



## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society  
6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka KS 66615-1099  
785-272-8681 • kshs.org

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

### Contacts

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org  
Lisa Hecker • 785-272-8681, ext. 263 • lhecker@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 29, 2013

### **Santa Fe Trail Properties Added to National Register of Historic Places**

TOPEKA, KS—The Kansas Historical Society announced that six properties related to the Santa Fe Trail in Marion and Morton counties are the newest Kansas listings in the National Register of Historic Places. These listings were entered into the National Register on April 3. This brings the total number of Kansas listings in the National Register to 1,310.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historically significant properties. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Eligible properties must be significant for one or more of the four criteria for evaluation. Properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. They can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Distinctive construction can qualify properties for the National Register if they embody the characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Lastly, properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. The National Register recognizes properties of local, statewide, and national significance.

#### ***Santa Fe Trail Project - Background***

The National Trails System of the National Park Service partnered with the Kansas Historical Society to document historic resources along the historic Santa Fe Trail in the state. These resources include, among other things, trail segments, campsites, and crossings. The documentation and evaluation of these places helped determine potential eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail* multiple property nomination, which was originally drafted and approved in 1994 and was amended by KSHS staff and approved in 2013. Thirty nominations of properties along the Santa Fe Trail were prepared as part of this project, which was led by KSHS Survey Coordinator Amanda Loughlin. The nominations described below are the first to be approved by the National Park Service as part of this project.

### ***Santa Fe Trail History***

The 1200-mile Santa Fe Trail network, including both the Cimarron and Mountain routes, traverses 36 counties in five states: four in Missouri, 22 in Kansas, one in Oklahoma, four in Colorado, and five in New Mexico. This transportation route between the Missouri River and the Rio Grande was a highway for travel and communication and was the first great Euro-American land trade route. It was the first major road network to be surveyed west of Missouri, and as such, it was a template for future road development. The Santa Fe Trail differed from the Oregon, California, Mormon, and other trails which served as highways for emigrants bound for new homes in the far West. The bulk of traffic along the Santa Fe Trail, especially prior to 1846, consisted of civilian traders – Hispanic and American – with some military traffic and few emigrants.

Below are summaries of the listings:

### ***French Frank's Santa Fe Trail Segment*** – Marion County

French Frank's Santa Fe Trail Segment is located in Marion County. The property was the location of a ranch established in 1861 by French immigrants Claude Francis (French Frank) Laloge and Peter Martin. Laloge and Martin most likely chose their location because of its proximity to other French-speaking settlers. The known list of provisions Laloge purchased and his previous experience as a cook at a station along the trail support the idea that French Frank's Ranch offered meals and small provisions to trail travelers. The ranch likely ceased operation in 1866 when trail traffic shifted away from this area of Marion County. Today at least six swales are visible, following a northeast-southwest route that connected the Cottonwood Creek Crossing and the Little Arkansas River crossings along the main route of the Santa Fe Trail. In addition to the swales, the nominated property includes the "Cottonwood Holes" – a natural amenity noted in trail-era accounts, the site of a former trail-period ranch, and a 1907 commemorative marker erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. It was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in the areas of transportation, commerce, and social history, and it has the potential to yield additional important information related to trail ranches.

### ***Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segments 1-5*** – Morton County

Five segments of the Santa Fe Trail in the Cimarron National Grassland were nominated to the National Register. Travel over this portion of the trail began in 1822 and ended with the arrival of the railroad at the short-lived town of Sheridan, Kansas in 1868. These trail segments are closely related to nearby Point of Rocks and Middle Spring, which was the next reliable water source west of the Lower Cimarron (or Wagon Bed) Spring. Documented trail segments in western Kansas and in the Cimarron National Grassland have confirmed the pattern of traffic in this region that historically tended to follow the four-parallel-column formation. The nominated segments include trail swales and two commemorative markers erected in 1907 and 1914 by the Daughters of the American Revolution. These segments were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for their significance in the areas of transportation, commerce, and social history, and they have the potential to yield additional information on the use of the trail during its initial period of significance.

**Related Internet Links:**

National Register of Historic Places: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/>

Nominations are available on the Kansas Historical Society website: [kshs.org/14638](http://kshs.org/14638)

The *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail* multiple property documentation form: [kshs.org/14634](http://kshs.org/14634)

**Connect with us!**

Our website: [kshs.org](http://kshs.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/kshhistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/kshhistoricalsociety)

Twitter: [twitter.com/kansashistory](https://twitter.com/kansashistory)

YouTube: [youtube.com/kansashistorical](https://www.youtube.com/kansashistorical), [youtube.com/kansasmemory](https://www.youtube.com/kansasmemory)

Flickr: [flickr.com/kansashistorical](https://www.flickr.com/kansashistorical)

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/kansashistory](https://www.pinterest.com/kansashistory)