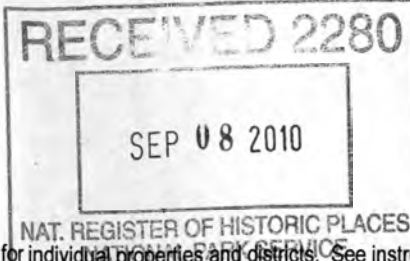


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



847

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Coronado Heights
Other name/site number 169-0000-00002, etc.

2. Location

Street & number 12th and Coronado Heights Road not for publication
City or town Lindsborg vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Saline Code 169 Zip code 67456

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Solmer DSHPO 8/27/10
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 10-20-10 Date of Action

Coronado Heights
Name of Property

Saline County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 18 | 4 | structures |
| 2 | 1 | objects |
| 22 | 5 | total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Commemorative Monument

LANDSCAPE: Park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Commemorative Monument

LANDSCAPE: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Government Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete, Stone

Walls: Stone

Roof: Concrete, Wood

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 1

Coronado Heights
Saline County, Kansas

Narrative Description

Setting

Coronado Heights is a public park located along the southern border of Saline County, Kansas, three miles northwest of the McPherson County Swedish community of Lindsborg (pop. 3321) and eighteen miles south of Salina (pop. 45,679). The Park occupies a 16.8-acre rectangular parcel that encompasses a peak along the Smoky Hill Buttes, a geologic feature in the Dakota Sandstone Formation that falls along the east/west border of Saline County's Falun and Smoky View Townships. Park structures, including a stone shelter house, picnic areas and restrooms sit atop the butte, which offers scenic rural views in all directions.

The Approach

The park is accessible via an entrance at the intersection of Coronado Heights Road (also known as Winchester Road) and 12th Avenue. The north-bound entrance road follows the western boundary of the Smoky Hill Cemetery, a Swedish pioneer cemetery established in 1869. North of the cemetery, the road takes three wide turns before circling the east side of the butte as it ascends to the top of the butte.

Entrance Gate (1936), 2 contributing objects (169-364)

The entrance is clearly discernable by two capped-sandstone entry walls that flank the road. Each of these walls, which dates to 1930s improvements by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), has a pier adjacent to the road connected to a shorter pier via a wall that slopes gently downward and angles toward Coronado Heights Road. The natural sandstone is laid in an irregular pattern common among New Deal projects known for their "government rustic" quality. Together, the walls serve to funnel traffic toward the narrow road. The walls bear evidence of a non-historic gate, no longer extant.

Coronado Monument (1988), 1 non-contributing object

Beyond the main entrance, on the right side of the road, is a segmented concrete monument that reads "Coronado." The marker was constructed in 1988 after the design of Lindsborg artist John Whitfield.

Roadway and Stone Culverts (1936), 3 contributing structures (169-381; 169-382; 169-383)

The WPA project included the construction of three sandstone culverts, intended to help manage erosion at key points on the road's switchbacks. Like the entrance walls, these culverts are constructed of natural sandstone laid in an irregular pattern. Culvert walls double as retaining walls, with the majority of the wall surface falling below the grade of the road surface. The first of these is

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*Coronado Heights
Saline County, Kansas*

located at the road's first switchback to the right. The south culvert wall is intact; but the north one is crumbling. The intact south wall serves as a retaining wall with an arch-shaped top and drainage opening at the base. The north wall rises slightly from the road grade. The second and third culverts have walls only on their west sides. These simple culverts rise slightly from the road grade.

Stone Steps (1936), 3 contributing structures (169-388; 169-370; 169-389)

At the point at which the road straightens following switchbacks between the first and second culverts, a stone stair winds from the road to the top of the butte. Like the other landscape features, the stair is made of sandstone, with tooled sandstone steps flanked by natural limestone cheek walls. Like other sandstone on the site, the stone on the stairs is marked by carved graffiti. A smaller stair falls between picnic areas three and four on the southeast slope. Another small stair is located on the south slope between picnic areas six and seven.

Roadway (1936), 1 contributing structure (169-381)

Those who do not scale the stairs can approach the observation deck via the road, which follows a straight line to the east of the heights castle building, then wraps around the north side of the castle to a gravel parking surface southwest of the castle.

The Butte

The majority of Coronado Heights' structures and features sit atop the butte, which rises three hundred feet above the surrounding valley and offers an impressive 360-degree view of the surrounding farmland and prairie.

The "Castle" (1936), 1 contributing building (169-0000-00002)

The most prominent feature at the top, on the east end of the butte, is a rectangular sandstone shelter house known as the "castle." This building, which is visible for miles, is distinguished by its massive battered natural un-coursed sandstone walls laid in a random pattern. A crenellated and battered tower, which rises from the building's southwest corner, provides the building's only entrance, on the west elevation. It has small window openings on its south and west elevations.

Eight small openings on the north elevation interrupt the massive stone wall. Four are clerestory windows that light the building's interior. Four more are openings in the parapet wall on the building's rooftop observation deck. The openings in the parapet wall resemble the arrow slits or loops found in medieval castles. East of the tower on the south wall, there are six openings – three clerestory windows and three parapet openings - identical to those found on the north elevation. The east elevation, which overlooks the butte's descent, has fourteen such openings – seven clerestory windows and six arrow slits. Like the tower and west elevation, this roofline of the east

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Coronado Heights
Saline County, Kansas

elevation is crenellated. North of the tower, the west elevation has twelve openings – six clerestory windows and six arrow slits.

A sandstone apron creates an approach to the entrance on the castle's west elevation. The doorway opens to the interior of the tower, which houses a stair that rises east to west to the observation deck. A door on the tower's east interior wall opens to the first-floor interior to the north. The interior houses one large open space interrupted only by wood piers that support heavy wood beams and trusses that support the exposed wood ceiling (the actual roof deck is concrete). In the southwest corner of the space, within the north wall of the tower, is a fireplace. There are two built-in stone and concrete picnic tables with benches, one running north to south along the east wall, the other running east to west along the north wall. A built-in stone ledge, which runs along the west wall, provides additional seating.

A steep stone stair with metal pipe railing in the northwest corner of the tower rises to the building's observation deck. The observation deck is a flat concrete slab roof deck that is enclosed by the crenellated parapet wall that accommodates views in all directions. A plaque at the observation deck reads as follows:

CORONADO
19 PARK 36
WPA 1292

Restrooms (1936), 1 contributing building (169-362)

A restroom building lies northwest of the castle. Like the castle building, the restroom building is constructed of natural un-coursed sandstone. It is generally rectangular in massing with men's and women's restrooms (pit toilets) on the east and west sides divided by a north/south wall. The south or front elevation has a stepped parapet roof and two horizontal slit windows, providing ventilation to the two restrooms. The restrooms are accessed via entrances on the south ends of the east and west elevations. Each of these entrances is shielded by a short wall that extends east or west from the south elevation and wraps north. A ventilator pierces the flat roof. The north or rear elevation backs up against the edge of the butte.

Picnic Areas (1936), 11 contributing structures, 4 non-contributing structures (169-365-169-380)

There are fifteen picnic areas in various states of repair. Like the other features on the site, the picnic areas are constructed of un-coursed natural sandstone. The largest of these is located southwest of the castle encircled by the drive. This picnic area, which occupies the footprint of the 1920s wood-framed shelter house, is rectangular in shape, enframed by a sandstone knee wall with a large chimney rising from its west end. The wall encloses two built-in stone and concrete picnic

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Continuation Sheet

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Coronado Heights
Saline County, Kansas

tables that run back to back from north to south. The chimney's arched opening faces east toward the picnic tables.

The other picnic areas line the east and west sides of the bluff south of the castle. Each of these picnic areas features a rounded knee wall on the bluff side, small built-in concrete and stone picnic table, and small fireplace/barbecue pit. The picnic areas on the east side are accessed via stone steps, which are located between picnic areas three and four, five and six and six and seven (see siteplan). The picnic areas on the steeper east side of the butte are generally in greater disrepair than those on the more gently sloping west side. Four of the picnic areas (5, 12, 13, and 14), which are in ruins, have been classified as non-contributors to the district. Those on the east overlook the wooded slope to the road below. Those on the west overlook an open prairie.

Complete List of Historic Resources at Coronado Heights

Buildings:

- Castle – Contributing building (169-000-00002)
- Restrooms – Contributing building (169-362)

Road Features:

- Entrance Gate: 2 Contributing objects (169-364)
- Roadway: Contributing structure (169-381)
- Culvert 1: Contributing structure (169-363)
- Culvert 2: Contributing structure (169-382)
- Culvert 3: Contributing structure (169-383)

Picnic Areas & Steps:

- Picnic Area 1: Contributing structure (169-365)
- Picnic Area 2: Contributing structure (169-366)
- Picnic Area 3: Contributing structure (169-367)
- Steps 1: Contributing structure (169-388)
- Picnic Area 4: Contributing structure (169-368)
- Picnic Area 5: Non-contributing structure (169-369)* ruins
- Steps 2: Contributing structure (169-370)
- Picnic Area 6: Contributing structure (169-371)
- Steps 3: Contributing structure (169-389)
- Picnic Area 7: Contributing structure (169-372)
- Picnic Area 8: Contributing structure (169-373)
- Picnic Area 9: Contributing structure (169-374)

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Coronado Heights
Saline County, Kansas

- Picnic Area 10: Contributing structure (169-375)
- Picnic Area 11: Contributing structure (169-376)
- Picnic Area 12: Non-contributing structure (169-377) * ruins
- Picnic Area 13: Non-contributing structure (169-378) * ruins
- Picnic Area 14: Non-contributing structure (169-379) * ruins
- Picnic Area 15: Contributing structure (169-380)

Other:

Monument: Non-contributing object

Coronado Heights
Name of Property

Saline 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)

- 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 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURE

GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1921-1959

Significant Dates

1921, 1933, 1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Smoky Valley Historical Association

Coronado Heights
Name of Property

Saline County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 16.8 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

2

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

3

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

4

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Christy Davis

Organization Davis Preservation Date 12/20/2009

Street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 Telephone 785-234-5053

City or town Topeka State Kansas Zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Smoky Valley Historical Association (c/o Chris Abercrombie)

Street & number PO Box 255 Telephone 785-227-3480

City or town Lindsborg State Kansas Zip code 67456-0255

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Continuation Sheet

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Coronado Heights
Saline County, Kansas

Statement of Significance

Introduction

Coronado Heights is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The property's physical features continue to interpret its development at the height of the auto age. The property is also being nominated as an example of the "Social and Recreational Facilities" property type under the Multiple Property Nomination *New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas*. The physical features that define the New Deal-era "Government Rustic" character of the property retain a high degree of integrity. As a resource that commemorates the Quiviran expedition of conquistador Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, Coronado Heights meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties.

Coronado Heights' period of significance stretches from 1921, the year of the site's initial marketing campaign, to 1959.

A Brief History of Lindsborg

Although Coronado Heights is located in Saline County, it has historically been associated with the McPherson County community of Lindsborg. The Swedish pioneers, who later established Lindsborg, first settled the area at the base of the Smoky Hill Buttes, in the rich valley of the Smoky Hill River, one of the state's major tributaries. When European explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado came to the region he called "Quivira" in 1541, the place was settled by the ancestral Wichita Indians. The Wichitas lived in grass-hut villages, supplementing farming with bison hunting. By the eighteenth century, other tribes, including the Comanches, Kiowas and Kiowa Apaches, had pushed the Wichitas south and west.

During the early nineteenth century, the Santa Fe Trail, which bisected what would become McPherson County, became an established trade route between American states and territories and the Spanish Southwest. In McPherson County, the Kansa Indians signed a treaty with the federal government to permit the trails to cross their land.¹

¹ *Prelude to the Future: Multiple Faces of the Lindsborg Legacy: A Swedish-American Community in the Heart of Kansas* (Lindsborg: Chamber of Commerce, 1999). Excerpts online at <http://www.lindsborg.org/history.html>.

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**Coronado Heights
McPherson County, Kansas**

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 opened the Kansas Territory to permanent white settlement, new settlers poured into its eastern reaches. Although McPherson County's first white settler, Isaac Sharp, arrived in 1860, settlement of the state's central and western regions did not begin in earnest in the late 1860s and early 1870s, when railroads began selling trust lands.² Railroad companies broadened the market for land through international promotional schemes. Among the targeted immigrant groups were the Swedes. Both the Santa Fe and Kansas Pacific Railroads circulated Swedish-language pamphlets in Scandinavia and Chicago. A Kansas Pacific pamphlet included the names of nineteen Kansas Swedes who endorsed the state.³ In the 1860s and 1870s, Swedes formed a series of cooperative land companies, which established Swedish colonies in Kansas. Two of these companies, the First Swedish Agricultural Company and Galesburg Land Company, arranged for the purchase of land in McPherson and Saline Counties, forming the communities of New Gottland, Fremont, Marquette, Salemsborg, Assaria, Falun, Smolan, and Lindsborg.⁴

One hundred colonists of the First Swedish Agricultural Company founded Lindsborg in 1869. Although the fledgling city was named county seat in 1870, it lost this title to McPherson in 1873. As suggested by the company name, the new colony's economy was largely dependent upon farming. Among the community's early trials, then, was the grasshopper plague of 1874, which left 10,000 of the county's residents dependent upon government food and clothing rations.⁵

Fortunately the county's economy had recovered by 1885, when its farmers reported 5523 acres of the cash crop broomcorn, most of it raised by Lindsborg colonists.⁶ In that year, there were nearly 8000 first and second-generation Swedes in Saline and McPherson Counties.⁷ Although Lindsborg lost its county seat status to McPherson in 1873, the town remained a cultural and business center for the area's Swedish immigrants. In 1879, the year of its incorporation, the city welcomed its first railroad, the Salina and McPherson branch of the Union Pacific.⁸ By 1883, the city had three grain

² Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc ... with a supplementary volume devoted to selected personal history and reminiscence* (Chicago: Standards Publishing Company, 1912).

³ Emory Lindquist, "The Swedish Immigrant and Life in Kansas," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* v. XXIX, no 1 (Spring 1963).

⁴ James Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1995), 105-107, 140, 167, 170-171, 193.

⁵ Blackmar.

⁶ Shortridge, 193.

⁷ Ibid, 106.

⁸ Blackmar.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8**Coronado Heights**
McPherson County, Kansas

elevators, a bank, two hotels, three newspapers, a water-powered mill, a steam-powered mill, and Bethany College, which boasted an enrollment of 80 students. By 1885, the city's population had grown to 864, more than twice that of its rival McPherson.⁹ The Missouri Pacific Railroad arrived in 1887.¹⁰

Like that of many western towns, Lindsborg's survival required unremitting self-promotion. During the 1880s, when eastern investors gambled on the prospects of western towns, Lindsborg and many other Kansas cities boomed. During 1887 alone, the year the Missouri Pacific Railroad arrived, speculators platted nine additions to Lindsborg's Original Town Plat. In June 1887, one local paper pronounced that "with eight more two-story brick business houses, a \$30,000 hotel and four railroads, we can put on metropolitan airs, not exceeded by any of our neighboring sisters. All this we can truly vouch for."¹¹ Among Lindsborg's "neighboring sisters" was McPherson, which beat out Lindsborg in a contest over county-seat designation in 1873. Boom-time projects included a \$30,000 hotel and a barbed-wire factory.¹²

As a trade center for the surrounding farms, Lindsborg's fate was tied to the successes and failures of area farmers. The good times of the early to mid 1880s were followed by a period of recession. Strapped for cash to pay mortgages and buy necessities – and faced with declining crop prices, farmers fell on hard times. Many Lindsborg businesses struggled to stay open. On the contrary, Lindsborg reaped the rewards of the Golden Age of Agriculture, from 1900 to 1920, when, according to a 1900 article in the *Lindsborg News*, "it [was] no unusual occurrence for a man to buy a farm, walk into the bank and pay for it in hard cash." Between 1907 and 1914, following the Panic of 1907, the assessed property values in Lindsborg doubled.¹³

Plunging crop prices took their toll on the community in the 1920s and early 1930s, when the price of land in Lindsborg depreciated more than 50%.¹⁴ Despite the hard times, however, Lindsborg experienced modest population growth between 1920 and 1930 when the population increased from 1847 to 2016.¹⁵

⁹ William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883).

¹⁰ Blackmar.

¹¹ Elston Flohr, *The Farmers State Bank, Lindsborg, Kansas: The First One Hundred Years, 1886-1986* (Lindsborg, KS: Smoky Valley Historical Publications, 1989), 9-10.

¹² *Smoky Valley News*, 1 Apr 1887.

¹³ Flohr, 3.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ U. S. Census, 1920 and 1930.

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Coronado Heights
McPherson County, Kansas

Since the 1930s, the population of Lindsborg has grown to over 3000. The community has worked diligently to preserve and promote its Swedish heritage and rich culture. The Bethany Oratorio Society, whose members have performed Handel's Messiah each Easter season since 1882, is the oldest of its kind in the nation. At events like the Messiah Festival of Music and Art and Midsummer's Day Festival, residents and visitors participate in traditional activities and celebrate the city's rich arts and music culture. Among the community's celebrated citizens and institutions are Birger Sandzen (1871-1954), a prolific Swedish-born artist who taught at Bethany College and the Anatoly Karpov International School of Chess, the seven-time world chess champ's first school in the United States.

Johan August Udden and his "Discovery"

What could a Spanish Conquistador from the sixteenth century possibly have to do with a Kansas community best known for its Swedish immigrant heritage? The exact route of conquistador Francisco Vazquez de Coronado's expedition to find the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola has remained the subject of vigorous debate for centuries. Although current-day Rice and McPherson counties are widely accepted as the location of Quivira as described in expedition journals, there is no concrete evidence that Coronado or his men ever climbed the Smoky Hill Buttes. But local lore took its cues from a significant nineteenth-century discovery, when an amateur archeologist uncovered a piece of chain mail while excavating an Indian village site near Lindsborg.

Like many Lindsborg residents, Johan August Udden (1859-1932) had strong ties to Sweden. Udden's family immigrated from Lekasa, Sweden to Minnesota in 1861, when he was just two years old.¹⁶ While attending Augustana College, a Swedish-American institution in Rock Island, Illinois, Udden developed a passion for science under the tutelage of a man who became his lifelong mentor and friend, Natural History Professor Johan Joshua Harold Lindahl. After completing his bachelor's degree in 1881, Udden accepted a teaching position at the newly founded (1881) Bethany Academy, precursor to Bethany College, in the Swedish colony of Lindsborg, Kansas.

Although the fledgling college required him to teach courses as broad as civics and natural science, Udden's principal area of interest was geology. In fact, he would later (1916) use his geological skills to help locate the Big Lake Oil Field in Texas.¹⁷ Likely inspired by the work of other early geologists, including Charles Lyell who first posited in 1830s that sediment layers offered clues to

¹⁶ 1900 U. S. Census.

¹⁷ Johan August Udden Papers, ca. 1886-1938, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

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Continuation Sheet

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Coronado Heights
McPherson County, Kansas

the past, Udden pursued an interest in amateur archeology. For seven years, before he returned to Augustana College in 1888, Udden searched mounds on Paint Creek near Lindsborg for artifacts with the help of his wife, Johanna, Bethany students and local farmers.

In 1881, while exploring an Indian mound near Lindsborg, Udden's team made its "key find." Amidst the expected Plains Indian artifacts, Udden's "persistent" student Charles Hven uncovered a two-inch-square patch of chain mail.¹⁸ A student of history, Udden understood the possible significance of his discovery. He speculated that this was a Quivira Indian village – and that the chain mail was left behind by the quixotic expedition of Francisco Vazquez de Coronado. Udden presented his findings at the 1886 meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science and later published them in a book entitled *An Old Indian Village* (1900).¹⁹ Udden's discovery suggested that the ancestral Wichita had contact with the Spanish. However, it was not until much later that Smithsonian Institution archeologist Waldo Wedel presented all of the lines of evidence suggesting that modern-day Rice and McPherson counties were indeed the "Land of Quivira" documented in Coronado's journals.²⁰

Commemorating Coronado

Although archeologists widely accept current-day Rice and McPherson Counties as the location of Quivira, the home of ancestral Wichita Indians, they continue to debate the source of the chain mail discovered by Udden. There is no evidence to prove that the piece did not come from some other Spanish expedition, such as those of Francisco Leyva Bonilla and Juan de Humana (1594) or Juan de Onate (1601). And even if the chain mail could be definitively connected to Coronado's expedition, there is no proof that Coronado or his men ever mounted the Smoky Hill Buttes.

¹⁸Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Edna Nyquist, *Pioneer Life and Lore of McPherson County, Kansas* (McPherson: The Democrat-Opinion Press, 1932), 184. See also *Wichita Eagle* 12 Sept 1920. See also *Kansas Anthropologist* Volume 23: Johan August Udden and *An Old Indian Village*, Revisited.

¹⁹Marlin F. Hawley, "More's the Pity": The Short Archeological Career of J. A. Udden." *Kansas Anthropologist*, 23:23-33. Soon after Udden's crew "discovered" and, fortunately, photographed the chain mail, it was lost. According to Udden, it was tossed by "a careless servant." After it was rediscovered in the 1970s in New Mexico, it was returned to Kansas. It is now in the collection of the Kansas Historical Society, where it is on exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History. This is ironic considering the Kansas Historical Society declined to publish Udden's book on the Paint Creek excavations.

²⁰Waldo R. Wedel, "Archeological Remains in Central Kansas and Their Possible Bearing on the Location of Quivira." In *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* 101 (7). (Washington D. C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1942).

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But Udden's findings provided fodder for local lore. If Coronado and his men were in the region, it seemed probable that they would use the "crest of this mountainous formation for observation purposes." Why not use the buttes to commemorate Coronado's expedition?

Coronado (1510-1554) and his Fated Expedition

Nineteenth-century pioneers, who had little appreciation or understanding of the native peoples they displaced, held Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, the first-known white man to venture into Kansas, in high esteem. It was one of Coronado's men, after all, who later became America's first Christian martyr. Coronado and Kansas pioneers may have been separated by more than three centuries; but they shared both a culture and religion that they believed would "civilize" the prairie.

Coronado was a member of the small fraternity of conquistadors who came to America to seek fame and fortune for their native Spain in the century following the "discovery" of the New World. Born in Salamanca, Spain in 1510, Coronado first came to America at the age of twenty-five to serve as a viceroy's assistant. Within three years, he had risen to the position of provincial governor of Nueva Galicia, a region in New Spain.

In Spring 1540, Coronado assembled an eclectic army that included a reported three hundred fellow countrymen and eight hundred Indians and set out to find the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola (Gold).²¹ Guided by a Quivira Indian they called "Turk" the sizeable party marched northward, trekking northeast through present-day New Mexico, east through the Texas panhandle, and north into present-day Kansas, the land of Quivira. Before reaching Quivira, Coronado sent most of his party back to Mexico, continuing on with a small group of thirty. The provincial governor and his remaining men stayed in Quivira for only twenty-five days, traveling as far as the present site of Lindsborg. They encountered plains peoples, teepees, and bison. But when they found no gold, they killed their guide and returned to Mexico.²²

Although Coronado's exact route remains a mystery, Udden's chain-mail discovery was interpreted by many local residents as evidence that the site marked the place where Coronado abandoned his quest for the Seven Cities of Gold.

²¹ Anna E. Arnold, *A History of Kansas* (Topeka: State of Kansas, 1916), 11.

²² *Ibid.* Robert Richmond, *Kansas: A Land of Contrasts* (Wheeling, Illinois: Forum Press, Inc., 1974).

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McPherson County, Kansas

Building the Park

Local efforts to commemorate Coronado's expedition commenced in the years following the publication of Udden's findings. Before, the mountain-like hills on the southern border of Saline County were known simply as the "Smoky Hill Buttes." This was the name given in descriptions of the county's landscape features in the classic Kansas histories of Cutler (1883) and Blackmar (1912). The name "Coronado Heights" was applied by auto-age boosters who used the buttes' vicinity to Udden's discoveries to promote the overlook to a growing throng of auto tourists. The Smoky Valley Historical Society (later Smoky Valley Historical Association), which formed for the purpose of developing Coronado Heights, acquired the property in 1919 from two local farm families and began making improvements. A 1921 article, distributed by the Associated Press to the far reaches of Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Connecticut, touted new "automobile drives," "rest house," and "new trees," meant to make "Coronado Heights" a place "of historic interest for tourists."²³ The "rest house" was a wood-framed shelter house known as Fernebo Lodge, in which the boosters installed, as a gimmick, a telephone.

Providing auto access to the top of the heights proved a daunting challenge. In 1928, after heavy rains rendered the winding drive "impassible," various groups joined forces to improve it.²⁴ The consortium, which included Saline County and members of the Lindsborg, Salina, Hutchinson and Emporia Lions Clubs, used "a county grader to make the road in the rocky soil" in order to provide proper drainage.²⁵ Not to be outdone, the Rotarians answered the call to help with additional projects.²⁶

When the stock market crashed in 1929, scenic drives took a back seat to more pressing economic matters. But a few years later, labor-intensive projects, like the constant repairs and improvements at Coronado Heights, were a perfect fit for relief programs designed to put men to work. The Saline County federal relief committee received funding from Herbert Hoover's Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) to pay for the "labor to widen the road to about twice its present width."²⁷

Among the men who were instrumental in securing relief funds in the 1930s were Republican insider Robert J. Laubengayer and Lindsborg booster John A. Holmberg. A Swedish immigrant who worked as both an auto salesman and plumbing/heating engineer, Holmberg was the president

²³ *Ada Evening News* (Ada, Oklahoma); *Bridgeport Telegram* (Bridgeport, Connecticut); *Eau Claire Leader* (Eau Claire, Wisconsin); *Sheboygan Press* (Sheboygan, Wisconsin)

²⁴ *Hutchinson News*, 11 August 1928.

²⁵ *Hutchinson News*, 16 August 1928.

²⁶ *Hutchinson News*, 29 August 1928.

²⁷ *Hutchinson News*, 22 December 1932.

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of the Historical Society during the 1930s.²⁸ Laubengayer was the publisher of the *Salina Journal*, owner of the Salina radio station KSAL, officer in the Kansas Power and Light Company and developer of Salina's Country Club Heights subdivision.

Laubengayer and Holmberg represented an essential cooperative effort between their respective communities, as the Coronado Heights property was adjacent to Lindsborg, but across the county line in Saline County. In a letter to Holmberg, Laubengayer noted that he and other Salina boosters were "all pleased that we are able to help give Lindsborg this cooperation, as we feel that Coronado Heights is one of the most outstanding historical points of Kansas."²⁹

The new road was dedicated in Spring 1933 with great fanfare.³⁰ This first project was completed in time for Lindsborg's annual Messiah Festival, which brought thousands of tourists to the region. The *Dodge City Globe* praised the effort as a historic preservation success, noting that the heights, along with Santa Fe Trail landmarks were among the "points of historical interest which should be preserved by all means."³¹ In statewide lore, the heights' had evolved from a commemorative place to a historical site.

Projects continued through the 1930s. In 1936, another road project eliminated a "dangerous curve" and steep grades.³² At the same time, fourteen picnic areas and a rock shelter house (the "castle") were constructed.³³ The work on these structures was not completed until December 1936.³⁴ By then, work on the shelter house, with its "stone walls, flagstone floor, concrete slab roof, and wood-beamed ceiling" had begun.³⁵ These projects were carried out under the auspices of Saline County, which had acquired the property from the Smoky Valley Historical Society in 1936.

The design of the castle/shelter house, restroom, picnic areas, culverts and steps followed the tenets of Government Rustic architecture, a style that got its start during the early twentieth-century parks and conservation movement. Government Rustic designers used natural materials, like logs and un-coursed stone to blend architectural features into the natural landscape. By the 1930s, the style had reached a "golden age." In the words of Phoebe Cutler, "The New Deal did not innovate

²⁸ 1920 U. S. Census; 1930 U. S. Census; (Kansas Historical Notes, *February, 1935 (Vol. 4, No. 1), pages 108 to 111*).

²⁹ R. J. Laubengayer to John Holmberg, 13 December 1932.

³⁰ *Hutchinson News*, 5 April 1933.

³¹ *Hutchinson News*, 27 December 1932. (reprint from the *Dodge City Globe*)

³² *Hutchinson News*, 25 June 1936.

³³ *Hutchinson News*, 20 July 1936.

³⁴ *Hutchinson News*, 26 December 1936.

³⁵ *Topeka Capital*, 31 January 1937.

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Saline County, Kansas**

so much as it mass-produced" Government Rustic designs. The castle bears resemblance to other New Deal-era observation towers, like that constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps at Moran State Park in Washington (1936) and at the Bastrop State Park in Texas (1937).³⁶ Like buildings and structures constructed in other parks of the time, those at Coronado Heights were meant to frame the surrounding landscape.³⁷ This aim was achieved in part by using "at-hand" materials, in this case local sandstone, which had an added low-cost and labor-intensive advantage.

By the time the stone shelter house was completed, Coronado Heights had become part of a consortium of area historic sites that attracted tourists. Many combined their visit to the heights with a tour of the nearby Salina Indian Burial Pit, a Pawnee Indian burial site discovered and opened to tourists in 1936 or a visit to the Lindsborg art studio of renowned prairie printmaker Birger Sandzen.³⁸ The site was highlighted during the Coronado Centennial celebrated statewide throughout Summer 1941. Other featured attractions included John Stuart Curry's Coronado mural at the Kansas Statehouse.³⁹

The 1930s improvements coupled with the event forever established the Coronado Heights brand. Today, the site is managed by the Smoky Valley Historical Association, which re-acquired the property from Saline County in 1988. The butte is encircled by a three-mile-long mountain biking trail, the location of the annual Coronado's Challenge mountain bike race. It remains a favorite retreat among locals and tourists alike.

³⁶ Albert Good, *Patterns from the Golden Age of Rustic Design: Park and Recreation Structures from the 1930s* (Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart, 2003), 15, 21, 114. This book was originally published in 1938 by the National Park Service in three volumes entitled *Park and Recreation Structures*.

³⁷ Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal*, (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985), 90; Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: the Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942*, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1993), 11.

³⁸ *Kansas Preservation*, January/February 2005; *Hutchinson News*, 23 October 1938.

³⁹ *Atchison Daily Globe*, 7 April 1941.

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Coronado Heights
Saline County, Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

Coronado Heights occupies a rectangular 16.8-acre parcel in Section 31, Township 16, Range 3. On a tract beginning 400 feet north of the southwest corner of the southwest quarter, thence north 1730 feet, thence east 430 feet, thence south 1730 feet, thence west 430 feet to point of beginning. (UNPLATTED, S31, T16, R3, ACRES 16.8, TR BEG 400 N SW COR SW/4 TH N 1730 E 430 S 1730 W 430 TO POB)

Boundary Justification

The above is the legal description of the parcel owned by the Smoky Valley Historical Association, occupied by the park known as Coronado Heights.

Photo Log

Coronado Heights
Saline County, KS

All photos were taken by Christy Davis on January 9, 2010 and January 10, 2010.

1. Looking north past picnic areas to castle.
2. South and east elevations of castle, looking northwest.
3. East elevation of castle, from road below, showing natural sandstone outcroppings.
4. View showing picnic area and rural landscape beyond.
5. Close-up of picnic area (typical) along east side of butte.
6. View from observation deck of castle, looking southwest.
7. Restroom building, looking northwest.
8. Stair that rises from the road to the top of the butte, looking north.
9. Overall view of restroom building and castle, looking east.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Coronado Heights
NAME:

MULTIPLE New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Saline

DATE RECEIVED: 9/08/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/29/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/14/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/23/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000847

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 10.20.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ 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.



















Coronado Heights
Saline County, KS
Zone 14
1. 612850 E 4274100 N
2. 612850 E 4274600 N
3. 613000 E 4274600 N
4. 613000 E 4274100 N

1:75
100 000 FEET
(NORTH)

475 000 N

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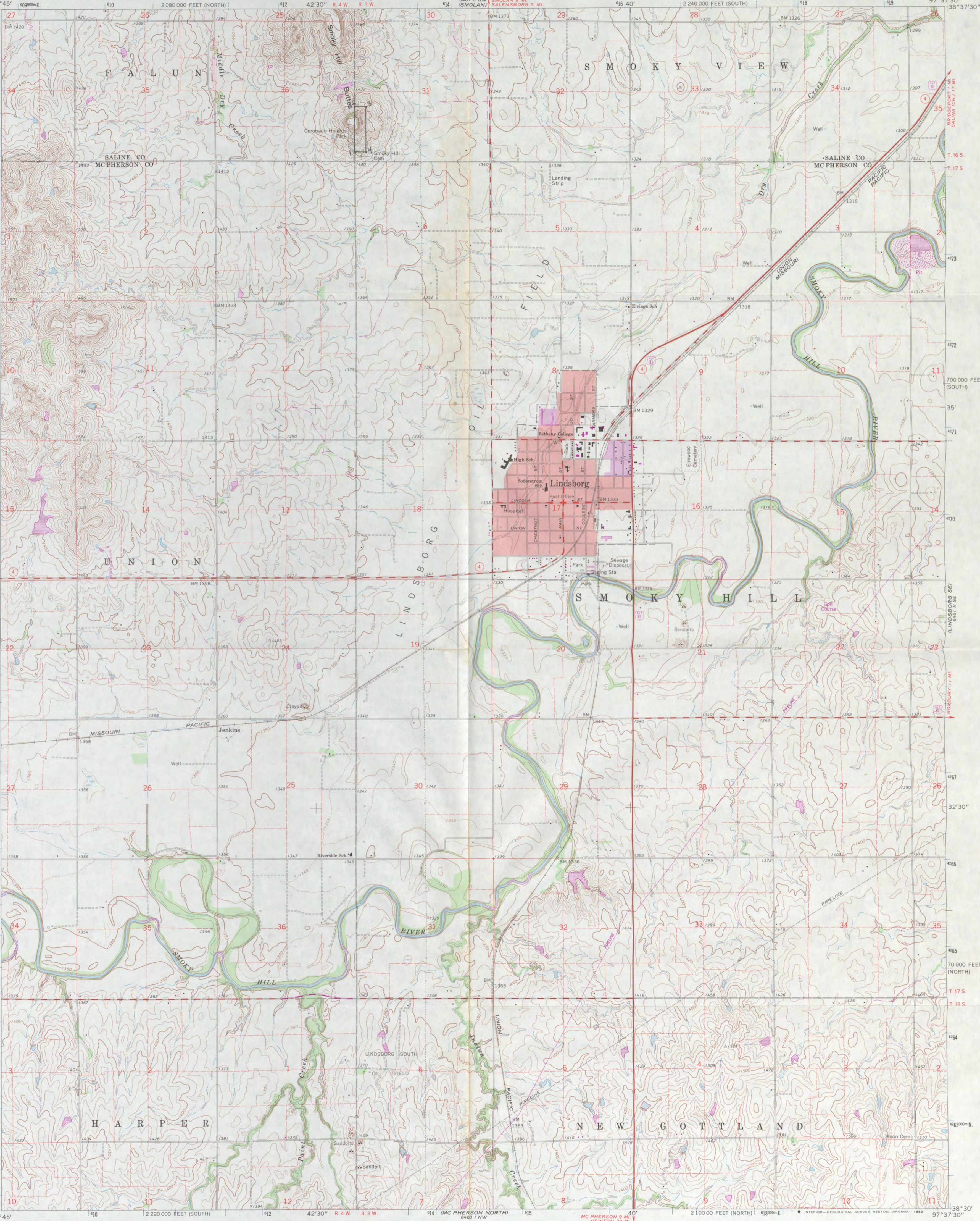
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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Kansas coordinate system, north and
south zones
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters north and
28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Map photorevised 1976
No major culture or drainage changes observed

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Kansas agencies from aerial photographs taken
1978. Map edited 1979. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

LINDSBORG, KANS.
N3830—W9737.5/7.5
PHOTOINSPECTED 1976
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
DMA 6461 II SW—SERIES V878

KANSAS



Kansas Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division

MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

September 3, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:

- Coronado Heights – Lindsborg vicinity, Saline Co., Kansas (new submission)
- Gordon Building, - Topeka, Shawnee Co., Kansas (new submission)

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah J. Martin".

Sarah J. Martin
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures