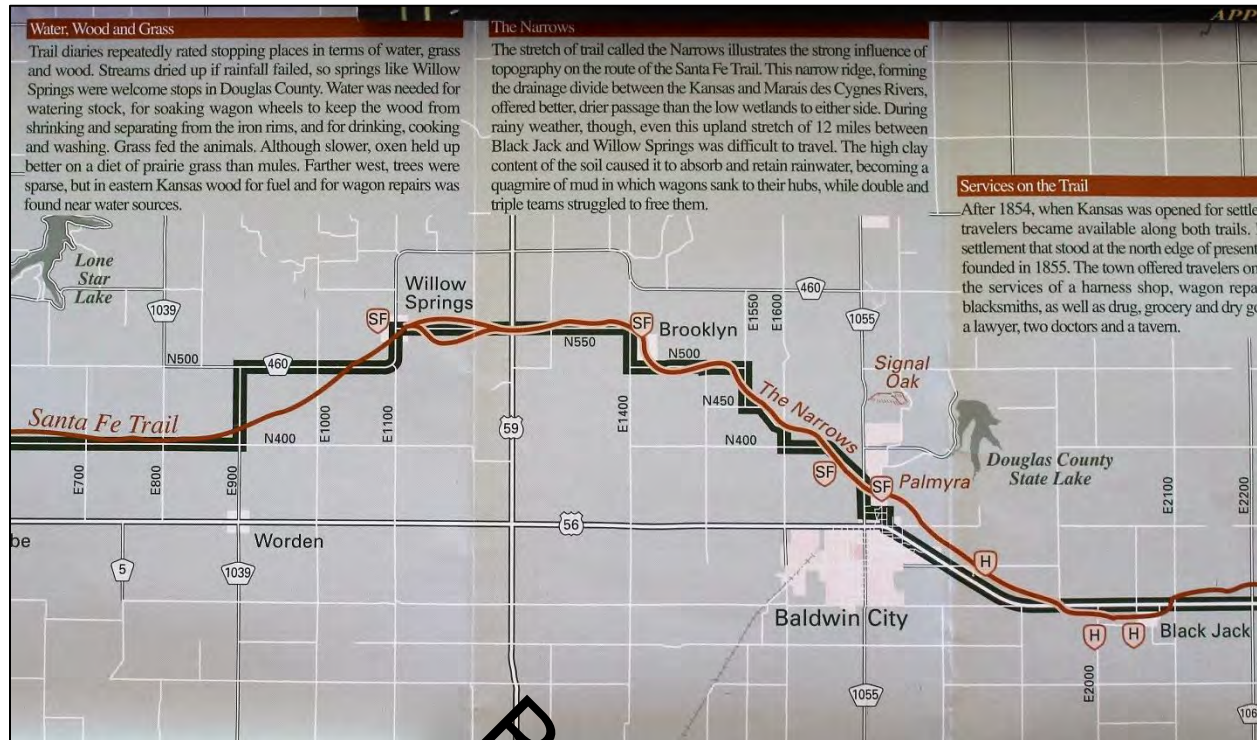


Figure 8: The Douglas County Historical Society's map of the Narrows including Willow Springs.

that point and returned to the Fort across Leavenworth County.¹² An analysis of their mileage shows they left the trail at the nomination site at Willow Springs.

President Polk had his eyes on land in Mexico, and war broke out in 1846. Alexander Doniphan led an expedition of some 1,000 volunteers from Missouri to Mexico following Kearny's route in reverse.¹³ They fought Mexican forces at the Sacramento River outside the City of Chihuahua. Doniphan's forces captured 12 artillery pieces in the battle of Sacramento, and when their period of enlistment was completed his men brought them back with them to Missouri.¹⁴ On their way back from Mexico, the Army Topographic Engineers came back up the Santa Fe Trail and took the same short cut back to Fort Leavenworth, one of them identifying the point where they left the Trail as "Willow Springs."¹⁵

The nominated section of the trail provided a route for freight supporting military bases in the newly acquired territories from 1847 up until 1853, when military traffic was rerouted through from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley, in Junction City, Kansas. The Santa Fe Trail at Willow Springs saw continued use from travelers to the Southwest and it helped provide the infrastructure for economic development and trade in the lands acquired in the war with Mexico.

The Mexican-American War opened up a vast new area of land to U.S. settlement and under the terms of the Compromise of 1820 almost all of it would come into the Union as free states. Pro slavery forces agreed to abrogate the Compromise of 1820 and in the Compromise of 1850, any new territories would enter the Union as free or slave states based on a vote of the settlers.

¹² Lt. William B. Franklin, *March to South Pass*, #1 Engineer Historical Series (Washington DC: U.S. Governmental Printing Office, 1979), 34-35.

¹³ George Rutledge Gibson, *Journal of a Soldier under Kearny and Doniphan 1846-1847*, edited by Ralph P Bieber (Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark, Kaiser Legacy Reprints, 1934), 133 & Lt. J.W. Abert, "Report of Lieut. J.W. Abert of His Examination of New Mexico in the Years 1846-'47," in Lt. Col. W.H. Emory, *Notes of a Military Reconnoissance [sic] from Port [sic] Leavenworth in Missouri [sic], to San Diego, in California, including part of the Arkansas, del Norte and Gila Rivers*, 13th Congress-First Session, Ex. Doc. No. 41 (Washington DC: Wendell and Van Benthuyzen, 1848), 545 [digitized online]; available from Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/notesamilitaryr00emorgooq> (accessed 04/26/2018).

¹⁴ Artillery Commander Merriweather Lewis Clark's report to Doniphan, cited in William E. Connelley, *War with Mexico 1846-1847* (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, 2008 reprint of 1907 publication), 433-434.

¹⁵ Abert, "Report of Lieut. J.W. Abert..." 545.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

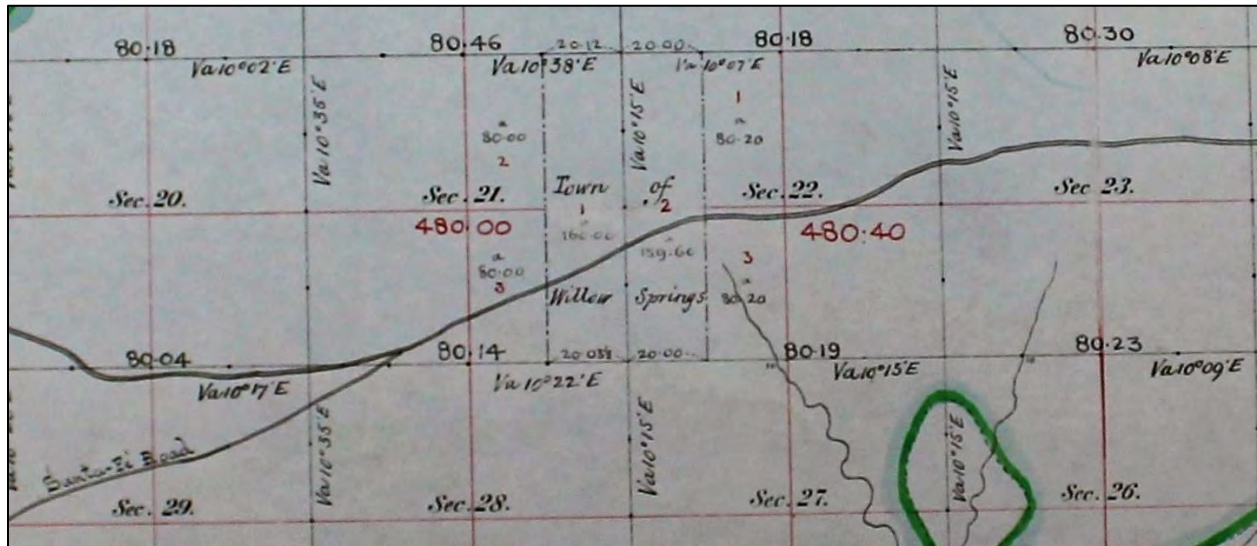


Figure 9: 1853 GLO Survey plat showing the path of the Santa Fe Trail and the borders of the town of Willow Springs

In 1854 The Kansas Nebraska Act opened up Kansas to Euro-American occupation, and a year later a man named Charles Dow was murdered as, "a d___d Abolitionist"¹⁶ in a little settlement called Hickory Point that had sprung up alongside the Santa Fe Trail four miles east of Willow Springs. This started a chain of events culminating in the sack of Lawrence two years later, in 1857.

In 1858 pro-slavery forces in Missouri took possession of four of the cannon which Doniphan's Expedition had brought back with them up the Santa Fe Trail. On May 21 they hauled them to Lawrence and set them up facing the Free State Hotel. Its owner, Shalor Eldridge, tells that it was "Captain Hiram Bledsoe, who had served under Colonel Doniphan at the Battle of Sacramento, in the Mexican War, where these cannon had been captured was in charge of the gun trained on the hotel."¹⁷ The pro-slavery men shot holes in the walls of Eldridge's hotel, and when it didn't collapse, blew it up with barrels of gunpowder and then burned down the other buildings in the business district. These were the first cannon shots between pro slave and free state forces and are thus arguably the first cannon shots of the Civil War.

The violence spread throughout Northeast Kansas and later that same month a band of pro slavery "boarder ruffians under Colonel Henry K. Fate (sic) [actually H.K. Pate] stopped at Willow Springs on the Santa Fe Trail, setting the buildings on fire and robbing the people of their horses, money, and guns."¹⁸ Four months later, in August 1858, free state men retaliated against a group of pro slave "boarder ruffians" in a blacksmith shop along the trail back at Hickory Point, and in the gunfire three free state men were wounded, one "in the leg," another, "in the breast" and "a lad of sixteen wounded in the abdomen."¹⁹

Kansas became a state in January 1861. More and more free state people from back east poured into Kansas and pushed slave state settlers out Kansas Territory. The "Bleeding Kansas" Era demonstrated to the slave-owning states that the compromise of 1850 was not going to go their way. They seceded and three years into the Civil War, Lawrence was sacked once again by pro slavery forces under William Quantrill. After the raid his men fled south along the Santa Fe Trail. They stopped at another little settlement that had sprung up along the Trail and was named for a city back east. When they moved on they had left "Brooklyn...burning."²⁰

¹⁶ [Lawrence] *Kansas Tribune* (December 10, 1855): 1.

¹⁷ Shalor Winchell Eldridge, *Recollections of Early Days in Kansas* (Topeka: Publications of Kansas State Historical Society, Volume 2, 1920), 53.

¹⁸ *Topeka Daily Journal* (March 18, 1906): 16.

¹⁹ *Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, KS (November 22, 1856): 1.

²⁰ *White Cloud Kansas Chief* (August 27, 1863): 3.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Work on the first of the "pioneer railroads" in Kansas had started in 1861,²¹ but like railroad construction across the country, work had been halted by the outbreak of Civil War. Railroad construction started up again after the war and in the second week of December 1867 the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Fort Gibson Railroad laid its track across the Santa Fe Trail a mile southeast of Hickory Point.²² Over the next ten years passage on the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County was reduced to local traffic.

The Narrows

Willow Springs is located in a section of the Santa Fe Trail called the Narrows. The Narrows was a big northern detour away from the more or less direct southwest course of the trail. The wagons negotiated the Narrows by going along the tops of a series of ridges running east and west along the south bank of the Kansas River Valley.

The land in the Narrows generally falls away sharply to the north of these ridges, dropping down into the river valley, in what geologists call a "cut bank." The ground slopes down less sharply but still very definitely away to the south from these ridges. Water from rain falling on the north slope of these ridges flows into the Kansas River, and rainwater on their south slopes runs off into the Marias des Cygnes River.

The four branches of Tauy (pronounced "Toy") Creek also run off to the south from these ridges, getting deeper and more difficult to cross as they go downslope.²³ The lower reaches of Tauy Creek caused muddy and difficult conditions for the big, lumbering merchant wagons trying to cross them during the rainy season, so the merchants naturally tried to go as far north around the heads of these branches as they could, without going over the steep banks down into the Kansas River valley.

Willow Springs Creek is the westernmost branch of Tauy Creek, and once the wagons crossed it they no longer had any reason to stay so far north. After camping overnight on Willow Springs, with its excellent water, the wagon trains left camp the next morning and turned off back to the southwest. Because wagons going into the Narrows turned off northwest when they entered the Narrows, and then back southwest again after they crossed Willow Springs, they called each end of the Narrows a "cut off."

The Santa Fe Trail crossed Willow Springs creek in Section 22, but south of that point aerial photos show the creek heading away to the southeast, as it crosses the boundary and continues into Section 27 below it. That this creek is indeed Willow Springs is as confirmed by the 1856 General Land Office survey notes: "Run east on a random line between sec. 22 & 27. 20.00 (chains) South East corner of Willow springs Township. 38.60 (chains) Willow Springs branch 10 lks. wide bears South East."²⁴ Ten links makes Willow Springs Creek eight feet wide where it crosses the section line. From Willow Springs, the creek flows on south until it becomes the west branch of Ottawa Creek, and flows into the Marias des Cygnes ("Sea of Swans") River, ten miles south of Baldwin and six miles north of Ottawa. The Marias des Cygnes River was also called the Osage River by early travelers, as it got closer to the Missouri River.

The earliest known mention of this creek is in 1811 when George C. Sibley surveyed the sources of the Kansas River, and on his way camped "on a very pretty creek, a branch of the Marias de cygnet [sic], which is a branch of the Osage River."²⁵ The editor of this book says that this branch was called "the Big Cut-Off Crossing... [and that] later it became an established stopping place on the Santa Fe Trail."²⁶

In 1825 George C. Sibley surveyed the Santa Fe Trail. He got started a week after the survey crew, and when he got to the Narrows, Sibley recorded in his journal that he, "...halted at a camp lately occupied by our company."²⁷ By comparing distances in Sibley's journal and the survey crew's notes, it can be concluded, "This camping site... was on the Big Cut-Off

²¹ *Wichita Daily Eagle* (August 27, 1921): n.p.

²² *Kansas Daily Tribune* (December 8, 1867): n.p.

²³ Tauy creek is named after George Tecumseh (Taui) Jones, who was the son of a mixed Native American and White marriage. Taui had a successful trading business in the Baldwin area and is the founder of Ottawa University, in Ottawa City, 16 miles to the south of Baldwin City. Loren A. Litter, *Self-Guided Tour of Baldwin City's Historic Sites* (Baldwin City, KS: Champion Publishing, 1997), n.p.

²⁴ 1856 General Land Office survey notes, Roll #128 Unit # 178, p. 435, T.14S R.19E.

²⁵ George R. Brooks, editor, "George C. Sibley's Journal of a Trip to the Salines in 1811," *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin* 21, no. 3 (1965): 170.

²⁶ Brooks, "George C. Sibley's Journal of a Trip to the Salines in 1811," 170.

²⁷ Kate Gregg, *The Road to Santa Fe*, 55.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Crossing of what is known as the West Fork of Ottawa Creek."²⁸ In 1827 Sibley was commissioned to go over the trail again, rerouting the way to save a mile here, half a mile there. He revisited the Narrows "marking the Cut off...Round the Circuitous Ridge...I think the road must always pass *Round* on this Ridge; the ground across which a more direct Route would pass is low & flat, and is crossed by Several muddy gullies."²⁹ [see Figure 2]

The Town of Willow Springs

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 set aside the land that is now Douglas County as an Indian reservation outside the boundaries of the U.S. The passage of the Kansas and Nebraska Act in 1854 opened the land to settlement by Euro-Americans, and the General Land Office completed its survey of the Willow Springs area in 1856. The surveyor included the boundary lines for the Town of Willow Springs on his plat. The land for this proposed town on the well-known stopping place on the Santa Fe Trail had been purchased by a company of investors headed by William Wells.

Four years later, in 1860, the town site was purchased by Edwin .H. VanHoesen who had built a hotel a stone's throw from the nominated swales in 1857.³⁰ The hotel was probably an attempt to attract the railroad that that was under construction in northeast Kansas. But in 1867 the L. L. & G. Railroad line came through Douglas County four miles east of Willow Springs and the L.S.W. line went through Overbrook, in Osage County, ten miles to the west.

In February 1855, a post office known as Davis was established at the present site of Willow Springs. It may possibly be considered the fifth post office in Kansas Territory as four other offices had been established before that date and five, including Davis, were authorized that day. All stops were along the Santa Fe Trail. In July 1861, VanHoesen became postmaster and the name was changed to Willow Springs. It remained until closing on November 1, 1900.

In addition to the hotel, the Old German Brethren Church (still standing south of VanHoesen's barn) and the Willow Springs School formed the nucleus of a "country corner" that served as an important socializing center for the scattered population of Willow Springs in the days before automobiles.³¹ By the early twentieth century a small cluster of business were located in Willow Springs along East 1100 Road [Figure 9]; although the hotel burned in 1907.

Willow Springs exists today as a voting township in Douglas County, and according to the current property owner, until recently the remains of the Willow Springs Hotel's foundations were still visible in the ground about 30 feet south of the DAR marker.

The Willow Springs DAR Marker (1906-1907)³²

In 1902 the Kansas State Conference of the of the Daughters of the American Revolution, held that year in Ottawa, began discussing a project to mark the route of the Santa Fe Trail across Kansas with a series of monuments.³³ They petitioned the State Legislature for funds, received \$1,000, and then raised another \$584 from a penny collection on Kansas Day in 1906.³⁴ A historian was hired to chart the route,³⁵ and to save costs while still employing a quality medium, irregular fragments of granite for the markers were purchased from a quarry in Oklahoma.³⁶

In 1906 the Willow Springs marker was placed by Edwin VanHosen in the center the T-intersection of East 1100 and North 550 roads in the center of the west line of Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East.³⁷ The Santa Fe Trail had split into about 200 yards east of the intersection to go around a short section of Willow Springs Creek that was impassable to

²⁸ Kate Gregg, *The Road to Santa Fe*, 252.

²⁹ Kate Gregg, *The Road to Santa Fe*, 180-181.

³⁰ *Baldwin [Kansas] Ledger* (Feb. 21, 1908): n.p.

³¹ Dennis Domer, *Commons on the Prairie*, Master's Thesis, University of Kansas (1990), 67.

³² Katharine B. Kelley, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County, Kansas: A Brief History of the Seven D.A.R. Marker Sites and Town Sites Along the Route of the Trail in Douglas County, Kansas*, (Privately Published, 1987), 25-27 & Mrs. T.A. Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail by Daughters of the American Revolution in Kansas* (Topeka: Crane & Company, 1915), 107.

³³ Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail*, 15.

³⁴ *Baldwin Ledger* (Oct.18, 1907): 1.

³⁵ Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail*, 24.

³⁶ Cordry, *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail*, 68.

³⁷ Kelly, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County Kansas*, 26.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

wagons, and then the two arms rejoined just west of the intersection. The marker was thus placed in the middle of the trail.³⁸ Like many of the DAR markers there is no record of a formal dedication of the Willow Springs marker. The dedication of the Trail Parker Marker may have served as the dedication date for all of the Douglas County markers, October 11, 1907.

The marker was moved to the west edge of the right-of-way when East 1100 Road was widened and paved in 1969, and the road crew reset it on a base of glacial rock from the Clinton (Douglas County) area.³⁹ That was in 1969, and the Douglas County Public Works Department records show a historical marker located in the road when its bed was graded for the paving.⁴⁰

Criterion D: Archeological Potential

This segment may have the potential to yield important archeological information. Archeological prospection, geophysical survey, and metal detector survey of similar trail segments have been shown to reveal associated artifact assemblages, sometimes buried and sometimes not, that can inform on the use of the trail during its period of significance. Though no such surveys have been undertaken on this trail segment, there is every reason to believe that the presence of such an assemblage is possible. These swales and their contributing land area have the potential to yield important information to understanding the use and nature of this road, including patterns of use and change over time, evolving trade patterns, cultural interactions, and possibly even be able to narrow the dates of use. Study of both the remnant trail segment and adjacent archeological features can provide valuable insight into the evolving patterns of historic development in this region. This site likely contains data which may be vital to any wider study of the 19th-century trade and economic development. Further investigation could address key questions regarding trade and transportation variability and change. Excavation could also provide additional social data including better estimates of the frequency of use during various phases of history, the role played by various ethnic and social groups, and the nature of trail users, material culture and the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.⁴¹

Conclusion

In its day Willow Springs was at a well-known watering spot on the Santa Fe Trail. Very few people besides the residents of Willow Springs Township know that there is a DAR marker located here to mark the spot. Even fewer know that the creek running just 250 yards east of the sign is *the* Willow Springs Creek, and hardly anyone knows that there is a swale and a cut-down from the Santa Fe Trail right by the side of the road, still there for anyone to see.

³⁸ Kelly, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County Kansas*, 26.

³⁹ Kelly, *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County Kansas*, 26.

⁴⁰ Personal communication Kith Browning, Director Douglas County, Kansas, Public Works Department.

⁴¹ Kansas Historical Society, "Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Revised (August 2012): F116. Citation covers paragraph.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Brooks, George R., editor. "George C. Sibley's Journal of a Trip to the Salines in 1811." *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin* 21, no. 3 (1965).
- Connelley, William E. *War with Mexico 1846-1847*. Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, 2008 reprint of 1907 publication.
- Cordry, Mrs. T.A. *The Story of the Marking of the Santa Fe Trail by Daughters of the American Revolution in Kansas*. Topeka: Crane & Company, 1915.
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- Eldridge, Shalor Winchell. *Recollections of Early Days in Kansas*. Topeka: Publications of Kansas State Historical Society, Volume 2, 1920.
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- Franklin, William B. *March to South Pass, #1* (Army Corp of) Engineer Historical Series. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Governmental Printing Office, 1979.
- Gibson, George Rutledge. *Journal of a Soldier under Kearny and Doniphan*. Edited by Ralph P. Bieber. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark, Kaiser Legacy Reprints, 1934.
- Gregg, Josiah. *The Commerce of the Prairies*. Edited by Max L. Moorehead. Norman Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954.
- Gregg, Kate C. *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952.
- Hylsop, Stephen G. *Bound to Santa Fe*. Norman, OK: Oklahoma University Press, 2010.
- Kansas Historical Society. "Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Revised (August 2012).
- Kelley, Katharine B. *Along the Santa Fe Trail in Douglas County, Kansas: A Brief History of the Seven D.A.R. Marker Sites and Town Sites Along the Route of the Trail in Douglas County, Kansas*. Privately Published, 1987.
- Kuchler, A.W. "A New Vegetation Map of Kansas." *Ecology* 55, no. 3 (1974): 586-604.
- Litter, Loren A. *Self-Guided Tour of Baldwin City's Historic Sites*. Baldwin City, KS: Champion Publishing, 1997.
- O'Connor, Howard G. "Geology and Ground-water in Douglas County." *State Geological Survey of Kansas* 148 (1960).
- Schoewe, W.E. "The Geography of Kansas, Part II: Physical Geography." *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* 52, no. 3 (1949): 261-333.

Newspapers

Baldwin Ledger (Baldwin City, Ks.)

Herold of Freedom (Lawrence, Ks.)

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Kansas Daily Tribune (Lawrence, Ks.)

Kansas Tribune (Lawrence, Ks.)

Topeka Daily Journal (Topeka, Ks.)

White Cloud Kansas Chief (White Cloud, Ks.)

Wichita Daily Eagle (Wichita, Ks.)

Survey Notes

1856 General Land Office Survey notes, Roll #128 Unit # 178, T.14S. R.19E.

Survey Plat

1856 General Land Office Survey Plat, T.14 S. R.19 E. Kansas State Historical Society Research Library, Topeka Ks.

Returned

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 4

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates SEE BOUNDARY MAP

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

SWALE

A 38.818984 -95.295424 B 38.819014 -95.293901
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

MARKER

C 38.818762 -95.297897
Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The discontinuous district includes:

- 1) A four-acre linear site in the SW/4, NW/4 of Section 22, Township 14 South, Range 19 East. The west, north, and east boundary are arbitrarily drawn at 50 meters (164 feet) away from the documented swale; the south boundary is the fence line along N 550 Road's right-of-way.
- 2) The DAR marker containing the granite stone and is stone rubble base located in the western right-of-way of E 1100 Rd in the NE/4, NE/4, SE/4 of Section 21, Township 14 South, Range 19 East. Only the marker is considered to be part of the district.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the documented trail swale and a 50-meter (164-foot) contributing land area around the swale as required in the revised multiple property nomination. Although the trail segment extends to the south of N 550 Rd, the boundary is drawn only around the swale on the north side of the road due to lack of ownership consent on the south. The DAR marker is located about 800 feet southwest of the segment on the west side of E 1100 Rd. The space between the marker and the swales is interrupted by later non-trail development, so the boundary was drawn to exclude these features.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Craig Voorhees with Shirley Coupal (Kansas Society DAR) and Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)
organization Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association date May 2018
street & number 3826 Crossgate Ter. telephone 785-856-3201
city or town Lawrence state KS zip code 66047
e-mail voorheescraig@gmail.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Private owner (trail segment) & Kansas Society DAR (marker)
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District

City or Vicinity: Willow Springs (Baldwin City vicinity)

County: Douglas State: Kansas

Photographer: Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)

Date

Photographed: January 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 4: View looking ENE from west end of swale (photo by Craig Voorhees, Fall 2016)

2 of 4: View looking east from west end of swale

3 of 4: View looking west from middle of swale

4 of 4: View looking west at DAR marker

Returned

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Photo Key Map. Douglas County, Kansas, GIS.

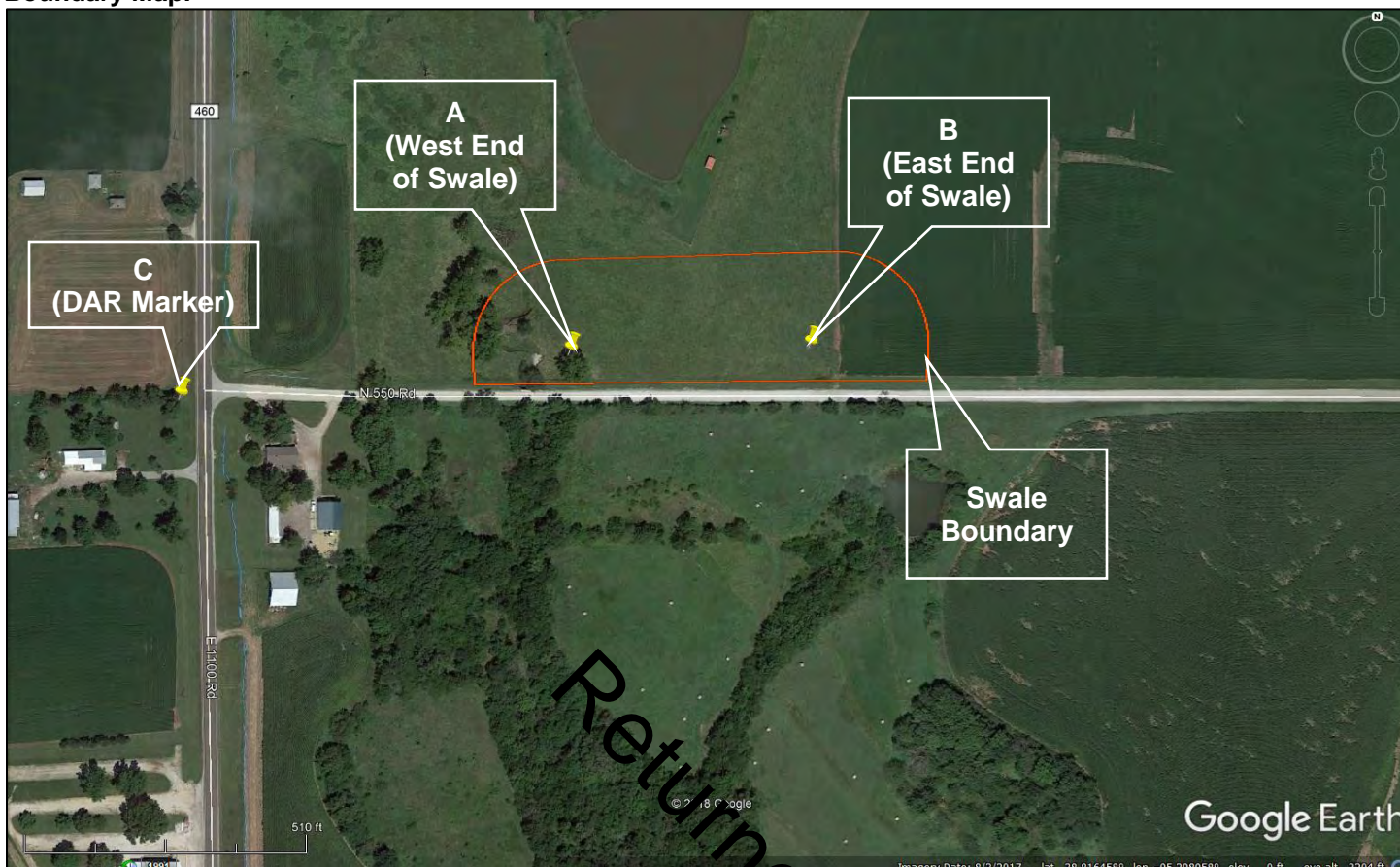


Returned

Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Boundary Map.



SWALE

A 38.818984 -95.295424
Latitude: Longitude:

B 38.819014 -95.293901
Latitude: Longitude:

MARKER

C 38.818762 -95.297897
Latitude: Longitude:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District

Multiple Name: Santa Fe Trail MPS

State & County: KANSAS, Douglas

Date Received: 8/7/2018 Date of Pending List: 9/21/2018 3:13:56 PM Date of 16th Day: 9/11/2018 Date of 45th Day: 9/21/2018 Date of Weekly List: 9/21/2018

Reference number: MP100002964

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 9/21/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: _____

Recommendation/ Criteria _____

Reviewer Julie Ernstein  Discipline Archeologist

Telephone (202)354-2217 Date 9/21/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : **Yes** see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District

Associated Multiple: Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail

Property Location: Baldwin City, Douglas County, Kansas

Reference Number: MP 100002964

Date of Return: Action Taken 9/21/18; E/R Sheet e-mailed 9/24/18

Nomination Summary and Overview

As outlined in the documentation, the Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District is a discontinuous historic district consisting of one site (i.e., Western Segment [North], 14DO393) and one object (i.e., Willow Springs DAR Marker), erected in 1907. The district is identified as nationally significant and as eligible under significance criteria A and D with Transportation, Commerce, Social History, as well as Archeology – Historic (Non-Aboriginal) as the associated areas of significance. Two periods of significance are identified for this district: (1) 1821-1866, for the trail segment; and (2) 1906-1907, for the DAR Marker.

Reasons for Return

The National Register documentation for the above named property is being returned for clarification of two substantive issues and for correction of minor technical matters. These items are identified below.

Integrity of 14DO393

As noted above, in addition to the DAR Marker, the nominated District contains the northernmost part of the Western segment (14DO393). This part of the Western segment is shown to have been bisected by North 550 Road and is known to contain at least one swale. Neither the southernmost part of this segment (14DO394), nor the Eastern Segment (14DO395)—which is identified as containing the largest intact remnant of the trail and at least six individual swales, is included in the District due to owner objection.

As written, the evaluation of the district's integrity relies on the collective discussion of all three segments, when only one is being proposed for listing:

NPS/NRHP

Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District

Property Location: Baldwin County, Kansas

Reference Number: MP100002964

Date of Return: Action Taken 9/21/18; E/R Sheet e-mailed 9/23/18

Although only a portion of the extant trail is included in this nomination at this time, the extant trail in Section 22 retains good integrity of location and setting, and the swales themselves show the pattern of travel in the area, thus supporting its integrity of association and feeling (p. 9).

In other words, given the documentation's heavy reliance on discussion of resources not included in the proposed district due to owner objection, it is uncertain whether 14DO393 retains sufficient integrity on its own and meets the registration requirements outlined in the associated multiple cover for listing in the National Register. Specifically, the statements regarding retention of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association appear to speak collectively to the three trail segments (i.e., 14DO393, 14DO394, and 14DO395), when it is only the first of those three that is being nominated here.

Any revision to this documentation will need to explicitly clarify these points and specify whether 14DO393, on its own, meets the registration requirements outlined in the associated multiple cover.

Question Regarding the DAR Marker

The Multiple Property Cover titled "Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail" notes that the locations of monuments and markers have often changed, as is the case for the DAR Marker included as part of the proposed Willow Springs Santa Fe District. The registration requirements note that:

Locations along modern transportation routes, in nearby towns and cities, or at museums not within a close visual proximity most likely will render the resource ineligible. Like later transportation segments, the significance of this property type is directly associated with the trail. Without the visual connection with a trail-period (1821-1880) resource, the integrity of setting, feeling, and association are lost" (Section F, p. 132).

Thus, it would be appropriate if revision to this nomination would more explicitly place the DAR Marker in its context, including an explicit assertion that it retains close visual proximity to 14DO393—as is specified in Section F, p. 132 of the "Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail" multiple cover document.

Two Minor Editorial Matters

When revising the nomination, the authors may wish to note that the pagination stops at p. 9 (at the end of Section 7). It might be helpful to have it continue throughout the document.

The second paragraph in the section headed "The Willow Springs DAR Marker (1906-1907)" of Section 8 of the nomination, a sentence begins, "The Santa Fe Trail had split into about 200 yards east of the intersection . . .". It is likely that instead of "into," what is meant is "in two."

NPS/NRHP

Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Historic District

Property Location: Baldwin County, Kansas

Reference Number: MP100002964

Date of Return: Action Taken 9/21/18; E/R Sheet e-mailed 9/23/18

Criterion D Discussion

The criterion D discussion notes that: "Study of both the remnant trail segment and adjacent archeological features can provide valuable insight into the evolving patterns of historic development in this region" (n.p.). What adjacent archeological features? Please either identify those features by name or form or rephrase this so as to read "and any hypothetical adjacent archeological features . . .".

Verbal Boundary Description

The text of the Verbal Boundary Description in Section 10 (Geographical Area) states that "The west, north, and east boundary are arbitrarily drawn at 50 meters (164 feet) away from the documented swale . . ." whereas it might be more appropriate to note that these boundaries are drawn at 50 meters (164 feet) away from the documented swale, per the instructions provided in the discussion of Trail Segments in Section F, p. 116 of the associated multiple cover.

Summary

We can well appreciate the challenges posed when property owners object to listing resources on their land in the National Register of Historic Places. If, when revisiting the eligibility of 14DO393 in isolation, it is noted that the property is not individually eligible, the nominating authority may wish to consider seeking a determination of eligibility (DOE) for a more robust district—that is, for a district composed of the three sites (i.e., 14DO393, 14DO394, and 14DO395) and the contributing object (i.e., the 1907 DAR Marker). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding these comments or wish to discuss them further. We can be reached at 202.354.2236 and alexis_abernathy@nps.gov or 202.354.2217 and julie_ernstein@nps.gov, respectively.

Sincerely,



Alexis Abernathy

Historian, National Register of Historic Places

and



Julie H. Ernstein, Ph.D., RPA

Acting Chief, National Register & National Historic Landmarks Program

Deputy Keeper of the National Register

March 5, 2019

Attn: Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240



**Re: Resubmission of KANSAS Nomination
WILLOW SPRINGS SANTA FE TRAIL DISTRICT, BALDWIN CITY, DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Dear Alexis:

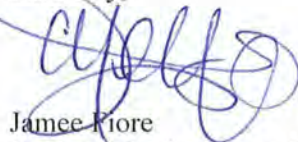
In September 2018, we received a Nomination-Return from your office regarding Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District in Douglas County, Kansas. The Return requested an update to the nomination for technical and substantive changes which would clarify the individual eligibility of site 14DO393, and information regarding the DAR Marker proximity to 14DO393. Please find enclosed the updated nomination for Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District, Douglas County, Kansas.

The changes are as follows:

- Section 1: Name changed to Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail Segment and DAR Marker; updated throughout the document
- Page 5 "Remnants of the Santa Fe Trail in Section 22" updated to address individual eligibility
- Figures updated to accurately reflect changes
- Page 11 "integrity" updated
- Page numbers have been added throughout the document
- Section 8: "into" was changed to "in two"
- Section 10: the boundary justification has been updated

The revisions made to the nomination address all comments requested by the Nomination-Return from October 2018. If you have any questions about the enclosed item, please contact me at (785) 272-8681 ext. 216 or Jamee.fiore@ks.gov

Sincerely,



Jamee Fiore
National Register Coordinator
Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures