

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 1
 Keith Sebelius
 Form 10-300
 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Barton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Walnut Creek Crossing (preferred name--see continuation sheet)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Allison's Ranch OR Fort Zarah

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
see continuation sheet

CITY OR TOWN:
Great Bend vicinity

STATE Kansas	CODE 67530	COUNTY: Barton	CODE 009
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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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input 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:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:
(see continuation sheet)

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Barton County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Great Bend Kansas 67530 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Records destroyed. A guidebook, Kansas, was published

STREET AND NUMBER:
1939.

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

809-0000-03

STATE: Kansas
 COUNTY: Barton
 ENTRY NUMBER
 DATE

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barry, Louise, "The Ranch at Walnut Creek Crossing," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 37, no. 2 (Summer, 1971), pp. 121-147.
 Bradley, Glen D., "Famous Landmarks along the Trail--Fort Zarah," Santa Fe Employees' Magazine, February, 1912, pp. 65-67.
 Hunnius Collection. Kansas State Historical Society Manuscripts Division.
 Midgorden, J. Scott, "Some Additional Information on the Trading House at the Walnut Crossing," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, v. 16, no. 4 (December, 1970), pp. 2-6.
 Peck, Robert M., "Recollections of Early Time in Kansas Territory," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 8 (1903-1904), p. 489.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 21' 35"	98° 42' 13"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 21' 35"	98° 41' 54"				
SE	38° 21' 21"	98° 41' 54"				
SW	38° 21' 21"	98° 42' 13"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas A. Witty, Jr., State Archeologist
 Richard D. Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: December 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller

Title: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: December 14, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Western settlement</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" 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			
<p>The Walnut Creek Crossing on the Santa Fe trail was located in Barton county about one mile west of the confluence of the creek with the Arkansas river. A trading post for travelers and Indians was established at that point on the trail in the summer of 1855 by two experienced plainsmen, William Allison and Francis Boothe, who erected a small building, probably of logs, on the north side of the creek. Allison's Ranch, as it was known, maintained only a small supply of goods, and the owners did not engage in stock raising or agricultural pursuits. One of their common practices was trading for lame or worn-out animals and reselling them at a substantial profit after they had rested or healed; the major winter activity at the ranch was wolf killing for hides. A post office was established at the ranch in December, 1856, with William Allison as post master, but it was discontinued in November, 1857.</p> <p>Boothe was murdered by a Mexican at Walnut Creek in September, 1857, and Allison died of heart failure on April 19, 1859, while on a business trip to Independence, Missouri. George H. Peacock, an experienced trader, became the next proprietor of the post, but he was murdered on September 9, 1860, by a Kiowa Indian chief, Satank, over a personal grievance. Within several weeks Charles Rath, who had other trading posts along the Santa Fe trail, was claiming ownership of the Walnut Creek trading post. In the spring of 1863 he and four other men formed the Walnut Creek Bridge Company and erected a toll bridge across the creek near the post. By that time the original ranch building had badly deteriorated and some time between 1865 and 1867 Rath built a larger sandstone building to replace it.</p> <p>In June, 1864, a small outpost named Fort Zarah was established by the Army near Rath's Ranch to provide protection for travelers on the trail. The fort buildings were one-story stone and adobe structure and a stone "round" (hexagonal) tower or blockhouse. In September, 1868, Pres. Andrew Johnson established Fort Zarah Military Reservation consisting of 3,698 acres. The first fort buildings, which were south of the reservation, were used until some time in 1868 when the buildings of the new fort approximately one mile northwest of the first site were ready for occupancy. Fort Zarah was deactivated in 1869 and the buildings were torn down completely in 1871 and 1872.</p>			

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Located about two miles east of Great Bend and situated between US-56 and the Arkansas river is an approximately 50-acre area upon which can be found evidence of buildings and structures associated with the Walnut Creek Crossing of the Santa Fe trail and the first Fort Zarah. This portion of land now is made up of one farmstead and parts of several cultivated fields. It is traversed by Walnut creek about one mile upstream from where the Walnut flows into the Arkansas river.

The remains of a stone building which is believed to be the trading post erected by Charles Rath in the mid-1860's were excavated archeologically in 1969 in what was a corral of the farmstead. That structure had been some 80 by 20 feet in size and partially or completely built of native sandstone. This location is near the northeast corner of the area being nominated and is just north and west of a bend in the Walnut in the northwest quarter of section 31. Located in a field west of the farmstead approximately 150 yards west of the section line road is a low mound some 60 feet in diameter upon which are found sandstone fragments and glass sherds. This is most likely the site of the main building of the first Fort Zarah. Further south in the same section and just north of the creek is another mound where sandstone debris was noted on the surface. This second mound is approximately 15 feet in diameter. Both the size and location are consistent with descriptions of the hexagonal or "Round" house erected at the early fort. Also located along the north edge of the creek bank in a number of places are depressions interpreted as sites of the dugouts occupied by the military personnel prior to the completion of the fort buildings.

In the cultivated field south of the creek opposite the approximate crossing in section 36 are one specific area and another wide general location where a relatively large amount of surface detritus has been collected, including glass, bottle sherds, bullets, cartridge casings, and nails. These spots suggest the past presence of structures identified with the express and stage station.

Also on the south bank of the creek are places where it appears that the banks have been graded to facilitate fording.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) No. 1

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Barton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

1. Walnut Creek Crossing is believed to be the most suitable name for the area being nominated since both Allison's Ranch and Fort Zarah can be included under this name.

2. E 1/2 of NE 1/4, Sec. 36, T 19 S, R 13 W and W 1/2 of NW 1/4, Sec. 31, T 19 S, R 12 W.

4. E 1/2 of NE 1/4, Sec. 36, T 19 S, R 13 W -- Warren A. Rugan,
Route 2, Ellinwood, Kansas 67526
W 1/2 of NW 1/4, Sec. 31, T 19 S, R 12 W -- Norman B. Schartz,
1523 12th Street, Great Bend, Kansas 67530; LeRoy G. Schartz
and Arlin P. Schartz, Route 3, Great Bend, Kansas 67530

8. Located across the creek from the fort and the trading post were the buildings of the mail and stage station. In 1858 Hall and Porter, mail contractors on the Santa Fe route, built a log cabin on the west bank to serve as a mail station. In mid-July, 1860, a log cabin at Walnut Creek was reported broken into, its contents stolen, and the structure burned. Presumably this was the mail station. In 1867 a contemporary description recorded an adobe stage station half-dugout and half above ground.

Complaints of liquor being sold to the Indians and the subsequent enforcement of the ban on such sales by troops at Fort Zarah compelled Rath to discontinue operations at the ranch in 1867. The next and final trader at Walnut Creek was Joseph W. Douglass. On May 19, 1868, Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians burned the building, which Rath had built several years earlier.

The establishment of a trading post at the Walnut Creek crossing of the Santa Fe trail was important to travelers between 1855 and 1868. Although Allison's Ranch was used primarily as a trading center, it was also a stage stop, restaurant and lodging house. Even though Fort Zarah was short lived, it served travelers on the Santa Fe trail until just prior to the construction of the railroad and the greater settlement of the area. All of the fort and ranch buildings were razed or burned many years ago, but their remains still exist. In May, 1969, archeologists of the Kansas State Historical Society and members of the Kansas Anthropological Association excavated the remains of what is believed to be Rath's stone building. Various artifacts were found in the portion apparently once the living area, and it was concluded that the structure must have burned completely furnished. In the area being nominated are additional ruins, which are presently identified as the main building of the first Fort Zarah, the blockhouse, the buildings of the express and stage station, and the dugouts used by the military before the completion of permanent quarters.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) No. 2

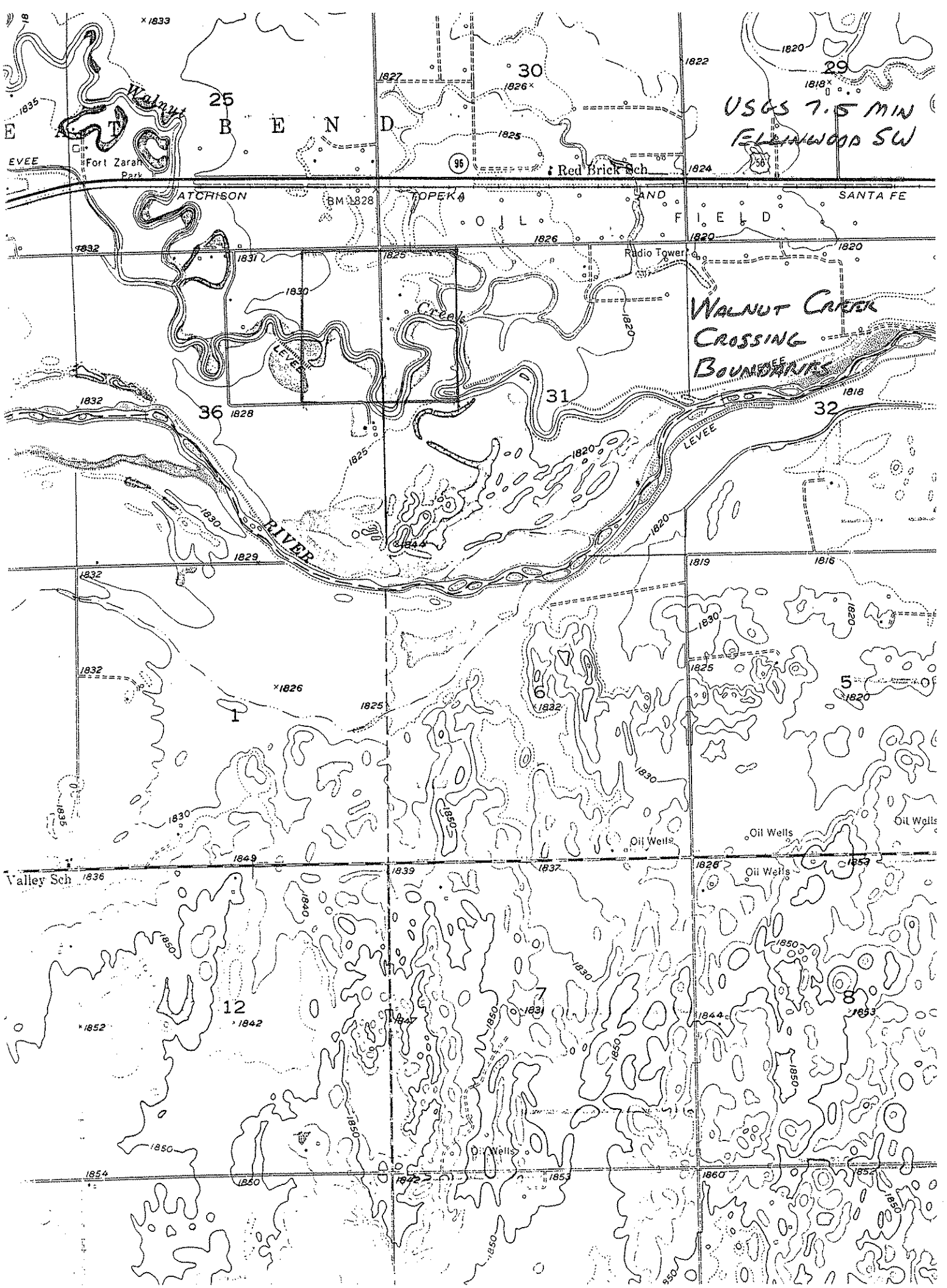
STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Barton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Rath, Ida Ellen, The Rath Trail (Wichita, n. p., 1961), pp. 1-9, 17, 18, 22, 23.
- Root, George A., editor, "Extracts from the Diary of Capt. Lambert Bowman Wolf," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 1, no. 3 (May, 1932), p. 199.
- Schulz, Ray S., "Allison's Ranch," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, v. 15, no. 4 (December, 1969), pp. 1-7.
- Smyth, Bernard Bryan, The Heart of the New Kansas (Great Bend, Kan., B. B. Smyth, Book and Job Printer, 1880), v. 1, pp. 82, 83, 85-88.
- "Statement of Theodore Weichselbaum of Ogden, Riley County, July 17, 1908," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 11 (1909-1910), p. 570.
- Taft, Robert, editor, H. B. Mollhausen, "Over the Santa Fe Trail through Kansas in 1858," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 16, no. 4 (November, 1948), pp. 353-356.
- Watson, John, "Monument Built on Site of old Fort Zarah," Wichita Morning Eagle, February 24, 1955.
- Witty, Thomas A., "The Allison Ranch Dig," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, v. 14, no. 9 (May, 1969), pp. 1-3.
- Wright, Robert M., "Personal Reminiscences of Frontier Life in South-west Kansas," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 7 (1901-1902), pp. 48, 49.

NOTE:

Two sketches made by Adolph Hunnius in June and September of 1867 while he was stationed at Fort Zarah, and which were presented to the Kansas State Historical Society in the 1930's, provided a major source of information in locating and identifying visible ruins at the Walnut Creek Crossing. Photographs of these sketches are included with this form.

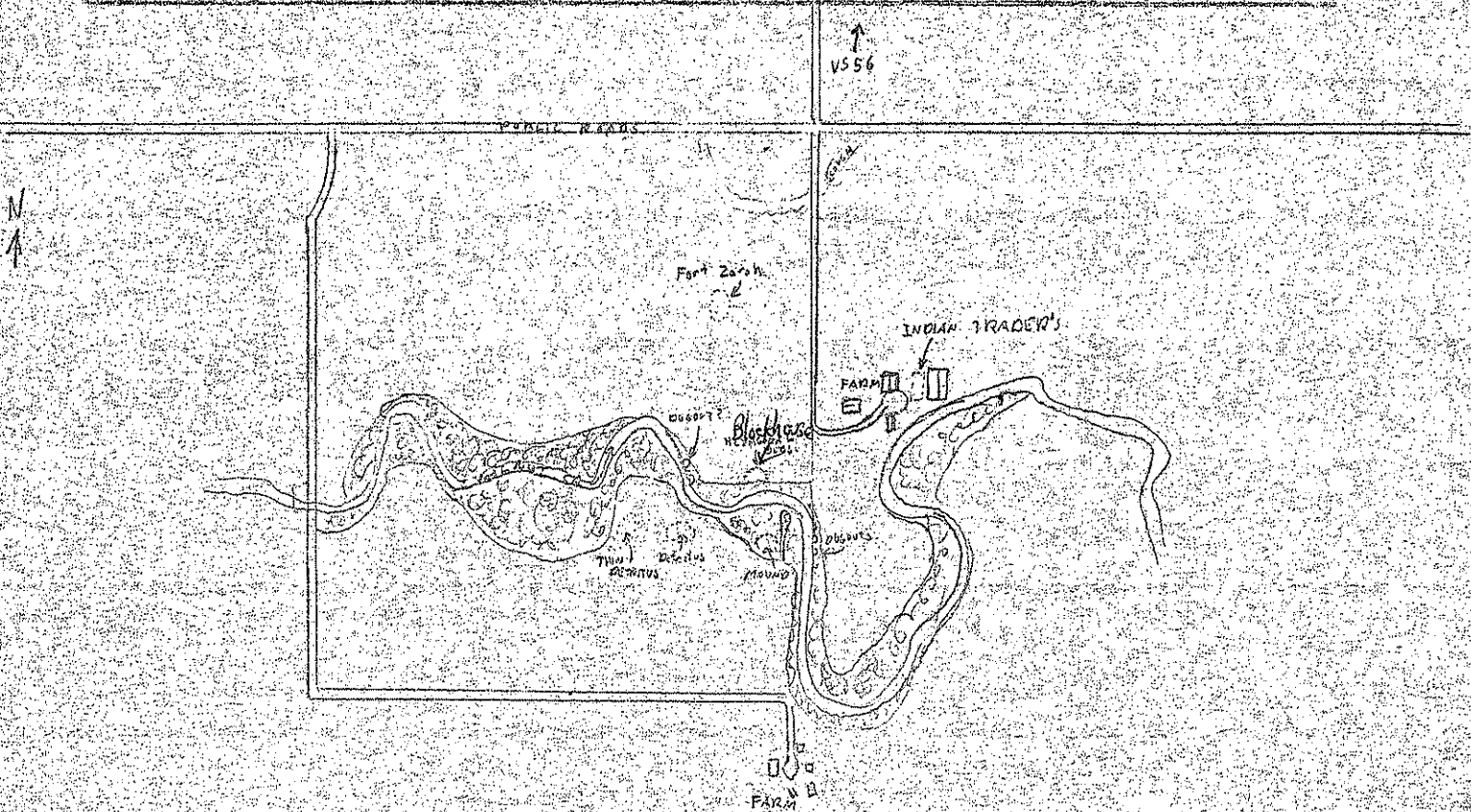


SITE 14BT301

AREA

EXCAVATION

1. Site location of Walnut Creek Crossing Complex.



RECORD BY T. W. H.

DATE Nov. 2, 1971