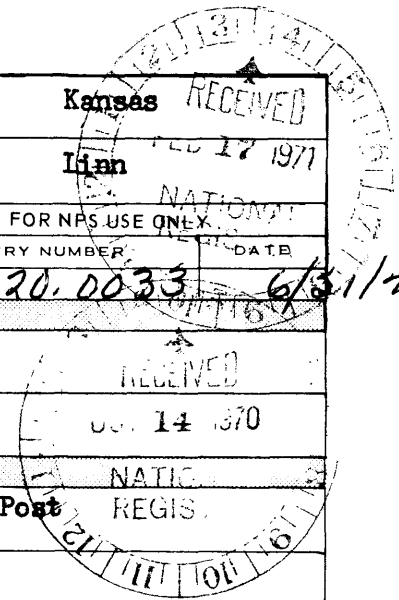


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Linn
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER:	71.6.20.0033
DATE:	6/31/71



**1. NAME**

COMMON: **Marais des Cygnes Massacre Site**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Marais des Cygnes Massacre Memorial Park**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Five miles northeast of US-69 at Trading Post (NW 1/4, Sec. 26, T 20 S, R 25 E)**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trading Post**

STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66064** COUNTY: **Linn** CODE: **107**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: **State of Kansas**

STREET AND NUMBER: **State Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66612**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER: **Linn County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mound City** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66056**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1957**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Kansas State Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West 10th St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66612**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Kansas**

COUNTY: **Linn**

ENTRY NUMBER: **71.6.20.0033**

DATE: **6/31/71**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

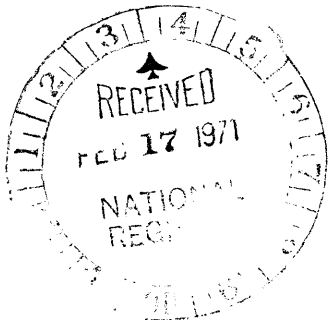
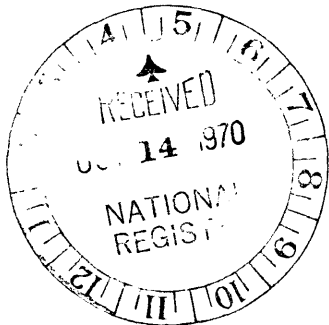
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marais des Cygnes massacre of 1858 occurred in a ravine surrounded by mounds which characterize the area. The region is rugged and hilly with considerable growth of shrubs and scrub timber.

A small stone house on three levels, built by Charles C. Hadsall probably in the 1870's, has been restored and is now operated as a state-owned museum by the Kansas State Historical Society.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

**May 19, 1858**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____                                    |

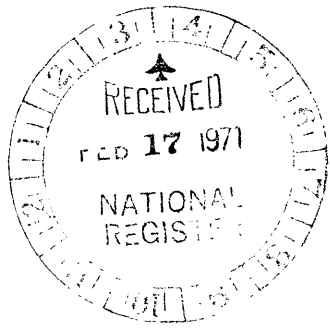
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On May 19, 1858 a band of Proslavery sympathizers entered Kansas from Missouri under the leadership of Charles Hamelton, a former resident of the Trading Post area who had been forced to leave by the Free-State group. His band of 30 captured eleven Free-State men in the Trading Post vicinity and then lined them up in a ravine four miles northeast of the town. Five were killed, five were wounded, and one was untouched by the volley from the firing squad. Leaving the victims for dead, Hamelton and his gang then returned to Missouri; only one of the raiders was ever caught and officially punished for his part in the crime.

After the massacre intense excitement and horror pervaded the eastern Kansas counties. John Brown came to the area toward the end of June and built a "fort" 220 yards south of the ravine. The "fort" was two stories high, walled up with logs, and banked outside with dirt and rocks to a height of four feet. Brown made arrangements to buy the land but apparently didn't make any payments. So his friend Charles C. Hadsall purchased it in the summer of 1858. The "fort" was never attacked and Brown and his men withdrew at the end of summer.

In later years Hadsall built a stone house, which still stands, adjoining the site of Brown's "fort." The "fort" had long before that been taken away piece by piece by souvenir hunters. The house is presently operated as a museum by the State Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bailey, Judge L. D., "Massacre of the Marais Des Cygnes," Charles R. Green, editor, Early Days in Kansas, v. 1 (Olathe, Kansas, Charles R. Green, 1912), pp. 40-44.

Botkin, J. T., "Justice Was Swift and Sure in Early Kansas," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 16 (1923-1925), pp. 488-493.

Connelley, William E., A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, v. 2 (Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., 1918), p. 669.

Kansas State Historical Society, "The Marais des Cygnes Massacre" (Topeka, State Printer, n. d.).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38 ° 16 ' 58 "	94 ° 37 ' 24 "		°	'	"
NE	38 ° 16 ' 58 "	94 ° 37 ' 00 "		°	'	"
SE	38 ° 16 ' 47 "	94 ° 37 ' 00 "		°	'	"
SW	38 ° 16 ' 47 "	94 ° 37 ' 24 "		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **60**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard D. Pankratz, Planner**

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society**      DATE: **August 22, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West 10th St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka**      STATE: **Kansas**      CODE: **26**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Nyle H. Miller</u> <b>Nyle H. Miller</b></p> <p>Title: <b>Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society</b></p> <p>Date: <b>October 12, 1970</b></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Casper</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p><b>JUN 21 1971</b></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William H. Montgomery</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <b>MAY 17 1971</b></p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) |

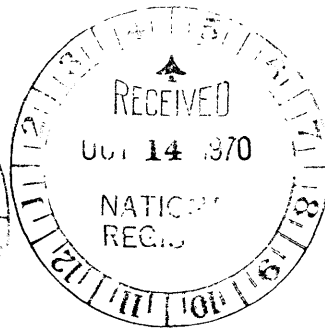
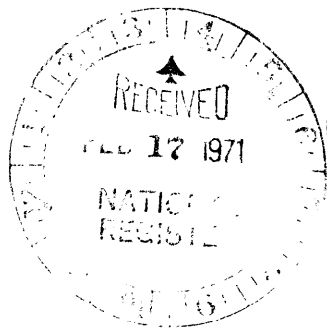
STATE <b>Kansas</b>	
COUNTY <b>Linn</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.6.20.0033</b>	DATE <b>6/31/71</b>

(Number all entries)

6. National Survey of Historic Sites and Structures (federal)  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
801 19th St., N. W.  
Washington, D.C.

Code: **98**

9. Mitchell, William Ansel, Linn County, Kansas (Kansas City, Campbell-Gates Printers, 1928), pp. 202-209.  
Richards, Ralph, "The Forts of Fort Scott and the Fateful Borderland,"  
Fort Scott Tribune, April 9, 10, 12, 14-18, 1941.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) No. 2

STATE	Kansas	
COUNTY	Linn	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	716-20-0033	DATE 6/21/71

(Number all entries)

Note: This statement of significance replaces in its entirety that in the original nomination form.

8.

The stage for the "Bleeding Kansas" era was set by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1854, which established the concept of popular sovereignty--the people should decide by vote whether Kansas should be slave or free. A bitter contest then ensued between North and South to gain the majority in Kansas. In the North societies such as the New England Emigrant Aid Company were organized to send Free-State sympathizers to the Kansas territory. Proslavery Southern immigrants were not so well organized, but they had the advantage of being closer, many simply crossing from western Missouri into eastern Kansas. Throughout 1855 and 1856 the struggle between Free-State and Proslavery partisans dominated the Kansas scene, and there seemed little doubt that slavery would prevail. Individual acts of terrorism occurred with increasing frequency in 1856, and numerous instances of lawlessness were reported. Men were attacked, beaten, and sometimes killed for their views on slavery. In Linn and Bourbon counties, on the eastern Kansas border, raids were constantly carried on by the opposing factions. In effect a civil war was being waged in eastern Kansas. Acting Governor Woodson issued a proclamation declaring that the territory was in a state of open insurrection and rebellion. In September, 1856, the arrival of the new governor, John W. Geary, brought relative calm to the territory. Through the use of federal troops from Fort Leavenworth to disband both Free-State and Proslavery forces, he was able to restore a semblance of order to much of Kansas. But in the eastern border counties the incidents continued through 1857 and into 1858, culminating in the Marais des Cygnes massacre, which was the last significant display of mob violence in Kansas.

On May 19, 1858, a band of Proslavery sympathizers entered Kansas from Missouri under the leadership of Charles Hamelton, a former resident of the Trading Post area who had been forced to leave by the Free-State group. His band of 30 captured several unarmed Free-State men at Trading Post, released all but one, and then took a road leading back to Missouri. Ten additional captives were taken either on the road, in their farm homes, or in their fields. The eleven men were marched to a ravine four miles northeast of Trading Post, line up, and shot. Five were killed, five were wounded, and one was untouched by the volley from the firing squad. Leaving the victims for dead, Hamelton and his gang returned to Missouri; only one of the raiders was ever caught and officially punished for his part in the crime.

Hamelton's reasons for selecting the eleven victims are not clear. Apparently none of them had been an active participant in the factional fighting. Most of them were former neighbors of Hamelton and had no suspicion that he might harm them. The commonly held view is that Hamelton returned to Kansas for revenge and chance determined his victims. Some reminiscences of long-time Linn county residents claim that the band had a list of Free-State people to be captured, but unable to locate more than two or three, they just picked up people from the neighborhood.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) No. 3

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Linn	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.6.20.0033	6/21/71

(Number all entries)

After the massacre intense excitement pervaded the eastern Kansas counties. The nation was horrified, and John Greenleaf Whittier made the murders the subject of a poem, "Le Marais du Cygne," which was published in the Atlantic Monthly in September, 1858. John Brown came to the area toward the end of June, 1858, and built a "fort" 220 yards south of the ravine. The "fort" was two stories high, walled up with logs, and banked outside with dirt and rocks to a height of four feet. Brown made arrangements to buy the land but apparently did not make any payments. So his friend Charles C. Hadsall purchased it in the summer of 1858. The "fort" was never attacked and Brown and his men withdrew at the end of summer.

In later years Hadsall built a stone house, which still stands, adjoining the site of Brown's "fort." The "fort" had long before that been taken away piece by piece by souvenir hunters. The house was restored in 1961-1962 and is presently operated as a museum by the State Historical Society.

9. Additional bibliographical entries have been added. The complete list is as follows:

- Bailey, Judge L. D., "Massacre of the Marais des Cygnes," Charles R. Green, editor, Early Days in Kansas, v. 1 (Olathe, Kan., Charles R. Green, 1912), pp. 40-44.
- Botkin, J. T., "Justice Was Swift and Sure in Early Kansas," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 16 (1923-1925), pp. 488-493.
- Connelley, William E., A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., 1918), v. 2, p. 669.
- Kansas State Historical Society, "The Marais des Cygnes Massacre" (Topeka, State Printer, n. d.).
- Langsdorf, Edgar, "Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861," To the Stars, v. 9, no. 3 (April-May, 1954), pp. 14-19.
- Mitchell, William Ansel, Linn County, Kansas (Kansas City, Campbell-Gates Printers, 1928), pp. 202-209.
- Moody, Joel, "The Marais des Cygnes Massacre," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 14 (1915-1918), pp. 208-223.
- Richards, Ralph, "The Forts of Fort Scott and the Fateful Borderland," Fort Scott Tribune, April 9, 10, 12, 14-18, 1941.
- Smith, Edward R., "Marais des Cygnes Tragedy," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 6 (1897-1900), pp. 365-370.
- Tannar, Alpheus H., "The Marais des Cygnes Massacre . . .," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 14 (1915-1918), pp. 224-234.

