## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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STATE	Kansa <b>s</b>	CODE - 20	county Clark	025
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	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	
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SURVEY RECORDS	<u>Kansas State His</u>	torical Society		
CITY, TOWN		and the second	STATE	The second secon
en e	Topeka		<u>Kansas</u>	66612

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED X\_ALTERED

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED

....GOOD \_\_FAIR

....EXCELLENT

\_\_UNEXPOSED

X RUINS

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cimarron Redoubt is located approximately one-half mile south of the Cimarron river on the east bank of Clark creek south of the present day town of Ashland, Kansas. Its historic location was along the road from Fort Dodge, Kansas, to Camp Supply, Indian Territory.

It was built in the fall of 1870 by a detachment sent out from Camp Supply. A description of the redoubt was written by the wife of an army lieutenant when she and her husband were stationed there in January, 1873.

"The redoubt is made of gunny sacks filled with sand, and is built on the principle of a permanent fortification in miniature, with bastions, flanks, curtains, and ditch, and has two pieces of artillery. The parapet is about ten feet high, upon the top of which a sentry walks all the time. This is technically correct, for Faye has just explained it all to me, so I could tell you about our castle on the plains. We have only two rooms for our own use, and these are partitioned off with vertical logs in one corner of the fortification, and our only roof is of canvass." (Roe 1909:86-7)

The site has one major feature consisting of rounded walls two to three feet above the present grade and forming a square some 60 feet on a side. This square is enclosed by a shallow depression approximately eight feet wide. An area of approximately two acres surrounding the redoubt has been fenced and a portion is used as a lot for hay storage. The remainder is overgrown with tall grass. Land to the east beyond the fenced redoubt area is cultivated. Clark creek loops to the east at this point and its east bank is not far from the remains of the structure. Some erosion of the west wall has taken place but the grass has elsewhere been successful in slowing erosion of the site.

The tall grass has obscured additional smaller features which may be present. A trash area should be associated with the redoubt, and there are perhaps other features associated with the later civilian occupation.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	XARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE .
1600-169 <b>9</b>	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	X.military	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X-1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1870-1886	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1870-1886

Cimarron Redoubt was constructed in the fall of 1870 in conjunction with one similar in design to the north near the headwaters of Bear creek 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. Post returns from Camp Supply mention detachments sent to repair the redoubt at various intervals through the year 1872. The last mention of the redoubt as a military post is an account relating events in January, 1873.

Subsequently the redoubt was used by early settlers of Clark county. It was a general store and post office in 1876, and an 1884 advertisement offered ranch supplies for sale at this location. It was officially established as a post office from May, 1881, until April, 1887. At some indeterminate

date after the latter year the redoubt was abandoned.

Cimarron Redoubt and its companion Bear Creek 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 military installations of sandbag construction are known for the state.

Cimarron 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 present use should insure that its features will be preserved for an indefinite period of time.

Major bibliogAphical references	
Baughman, Robert W., <u>Kansas Post Offices</u> . (Kansas Postal History Society, Topeka, 1961).	
Jacob, Richard T., "Frontier Army Life in Oklahoma, Military Reminiscenses of Captai Richard T. Jacob," <u>Chronicles of Oklahoma</u> , Vol. II, No. 1, (1924).	n
"Pioneer Post Offices," <u>Clark County Clipper</u> , September 1, 1939.	ines
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FORM PREPARED BY	5-1.27 <b>%</b>
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS	USE ONLY	J. St. 18	
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Cimarron Redoubt

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

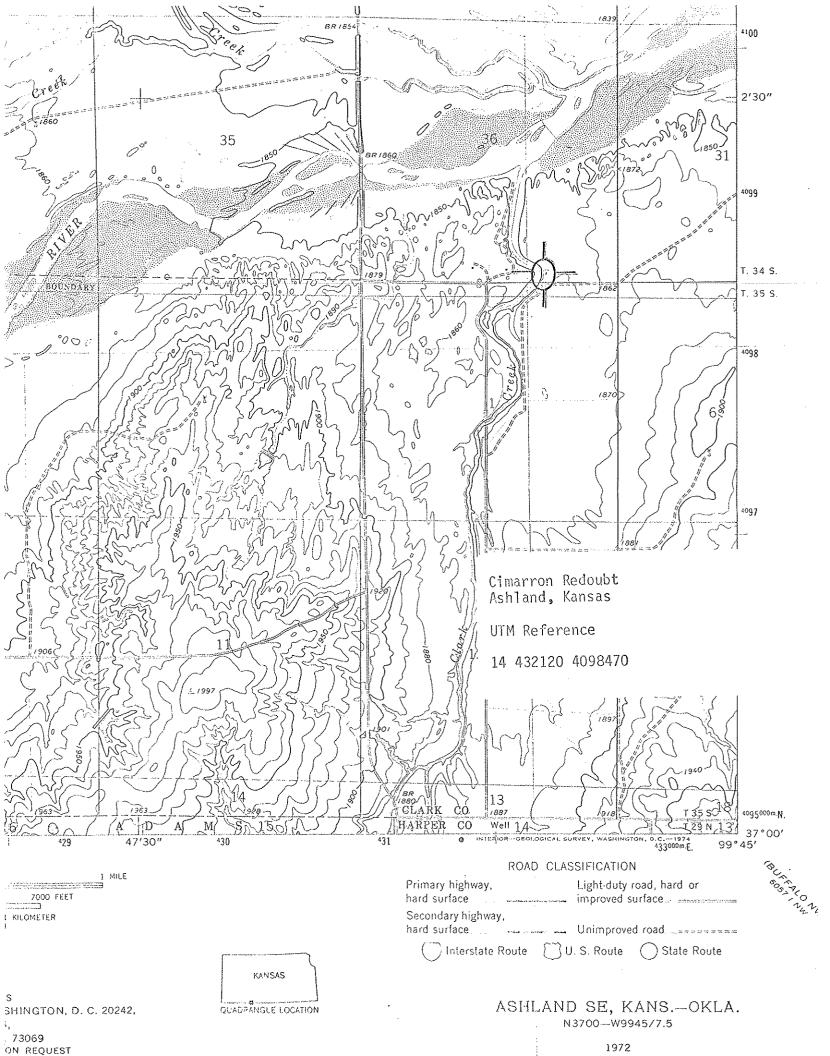
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#### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Roe, Frances M.A., <u>Army Letters From An Officer's Wife</u>. (D. Appleton and Company, New York and London, 1909).

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)

STATE			
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FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		

CIMARRON REDOUBT

The area encompassed by the site designation includes the visible above ground remains of the redoubt. This is a square enclosure approximately 60 feet on a side composed of low rounded walls two to three feet above the present ground surface. The western boundary of the site is defined by the channel of Clark Creek while the north, south and east boundaries are measured to a point 250 feet beyond the centerline of the enclosure.

et Above PRESCHO APPROXINATELY 50.0 to 60 cfeel Cimarron Redoubt Ashland Vicinity MININATED Sketch map prepared by Thomas P. Barr, Archaeology Division, Kansas State Historical Society: 1975. Not to scale.