UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONDITION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site is located near the headwaters of the east branch of Bear creek north of the present day town of Ashland, Kansas. Its historic location was along the road from Fort Dodge, Kansas, to Camp Supply, Indian Territory.

The redoubt was situated adjacent to the creek, on the east bank, at the edge of a broad expanse of elevated table land. The builder, Captain Richard T. Jacob, described it as follows:

"The redoubt which we built was about fifty feet square. The interior wall was built of burlap bags, filled with earth. Loose earth was filled against this wall on the outside, sloping down to a trench which was about fifteen feet wide. The wall or embankment was about ten feet thick at the base. Bastions were built at diagonally opposite corners. There was a stable for the mules on the inside of the enclosure, built against the wall on the western side. On the eastern side there was a living room and kitchen for the men. Both of these structures were of "hackall" or stockade, the earthen embankment forming one wall of each. The roofs were covered with earth and were a foot or two lower than the walls, so that they could be occupied for defensive purposes in case of an attack. A well was dug on a high creek bank, or second bottom, and the (sic) outside of the enclosure, near the gate, which was at the northeast corner." (Jacob 1924:31).

Five major features are visible at the site. The remains of the redoubt are visible as a square depression enclosed by walls as much as three feet high. This in turn is enclosed by a continuous ditch clearly visible on three sides. North of the redoubt is an enigmatic circular feature with a raised interior about thirty feet in diameter surrounded by a depression ten feet wide. Northeast of the circular feature is a stone lined well and northwest of the well is the foundation of another structure. West of these features are midden areas containing faunal refuse, metal and glass fragments and leather scraps. Most of these features belong to the military occupation of the site though some may be associated with a later civilian occupation.

The area in which the site is located is presently being used as grazing land. Although some minor erosion is present along the creek channel, the features are otherwise undisturbed and well preserved.

PERIOD	AF	IEAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bear Creek Redoubt was constructed in the fall of 1870 in conjunction with one similar in design near the Cimarron river to the south in order to provide protection and a convenient resting place for military mail coaches and freight wagons travelling the road between Fort Dodge and Camp Supply. Bear Creek Redoubt is mentioned in post returns from Camp Supply through the fall of the year 1871. It is next mentioned in historic accounts as a post office in the listing of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture Reports for the year 1876. It continued to be listed as a post office until 1878. A newspaper account of the establishment of a Catholic monastery farm in northern Clark county in 1876 mentioned the abandoned redoubt.

Bear Creek Redoubt and its companion Cimarron Redoubt came into existence as a military response to meet a specific threat to military communications. A similar situation occurred at various times along the frontier of 19th century Kansas, each precipitated by the increasing tempo of small scale attacks on the white population, both civilian and military, by the various Plains Indian tribes. Forts or camps were created where necessary, often by digging dugouts in suitable terrain; however, no other redoubts of sandbag construction are known for the state.

Bear Creek Redoubt has importance as the visible expression of a series of documented events occurring in the last century and as a unique type of military structure. Its excellent state of preservation and its relative inaccessibility should assure that its features will be preserved for an indefinite period of time.

MAJOR BIBLIOGI I IICAL REFERENCES

"Benedictine Monastery Farm on Mont Cassino in 1876 Leaves Record of Brothers Plan for Settlement Here," <u>Clark County Clipper</u>, June 29, 1939.

Jacob, Richard T., "Frontier Army Life in Oklahoma, Military Reminiscenses of Captain Richard T. Jacob," <u>Chronicles of Oklahoma</u>, Vol. II, No. 1, (1924).

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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Bear Creek Redoubt

CONTINUATION SHEET

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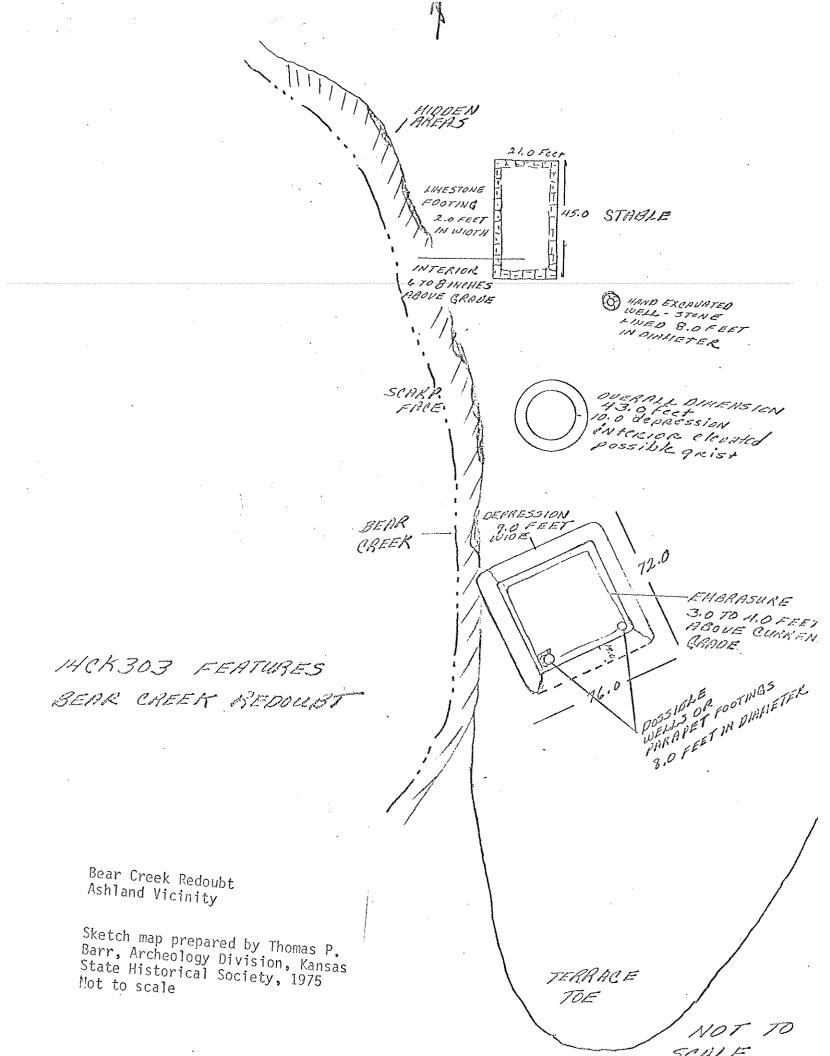
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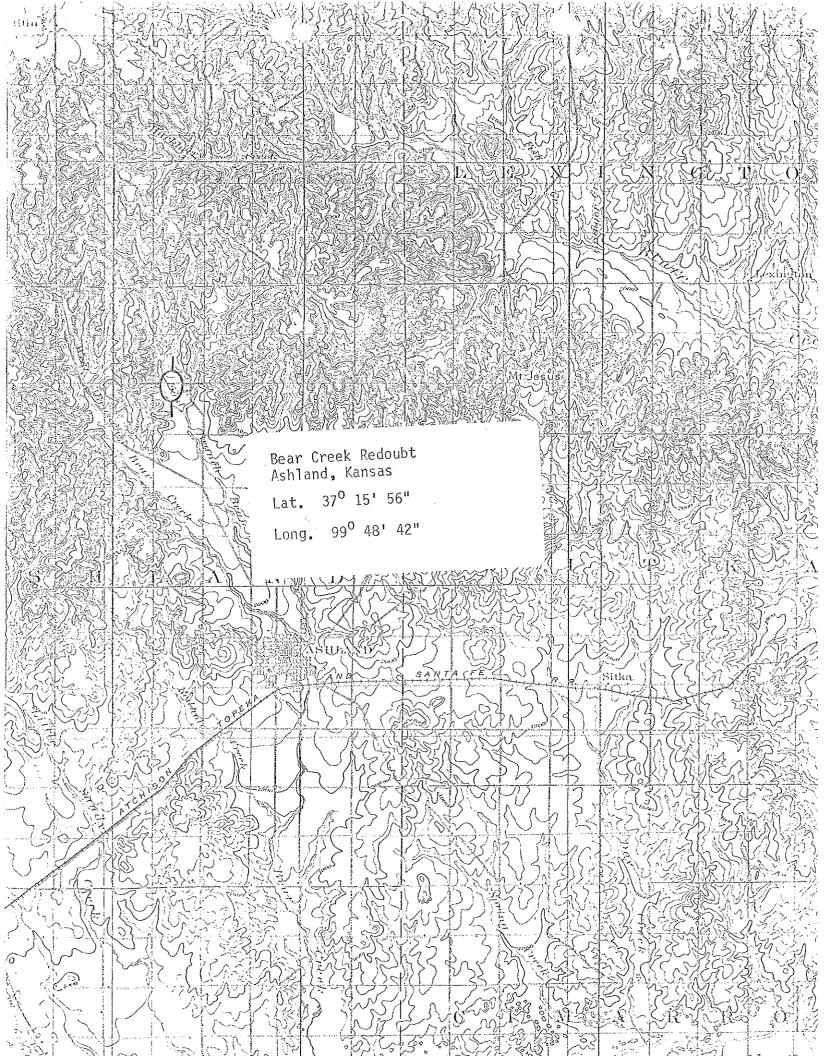
"A Missionary Trip Through Southern Kansas in 1876," <u>Clark County Clipper</u>, May 13, 1940.

"Pioneer Post Offices," Clark County Clipper, September 1, 1939.

Reports of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1876-1877, 1881-1882, 1885-1886.

Roll 1243, Fort Supply, Oklahoma, November 1868-December 1879. Returns From U.S. Military Posts 1800-1916, Microcopy 617, National Archives, Washington D.C.





Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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BEAR CREEK REDOUBT

The area encompassed by the site designation includes the visible above ground remains of the redoubt. This is a square enclosure approximately 75 feet on a side composed of low rounded walls three to four feet above the present ground surface. The western boundary of the site is defined by the bluff edge overlooking Bear creek. The south and east boundaries are measured to a point 300 feet from the centerline of the enclosure while the northern boundary is measured to a point 400 feet beyond the centerline.