



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 Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum
Other names/site number John N. and Eva Dalton Whipple House; Meade Historical Park; KHRI # 119-41
Name of related Multiple Property Listing New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas; Roadside Kansas

2. Location

Street & number 502 South Pearlette Street not for publication
City or town Meade vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Meade Code 119 Zip code 67864

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this x 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 x 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 x local Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B C D
Patrick Zollner 11-12-14
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:
x 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:) _____
Alexis Abernethy 1/7/15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

for

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum
Name of Property

Meade County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 3 | 2 | buildings |
| 1 | | sites |
| 1 | 2 | structures |
| 3 | | objects |
| 8 | 4 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Museum, Park

Recreation and Culture: Museum, Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Folk Victorian

Other: Gable-roof barn; Buckaroo Revival

foundation: Stone; Concrete

walls: Wood: Clapboard; Board-and-Batten

roof: Wood Shingle

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum is located at the southeast corner of Green and Pearlette streets, five blocks south of U.S. Highway 54/160 on the southern edge of Meade, in Meade County, Kansas (pop. 1,651, 2012). The property, which includes an 1887 Victorian cottage and a 1940s barn and landscaped site, is situated on a sloped parcel. The property's mid-20th century features were built by Works Progress Administration (WPA) and National Youth Administration (NYA) labor.

Elaboration

1. Site (1941, contributing site)

The Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum site occupies 1.2 acres and was developed in the 1940s to serve as a "historical park" and community museum. The site, which is situated within a late-19th and early-20th century single-family neighborhood, was developed around the former residence of John and Eva (Dalton) Whipple, a sister of the famed outlaw Dalton brothers known for their robbery of trains and banks. The park was developed by the Meade Chamber of Commerce with Work Projects Administration (WPA) and National Youth Administration (NYA) assistance. The plans drafted for the site included the reconstruction of a barn and a landscape plan complete with built features and plantings.

2. Whipple House (1887, contributing building)

Latitude/Longitude: 37.280959 -100.337111 KHRI #: 119-31

The Whipple House faces west toward Pearlette Street. The small, wood-frame Victorian cottage is built into a sloping hillside, leaving the stone basement fully exposed at ground level on the south side. The four-room house has a side-gabled roof and an intersecting cross-gable centered above the primary entrance on the west elevation. The building's roof has wood shingles. Though no longer used as such, the home's primary entrance is a man-door centered on the west-facing elevation. A small porch with a flat-topped, hipped roof shelters the front stoop. The house has four 1-over-1 wood windows – two on the west and one each on the north and south side elevations. There are no windows on the rear (east) side of the house. There is one basement window on the south side – a 4-over-4 wood window.

Today, museum visitors enter the residence through the sub-grade tunnel connecting the home's basement to the adjacent barn. The building has just four rooms: a living room and bedroom accessed by a center hall on the main/upper floor and a kitchen on the lower floor.

3. Barn (built 1941, contributing building)

Latitude/Longitude: 37.280673 -100.337054 KHRI #: 119-32

The reconstructed two-story barn is wood-framed with board-and-batten exterior siding and features a concrete and gypsum rock foundation and a gable roof with wood shingles. The foundation/basement walls

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are solid gypsum rock that was quarried in neighboring Clark County. The gable ends face east and west and the north side of the barn is built into the sloping hillside with both stories exposed on the south elevation. The **west elevation** faces Pearlette Street and has always included signage identifying the museum. Currently, wood letters spelling "MUSEUM" are mounted on the wall within the gable. (Historic photographs illustrate that this once said "FREE MUSEUM.") Other features on this elevation include two pairs of six-light wood windows centered on the first and second stories.¹ Entrance into the building's basement is through a man-door centered on the **south elevation**. This elevation also includes four pairs of six-light wood windows – two pairs on either side of the entrance and two pairs above these on the second story. Modern metal grates cover the ground-level windows. It was constructed by WPA laborers.

One enters into the lower level museum gift shop. Centered on the north wall is a wood dogleg staircase that leads up to the second floor exhibit space. The second floor is entirely comprised of a single loft area that showcases exhibits on a wide variety of topics including the Daltons, western movie characters, varieties of guns and barbed wire, and even such curiosities such as a taxidermied two-headed calf. Next to the staircase on the lower level is the entrance to the rock-lined underground tunnel leading to the adjacent residence.

4. Underground Tunnel (built 1941, contributing structure)
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280899 -100.337096 KHRI #: 119-39

A sub-grade, rock-lined tunnel extends 96 feet connecting the barn with the basement level of the house. The tunnel features a concrete floor, mortared stone walls, and a round-arch mortared stone ceiling. The passage is 32 inches wide and 80 inches tall and is situated on a north-south orientation. The long, straight passage jogs west with a right-angle turn as it leads up several steps into the basement of the house. This tunnel was constructed using NYA and WPA labor.

5. Country Store Building (1951, contributing building)
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280715 -100.337182 KHRI #: 119-34

The country store is located immediately west of the barn. It is a one-part commercial block, with a rectangular form and gabled roof with a parapet. The one-story, wood-frame building features a board-and-batten exterior. The single-door entrance faces east. There is a shed-roof porch supported by two wood posts that spans the front façade. This building was erected in 1951 to function as a place to sell souvenirs and refreshments. It was called Dad's Country Store. Today it is used for storage. Although it was built after the initial New Deal-era development, the country store is contributing to the significance of the property because it was constructed within the site's period of significance.

6. Wishing Well (built 1941, contributing object)
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280868 -100.337151 KHRI #: 119-37

A wishing well is located in the yard between the house and the barn. It features a mortared stone base with a round footprint and is topped by a gable roof supported by two wood posts. The well's stone base measures 36" (tall) and has a diameter of 48". A concrete sidewalk encircles it and leads to the barn/museum.

7. Stone Wall (built 1941, contributing object)
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280720 -100.337229 KHRI #: 119-33

¹ These appear to be original features, though they differ slightly from the architectural drawings, which called for a single 9-light window.

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A mortared stone wall surrounds the property. The retaining wall varies in height from 24" to 40". It averages 28" high by 18" thick.

8. *Outdoor Stove (built 1941, contributing object)*
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280453 -100.336809 KHRI #: 119-33

There is an outdoor stone stove situated in the southeast quarter of the property, southeast of the barn. It features an L-shaped form and has a concrete foundation and stove top. It measures 68" to the top of the chimney and 34" to the cooking surface. It is 42" wide. The property originally had two stoves, but this is the only one that survives.

9. *Commemorative Bell (1888, placed at site in 1959, non-contributing object)*
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280985 -100.336938 KHRI #: 119-36

There is a commemorative bell mounted atop a mortared stone base in the yard between the house and the barn. It was placed at the site in 1959 and is situated close to the stone retaining wall along Pearlette Street. The stone base measures 78" (length) by 52" (width) by 26" (tall). It includes a plaque on the east face of the base that reads:

IN MEMORY OF
WALTER DINGESS
WHO MADE A SHOW PLACE
OF THE DALTON GANG HIDEOUT
1940

The bell is from Meade's first school, the Washington School. The museum has a brass plaque that has since been removed from the base that reads: *First school bell of Meade in 1888. To all pupils that went to school in the old Washington building school house.* The bell is listed as a non-contributing object because it does not meet Criteria Consideration F for commemorative resources.²

10. *Boardwalk (ca. 2005, non-contributing object)*
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280868 -100.337151 KHRI #: 119-38

A line of false storefronts made to look like an old western boardwalk is situated along the far southern edge of the property, just inside (north) of the stone wall. This is classified as an object because the feature is a prop and is not an enclosed space. It is non-contributing because it was built in more recent years and is outside the site's period of significance.

11. *Restroom Building (ca. 1988, non-contributing building)*
Latitude/Longitude: 37.280985 -100.336938 KHRI #: 119-35

The restroom building is located east of the Whipple House and north of the barn. The one-story building is wood-frame, with a stone veneer base and board-and-batten siding. It has a low-pitched gable roof and a

² Under Criteria Consideration F, a commemorative resource cannot qualify for association with the event or person it memorializes. A commemorative resource may, however, acquire significance after the time of its creation through age, tradition, or symbolic value. Given these requirements, the SHPO staff has determined the commemorative bell does not meet Criteria Consideration F and, therefore, is classified as non-contributing.

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false-front roof on the south facade. There are three entrances into the building on the south façade. The building is non-contributing because it was constructed after the period of significance.

12. Heritage House (ca. 1900, moved 1969, non-contributing building)

Latitude/Longitude: 37.280910 -100.336814 KHRI #: 119-40

The Heritage House, formerly known as the John Wehrle House, is located at 315 E. Green Street. It shares a parcel with 502 S. Pearlette Street, the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum. The circa 1900 Folk Victorian residence was donated to the ladies clubs of Meade and moved to the site in 1969, after the site's period of significance. It functioned as a house museum, separate from the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum. It is now owned by the Meade County Historical Society. It is non-contributing because it was moved to the site after the period of significance and did not function as part of the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum.

The house faces north toward Green Street and is accessed by a gravel driveway that passes along the east side of the residence. It features an irregular plan form with a front-facing gable roof, a central hipped roof, and a rear-facing gabled extension. The roof is clad in metal. The wood-frame house has been re-sided with what appears to be rolled sheet metal with a stamped brick pattern. It rests atop a concrete block foundation.

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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 within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Social History

Government

Other: Tourism

Period of Significance

1940-1964

Significant Dates

1940; 1942

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Work Projects Administration

National Youth Administration

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the development of the park in 1940 and ends in 1964, the fifty-year cut-off date recommended by the National Park Service to provide sufficient passage of time to allow objective evaluation of the resource at the time of nomination.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum is a product of the auto-tourism era of the early 20th century. Also known as the Meade Historical Park, the Meade Chamber of Commerce developed this site in the early 1940s to attract visitors and showcase history through the collections of local history buffs. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the areas of Social History, Government, and Tourism. It is nominated as part of the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination as an example of the Social and Recreational property type and the *Roadside Kansas* multiple property nomination as an example of the Roadside Attraction property type.

Elaboration

Overview

The Meade Historical Park, more commonly known as the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum, was developed around the former residence of John and Eva (Dalton) Whipple, a sister of the famed outlaw Dalton brothers known for their robbery of trains and banks. Though stories of the Dalton Gang visiting Meade in the late 1800s surfaced in the early 20th century, primary source evidence to support these claims has remained elusive. The Meade Chamber of Commerce, which purchased the former Whipple property in 1940, led the effort to develop the site into a park and tourist attraction with the financial assistance of the New Deal-era Work Projects Administration (WPA). John Sullivan served as supervisor of the park project. WPA officials reportedly turned down the community's first proposal, according to the March 5, 1942 edition of the *Meade Globe-News*, because it romanticized a gang of outlaws. The plans were resubmitted under the name Meade Historical Park and greater emphasis was given to developing a local history museum at the site.

The surviving WPA blueprints of the site include plans for a complete reconstruction³ of the Whipple barn, the construction of a rock-lined underground tunnel connecting the new barn and 1887 house, and landscape elements such as stone walls, outdoor stoves, picnic tables, a wishing well, and plantings. The tunnel was built to evoke a supposed previous tunnel that had been colorfully recalled by old-timers in the 1930s and 1940s as what the Dalton Gang used to escape the law when hiding at their sister's house in Meade. WPA and National Youth Administration (NYA) laborers completed the site work and construction. A museum operated by Ruth and Walter Dingess opened in the former Whipple residence in May 1941 and later moved to the upper floor of the barn. The community officially opened the park in June 1941 during the local Cavalcade of the Plains festival, which was part of a statewide commemoration of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado's travels through the region some 400 years earlier. Today, the site is managed by the Meade County Historical Society, which has the original blueprints.⁴

³ The reconstructed barn appears to have been built generally in the same location as the original barn, but there is no surviving documentation of the original barn to know if the reconstruction mimics the original.

⁴ These blueprints have been digitized and can be accessed online at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/305702>.

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Meade Center & John and Eva (Dalton) Whipple

Meade, or Meade Center as it was known early in its history, was founded in 1885 as the temporary county seat. The people of Meade County chose it to be the permanent county seat in January 1886.⁵ The county experienced rapid growth in the 1880s, due in part to the discovery of artesian wells in northeast Meade County, but a depression in the late 1880s and early 1890s slowed that growth. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad passed through the county through Meade and into Seward County to the west. The population of Meade in 1910 was 664⁶ and 1,552 in the 1930s.⁷

Using newspapers, property records, and census records, local historian Nancy Ohnick has pieced together the early history of John Whipple and Eva Dalton as they arrived in the new and booming town of Meade in the mid-1880s. As Ohnick's research reveals in her 2005 book *The Dalton Gang and their Family Ties*, John Whipple arrived in Meade as early as 1885, when advertisements for his business "The Buffalo Store" began appearing in the local newspaper. He sold "fancy groceries, fine clothing, boots, shoes and gents furnishings, wholesale and retail."⁸ Eva Dalton likely arrived in early 1886, when advertisements for her and Florence Dorland's millinery store first appeared in the local newspaper. Whipple and Dalton married the following year on October 25, 1887, shortly after he had purchased for \$400 the property on which the park and museum now stands.⁹ By all accounts the Whipples experienced financial problems, likely due, at least in part, to the boom-and-bust nature of business and life, as was common in many southwest Kansas towns during this period. Historian Craig Miner has noted, "Towns born in the boom had no uneven past to restrain them and so produced a verbal picture of themselves further out of line with actual accomplishment than did older towns." He cited Dodge City writers of the period who said Meade Center "has nothing but strife and speculation to keep it up."¹⁰

Only a few months after purchasing the property, John Whipple deeded it to Guy C. Scott, a money lender, for \$400. On January 18, 1888, a quit claim deed was recorded showing the property rewarded back to Eva Whipple for \$450. The couple then mortgaged their property to Central Kansas Loan & Investment Company for \$350,¹¹ and county records noted that they did not pay taxes in 1889, 1890, 1891, and they lost their house in 1892. It was sold at a Sheriff's sale on November 19, 1892 to Sumner W. Pierce for \$50. It is not known when the Whipples left Meade, but the 1900 US Census records them living in El Reno, Oklahoma Territory. At the time, they had two children – 10-year-old Maude, who had been born in Meade, and 6-year-old Glenn, who was born in Oklahoma.¹²

The auction of their property occurred just six weeks after the Dalton Gang's most famous hold-up of Condon National Bank (NRHP 1973) in Coffeyville, Kansas, where two of the three Daltons were killed in a shootout on October 5, 1892. Coffeyville businessmen killed Bob and Grat Dalton, Dick Broadwell, and Bill Power of the Dalton Gang as they attempted to rob the bank. Emmett survived nearly two-dozen

⁵ Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History*, vol. 2 (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 249.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 249-251.

⁷ James R. Shortridge, ed., *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas: Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984): 420.

⁸ Nancy Ohnick, *The Dalton Gang and Their Family Ties, Third Edition* (Meade, KS: Ohnick Enterprises, 2005), 20.

⁹ Later accounts have surfaced suggesting Emmett Dalton attended the wedding and his brothers Grat and Bob visited shortly thereafter, but no accounts of the period have been found to confirm this. Ernest Dewey, "Gay Little Eva Not Quite So Innocent," *Hutchinson Herald*, 28 September 1952, page 8.

¹⁰ Craig Miner, *West of Wichita: Settling the High Plains of Kansas, 1865-1890* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas), 208. Quoting *Dodge City Times*, 3 December 1885 and 27 May 1886.

¹¹ First Mortgage Bond Real Estate, Eva Whipple and John N. Whipple to The Central Kansas Loan and Investment Co., 1 July 1889. Copy of original record on file.

¹² Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. There was no mention of the Whipples in the 1895 Kansas Census for Meade County.

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gunshot wounds and served 14 years in prison at Lansing State Penitentiary. Bill Dalton escaped capture during the Coffeyville robbery. Four Coffeyville citizens were killed during the gunfight, including the town marshal.¹³

The Dalton Gang

The Dalton Gang consisted of brothers Robert, Bill, Gratton (Grat), and Emmett Dalton and others. At the time of the Coffeyville robbery, Dick Broadwell and Bill Power were riding with the gang. Their outlaw activities together lasted only a few years – from 1889 until 1892 – and they were known for horse stealing, murder, and robbing trains and banks. Bill Dalton continued on as an outlaw as part of the Dalton-Doolin gang with Bill Doolin.

The Dalton brothers were among the 15 children of James Lewis Dalton and Adeline Lee Younger Dalton, according to most genealogists and historians who have studied the family. Dalton, a native of Kentucky and veteran of the Mexican-American War, married Younger in her native Missouri. She was an aunt of the famed Younger outlaws (Cole, Jim, John, and Bob) who rode with Jesse James and others. The Daltons lived in pro-slavery Cass and Bates counties (Missouri) during a period of violence and tension stemming from the Border War with Jayhawkers in neighboring Kansas. The family moved to Indian Territory (northeast of present-day Kingfisher, Oklahoma) in 1890 after the opening of the Cherokee Strip. Prior to their life of crime, four of the Dalton sons served as marshals, deputies, posse men, and guards.

Though stories of the Dalton brothers visiting Meade in the late 1800s surfaced in the early 20th century, primary source evidence to support these claims has remained elusive. The most widely circulated story of the 20th century was published in the *Meade Globe-News* on August 22, 1940, when the local Chamber of Commerce was developing plans for the former Whipple property. The story was told by a reporter who interviewed Belle Mackey, who would have been about 76 years old in 1940. According to the article, Mackey was “the only person living in this community who remembers seeing Emmett Dalton.” She claimed that she and her husband Dave Mackey “entertained” Dalton for two days in February 1892 at their ranch south of town. Mackey described him as being in his 20s, boyish looking, sick, weary, and nervous. Based on his bullet-scarred horse and coat and his stash of firearms, the Mackeys knew he was an outlaw but they never asked his name. The reporter suggested, “To have asked his name, they would have been met by a rebuff and suspicion. It was not until the following fall after the Coffeyville bank robbery by the Dalton gang, that Mr. and Mrs. Mackey learned the name of the young man who had been their visitor the year before. When they saw in the newspapers the photos of the bank robbers, they knew their guest for two days had been Emmett Dalton.”¹⁴ In her book, Nancy Ohnick suggests this eyewitness account is important because it is the only account placing the Daltons near Meade during their outlaw years. However, the visitor never confirmed his identity to his hosts and no other sources have surfaced that could corroborate Dalton’s whereabouts during February 1892.

Emmett Dalton served 14 years in prison for his role in the Coffeyville robbery in October 1892, and upon his release he moved to Oklahoma and later California. He wrote two books, *Beyond the Law* (1918) and *When the Daltons Rode* (1931), and appeared in a movie depicting the gang’s exploits. The movie was based on the book *Beyond the Law* and was released in 1918. Later, after Dalton’s death, a movie based on his second book *When the Daltons Rode* premiered in 1940 in Coffeyville, Kansas. The City of Coffeyville hosted a day of events celebrating the opening and welcomed three actors from the movie – Randolph Scott, Andy Devine, and Frank Albertson.¹⁵ The movie showed in Meade several months later

¹³ “Condon National Bank” National Register of Historic Places (Topeka, KS: Kansas Historical Society, 1973), 3.

¹⁴ “Emmett Dalton Was Her Guest for Two Days,” *Meade Globe-News*, 22 August 1940, page 1.

¹⁵ “Actors Slated to Be On Program At Forest Park,” *Coffeyville Daily Journal*, 23 July 1940, page 1.

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in November 1940. In its promotion of the film, the *Globe-News* called it “greatest single adventure in Western history,”¹⁶ but Meade’s local banker, Matt Ewart, said it was “the shootingest picture he ever saw and was more or less a disappointment.”¹⁷

As the film was showing in theaters across Kansas and throughout the country, the Meade Chamber of Commerce continued work on the Meade Historical Park. The barn had yet to be reconstructed and they hoped to have much of the work completed by the end of May 1941 in time for the Cavalcade of the Plains festival, which was part of a statewide commemoration of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado’s travels through the region 400 years earlier.¹⁸

Also during late 1940 and early 1941, the local newspaper ran articles contributing to the growing interest in the Dalton Gang. In addition to the above-noted story told by Belle Mackey, the pioneer newspaper editor Frank Fuhr, whose family lived on the block south of the Whipple place, provided his recollections:

As to the ‘tunnel’ about which is found some skepticism, we say, quit your foolery, as we were in it half a century ago. It was a hastily constructed trench about 2 feet wide and 3 feet deep, dug from the top of the ground, in a night or less, by half a dozen men, and overlaid with 2-inch planks and covered with less than a foot of earth. It extended from the southeast corner of the stone basement, on south to the barn, 100 feet away, the lower mouth very ingeniously camouflaged in a grain bin; the upper with two loose stones in the basement wall, which could easily be withdrawn, when you knew how, and were connected with a secret closet, which can be seen today. Many an outlaw fled here from the clutches of the law... The original tunnel was discovered when driving over it with a wagon, the boards gave way. Then was found out what had been going on in years past, and the jig was up.

He commended the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, suggesting they were “due a lot of praise and credit for their unsparing work and devotion in remodeling the old Dalton Gang Hideout and giving Meade undoubtedly first place in Kansas.”¹⁹

The Meade Historical Park officially opened on June 4, 1941 as part of the Cavalcade of the Plains festivities. The dedication drew a large crowd. “At noon the old time chuck wagon dinner was served at the new city park and the Dalton hideout and museum was dedicated with the Daltons riding again. The episode of the bank robbery and escape was staged under the direction of Mayor Innis, with Zodar Gollieher playing the part of the leader of the Daltons and George Roberts as the leader of the posse.”²⁰ There seemed to be little attempt at downplaying the outlaws, as the WPA had requested in its initial review of the site plans. In fact, as the previous references attest, the local newspaper and park dedication committee seemed to play up these connections to the Dalton Gang.

The New Deal and Early Auto Tourism

A valuable piece of early tourism literature is the Work Projects Administration’s *Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State*, which was part of the American Guide Series that included a travel volume for each state. These guides are “a legacy of the Federal Writers’ Project, a New Deal enterprise begun in 1935

¹⁶ “Movie Depicts Daring Outlaws,” *Meade Globe-News*, 21 November 1940, page 1.

¹⁷ About Emmet [sic] Dalton,” *Meade Globe-News*, 3 October 1940, page 1.

¹⁸ “Restoration of Dalton Hideout Underway,” *Meade Globe-News*, 6 February 1941, page 1; “Plans Complete For June 4th Celebration,” *Meade Globe-News*, 22 May 1941, page 1.

¹⁹ Frank Fuhr, “Authority Speaks on Authenticity of Dalton Tunnel: Pioneer Editor Breaks Silence on the Question of Existence,” *Meade Globe-News*, 22 May 1941, page 1.

²⁰ “Cavacade [sic] Of The Plains Drew Large Crowd,” *Meade Globe-News*, 5 June 1941, page 1.

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to employ needy writers and research workers.”²¹ The compilation of the Kansas volume was very much a group effort in which “field workers interviewed older residents and local experts” while “others checked data sources, photographed, and took mileages.”²² After editing, it was published in 1939.

Historian and geographer James R. Shortridge suggests “tourism was not a major industry in 1939,” and “people traveled more slowly and not as frequently.” The guide, he explains, has an “unmistakable sense of...neighbors sharing their heritage with neighbors,” and the lack of a “promotional tone was partially the result of a Federal Writers’ Project policy, but it also was a product of the era.” And, “each town...is described in terms of its historical background, economic base, notable buildings, important events, and the like.”²³

The guide highlights Meade near the end of Tour 5, noting the town’s population (1,552) and its various points of historical interest, making no mention of the Whipples or the Dalton Gang. Just one year later, the Meade Chamber of Commerce began its effort to develop Meade Historical Park and through the story of the Dalton Gang, whose members most likely never visited the site. The guide, however, includes the Dalton Gang in its discussion of Coffeyville and devoted an entire page to the story of the raid on Condon National Bank in 1892.

The Dalton family settled near Coffeyville in 1882. Adaline Lee Younger, mother of the tribe, was said to be a relative of the notorious Younger boys who terrorized the Missouri Valley States in the post-Civil War days. The bloody Dalton raid, favorite theme of Coffeyville’s crackerbox historians and story-tellers, occurred on October 5, 1892. In a running gunfight, following attempted bank robberies, four bandits and four citizens were slain. “The city,” said the Coffeyville *Journal*, “sat down in sack cloth and ashes to mourn for the heroic men who had given their lives for the protection of property...and maintenance of law in our midst.”²⁴

The fact that the guide made no mention of the Daltons or Whipples in its discussion of Meade proves nothing, but it supports the argument that the Meade Chamber of Commerce acquired the Whipple property and developed the Dalton Gang story in its effort to market the town to a growing number of automobile tourists. The Chamber and area newspapers promoted the site through the stories of old-timers who recalled having known of the Whipples’ connection to the Dalton Gang. This practice of promotion continued well into the mid-20th century. Newspaper columnist Ernest Dewey, for example, authored stories in many Kansas newspapers telling of the Dalton Gang and their sister Eva. As the title of one of his articles - “Gay Little Eva Not Quite So Innocent” suggests - he questioned the innocence of Eva Whipple suggesting that she purposefully, quietly, and regularly hid outlaws at her Meade property.²⁵ He said members of the gang had attended her wedding in Meade, though this has never been proven. And, he suggested the Whipples “moved away, abandoning their property...driven out by suspicion.”²⁶ Of course the historical record more accurately depicts the family in financial trouble, unable to pay their taxes. Stories like Dewey’s printed in mid-20th century newspapers and other publications across Kansas and the region kept the romanticized story of the Daltons in the minds of the auto-touring public.

More broadly, themes relating to outlaws, bandits, and the Wild West permeated the national media, though newspapers and movies. During the 1930s, for example, newspapers across the country carried sensational, attention-grabbing pieces accompanied by photographs and graphics comparing the

²¹ Shortridge, ed., *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas*, introduction.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid. Citation covers entire paragraph.

²⁴ Shortridge, 174-175.

²⁵ Ernest Dewey, “Gay Little Eva Not Quite So Innocent,” *Hutchinson Herald*, 28 September 1952, page 8.

²⁶ Ibid. See also: Ernest Dewey, “He Was Charming But Had A Bad Habit of Robbing Banks,” *The Salina Journal*, 10 February 1952, page 20.

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum

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“modern wild west bandits” like “Scarface” Al Capone and “Pretty Boy” Charles Floyd to their earlier counterparts including the Dalton, James, and Younger gangs.²⁷ The “wave of lawlessness sweeping the Southwest,” one article said, “calls for co-ordinated efforts of Federal and State police to cope with a condition equaling the days of the eighties, when bad men roamed the Plains.”²⁸ Another article in the *Lincoln (NE) Star* compared “Charles Rettich, leader of a nefarious modern bandit gang” to the “notorious bandit gangs of the Western plains,” suggesting that “there was, of course, a more picturesque quality about the old-time pirates, robber barons and outlaws” who “held up mule trains and stagecoaches.”²⁹ Themes of the Wild West, outlaws, and bandits carried through to movies. Emmett Dalton himself took advantage of the popularity of this genre, publishing his colorful account of the gang’s exploits in 1931 under the title *When the Daltons Rode*. It later came out as a movie under the same title that premiered in 1940 in Coffeyville, Kansas. And, as with this film, Kansas was the subject of many Western-themed films during the heyday of the genre in the mid-20th century.³⁰ Historians have noted, however, that “Hollywood writers and directors had just enough knowledge of the state’s history to be dangerous,” thus “blurring the line between ‘reel’ history and ‘real’ history.”³¹

Emmett Dalton himself had done much to shape the image of the gang with his two books and his starring as himself in the 1918 film *Beyond the Law*, though as historian Harold Preece humorously noted, “Of all the actors who have portrayed Emmett Dalton, the worst was Emmett himself.”³² Adding to Dalton’s own colorful interpretation of the gang’s exploits are dozens of films produced throughout the 20th century. Author Buck Rainey compiled the following Dalton-Doolin Gang Filmography that he included in his 1998 book *Western Gunslingers in Fact and on Film*:³³

Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaw (Eagle Film Company, 1915)
The Last Stand of the Dalton Boys (Circa 1918)
Beyond the Law (Southern Feature Film Corp., 1918)
When the Daltons Rode (Universal, 1940)
The Daltons Ride Again (Universal, 1945)
Badman’s Territory (RKO, 1946)
Return of the Bad Men (RKO, 1948)
The Dalton Gang (Lippert, 1949)
The Doolins of Oklahoma (Columbia, 1949)
The Daltons’ Women (Western Adventures, 1950)
The Cimarron Kid (Universal, 1951)
Montana Bell (RKO, 1952)
Jesse James vs. the Daltons (Columbia, 1954)
The Dalton Girls (United Artists, 1957)
Tales of Wells Fargo (NBC/Overland Productions, 1959)

²⁷ Examples include “Modern Wild West Bandits Outdo Jesse James Gang,” *Edwardsville (IL) Intelligencer*, 1 February 1934, page 8; “Law Tumbles ‘Crime Castle,’: Charles Rettich, Leader of Nefarious Modern Bandit Gang, Scheduled for the Same Fate That Befell Former Outlaw Bands of Robber Barrons,” *The Lincoln (NE) Star*, 16 June 1935, page 33.

²⁸ “Modern Wild West Bandits Outdo Jesse James Gang,” *Edwardsville (IL) Intelligencer*, 1 February 1934, page 8.

²⁹ “Law Tumbles ‘Crime Castle,’: Charles Rettich, Leader of Nefarious Modern Bandit Gang, Scheduled for the Same Fate That Befell Former Outlaw Bands of Robber Barrons,” *The Lincoln (NE) Star*, 16 June 1935, page 33.

³⁰ For a complete list of Western-themed movies set in Kansas, see <http://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/cool-things-western-movies-set-in-kansas/10728>.

³¹ Rebecca Martin, “Shootouts, Showdowns, and Barroom Brawls: Kansans in the Westerns,” In *Kansas Heritage* (Winter 2005): 16.

³² Harold Preece, *The Dalton Gang: End of an Outlaw Era* (New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1963), 288.

³³ Buck Rainey, *Western Gunslingers in Fact and on Film* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company Inc., Publishers, 1998), 119-130.

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum

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The Dalton that Got Away (Dalton Film Co., 1960)
The Last Ride of the Dalton Gang (Dan Curtis Productions/NBC, 1979)
Belle Starr (Hanna-Barbera/CBS-TV, 1980)
Cattle Annie and Little Britches (Universal, 1981)
The Last Day (Paramount, 1984)
The Real West – the Dalton Gang (Greystone Productions, 1994)

As this list of films illustrates, and as scholars have argued, “the Daltons have kept on riding, though if not in the flesh.”³⁴

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum as a Tourist Attraction

When the site originally opened, visitors entered through the house making their way downstairs to the tunnel and proceeding to the lower level of the barn. Not long after the barn was completed and the museum opened in the upper floor of the barn, visitors began entering the site through the lower level of the barn and proceeding through the tunnel to the basement of the house. For several years and into the 1970s, the museum was free, but patrons who wished to experience the tunnel simply dropped a dime in the turnstile to enter. Today, museum visitors still enter the site at the lower level of the barn and pay a fee at the desk to visit the upper floor museum, the tunnel, and the preserved residence.

The museum, occupying the upper floor of the barn, remains very much as it did when Dingess retired. The items displayed are broadly related to the theme of the late 19th and early 20th century West and cowboys with curiosities such as a display of various types of barbed wire, an assortment of saddles and guns, taxidermied wildlife typical of the area, a variety of old photographs, and a display of photographs and newspaper clippings relating to the Dalton gang. The residence is interpreted as it would have appeared during the years the Whipple's owned it. Period furniture occupies the main floor rooms and the basement kitchen. A small interpretive display about the Daltons and the site are located in the basement of the residence adjunct to the tunnel entrance.

The Chamber of Commerce installed the tunnel turnstile in 1952, and the extra revenue spent on maintaining and advertising the property. For instance, signs were erected on the property and along nearby Highway 54, both in Meade and beyond. (Figure 10)³⁵

Walter Dingess operated the site until his retirement in 1956.³⁶ He turned over day-to-day responsibilities to his wife Ruth.³⁷ Around this time, the Dalton Gang Hideout Committee was active in promoting the site and planning events. For instance, they hosted the 66th annual meeting of the Southwest Kansas Editorial Association on May 4, 1957, inviting participants to tour the hideout and museum. (Figure 4) They coordinated re-enactments of the Dalton Gang hold-up of the Coffeyville banks to commemorate both Meade's 75th anniversary in 1960 and the Kansas centennial in 1961.³⁸ The site reportedly welcomed 50,000 visitors in 1959, on the eve of these commemorations.³⁹

Ruth Dingess managed the site until 1970, when the Chamber of Commerce bought the contents of the gift shop and sold it to Dick and Arlene Jones, again to Dennis and Leslie Eckhoff in 1973, and then to

³⁴ Preece, 288.

³⁵ Several of these signs in Meade can be seen on Google streetview.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ “The Dalton Gang Hideout,” Museum Display Text. Photograph on file with nomination.

³⁸ “Meade Offers Coffeyville Another Supply of Daltons,” *Great Bend Tribune*, 2 September 1960, page 1.

³⁹ Ibid.

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Arlen and Marynell Doyle in 1976.⁴⁰ By this time, the number of visitors had declined from 50,000 a year in the 1960s to just 13,000.⁴¹ In 1977, the Meade Chamber of Commerce produced a lengthy and promotional brochure of Meade, heavily relying on the Wild West theme exhibited by the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum. (Figures 5 & 6) The promotional efforts apparently paid off. In 1978, the Kansas Department of Economic Development (KDED) commissioned a study to determine the top attractions in Kansas ahead of erecting \$1 million in promotional highway signs. It had been determined that the state “lacked an adequate network of highway signs directing travelers to points of interest.” The study ranked the top 81 sites in Kansas, though the criteria were not specified in the news article. Just two Meade County sites made the list – the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum was number 65 behind Meade County Lake at number 53. Other notable Western-themed sites included Dodge City’s Boot Hill at number nine, Abilene’s Old Abilene Town at number 20, and Wichita’s Cowtown at number 37.

The Doyles turned over management of the site in late 1984 to Gayle and Fred Garrison.⁴² The Meade Chamber of Commerce owned the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum for nearly 60 years before turning it over in 1995 to the Meade County Historical Society, which still maintains it at the time of nomination.⁴³

Appendix 1: Timeline

1885: J.N. Whipple arrived in Meade as early as 1885. [Ads appear in local papers for his business “The Buffalo Store.” His store was at the NW corner of the square. Ads in the paper note he sold “fancy groceries, fine clothing, boots, shoes and gents furnishings, wholesale and retail.” Ohnick, 20.

Spring 1886: Earliest Eva Dalton arrived in Meade. She and friend Florence Dorland opened a millinery store in Meade.

September 15, 1887: Whipple purchases the property on which the Hideout now stands for \$400

October 25, 1887: Eva Dalton marries John N. Whipple.

November 1887: It is believed this is when Whipple closes his business.

November 16, 1887: Deeds property to Guy C. Scott (a money lender) for \$400.

January 18, 1888: Quit Claim Deed recorded showing property rewarded back to Eva Whipple for \$450. Eva buys and sells parcels in and around Meade between November 1888 and July 1889.

September 14, 1888: Daughter Maude Whipple born.

July 1, 1889: Whipples mortgage their property to Central Kansas Loan & Investment Company for \$350. Taxes were not paid in the years 1889, 1890, 1891, and their house was repossessed by County in 1892.

October 5, 1892: Dalton Gang shootout in Coffeyville.

⁴⁰ “The Dalton Gang Hideout,” Museum Display Text. Photograph on file with nomination.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ohnick, 12.

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November 19, 1892: Property sold at a sheriff's sale to Sumner W. Pierce for \$50. It's not known when the Whipples left Meade.

Approx. 1906: Dalton is released from prison and moves to California

1918: Emmett Dalton portrays himself in the movie version of his book *Beyond the Law*, which was published that same year

1931: Emmett Dalton publishes book *When the Daltons Rode*

May 1940: The Meade Chamber of Commerce acquires the former Whipple property

July 1940: Movie premiere of *When the Daltons Rode* in Coffeyville

October/November 1940: WPA plans are printed with this date

March 1942: Dalton Gang Hideout site is completed (Ohnick, 12)

1951: Walter Dingess builds "Dad's Country Store" next to barn (Ohnick, 12)

1954: Syndicated western television series *Stories of the Century* featured an episode entitled "The Dalton Gang."

1956: Walter Dingess retires (Ohnick, 12)

1957: CBS drama series *You Are There* features an episode entitled "The End of the Dalton Gang (October 5, 1892)"

1988: Chamber constructs restroom building (Ohnick, 12)

1995: Chamber deeds property to Meade County Historical Society (Ohnick, 12)

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Coffeyville Daily Journal, 23 July 1940.

"Condon National Bank" National Register of Historic Places. Topeka, KS: Kansas Historical Society, 1973.

Dewey, Ernest. "Gay Little Eva Not Quite So Innocent," *Hutchinson Herald*, 28 September 1952.

Dewey, Ernest. "He Was Charming But Had A Bad Habit of Robbing Banks," *The Salina Journal*, 10 February 1952.

Edwardsville (IL) Intelligencer, 1 February 1934.

First Mortgage Bond Real Estate, Eva Whipple and John N. Whipple to The Central Kansas Loan and Investment Co., 1 July 1889. Copy of original record on file.

Great Bend Tribune, 2 September 1960.

The Lincoln (NE) Star, 16 June 1935.

Martin, Rebecca. "Shootouts, Showdowns, and Barroom Brawls: Kansans in the Westerns." *Kansas Heritage* (Winter 2005): 16-23.

Meade Globe-News, 22 August 1940; 3 October 1940; 21 November 1940; 6 February 1941; 22 May 1941; and 5 June 1941.

Miner, Craig. *West of Wichita: Settling the High Plains of Kansas, 1865-1890*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas.

Ohnick, Nancy. *The Dalton Gang and Their Family Ties, Third Edition*. Meade, KS: Ohnick Enterprises, 2005.

Preece, Harold. *The Dalton Gang: End of an Outlaw Era*. New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1963.

Rainey, Buck. *Western Gunslingers in Fact and on Film*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company Inc., Publishers, 1998.

Shortridge, James R., ed. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas: Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984.

The site's WPA blueprints have been digitized and can be accessed online at

<http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/305702>

Additional photographs of the property can be accessed at: <http://khri.kansasgis.org/index.cfm?in=119-41>

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum
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recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Name of repository: Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.2 acres

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <u>37.281142</u> | <u>-100.337232</u> | 3 | <u>37.280300</u> | <u>-100.336701</u> |
| | Latitude: | Longitude: | | Latitude: | Longitude: |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | <u>37.281146</u> | <u>-100.3367.713</u> | 4 | <u>37.280306</u> | <u>-100.337249</u> |
| | Latitude: | Longitude: | | Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property includes lots 7 through 12 in Block 61, First Addition, Meade, Kansas.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated property includes the property historically associated with the Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah J. Martin; Research assistance from Rick Anderson

organization Kansas Historical Society date _____

street & number 6425 SW 6th Avenue telephone _____

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66615

e-mail _____

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

name Meade County Historical Society, Attn: Norman Dye

street & number PO Box 893 telephone _____

city or town Meade state KS zip code 67864

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.

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum
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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: Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum

City or Vicinity: Meade

County: Meade State: Kansas

Photographer: Sarah Martin

Date Photographed: 10/30/2013

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

- 1 of 12: Whipple House, facing north (side) and west (front) elevations, camera facing SE
- 2 of 12: Whipple House, west (front) elevation and stone fence, camera facing NE
- 3 of 12: Whipple House, south (side) elevation, camera facing N
- 4 of 12: Whipple House (center), general store (left), and barn (right), camera facing N
- 5 of 12: General Store (non-contributing), east elevation, camera facing W
- 6 of 12: Barn, south elevation, camera facing N
- 7 of 12: Barn (right) and general store (left), camera facing E
- 8 of 12: Commemorative Bell, camera facing W
- 9 of 12: Open area and boardwalk (non-contributing), camera facing S
- 10 of 12: Outdoor stove, with stone fence in background, camera facing NE
- 11 of 12: Restroom building (non-contributing), camera facing N
- 12 of 12: Interior of Tunnel, looking north at entrance from barn, camera facing N

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

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Figure 1: Contextual Aerial Image, Google Maps 2014



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Figure 2: Close-in Aerial Image



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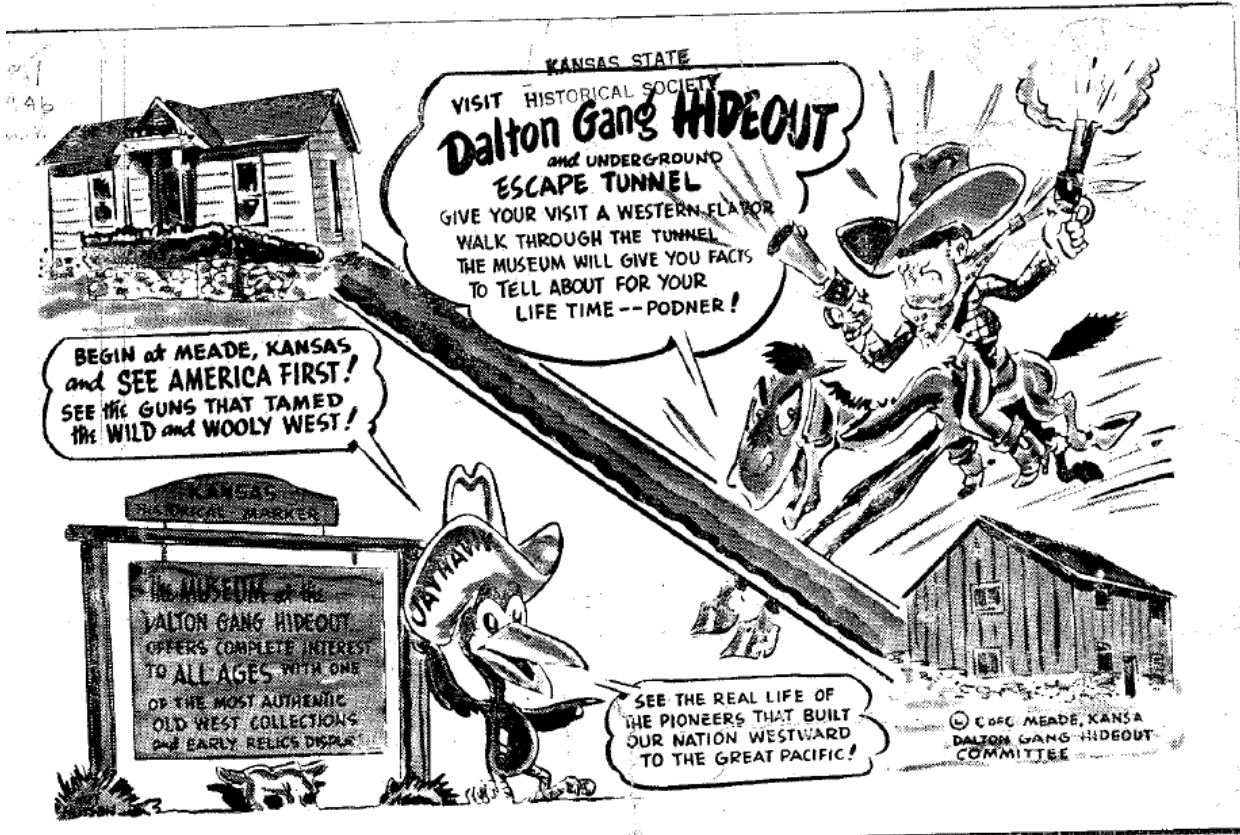
Figure 3: Site Plan



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Figure 4: Dalton Gang Hideout Committee, postcard promoting 1957 event at site. KSHS collections.



POST CARD



You Are Invited

Sixty-Sixth Annual
Southwest Kansas Editorial
Association Meeting

Meade, Kansas

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1957

REGISTRATION ----- 9:00 - 11:45
Lakeway Hotel Lobby

LUNCHEON ----- Palmer Room
Host Dalton Gang Hideout Committee Tony's Cafe

Visit Hideout - Afternoon Session

Social Hour at Lakeway Hotel

Evening Session
Kiwanis Room, Lakeway Hotel

NILE MILLER,
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
TOPEKA,
KANSAS

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum
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Figure 5 -6:

FACTS ABOUT MEADE, KANSAS

Population 1773.
County Seat of Meade County.
Elevation 2500 feet.

Meade is located on U. S. 54, U. S. 160 and Kansas 23 Highways, all of which intersect in the center of the city. U. S. 54 is the shortest and fastest highway between the East and Southern California and Mexico. U. S. 160 is the most scenic route across the state of Kansas passing through the famous Gyp Hills territory.

Meade is on the main line of the Rock Island Railroad. There is more than ample spur trackage in Meade.

Meade's tax rate is one of the lowest in Kansas. Meade county has no bonded indebtedness.

Meade Light and Water Plant, municipally owned and operated has a capacity of 2,126 K.V.A. and represents an investment of \$325,000. Rates are among lowest in the state.

Meade owns and operates a Municipal Airport at the west edge of the city. Port has a powerful beacon and landing field lights with a manager on duty 24-hours per day. Black-top surfaced runway. Air-Taxi to any place in U.S.A.

Meade is the beef capitol of Southwest Kansas with large sales pens and ring operating weekly sales.

Meade has under construction one of the finest play-grounds in the state. Natural amphitheatre gives good view of every activity, tennis, soft ball, horseshoes, roller skating, ice skating, dancing and a swimming pool equal to the best.

Meade is located in the area of the High Plains declared to be the healthiest place in the United States by the U. S. Bureau of Public Health.

Meade has an industrial payroll of over one-half million dollars annually.

Meade is an ideal location for industry. Cheap fuel, level building sites, on railroad trackage, plenty of power. Both natural gas and oil in county.

Meade's religious life is ideal with nine churches, all active and growing.

Meade's social life is tops with many social clubs, fraternal organizations and civic clubs.

Meade, in the Magic Circle is the safest place in the world from Atom Bombs and invasion.

Meade is headquarters for the CMS Electric Cooperative serving 4 counties and parts of 5 others. Electricity is furnished to over 1,600 farm families to make farming more profitable and more comfortable.

Meade extends a warm welcome to you to stop, visit and stay to live with friendly neighbors in an ideal American community.

Family 19

Dalton Gang

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hideout Secret Escape Tunnel & Free Museum

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Meade, Kansas

NOV 25 1977
Edna M. Pittz

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Dalton Gang Hideout Tunnel

The notorious and infamous Dalton Gang once used the house (pictured lower right) as a hideout. Their sister, Eva Dalton married J. N. Whipple in Meade in 1887 and they made their home in this house. The Dalton Brothers were seen in Meade several times before a price was set on their heads and Emmett Dalton attended his sister's wedding. While the Whipples were residing here, the Dalton Brothers Gang held up a train near Cimarron, Kansas 30 miles north of here. It is known that the Brothers were near Meade after the robbery as they took dinner at a juniper point from the J. H. Randolph home.



It was not known what happened to the gang until the Whipples moved to Oklahoma and the property was sold at foreclosure. The H. G. Marshall family moved into the home and discovered the tunnel under the staircase leading to the barn. Several times while the Marshall's lived in the place horseback riders rode into the barn and came on into the house through the secret tunnel. They immediately fled on learning that the Whipples no longer resided in the house. The house stands as it was in 1887.



FREE MUSEUM

The Whipple home has been restored as it was in 1887 and the tunnel reconstructed to make it passable for the average person. At the end of the tunnel away from the house the barn has been constructed and converted into a free museum. This museum contains a great collection of Western items that have been preserved by the pioneers of Meade and surrounding counties. Old pictures, pioneer implements and tools, clothing, old guns and knives; every item with an interesting history is here to be inspected by students of The Old West. You are welcome to visit this splendid Free Museum.

Meade Chamber of Commerce purchased the home and turned it over to the City of Meade for a city park. The Chamber of Commerce then supervised the restoration of the site and created the free museum. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Dingess were employed to operate the Hideout and Museum. The Dingess gun collection, one of the finest in the nation, was added to the museum articles. If you are interested in old guns you cannot afford to pass up seeing this collection, everyone of which is labeled to answer your questions. No charge is made for visiting the museum and Mr. and Mrs. Dingess do not receive a salary. They make their living from the trinkets you buy on the museum grounds.

As for the Dalton Gang, it was wiped out at Coffeyville, Kansas in 1892, when the gang became over-ambitious and staged the robbery of two banks at the same time. The Old West has vanished, and Meade, the stopping point between Dodge City and No Man's Land of Oklahoma, no longer harbors the Dalton Gang and their Secret Escape Tunnel is no longer a secret. Visit this tunnel and travel it's length as did these notorious gunmen of the early days. Visit the free museum and see guns used in winning the west, where those quickest on the draw were those who survived to give us our modern civilization. Also visit the Jack Rabbit pens and see these lanky bunnies once so thick on the range, but now fading into extinction as farms take the place of the wide open spaces.

ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST OLD SIX-GUN COLLECTIONS

Dalton Gang Hideout Tunnel

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Figure 7: Circa 1940s postcard.



Figure 8a: Circa 1940s



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Figure 8b: Circa 1940s

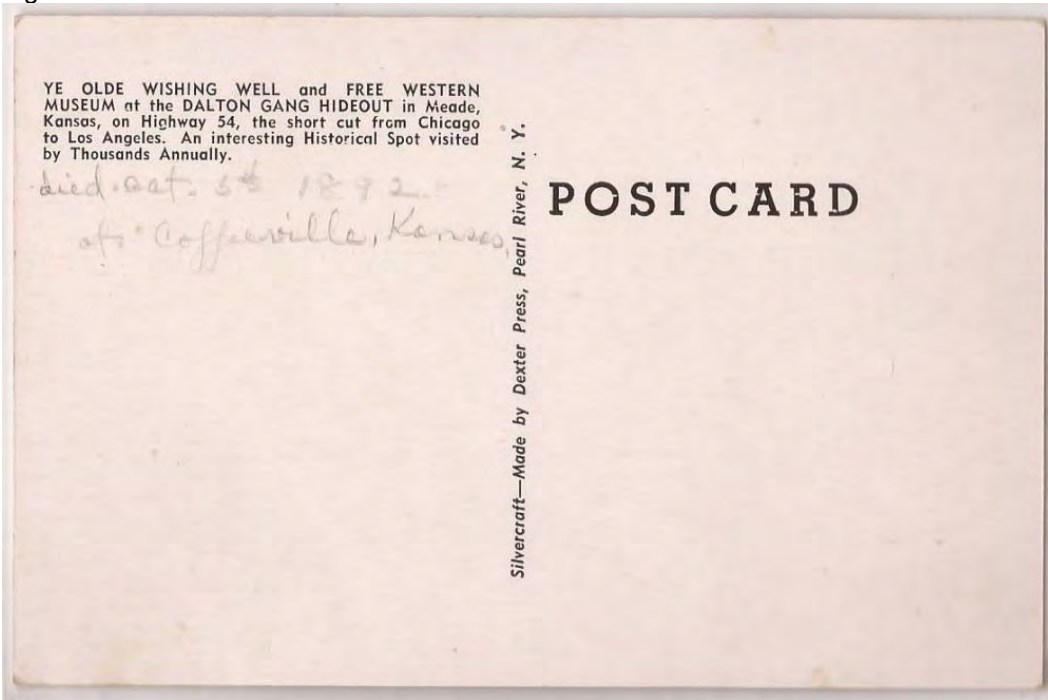


Figure 9a: Circa 1940s



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Figure 9b:

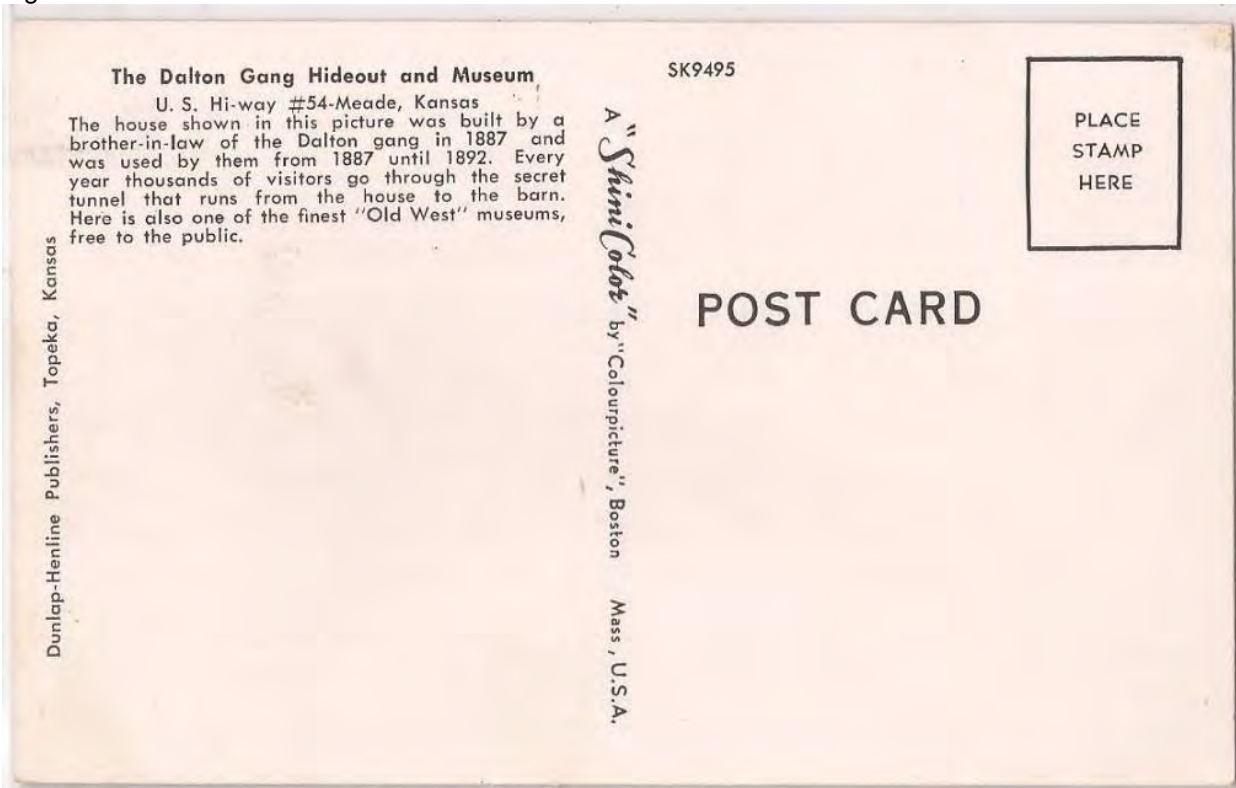


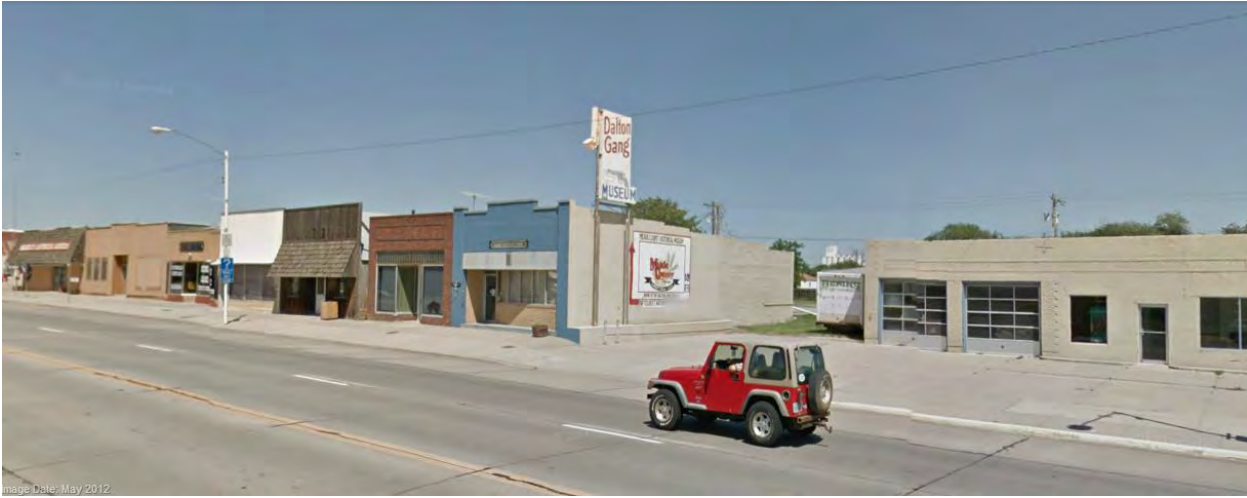
Figure 10: Road Sign on a Telephone Pole in Meade, photo taken 10/30/2013.



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Figure 11: Present-day sign along Highway 54 advertising the attraction.



DALTON GANG HIDEOUT

— & —
**ESCAPE
TUNNEL**


**OPEN
DAILY**

SUMMER HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

WINTER HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

HIDEOUT ENTRANCE 





ORIGINAL HOUSE
DALTON GANG
HIDEOUT
ENTRANCE →







MUSEUM

OLD FASHION
MUSEUM
1001 W. 10th St. - 500pm - To: 600 500pm

1001 W. 10th St.

EN











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum
NAME:

MULTIPLE Roadside Kansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Meade

DATE RECEIVED: 11/21/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/07/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001121

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/7/15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER Alexandry DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

November 17, 2014

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, N. W.
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005



Re: National Register documents – 6 new nominations & 2 de-listing requests

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:

- **Hotel Roberts – Pratt County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping files, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the document.

- **Wirkler-Krehbiel House – Harvey County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping files, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the document.

- **Smith, Ray L., House – Butler County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping files, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the document.

- **Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum – Meade County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping files, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the document.

- **Lloyd, Ira E., Stock Farm – Ellsworth County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping files, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the document.

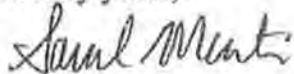
- **Little Stranger Church & Cemetery – Leavenworth County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping files, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the document.

- **Rush County Line Bridge – Rush County, Kansas** (request to de-list)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 1 disk with a PDF of the document
 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the document.

- **First Presbyterian Church of Abilene – Dickinson County, Kansas** (request to de-list)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping files, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the document.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I may be reached at 785-272-8681 ext. 216 or smartin@kshs.org.

Sincerely yours,



Sarah J. Martin
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures

ACTION: NATIONAL REGISTER INFORMATION SYSTEM
 Id 14001121 LI 01/07/2015 KS Meade Dalton Gang Hideout and Museu
 01 More

Name Dalton Gang Hideout and Museum
 Address 502 S. Pearllette St.
 City Meade Vicinity Restrict
 State KANSAS County Meade
 Status LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER Date 01/07/2015
 Day45 01/05/2015 Resource Type DISTRICT Acreage 1.2
 Multiple Roadside Kansas MPS
 Contributing bldg 3 Site 1 Strc 1 Obj 3 Total 8
 Noncontributing bldg 2 Site Strc 2 Obj Total
 Park

Feature
 per Alexis

Dalton Gang
 Feature -
 per Alexis