United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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
   Santa Fe Trail (Douglas Co. Trail Segments)

   Historic name
   Douglas Co. Prairie Park; Black Jack Park Ruts; NPS Master Plan #59

   Other name/site number

2. Location
   Street & number
   U.S. Highway 56, 2 ½ Miles East of Baldwin City
   City or town
   Baldwin City
   State Kansas
   Code KS
   County Douglas
   Code 045
   Zip code 66006

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [XX] statewide [ ] locally. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [XX] statewide [ ] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

   Signature of certifying official/Title
   Kansas State Historical Society
   Date
   September 16, 2002

   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.
   [ ] entered in the National Register.
   [ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
   [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
   [ ] removed from the National Register.
   [ ] other, (explain:)

   Signature of the Keeper
   Date of Action
   [Signature]
   11/04/02
### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ private</td>
<td>□ building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing Noncontributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX public-local</td>
<td>□ district</td>
<td>0 0 buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ public-State</td>
<td>□ site</td>
<td>1 0 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ public-Federal</td>
<td>□ structure</td>
<td>0 0 structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ object</td>
<td>0 3 objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 3 total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Name of Related Multiple Property Listing**
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail**

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
<th>Current Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Enter Categories from instructions)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION / Road-Related</td>
<td>LANDSCAPE / Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION / Pedestrian-Related</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification</th>
<th>Materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Foundation: N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walls: N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roof: N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other: N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the
property for National Register

XX 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 it 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Transportation

Military

Period of Significance

1821-1865

Significant Dates

1825

1846

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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):
Primary location of additional data:

□ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested

□ previously determined eligible by the National Register
□ designated a National Historic Landmark
□ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
□ recorded by Historic American Engineering

State Historic Preservation Office
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:

National Park Service Regional Office – Santa Fe, New Mexico
Name of Property: Douglas Co. Trail Segments
County and State: Douglas County, Kansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 6%

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>314990</td>
<td>4292870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: See Continuation Sheet, Section 11
Organization: The URBANA Group
Date: May 1993
Street & number: 202 S. Broadway, Suite 206, P.O. Box 1028
Telephone: 217-344-3726
City or town: Urbana
State: IL
Zip code: 61801-9028

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.

Photographs
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Complete with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name: Douglas County Commission
street & number: 1100 Massachusetts
telephone: 785-841-7700
city or town: Lawrence
state: KS
zip code: 66044

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Douglas Co. Trail Segments); KS;
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880
Section number 7 _____________________________________Page 5

Narrative Description

The Santa Fe Trail (Douglas County Trail Segments) site is located in Ivan Boyd Memorial Prairie Preserve, approximately three miles east of Baldwin City, Kansas. The six and one-half acre site consists of four rutted segments that branch out like tributaries from one another. Two commemorative limestone markers were placed at the southeast corner and northwest corner of the nominated area in 1965. A modern wooden sign marking the trail ruts stands at the southeast corner of the parcel.

The site lies directly south of the intersection of U. S. Highway 56 and Douglas County Road 2000E. Immediately west of the county park is Robert Pearson Hall Memorial Park, a site associated with the 1856 Battle of Black Jack, a pre-Civil War battle between pro and anti-slavery factions.

Among the physical features of the site are a series of four discernable southeast-to-northwest trending Trail ruts which parallel an intermittent stream course defining the northern boundary of the site. At both ends of the rutted segments are native limestone markers which define the clearly evident extent of the ruts. The southern native stone marker at the southernmost extension of the ruts identifies itself as a "Sibley Survey"/"1825" marker by a faintly legible inscription; the other marker, also attributed to the Sibley Survey\(^1\), has no inscription. The first two ruts, for convenience numbered 1 and 2 on the sketch map, run from a wooded copse bordering the intermittent stream on the site's northern end and trend southeastwardly toward a fence line. The intersecting ruts run a distance of approximately 150 meters. The second set of linked ruts parallel this first course, but lie to the south of the first group. These ruts, numbers 3 and 4, track approximately 160 meters along a southeast-northwest and westward trend, respectively. The two ruts diverge from each other approximately 20 meters from where they become discernable on the far southeast corner of the site.

The environmental context of the site is excellent. Although this is a developed park it features native prairie plant species which provide an excellent backdrop to the preserved rutted segments. Integrity of location and setting are correspondingly high and the tangible sense of feeling and association is retained.

Endnotes

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Santa Fe Trail (Douglas County Trail Segments) site is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as a reflection of the historically significant Trail traffic, and meets the Criterion within the areas of Commerce, Transportation, and Military. The property fulfills the requirements of the Historic Trail property type within section F of the Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880 Multiple Property Documentation form. The Trail segments represent a tangible reminder of Santa Fe Trail traffic from 1821 through the end of the Civil War. Positioned between Ft. Leavenworth and the Narrows, these ruts evidence the passage of military and civilian wagons before the advent of the railroad. The ruts retain integrity in location, setting, feeling, and association and bear witness to the Trail’s importance in trans-Mississippi transport in the antebellum and Civil War periods. Thus, they materially reflect important historic events outlined in the historic contexts: International Trade on the Mexican Road: 1821-1846; Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail: 1846-1848; Expanding National Trade on the Santa Fe Trail: 1848-1865; and The Effects of the Civil War on the Santa Fe Trail: 1861-1865. Few rutted segments in the region vie with the environmental quality and high preservation values of these ruts.¹

This section of the Santa Fe Trail was used from its earliest days, its pathway first established for trade by the first trade caravans of 1821-1822. In 1825, Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri successfully steered through congressional legislation to initiate a survey of the Santa Fe Trail. Correspondingly, in the summer of that year the Trail was surveyed under the first United States government sponsored survey under the command of Commissioner George C. Sibley. The execution of this survey is tangibly reflected in the markers found on this site. The markers are tied to the development of the Trail as an important international commercial trade route in the trans-Mississippi West. These rutted segments also function as part of the military road of conquest during the Mexican War of 1846, the military freight road of the period between 1846 - c. 1860s, and, later, as a part of the vital mail and passenger stage coach route established to Santa Fe. The advent of the railroads in the late 1860s brought this section of the Trail to a close after the Civil War.

These rutted segments reflect a part of the nationally significant Santa Fe Trail commercial traffic between 1821-1846.

The Trail was militarily significant on the national level through the early stages of the American conquest of the Southwest in the Mexican War. General S.W. Kearny’s Army of the West and other American forces used this route in the war. It served as an important part of the vital logistical and communication link between the American forces and nation. After the conquest of the Southwest, this part of the Trail became a part of the military, commercial, and transportation traffic corridor which linked this region to the United States. The Trail in this area continued to shunt vitally important commercial and logistical
traffic to the newly acquired territories of the West. During the Civil War and military campaigns against the American Indians, the Trail fulfilled its role in funneling goods to New Mexico Territory.

The end of the Civil War saw this portion of the Trail lose significance as a regional road; the advent of the railroad in the 1860s brought this section of the Trail to a close.

Endnotes

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

Santa Fe Trail (Douglas Co. Trail Segments); KS;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 9  

Bibliography  


Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Santa Fe Trail (Douglas County Trail Segments) are restricted to the ruts themselves and a small amount of adjoining acreage to retain setting. Starting at the point of intersection of the eastern edge of the county road and the southern edge of the intermittent stream, twenty meters south of the intersection of the county road and U.S. Highway 56, proceed south along the eastern edge of the county road for 200 meters. Continue the boundary east for 180 meters until the western edge of the intermittent stream channel is reached. Follow the western edge of the intermittent stream channel north, west, and northwest to return to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass a six and one-half acre parcel of land. This parcel incorporates only the rutted segments and their immediate environs. The boundaries were formed to only encompass the historically-significant Trail resources. The boundaries here are influenced by local park development; fortunately, the Trail remains here are incorporated into a prairie reserve which has high preservation values. The points and distances in the description are approximations based on the U.S.G.S Baldwin City (KS) 7.5' quadrangle and were formulated to purposefully exclude incompatible physical and visual intrusions on the site. However, there are no true integrity compromising intrusions along the Trail rut corridor. The natural feature identified as the western edge of an intermittent stream functions as the eastern and northern boundaries of this site. The use of the eastern margin of the county road as a boundary, contained within this nomination, presupposes the exclusion of the road’s current publicly-designated rights-of-way. The southern boundary was designated on the basis of the location of the site’s historic Trail resources.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Douglas Co. Trail Segments); KS;
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880
Section number 7

Page 7
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Douglas Co. Trail Segments); KS;
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880
Section number __11__

Form Prepared By

For The URBANA Group:

    Hugh Davidson/Special Consultant
    Technical Writer

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    Editing; Mapping

    Alice Edwards/Vice President/Preservation Planner
    Editing

Archaeological Survey, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Colleen Hamilton and Brad Mueller/Historic Archaeologists
Field Work