

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

27 1995

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000322

Date Listed: 4/21/94

Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe Trail Park

Independence Trail Segments

Property Name

Jackson

County

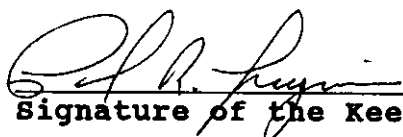
MO

State

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

11/2/94
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification:

The proper category for this property is Site.
[A continuous site is best categorized as a single unit regardless of its size or complexity. This has been the approach taken with other historic trail segments.]

This information has been confirmed with the MO SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Santa Fe Trail (Santa Fe Trail Park, Independence Trail Segments)

other names/site number Santa Fe Trail Park Ruts/NPS Master Plan #30

2. Location

street & number Santa Fe Road [n/a] not for publication

city or town Independence [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64055

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

Claire F. Blackwell 3 March 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell, Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

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 certifying 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
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date _____

Santa Fe Trail
(Santa Fe Trail Park...)
Name of Property

Jackson Co., MO
County/State

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail
Multiple Property Submission

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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

0	0	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

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

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

COMMERCE/trade

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

RECREATION AND CULTURE/

outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

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

Santa Fe Trail
(Santa Fe Trail Park...)
Name of Property

Jackson Co., MO
County/State

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail
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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 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 Bibliographic 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)

Transportation

Commerce

Periods of Significance

1821 - 1865

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☒ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository:

National Park Service Regional Office--
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe Trail
(Santa Fe Trail Park...)
Name of Property

Jackson Co., MO
County/State

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail
Multiple Property Submission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

15 376610 4324990
A. Zone Easting Northing

15 376710 4324940
B. Zone Easting Northing

15 376740 4324760
C. Zone Easting Northing

15 376560 4324700
D. Zone Easting Northing
[X] 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 See Continuation Sheet, section 11

organization The URBANA Group date May 1993

street & number 202 South Broadway, Suite 206, P.O. Box 1028 telephone (217) 344-7526

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.

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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880**

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Narrative Description

The Santa Fe Trail (Santa Fe Trail Park, Independence Trail Segments) site is located in a narrow field between Santa Fe Road and 29th Street in Santa Fe Park in Independence, Missouri. The site has three contributing resources in the form of rutted Trail segments. The ruins of a spring house included in this site have not been allocated contributing/noncontributing status since its relationship to the Santa Fe Trail is unclear in the absence of further systematic study. The end goals associated with the soccer field are temporary in nature and are not of sufficient size to count. The ruts at this site are oriented in a northeast-southwest direction across the site. Three sets of ruts have been identified at this site southwest of a possible stream crossing. The current ruts are visible as a swale and retain their integrity in this park-like setting.

Natural features play an important role in terms of setting and identification of the site. To the north of the site, an intermittent stream system exists with tree-lined stream banks. A possible caravan stream crossing is suggested where the ruts exit the site to the north. Trees line the main Trail artery to the west and may have played a role in the creation of the secondary ruts on this site as travelers sought to avoid the trees. The gently sloping terrain was favorable for wagon movement. Subsequent man-made features have encroached on the site's physical setting. Park roads to the south and east bound the site, while the rear of residential lots facing Santa Fe Road define the western margin of the site.

The ruts are visible as a swale extending northeast to southwest across the site from the creek crossing in the north where they enter the site. The main Trail artery diverges into three sets of ruts. The first divergence is approximately 90 meters southwest of the stream crossing, where a rutted segment cuts off to the southeast and continues approximately 150 meters to the park road. The second divergence is located approximately 95 meters beyond the first; the diverging rut trends to the south, then runs parallel to the continuing rutted segment, with these two about 20 meters apart. Both these ruts extend approximately 120 meters beyond the point where they split, until they end at the park road. Perhaps the three paths are in response to the nature of the surrounding terrain and vegetation. It is discernible even today that the ruts avoid the mounded area and the trees on the site with the exception of the current tree-lined stream banks. These ruts have been identified on the basis of documentary and existing physical evidence.

Included within the boundaries of this nomination is foundation and artifact evidence identified by Craig Sturdevant in a 1991 report, Cultural Resource Investigations, Phase I Archaeology Survey; Selected Areas in the City of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri.¹ A spring house constructed of limestone mortared with portland cement was identified. It appears likely that the structure had a tar roof as traces of tar pits remain on the top stones. There is a

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pedestrian entrance on the south elevation of the building and a stream entrance on the eastern elevation. It is unclear at the present time whether this structure was related to Santa Fe Trail activity, however, Sturdevant suggests that "The site represents a segment of the Santa Fe Trail associated with a possible farmstead site and spring. The trail splits, going either side of the no longer extant structure(s)" with the east segment passing above the spring.² The stream, trees, and foundation remains serve to preserve the historical setting of the ruts.

Since the physical characteristics of land, natural features, and vegetation play a dominant role in the assessment of the site's integrity, the seven qualities of integrity called for in the National Register criteria are applied to the site in a special way similar to their application to rural landscapes.³ In terms of location, the low-lying, gently sloping terrain allowed ease of wagon movement while the creek crossing may have prevented a much more difficult river crossing farther along the Trail. High water levels in rivers were responsible for delaying the wagon trains for up to two or three weeks. The Big Blue River, west of Independence, posed a serious obstacle to travel so necessary steps were taken by skilled and experienced wagon drivers to avoid it.⁴ With respect to design, the spatial organization of the ruts are the end result of a conscious or unconscious decision to avoid inhospitable terrain for wagon movement. It appears that decisions were made to avoid trees and a mound on the site and to cross the intermittent stream on the northern boundary of the site at the most accessible point. Minor stream erosion and overgrown vegetation have affected the development of the site's historic resources especially near the stream bank and stream slope. Field investigation demonstrates that disturbance has taken place along the north side of Park Road which traverses the ruts and defines the southern boundary of this site. The site possesses a park setting as does much of the surrounding area with the exception of the eastern margin of the site which is determined by the rear of residential lots. The current physical landscape appears characteristic of that during the site's period of significance.

The park setting in which these ruts are found and the apparent lack of cultivation on the site may have been responsible for the retention of the extant remains. The qualities of feeling and association are present when the physical remains are viewed in light of the historic events and the physical and cultural processes that produced them. The visual integrity of the site appears to have been maintained with only the residential structures composing the eastern boundary of the site encroaching on the site's visual setting. A potential threat is the continued use of a portion of the site as a soccer field intersecting the remains of one of the rutted segments.

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Endnotes

1. Craig Sturdevant, Cultural Resource Investigations, Phase I Archaeology Survey: Selected Areas in the City of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri (Jefferson City: Environmental Research Center of Missouri, Inc., 1991), pp. 35-36.
2. Ibid., p. 35.
3. United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990), pp. 22-23.
4. Henry Pickering Walker, The Wagonmasters: High Plains Freighting from the Earliest Days of the Santa Fe Trail to 1880 (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966), p. 53.

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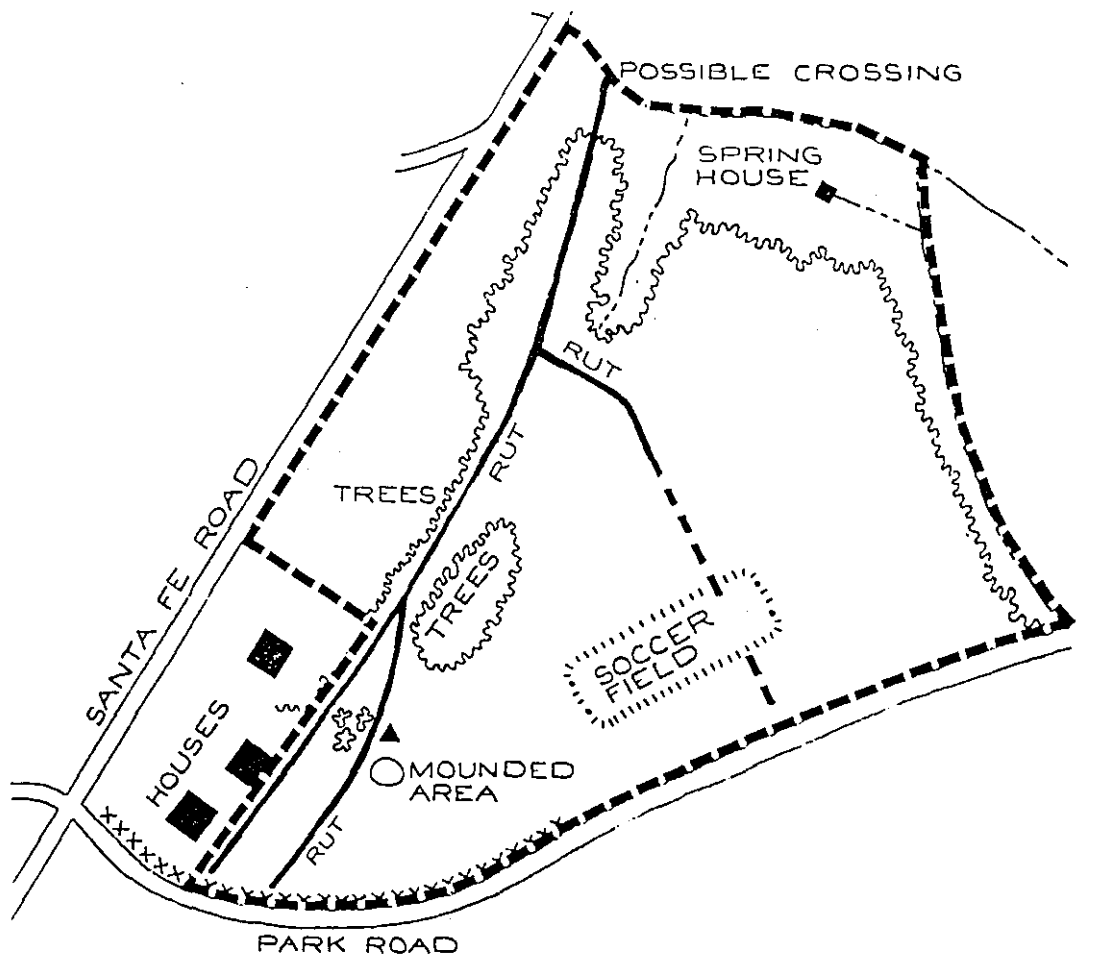
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Sketch Map



KEY

- SITE BOUNDARY
- ▲ DATUM
- XXX DISTURBED AREA
- ✱ TREE
- • GOAL POSTS
- ~ ~ ~ INTERMITTENT STREAM

SCALE

0 25 METERS

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Santa Fe Trail (Santa Fe Trail Park, Independence Trail Segments) site is eligible to the National Register under Criterion A as a reflection of historically-significant Trail activity. The ruts are eligible within the areas of significance for commerce and transportation, and fall into the Historic Trail property type and Commercial Trail sub-type as detailed in Section F of the Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880 Multiple Property Documentation form. The site's period of significance extends from 1821 to 1865. Caravans loaded with goods and traders bound for markets in Santa Fe left Independence's Courthouse Square and passed through this park heading in a southwesterly direction and, perhaps, camped in the vicinity.¹ This segment of the Trail was in use shortly after the establishment of the Santa Fe Trail as a highway of commerce until its decline as a corridor of overland travel with the emergence of the railroad. The ruts materially reflect important historic events outlined in the historic contexts: International Trade on the Mexican Road, 1821-1846; The Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-48; and Expanding National Trade on the Santa Fe Trail, 1848-1865.

History

While Becknell may not have traversed this portion of the route on his first trip, the success of his trading venture provided the impetus for other traders and travelers to seek a route to Santa Fe. Independence was identified as the eastern terminus of the Trail in 1827.² The importance of this section of the Trail is further emphasized later by the designation of the route from Independence to Santa Fe via Bent's Fort as a postal route by Congress in 1847³ and the establishment of that mail service in 1850.⁴ The coming of the railroad in 1865 witnessed the decrease in usage of this portion of the Trail although it made have operated as an important feeder Trail for goods and travelers until much later.

This portion of the Trail was used by those caravans that departed the Courthouse Square in Independence and headed in a southwesterly direction for Santa Fe. Many of the early Santa Fe traders would have passed through Independence especially after 1827 when it became the eastern terminus of the Trail. Mary Dodson Donoho is believed to be the first Anglo-American woman to arrive in Santa Fe and she, along with her husband William and her daughter Mary Ann, traveled one hundred miles from Columbia, Missouri to Independence in 1833 to join the Santa Fe caravan.⁵ Another notable individual who probably traversed this portion of the Trail was Susan Shelby Magoffin who composed part of the wagon train led by Jacob Hall which left Independence in June 1846.⁶

The emergence of Westport in 1833 as a competing eastern Trail terminus redirected some of the Trail traffic to this destination farther upstream on the Missouri River.⁷ As the eastern

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terminus of the Trail during the period of expanding international trade, Independence ranked second only to Santa Fe in terms of significance as a Santa Fe Trail site.⁸ The development and improvement in steam navigation in the early nineteenth century boosted Independence's supremacy as the eastern terminus of the Trail.⁹ Independence was an important site on the Santa Fe Trail for large traders and small traders alike. The large traders used Independence as a collection point for goods they had purchased at locations farther east including New York, Philadelphia, and even Europe while the smaller operators often purchased their entire trading and transportation requirement in town.¹⁰

Independence remained the principal out-fitting post for the Santa Fe trade as well as the Oregon Trail until the mid-1840s.¹¹ In 1844, the old steamboat landing--important to the importation of goods for Santa Fe--was swept into the Missouri River. The advantage of access to river transportation that Independence possessed soon passed to Westport. Independence became increasingly cut-off from the main Trail artery as the land surrounding Independence became enclosed into farms.¹² This rutted segment of the Trail acquired an important mail transportation function with the allocation of a postal contract to Waldo, Hall and Company of Independence in 1850¹³ and subsequent Independence-based contractors. "The first vehicular transportation of the United States mail across the Great Plains under a congressionally authorized, four-year contract was an event of national significance. But like that of many similar developments, its importance was realized mainly in retrospection."¹⁴ Bertram Spratt was in charge of the first mail stage between Independence and Santa Fe.¹⁵ The semi-monthly mail service between Independence and Santa Fe in 1858 was refined to a daily service in the early 1860s.¹⁶

While more substantial material remains of rutted Trail segments exist farther west, the Santa Fe Trail Park Ruts are a significant reminder of the contribution of Independence to the Santa Fe Trail and the trade it supported. The rutted remains of some portions of the Trail farther west has left a more visible, physical impression on the landscape than those in Independence. However, western portions of the Trail experienced more travel, operated for a longer period of time, and also experienced military traffic. The Santa Fe Trail Park Ruts are indicative of the early stages of the Santa Fe Trail during its operation as an international and, to a lesser extent, as a national highway of commerce and transportation. The Santa Fe Trail Park ruts are a tangible reminder of the significant commerce and transportation activities which occurred on the Santa Fe Trail. Of forty-eight Missouri properties identified by the National Park Service as being associated with the Santa Fe Trail, seven contain rutted segments.

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Endnotes

1. Marc Simmons, Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers, 2nd ed. (Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1986), p. 45.
2. Otis E. Young, "Military Protection of the Santa Fe Trail and Trade," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 49, No.1, October 1954, p. 20.
3. William E. Brown, The Santa Fe Trail: National Park Service 1963 Historic Sites Survey (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1990), p. 56.
4. Ralph P. Bieber, "Some Aspects of the Santa Fe Trail: 1848-1880," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 18, No. 2, January 1924, p. 165.
5. Marian Meyer, Mary Donoho: New First Lady of the Santa Fe Trail (Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1991), p. 28.
6. Morris F. Taylor, First Mail West: Stagecoach Lines on the Santa Fe Trail (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1971), p. 39.
7. Young, p. 20.
8. Brown, p. 82.
9. Joan Myers and Marc Simmons, Along the Santa Fe Trail (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1986), p. 23.
10. Brown, p. 82.
11. Ibid.
12. Dean E. Wood, The Old Santa Fe Trail From the Missouri River (Kansas City: E.L. Mendenhall, Inc., 1955), p. 199.
13. Bieber, p. 165.
14. Taylor, p. 1.
15. Ibid., p. 30.
16. Leo E. Oliva, Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), pp. 21-22.

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Bibliography

- Bieber, Ralph P. "Some Aspects of the Santa Fe Trail: 1848-1880." Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 18, No. 2, January 1924, pp. 158-166.
- Brown, William E. The Santa Fe Trail: National Park Service 1963 Historic Sites Survey. St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1990.
- Meyer, Marian. Mary Donoho: New First Lady of the Santa Fe Trail. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1991.
- Myers, Joan, and Simmons, Marc. Along the Santa Fe Trail. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1986.
- Oliva, Leo E. Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967.
- Simmons, Marc. Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers. 2nd ed. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1986.
- Sturdevant, Craig. Cultural Resource Investigations, Phase I Archaeology Survey: Selected Areas in the City of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. Jefferson City: Environmental Research Center of Missouri, Inc., 1991.
- Taylor, Morris F. First Mail West: Stagecoach Lines on the Santa Fe Trail. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1971.
- United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service. National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990.
- Walker, Henry Pickering. The Wagonmasters: High Plains Freightage from the Earliest Days of the Santa Fe Trail to 1880. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966.
- Wood, Dean E. The Old Santa Fe Trail From the Missouri River. Kansas City: E.L. Mendenhall, Inc., 1955.
- Young, Otis E. "Military Protection of the Santa Fe Trail and Trade." Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 49, No. 1, October 1954, pp. 19-32.

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UTM References

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
E.	15	376480	4324700
F.	15	376540	4324780
G.	15	376480	4324810

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at the southeast corner of the rear lot of the property facing Santa Fe Road at the park road (southern entrance road), proceed northeast along the rear lot lines of properties facing Santa Fe Road to the northeast lot line of the third house north of the park road. Follow this lot line northwest to the edge of Santa Fe Road. Turn northeast and continue the boundary along the edge of Santa Fe Road to the north side of the intermittent stream. Proceed southeasterly along the north bank of the intermittent stream, to a point 100.5 meters southeast, where the intermittent stream branches off south. Proceed south along the eastern bank of the south branch of the intermittent stream to a point 150 meters southeast, where the stream meets the park road. Proceed southwesterly along the north edge of the park road to the point of origin. The use of the road margin as a boundary, contained within this nomination, presupposes the exclusion of the road's current publicly-designated rights-of-way.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Santa Fe Trail Ruts are determined by both natural and man-made features of the surrounding landscape. The site is bounded to the north and east by an intermittent stream. The southern part of the boundary is a park road, while the western margin of the site is identified by the rear lot line of properties facing Santa Fe Road and the eastern margin of the road itself.

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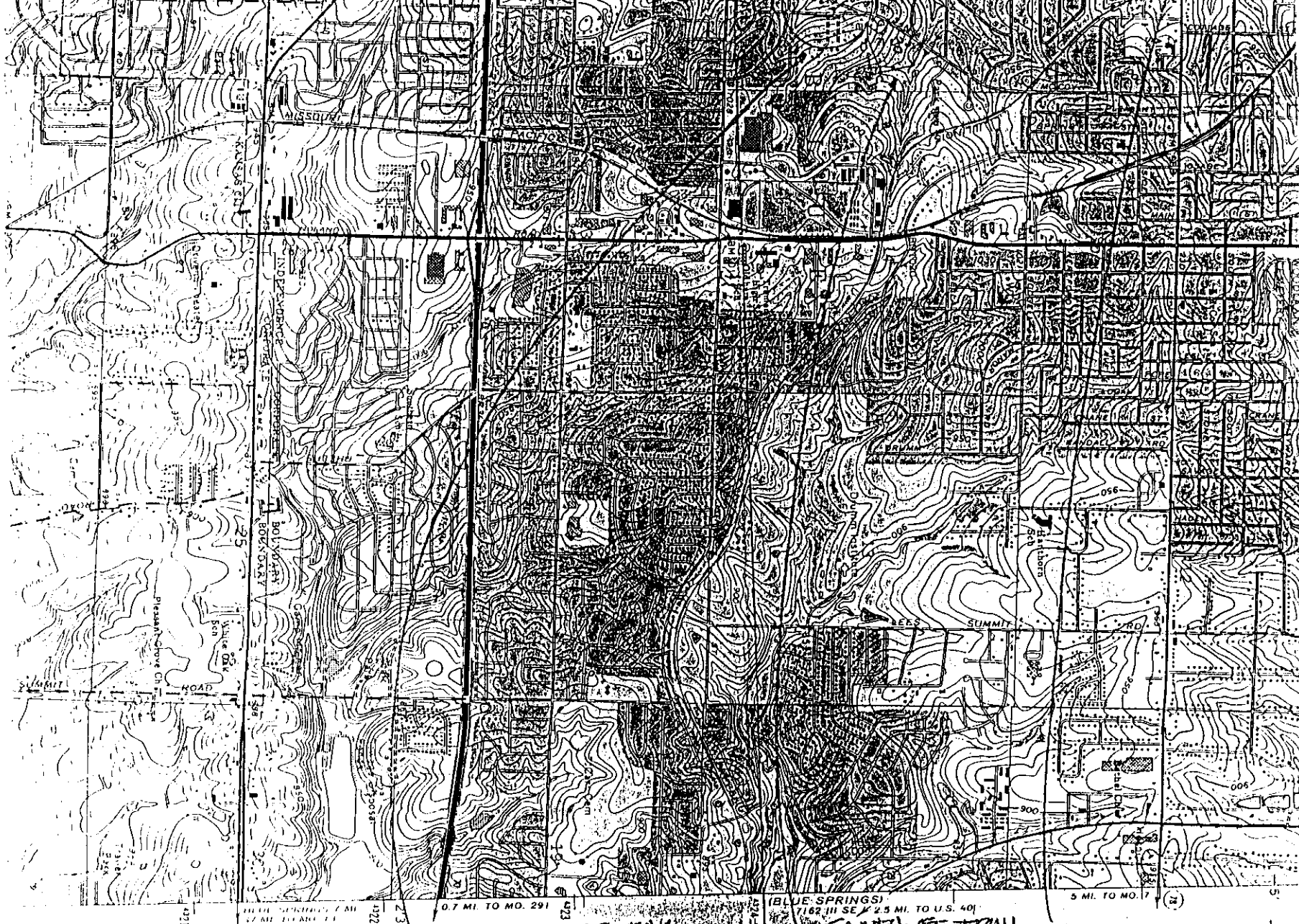
Form Prepared By

For The URBANA Group:

Joseph Gallagher/Cultural Geographer
Writer

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

Alice Edwards/Vice-President
Editor



31- SANTA FE TRAIL
 (SANTA FE ROAD
 INDEPENDENCE SEGMENTS)
 15-376360-4324500

30- (SANTA FE TRAIL
 INDEPENDENCE SEGMENTS)
 A 15-376610-4324990
 B 15-376710-4324940
 C 15-376740-4324760
 D 15-376560-4324700
 E 15-376480-4324700
 F 15-376540-4324780

23- Noland, Smallwood V.,
 1024 South Forest
 Independence, MO
 15-375700-4326

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Santa Fe Trail – Santa Fe Trail Park – Independence Trail Segment**

City or Vicinity: **Independence**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **C. Hamilton**

Date

Photographed: **June 1991**

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

- 1 of 3. Looking NW at rutted segments.
- 2 of 3. Looking NE at rutted segments.
- 3 of 3. Looking SW at spring house ruins on site.





