National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name  Pawnee Tipi Ring Site, REDACTED Farmstead & Golden Spring Beach (GSB)

Other names/site number  14EL406 (tipi site); 14EL312 (GSB); KHRI #051-2017 (GSB); REDACTED Property

Name of related Multiple Property Listing  N/A

2. Location

Street & number  REDACTED  x  not for publication

City or town  Hays  x  vicinity

State  Kansas  Code  KS  County  Ellis  Code  051  Zip code  67601

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

__ national  _x_ statewide  __local  Applicable National Register Criteria:  x _A _B _C  x _D

See file.

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO  Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official  Date

Title  State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

__ entered in the National Register  _ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register  _ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action

National Register Listed
July 2, 2018
5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
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</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

- [ ]

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: Camp
- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding
- DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
- RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field
- LANDSCAPE: Unoccupied Land
- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- AGRICULTURE: Storage
- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Other/Not Applicable

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: See Section 7
- walls:  
- roof:  
- other:  

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Ellis County, Kansas

Name of Property

Pawnee Tipi Ring Site, REDACTED Farmstead & Golden Spring Beach

County and State
Summary

The Pawnee Tipi Ring Site, REDACTED Farmstead & Golden Spring Beach (District) is a 27.4-acre district located southwest of Hays, Ellis County, in central Kansas (Figure 1). The property is situated on the north side of the Smoky Hill River, at its junction with an un-named spring-fed tributary, REDACTED. The district includes resources that document not only the changing use of the land but also the occupation and ownership of the land between 1844 and 1948. The three distinct areas within the nominated boundary include: a Pawnee tipi ring site (14EL406); the REDACTED Farmstead, and the Golden Spring Beach (Figures 2 & 3). The tipi ring site contains at least 55 visible rings and is the likely location of the Pawnee camp visited by the Frémont Expedition in 1844. The REDACTED Farmstead consists of a concrete residence constructed in 1948, a 19th century stone barn ruin, and a masonry-lined cellar. The Golden Spring Beach consists of a spring and connecting stone-lined tunnel and a concrete-lined pool. The three elements are included in one large district due to their interconnectedness and proximity.

Elaboration

The Pawnee Tipi Ring Site, REDACTED Farmstead & Golden Spring Beach (District) represents a long-term occupation and use of the Smoky Hill River valley. That occupation begins with Native Americans in the early historic or late prehistoric periods, followed by construction of what is now known as the REDACTED Farmstead. A unique element is represented by the remains of the Golden Spring Beach, in use as an outdoor recreation facility from 1928 until 1933.

Landscape¹

The District is located near the western edge of the Smoky Hills division of the Dissected High Plains section of the Great Plains province of the Interior Plains division of North America.² The Dissected High Plains section essentially constitutes the heavily dissected eastern front of the High Plains of western Kansas. The region under consideration is characterized by “…a broken landscape of high plateau like uplands, prominent and often sharply indented east-facing sandstone or limestone escarpments, conspicuous headlands, isolated buttes, hills, and rolling lowland plains.”³ Located north of the Arkansas River and covering most of north central Kansas, this portion of the Dissected High Plains is made up of two distinct ranges of upland which parallel each other in a northeast-southwest irregularly trending fashion. Bedrock is of Cretaceous age. The eastern range (and sometimes the entire Dissected High Plains area) is commonly referred to as the Smoky Hills; it is formed mainly in thick beds of Dakota sandstone. The western range is referred to as the Blue Hills; the bedrock there consists mainly of limestones and shales.

Some of the major cities within the Smoky Hills are Washington, Minneapolis, Salina, Lyons, and Larned. Notable Smoky Hills landmarks include Coronado Heights and Pawnee Rock, which are singularly large outcrops of Dakota sandstone, and Rock City, an area of numerous large sandstone concretions. Ranging from 20 to 40 miles wide, the Smoky Hills region is a maturely dissected broad hilly belt having a relief in places of up to 200-300 feet. In general, however, the relief is much less. Topographically, the region consists mainly of indistinct terraces and dissected escarpments, with numerous outlying hills and mounds. The major rivers of the region – the Republican, Solomon, Saline, and Smoky Hill – flow in an easterly or southeasterly direction through flat-bottomed valleys ranging up to two or three miles wide. Numerous spring-fed tributaries indent the valley margins. The bottomland soils are usually deep, well drained, and fertile.

¹ The following three paragraphs are adapted from standard language used in reports written by Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Archeology Department.
The vegetation of the region prior to modern encroachment and change consisted of prairie penetrated by riverine forest, with a few small patches of trees occupying sheltered locations on the prairie, mainly on steep escarpments and butte tops. The natural vegetation of the region consists of tallgrass prairie and mixed prairie dominated by bluestem (Andropogon gerardii and Schizachyrium scoparium) and grama grasses (Bouteloua spp.), combined with floodplain forest or savanna vegetation consisting of tall, medium tall, and low broadleaf deciduous scattered trees and shrubs. Moving from east to west, the forests become narrower and lower, and often less dense. Dominant trees include hackberry (Celtis occidentalis), cottonwood (Populus deltoids), willow (Salix spp.), and elm (Ulmus spp.). A variety of fruit and berry-producing shrubs such as chokecherry (Prunus virginiana), currant (Ribes odoratum), gooseberry (Ribes grossularia), plum (Prunus spp.), and grape (Ampelopsis cordata) were also present in the forested areas.

At the District, trees are much more abundant than during the early historic period. Control of prairie fires beginning in the early settlement period and continuing to the present day has certainly been a major factor, along with intentional planting of trees by landowners.

This district is located on the north side of the Smoky Hill River, at its junction with an un-named spring-fed tributary. The REDACTED quadrangle map shows that the tipi ring site (14EL406) is situated on a prominent point bounded by the Smoky Hill River on the west and the spring-fed tributary on the east (Figure 2). Some of the property's other contributing elements, most notably the house, barn, and pool are also visible on the quad map. Recent aerial imagery shows that some changes have taken place in recent years, particularly construction of a large pond south of the pool (Figure 3). The current landowners have carefully preserved the tipi ring site since they purchased the property in 1960. It has never been cultivated, and has been used primarily for cattle grazing. The other property elements have been maintained as well.

Located in a rural area of Ellis County, this district's vistas are minimally obstructed. The Smoky Hill River is situated immediately to the south. Trees have grown up along the river’s course in recent decades, partially obscuring a farmstead to the southwest. Cultivated fields and pastures are visible to the north, east, and west.

Contributing Resources

1. Tipi Ring Site (14EL406)

The site is of particular significance as it is widely believed to be the location of a Pawnee village visited in 1844 by the second of John Frémont’s expeditions. As will be discussed below, neither the documentary evidence nor the archeological evidence is conclusive on this point, but the site is in an area known to have been utilized by the Pawnee and is the most likely candidate for the village visited by Frémont. The Pawnee Tipi Ring Site (14EL406) contains at least 55 circular depressions, believed to be the remains of tipi rings. Such sites are usually marked by stone rings and are a common and highly visible site type in the Northwestern Plains. They are however, exceedingly rare in Kansas. A search of the Kansas Historical Society’s archeological database reveals that only ten such sites have been recorded, with eight known to still contain intact rings. None are as extensive as 14EL406. Such sites, being surface manifestations, are extremely vulnerable to cultivation. This site’s preservation is entirely the result of careful management by all of its owners, particularly the REDACTED family (1914-1960) and the REDACTED family (1960-Present). Since 1960, the property has always been used as a pasture for grazing cattle.

Site Description

The Pawnee Tipi Ring site occupies a relatively narrow pasture ridge on the north side of the Smoky Hill River. The landform’s eastern boundary is an unnamed spring-fed tributary of the Smoky Hill, while its southern and western edges are bounded by bluffs leading down to the river. The tipi rings that comprise the site are

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visible as shallow, roughly circular depressions, approximately 4 – 5m in diameter. They can be seen most clearly in times of drought, when they hold moisture and thus have greener grass than surrounding areas. The ridge upon which the site is situated is widest at its north end, and becomes narrower to the south. The greatest concentration of rings is in the north end, where the rings are closely packed together in no discernable pattern. The site is most clearly visible from aerial photos, but even a casual ground-level visitor can see that the pasture is unique.

Site Investigations

During their period of ownership (1914-1960), the REDACTED family maintained a keen interest in the tipi ring site and in its preservation, including driving an iron stake into the center of each visible ring. Several investigations took place during that time, likely due to their interest and encouragement. During the 1930s, H.M. Pollack made a partial survey of the site and located 48 depressions. In 1941 a map was produced by Paul King depicting a detailed scale representation of the site, laid out in 100-foot squares (Figure 4). Landmarks, including the section line and extant structures are depicted, allowing for an accurate picture of the 48 rings then visible. The map’s preservation is quite remarkable, as it was drawn on butcher paper and (according to those who made it available to researchers) had been stored rolled up in a window shade. Howard Raynesford later compiled H.M Pollack’s information into map form and included it with his 1953 manuscript (Figure 5).

While the tipi ring site was known to the local community, mostly through the efforts of local historian Howard Raynesford and the landowners, it was not until 1967 that John Rhine recorded it as an archeological site (14EL406). Despite its presence in the records, it was not until a Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) project was undertaken in Ellis County in 2013 that the site’s importance became clear. In that year, the REDACTED family contacted archeologists from the Kansas State Historical Society with an invitation to visit the site and to conduct investigations. The resulting visits confirmed that the site appeared to be substantially intact and had excellent research potential.

Archeological Survey

Once its significance became clear, Chris Hord of the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) began background investigation and archeological survey. Intensive survey was undertaken under a variety of surface conditions, including extreme drought. The tipi rings were identifiable on the surface as shallow, roughly circular depressions. While those depressions were clearly visible, the stone rings that had once surrounded them were largely absent, confirming accounts (both in the literature and conveyed verbally by the landowners) that the tipi ring stones were removed early in the settlement period and used in construction of the barn and other farmstead structures. GPS-derived coordinates were ultimately collected from a total of 55 visible rings (Figures 6 and 7). The rings were numbered as they were identified during survey, and those numbers were later used as unique identifiers during testing.

Metal detector investigations successfully located many of the steel stakes placed in the depressions by then-owner REDACTED, along with stakes apparently used as mapping reference points. However, despite finding those stakes, it has proven difficult to correlate the information presented in the King and Raynesford maps with what is visible on the ground today. The portion of the site within the National Register boundary includes that which lies REDACTED, where visible rings are present, as well as part of what lies REDACTED, where surface evidence of rings is less clear (Figures 2 & 3). Despite that lack of clarity in surface expression, information from the Paul King map coupled with compelling circular vegetation signatures (under favorable conditions) has led the investigators to conclude that buried rings are present in the northern portion of the site to a point bounded by a northwest – southeast trending field road (Figure 3). The most northerly portion of the

8 Raynesford, Page 8.
site (north of the field road) was defined on the basis of surface artifacts and is not believed to contain any intact rings or other cultural deposits. It is included within the district boundary given its relationship to the other (more intact) portions of the site. Overall, it was clear after initial survey that 14EL406 still contained intact rings and was a good candidate for test excavations.

**Archeological Test Excavations**

Test excavations under the direction of Dr. Jack Hofman of the University of Kansas began in 2013 and continued through 2016. Crews were composed of field school students from the University of Kansas, volunteers from the KAA, volunteer professional archeologists, and members of the local community, including the landowners. Preliminary results from the initial investigations were recently presented in a conference paper, with subsequent work described in a separate presentation.9

The goals of the test excavation were to:

1. Check for the presence of metal stakes (reportedly placed in the centers of tipi rings when or after stones were removed).
2. Evaluate the possibility of additional tipi rings and other features at the site that had not been recorded previously.
3. Create a detailed map and record defining the full extent of the site.
4. Evaluate the time span of the occupation.
5. Investigate the potential relationship with 14RP1 (a known Pawnee village site in Republic County) and other sites.11

Based on the survey results, rings 1, 18 and 19 were selected for further investigation along with a concentrated layer of stones hereafter referred to as a stone pavement feature discovered outside of the visible rings (Figure 8). Ring 1 is located in the southern portion of the site, where the ridge upon which the occupation is located becomes most narrow. Rings 18, 19, and the stone pavement feature are in the widest part of the ridge, surrounded by many other rings.

**Ring 18**

Excavations in Ring 18 focused on placement of excavation units around the exterior and testing of the ring’s center. The exterior units revealed the presence of a largely unbroken ring of subsurface stones, not visible on the surface. A total of four 1x1 meter test units were ultimately placed within the ring and the fill was processed using fine-mesh water screening in the hopes of recovering small glass beads. No beads were found, though several lithic flakes were recovered (Figures 9 and 10). The buried stones are particularly important, in that they indicate stratigraphic integrity, despite removal of the surface stone ring. Metal artifacts (consisting entirely of small non-diagnostic fragments) indicate use during the historic period, while the lithic flakes suggest an occupation earlier than the 1844 Pawnee village described in Frémont’s account.

**Stone Pavement**

Intensive survey (including hand coring with an Oakfield coring tool) revealed the presence of what was defined as a stone pavement. This feature was located approximately 20-25 meters southwest of Ring 18 and was exposed in its entirety within a series of 1x1 meter test units at the conclusion of the 2016 excavations (Figure 11). While its function is unknown, the presence of such a substantial feature confirms stratigraphic

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11 Ibid: Slide 15
integrity despite the site’s overall shallow nature. Also, bison bone was found in-situ within the feature (Figure 12). This discovery is particularly important, as it reinforces the interpretation of the site as a hunting camp.

Ring 19

Investigations within Ring 19 were confined to mapping and careful surface examination (Figure 13). That work was sufficient to establish the presence of a lithic flake, non-diagnostic fragmentary metal artifacts and tipi ring stones not readily visible from casual surface examination (Figure 14).

Ring 1

Investigations in Ring 1 mirrored those in Ring 18, in that efforts were geared toward placement of systematic test units around the exterior and investigation of the center. Excavations revealed a ring of in-situ subsurface stones and a lithic flake (Figures 15 and 16). As with the other investigated rings, results from Ring 1 confirmed stratigraphic integrity, and the presence of stone tools.

Artifacts

Metal detector survey and test investigations revealed the presence of metal artifacts, as would be expected in a site dating to 1844. The only ones which could be assigned to a narrow time range were a grouping of shell casings (Spencer .56-50) discovered along the site’s western boundary at the terrace margin (Figure 17). They were used in Spencer repeater rifles (models 1865 and 1865s) from 1865 until about 1873. The other metal artifacts (many discovered in-situ within the rings) were small fragments. While they are generally indicative of an historic period occupation, they cannot be assigned to a narrow time range. The most distinctive among them were a grouping of triangular objects found during metal detector survey which may have functioned as blanks intended for the manufacture of metal projectile points (Figure 18).

Chipped stone artifacts were recovered in-situ during test excavations within the rings (Figure 18). By 1844 the Pawnee were no longer using stone tools, so the presence of such artifacts at 14EL406 suggests an occupation extending into the late prehistoric or early historic periods, which is earlier than had been previously suspected. No temporally diagnostic stone artifacts have been recovered, so the specific time range of earlier occupations cannot be determined. The site was likely re-used by many native groups, as it is located in an ideal setting on an elevated terrace above the Smoky Hill River, adjacent to a spring-fed tributary.

Initial Research Conclusions

At the conclusion of background research, surface survey, metal detector survey, and archeological test excavations, the investigators arrived at the following conclusions:

1. Metal stakes are present and mark previously discovered tipi ring locations as well as grid points for prior mapping efforts.
2. Additional tipi rings not marked by metal stakes are present at the site.
3. Several existing rings contain chipped stone artifacts and may date to late prehistoric or early historic times, well prior to Frémont’s 1844 expedition.
4. Integrity of the site and existing rings is very good.
5. The potential for detailed studies of this site to yield significant information about early Pawnee life is very high.

13 Hord and Hofman, slide 34
2. REDACTED Farmstead

The REDACTED property on the north side of the Smoky Hill River REDACTED had relatively few owners since Euro-American settlement. In the 1870s, it was purchased by REDACTED, who built a stone house, barn, and grist mill within a hundred yards of the tipi ring site. The property appears on the 1887 Everts Kansas Atlas, though by that time it was identified being as part of REDACTED. Line drawings in the 1887 Everts Atlas appear to depict the structures constructed by REDACTED, and the landscape and building arrangements depicted therein closely match the modern setting (Figure 20). Taken together, this evidence leads the landowners and the nominations’ authors to believe that the Everts drawings are a depiction of the present-day REDACTED farmstead.

The REDACTED Farmstead contains one contributing building (the house), one contributing structure, (the stone-lined cellar), one contributing site (the barn ruin), and one non-contributing metal outbuilding. The three contributing resources reflect different periods of construction, but all contribute to the district's overall significance as they demonstrate the pattern of Euro-American settlement at this site.

a. House (1948) Contributing Building

The house was constructed by the REDACTED family in 1948 after the original stone house had been demolished (Figure 21). That structure is likely the one depicted in the 1877 Everts Atlas drawing and, according to the owners, was located to the east of the present house in a clear flat spot. Howard Raynesford refers to the extant building as an “ultra-modern ranch house,” which it surely must have been at the time. It is unique, even by present-day standards as it is constructed entirely of concrete and has no ductwork. The house is heated entirely with a sub-floor radiant system, original except for the boiler. The windows had been replaced when the house was purchased by the present owners in 1960 and another time since then.

b. Barn Ruin (ca. 1885) Contributing Site

The barn’s initial construction took place in the 1870s during the REDACTED family’s ownership, and it can be identified in the 1887 Everts Atlas drawings (Figure 20). It is one of only two structures still extant from that period of the farmstead’s development, the other being the cellar. A modern photo taken from the same direction as one of the Everts Atlas drawings shows a similar landscape, with a water course (now impounded as a pond) in the foreground with the barn and the house (the original would have been to the left) on higher ground to the south (Figure 22).

It is clear that the barn’s appearance has changed. A metal-clad frame addition with an arched roof (still visible today) was added to the south end of the original stone barn. The northern portion of the arched roof (over the original stone walls) collapsed after heavy snowfall a few years ago, and has been removed (Figure 23). A photo of the barn taken in 1976 shows the arched roof covering the entire structure, including the original stone portion and the later addition to the south (Figure 24). The 1887 drawing depicts a peaked roof while the surviving portion is arched, suggesting that it was a later replacement. Construction details visible in the barn’s stone walls also suggest that it was constructed in two stages. The west wall shows this mostly clearly, indicating a clear break in the masonry at the base of the top 7–8 courses (Figure 24). It is believed that the lower portion was constructed by the REDACTED family, and represents the masonry parts of the structure depicted in the 1887 Everts Atlas drawings. The upper portion was constructed during the REDACTED family’s period of ownership, and was likely when the arched replacement roof was added.

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14 Raynesford, page 5.
16 Raynesford, page 5.
The barn is believed to have been partially constructed using stones from the nearby tipi ring site. The tipi ring stones discovered during archeological excavations appear to be entirely natural, showing no signs of intentional modification. Stones of similar size (though shaped by masons during construction) are present in the lower portions of the barn’s walls. While it is impossible to be entirely certain, it seems likely that at least some of the stones used to build the barn came from the nearby tipi ring site. Though the original stone structure is lacking its roof, the walls are still intact. Its status as one of only two remaining original structures and its partial construction with stones from the tipi ring site are factors that show it merits inclusion as a contributing element.

c. **Cellar (ca. 1885)**  Contributing Structure

The stone-lined cellar is located east of the house. It consists of a small above-ground stone structure, with an arched stone cellar, lined with plaster, beneath (Figures 25 - 26). The below-ground portion was likely constructed during the REDACTED family’s ownership, with the above-ground structure added by the REDACTED family prior to the present owners’ acquisition of the property in 1960. There is a small structure near the house depicted in the 1887 Everts Atlas drawing (Figure 20), but it is believed to be a no longer extant spring house. The cellar with both its above and below ground features represents a well-preserved example of a food storage structure that was once common on Kansas farmsteads. It is therefore recommended that it be included as a contributing element.

d. **Machine Shed (modern)**  Non-Contributing Building

The machine shed is located north of the house, between it and the barn ruin. The structure is a flat-roofed metal building with sloping sides and a sliding door which faces to the south. Such pre-fabricated buildings are common in the region. This example was added to the farmstead in recent years and has no connection to the period of significance.

### 3. Golden Spring Beach  Contributing Site

The Golden Spring Beach was an entertainment facility operated by the REDACTED family from 1928-1933. Among the amenities offered were a spring-fed pool with diving tower, a dance floor, and a race track. During its period of operation, large crowds were often hosted for events such as concerts, motor races, and ball games (Figure 27). In 1938 the race track was still faintly visible in a cultivated field northeast of the farmstead and pool (Figure 28). It has since been obliterated by cultivation, and is not included in the nomination. In 2013 the Golden Spring Beach, along with the farmstead, was recorded as archeological site 14EL312. Extant features include the stone-lined tunnel that conveyed water from the spring to the pool and the concrete-lined pool, containing remains of the diving tower and the pavilion/dance floor (Figure 3). The remains of the Golden Spring Beach are in ruins but collectively represent a single entity, so the extant pieces are considered one contributing site.

a. **Stone-Lined Tunnel**

The stone-lined tunnel is located southeast of the house and conveys water from the spring, which is no longer visible on the surface, to the pool. It features a subterranean stone-lined tunnel that is still partially filled with water and a vertical stone-lined access shaft (Figure 29). This unique system was integrally tied to the Golden Spring Beach operation, providing a consistent water supply for the pool.

b. **Pool, Diving Platform and Pavilion**

In promotional materials, the pool is depicted as being rectangular, with a diving platform roughly in the center (Figure 30). Its original boundaries are clearly visible today, though it is surrounded by a larger body of water created by construction of a downstream dam (Figure 3). The pool’s lining, consisting of concrete blocks and fragments, is still present in places. The footings of the diving platform are in place as is the pavilion in the

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17 Raynesford, page 5.
southwest corner of the pool, which still has some of its original concrete construction (Figure 31). Since the pool was central to operation of the Golden Spring Beach, its remains (including the diving platform and pavilion) are considered significant.

**District Integrity**

The archeological evidence within this district indicates that the tipi ring site retains substantial stratigraphic integrity, despite being a very shallow occupation. Limited test excavations have revealed that clear archeological potential exists, in the form of buried stone rings and features along with in-situ stone and metal artifacts. The presence of stone tools suggests an earlier occupation, likely extending into the early historic or late prehistoric periods. Unfortunately, all of the recovered artifacts are stone flakes left over from the manufacture of larger tools, so a specific time period estimate for the earlier component cannot be made. Still, evidence at the site indicates a long period of use of an ideal location overlooking the Smoky Hill River, adjacent to a spring-fed tributary.

The District as a whole retains excellent integrity to clearly communicate its associations with the inhabitants of the land between circa 1844 to 1948. With the exception of a few stones used to construct the barn, the tipi rings remain intact and in their historic locations; similarly, the farmstead resources and the Golden Spring Beach resources remain in their historic locations. Being in a rural area, the District’s setting has changed little over the years. The contributing buildings retain the majority of their historic materials, likely because they are part of an occupied farmstead. Although in a ruinous state, the material remnants of the Golden Spring Beach communicate the historic design of the entertainment facility. Similarly, the material remnants, namely the extant stone rings, communicate the design of the tipis themselves but also how the individual tipis were arranged. Together, the Pawnee Tipi Ring Site, REDACTED Farmstead, and the Golden Spring Beach retain a high degree of integrity.
### 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

- Archaeology: Historic – Aboriginal
- Ethnic Heritage: Native American
- Exploration/Settlement
- Entertainment/Recreation

### Period of Significance

circa 1844 - 1948

### Significant Dates

circa 1844; ca. 1885; 1928; 1933; 1948

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

Pawnee Nation

### Architect/Builder

REDACTED

REDACTED

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for this district spans just over 100 years, from circa 1844 to 1948. These years begin with the occupation of this property by the Pawnee Nation in circa 1844, continues through the late 1800s when the land was settled by the first Euro-Americans, includes the years 1928 to 1933 when it served as a local entertainment spot, and ends in 1948 with the construction of the second permanent dwelling on the property. This 104-year period represents the rapid change of land use and ownership typical of central Kansas, though with some unique features, and is tangibly reflected by the extant material culture.

### Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The roughly 27.4 acres that contain the nominated district include a concentration of historic material that represents the shift in occupation and ownership of land in Central Kansas beginning in the mid-1800s - before Kansas Territory was organized - into the mid-20th century. Archeological evidence indicates that this was an area well-known and well-used by Native Americans, with usage extending into the early historic or late prehistoric periods. The first documented occupation of this district was likely in 1844 during John Frémont's second expedition through what is now the state of Kansas. The expedition encountered a Pawnee hunting camp that consisted of several tipis on a high point overlooking the Smoky Hill River. Between 1854 and 1861 this land was part of an unorganized area of Kansas Territory still partially used by the Pawnee and other tribes; from 1861 to 1867, the land was part of an unorganized county of the state of Kansas, up until the boundaries of what is now Ellis County were established in 1867. The Pawnee conducted limited communal bison hunts from their reservation land base in central Nebraska into the 1860s. They moved to their reservation in Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) in 1875.

By 1867, Euro-American settlers claimed the property, choosing to permanently live in the region and participate in ranching and crop-growing. The earliest Euro-American resources at this district include ancillary structures to an 1870s farmstead; the current house, built in 1948, replaced the earliest farmhouse. During the 1920s and 1930s, the property was partially utilized as a private outdoor recreation spot for locals known as the Golden Spring Beach. The district is significant at the state level for its tangible reflection of this ownership and use transition and is especially significant as one of the best-preserved tipi sites in the state. The extant tipi rings are significant for their association with the late period of Pawnee habitation in Central Kansas and for their archeological potential (Criteria A & D). The farmstead remnants are significant as reminders of early Euro-American settlement in the region directly succeeding Native American habitation (Criterion A). Finally, the remnants of the Golden Spring Beach are locally significant for their tie to the area's early 20th century recreation history (Criteria A & D).

Elaboration

This complex district is best understood through its chronological usage by known occupants. Therefore, the following narrative begins with the first documented inhabitants, the Pawnee Nation, then explains the Euro-American settlement, and finally discusses the brief period of use as a local recreation venue.

Pawnee Nation (circa 1844 to mid-1860s)

This district’s extant tipi rings are believed to represent occupation of the property by the Pawnee Nation. Although the Pawnee (along with many other tribes) used this land for generations prior to 1844, the district’s period of significance begins in that year due to the first documented evidence of their occupation in the Smoky Hill River valley. By the mid-1860s, when Ellis County was formally organized, the Pawnee were living on their reservation lands in central Nebraska and were no longer engaging in the communal bison hunts that had brought them to the property.

In 1844, when the Pawnee were documented in the vicinity, they were still based in large earthlodge villages, well to the north in present-day Nebraska. Each year they left for an extended communal bison hunt, returning afterwards to their villages and gardens. It was on one of those extended trips, during which they were living in tipis in a hunting camp, that they were documented by the Frémont expedition. The property’s location along the Smoky Hill River is well within their known hunting range.18 The Pawnee were not unique in this pattern.

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Other Plains tribes, such as the Wichita and the Kansa, also left their established villages each year for extended communal hunting trips.

The Pawnee were living in very difficult circumstances in the Smoky Hill River valley when John Frémont’s 1844 expedition encountered them. The tribe had signed a treaty with the US government in 1833 in which they agreed to cede their lands south of the Platte River in exchange for annual annuities, agricultural implements, and military protection. Much of the promised military protection never materialized and, having given up their weapons as part of the treaty’s terms and being weakened by disease, they were at a great disadvantage relative to many of their traditional enemies, particularly the Sioux. It is difficult to be certain how much longer the Pawnee used the property after 1844, but it was likely not an extensive occupation. An eyewitness account, provided by William Schutte who had been a government scout on the plains, indicated that the site was in use as late as the early 1860s. The Pawnee were involved in the Indian Wars from 1864 to 1877, when they provided scouts who served with the US Army. The tribe moved to its Indian Territory reservation in 1875 and is headquartered today in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Pawnee Tipi Ring Site (14EL406)

The site is of particular significance as it is highly possible this is a Pawnee village visited in 1844 by the second of John Frémont’s expeditions. That connection was first made in the early 1950s by local historian Howard Raynesford of Ellis, Kansas, who undertook a detailed examination of site 14EL406 and its possible ties to the 1844 Frémont Expedition. Much of the following discussion is drawn from his 1953 manuscript.

Frémont’s party was descending the Smoky Hill River on their return trip when their supplies, including most of their trade goods, were swept away in a flood. The next day, the expedition encountered what Frémont described as a large Pawnee village along the river. At the time of Frémont’s visit, the Pawnees lived in large earthlodge villages, well to the north in present-day Nebraska. Each year they left for an extended bison hunt, returning afterwards to their villages and gardens. The tipi ring site’s location is well within the known hunting range of the Pawnee. Pawnee hunting camps are not common, but other examples have been recorded in Kansas. What Frémont encountered was surely a substantial hunting camp made up of tipis as opposed to earthlodges (Figure 4). The expedition’s lack of trade goods made for a difficult situation, but they managed to escape unharmed and continued their journey downstream. Frémont’s description of the event is as follows:

A few days afterwards, we encamped, in a pleasant evening, on a high river prairie, the stream being less than a hundred yards broad. During the night we had a succession of thunder storms, with heavy and continuous rain, and towards morning the water suddenly burst over the banks, flooding the bottoms, and becoming a large river, five or six hundred yards in breadth. The darkness of the night and incessant rain had concealed from the guard the rise of the water; and the river broke into the camp so suddenly, that the baggage was instantly covered, and all our perishable collections almost entirely ruined, and the hard labor of many months destroyed in a moment.

On the 17th we discovered a large village of Indians encamped at the mouth of a handsomely wooded stream on the right bank of the river. Readily inferring, from the nature of the encampment, that they were Pawnee Indians, and confidently expecting good treatment from a people who receive regularly an annuity from the Government, we proceeded directly to the village, where we found assembled nearly all

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20 Raynesford: page 5
21 Ibid: Page 521
22 Raynesford.
the Pawnee tribe, who were now returning from the crossing of the Arkansas, where they had met the Kioway and Camanche Indians...The little that remained of our goods was distributed among them but proved entirely insufficient to satisfy their greedy rapacity; and, after some delay, and considerable difficulty, we succeeded in extricating ourselves from the village, and encamped on the river about fifteen miles below.25

The Pawnees’ reaction to the arrival of Frémont’s poorly provisioned expedition needs to be understood within the context of the time. By 1844, the Pawnee were in very difficult circumstances, having signed a treaty with the US government in 1833 in which they agreed to cede their lands south of the Platte River in exchange for annual annuities, agricultural implements, and military protection.26 Having given up their weapons as part of the treaty’s terms and being weakened by disease, the Pawnee were at a great disadvantage relative to many of their traditional enemies, particularly the Sioux. Against that backdrop, the arrival of a Euro-American expedition possessing virtually no trade goods could hardly have been a welcome development.

There are some ambiguities in Frémont’s account regarding the village’s location REDACTED. The accepted geographic convention is that right and left are identified as one is facing downstream. In this case, the village would then be located on the south bank rather than the north, where 14EL406 is found today. The editors of the volume from which Frémont’s description of his visit to the village was published (cited above) identify the “handsomely wooded stream” as REDACTED, which enters the Smoky Hill River from the south REDACTED. Since there are no known archeological sites in that locality, or landforms that match the account, site 14EL406 remains the most likely location of the Pawnee village described by Frémont in 1844.

The case for its identification as such is supported by the nearby presence of the Pawnee Trail, which was used by the Pawnee during their annual bison hunts, connecting their hunting grounds with their large earthlodge villages in what is now east-central Nebraska. The trail’s general route is depicted on the 1845 Frémont/Preuss Map, produced just a year after Frémont’s expedition.27 That map and its depiction of the Pawnee Trail is reproduced in Figures 33 through 35. The trail’s specific point of intersection with the Smoky Hill River is difficult to discern, even from an enlarged section of the map. However, REDACTED are clearly visible on the enlarged section and the trail’s terminus falls almost exactly half way between them (Figure 35).

There were other likely crossing points along the river so it is not possible to definitively tie the Pawnee Trail crossing to site 14EL406. Likewise, as noted earlier the archeological evidence is suggestive of an occupation during the time of Frémont’s 1844 expedition, but not conclusive. Taken together, the documentary and archeological evidence cannot conclusively state that 14EL406 represents the remains of the village visited by Frémont, though it is certainly a good candidate.

**Significance**

The Pawnee Tipi Ring Site is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Native American for its documented association with the Pawnee Nation in Central Kansas and under Criterion D in the area of Archeology: Historic – Aboriginal. As noted earlier, the investigators who conducted test excavations at the site set forth a series of goals at the outset of their work. Those goals were to:

1. Check for the presence of metal stakes (reportedly placed in the centers of tipi rings when or after stones were removed).

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26 Parks: pages 515-547.

27 1845 Frémont/Preuss Map, extending from Fort Leavenworth to the Great Salt Lake. David Rumsey Map Collection, Stanford University: [http://www.davidrumsey.com/home](http://www.davidrumsey.com/home)
2. Evaluate the possibility of additional tipi rings and other features at the site that had not been recorded previously.
3. Create a detailed map and record defining the full extent of the site.
4. Evaluate the time span of the occupation.

The investigators were able to address most of their goals/research questions. They found that: (1) metal stakes are present and mark previously discovered tipi ring locations as well as grid points for prior mapping efforts, (2) additional tipi rings not marked by metal stakes are present at the site, (3) several existing rings contain chipped stone artifacts and may date to late prehistoric or early historic times, well prior to Frémont’s 1844 expedition, and (4) that integrity of the site and existing rings is very good.

They ultimately concluded that potential for detailed studies of this site to yield significant information about early Pawnee life is very high. This is a very rare site type in central Kansas that has the potential to address research questions regarding a period of profound cultural change and is clearly eligible for listing under Criterion D.

**Euro-American Habitation (circa 1867 to 1948)**

As noted earlier, the REDACTED property on the north side of the Smoky Hill River REDACTED has passed through relatively few owners since Euro-American settlement. In the 1870s, it was purchased by REDACTED, who built a stone house, barn, and grist mill within a hundred yards of the tipi ring site. The property appears on the 1887 Everts Kansas Atlas, though by that time it was identified REDACTED. Line drawings in the 1887 Everts Atlas, identified as the REDACTED, appear to depict the structures constructed by REDACTED (Figure 20). Though there is ambiguity in late 19th century ownership of the property, the landowners believe that REDACTED were working together closely. Also, the landscape and building arrangements closely match the modern setting. Taken together, this evidence leads the nominations’ authors to believe that the Everts drawings are a depiction of the present-day REDACTED farmstead. The REDACTED family owned the property from 1914 until they sold it to the present owners in 1960.28 At the time of their purchase, no trees were present. They maintained an active interest in the tipi ring site and constructed the present house in 1948. As a tangible link between the Pawnee Nation and the Euro-American settlers who came after them, the farmstead’s historic remnants are significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement.

**Golden Spring Beach (1928 to 1933)**

The relative abundance of water within this district not only supported life. For about six years, water became the catalyst for and the focus of a popular local entertainment venue. Set within the rural landscape, Golden Spring Beach was ideally situated to offer respite from the summers’ heat.

The Golden Valley Farm and Golden Spring Beach were popular recreation areas in Ellis County in the 1920s, REDACTED. In 1914, REDACTED purchased Golden Valley Farm from his father and planted oak, cottonwood, pine and many other trees forming shady glens around naturally occurring pools. During this period, he also designed a forerunner of the modern combine known as the Mike’s Big 4 Harvester, which won favorable acclaim from farm machinery companies in the United States. It was about to be put in production when he was called to serve in the Army Air Corps during World War I. His military service left little time to look after his inventions as he earned the Croix de Guerre while overseas in France. After he returned, he married REDACTED in 1926 and together they began to improve Golden Valley Farm. They built a swimming pool and a lake upon which boats could navigate. With a 6,000-square foot dance pavilion built beside the lake, the new Golden Springs Beach rapidly became a popular recreation area. Nearly 3,000 people attended a celebration in July of 1928 featuring motor races, airplane flights and a ball game between LaCrosse and Munjor. Several truckloads

of soda were sold and the lunch counter did a land office business from early in the day until after the sunrise dance. On another occasion, 5,000 people gathered to see a fire diver saturate himself with gasoline and dive off an 85-foot tower into the lake covered with ignited gasoline. Lawrence Welk and other famous bands often played for dances there. The REDACTED also hosted rodeos on the grounds. With the coming of the depression in 1933, the popular attraction closed. In 1960, after long consideration, REDACTED sold Golden Springs Farm to REDACTED and moved to Hays.29

The Ellis County Historical Society description mentions “truckloads of soda,” and it is clear that the REDACTED family was operating a family-friendly entertainment venue. However, it did operate during the period of Prohibition (1920-1933) and local oral tradition suggests that alcohol consumption was a factor. For example, one newspaper account relates that REDACTED was injured in an altercation with two men attempting to sell alcohol out of their car during one of the events.30 For its association with the area’s entertainment and recreation in the early 20th century, the remnants of the Golden Spring Beach are significant under Criterion A.

Conclusion

This district is an unusual resource within the state of Kansas. While the story of Kansas’ creation is intimately tied to the displacement of Native Americans by mostly white settlers, few other places in the state tangibly reflect the occupation and use of the land by two distinct cultural groups, namely the Pawnee Nation and Euro-Americans. The nominated district is a compact representation of cultural resources significant to the Pawnee Nation (tipi ring site) and the white settlers who came after them (REDACTED Farmstead and Golden Spring Beach). The district’s contributing resources are significant to the state of Kansas for their associations with the state’s Native American heritage and early settlement of western Kansas and for the ability of the tipi ring site in particular to continue to provide information about the Pawnee Nation’s habitation in the region.

29 Paragraph from 14EL312 Archeological Site Form: description drawn from notes held by the Ellis County Historical Society.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 27.4

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: _______
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

UTM References
____ NAD 1927 or ________ NAD 1983 or X WGS 84 (See Figure 36)

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The nominated boundary of the 27.4-acre site is drawn to include the concentration of the three major components of this district. The boundary includes all of recorded archeological site 14EL406, even the far northern end (defined on the basis of surface artifacts), which is not believed to contain any intact rings or other cultural deposits.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy Weston (KSHS)*, Jack L. Hofman (KU), & Chris Hord (KAA) with Richard Anderson, Amanda K. Loughlin, & Gina S. Powell (all KSHS)
organization Kansas Historical Society (KSHS), University of Kansas (KU), & Kansas Anthropological Assn. (KAA) date Fall 2017
street & number 6425 SW 6th Ave. telephone (785) 272-8681
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66615
e-mail kshs.shpo@ks.gov

*Dr. Weston prepared this nomination with information provided by Dr. Hofman & Mr. Hord. The research and archeological investigations were conducted by Hofman & Hord. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Powell assisted with research and mapping; Ms. Loughlin provided editorial assistance.

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO) ON FILE WITH SHPO
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Pawnee Tipi Ring Site, REDACTED Farmstead & Golden Spring Beach
City or Vicinity: Hays vicinity
County: Ellis State: Kansas
Photographer: Chris Hord (CH), Jack Hofman (JH), Tim Weston (TW)
Date Photographed: Multiple (see below)

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

01 of 14: Ring 18 in foreground, looking south to river and showing field of rings (CH, JH, November 2015)
02 of 14: Ring 18, looking north (CH, JH, November 2015)
03 of 14: Ring 18, looking east and showing people for scale (TW, February 2016)
04 of 14: Typical buried/unexcavated ring (CH, JH, May 2015)
05 of 14: Ring 19 with markings from surface testing (CH, JH, November 2015)
06 of 14: Stone pavement feature (CH, JH, November 2015)
07 of 14: View W from E boundary, looking toward house (left) and barn ruin (right) (CH, February 2017)
08 of 14: View W, showing east wall of barn ruin (TW, February 2016)
09 of 14: View E, showing west wall of barn ruin (TW, February 2016)
10 of 14: View W, showing cellar and house (CH, January 2016)
11 of 14: View SE, showing north and west walls of house (CH, May 2017)
12 of 14: View N of house interior (living room) from entry area (CH, May 2017)
13 of 14: View E of swimming pool with diving ruins (TW, February 2016)
14 of 14: View ESE from W end of swimming pool; dance pavilion in background (TW, February 2016)

See photo map on following page.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Photograph Key Map. North is up.

REDACTED

Figure 1.

REDACTED

Figure 2.

REDACTED

Figure 3.

REDACTED

Figure 4.

REDACTED

Figure 5.

REDACTED

Figure 6.

REDACTED

Figure 7.

REDACTED

Figure 8.

REDACTED
Figure 9.

Completed 2015 Excavations in ring 18 at the Pawnee Tipi Ring site (14EL406).
Figure 10.

REDACTED

Figure 11.

Stone pavement feature (2016 Excavations) at the Pawnee Tipi Ring site (14EL406).
Bison bone from the stone pavement feature at the Pawnee Tipi Ring site (14EL406).
Figure 13.

Intensive surface investigations in ring 19 at the Pawnee Tipi Ring site (14EL406).
(Hord and Hofman 2016: Slide 28)
Figure 14.

REDACTED

Figure 15.

Completed excavations in ring 1 at the Pawnee Tipi Ring site (14EL406). (Hofman and Hord 2015: Slide 24).
Figure 16.

REDACTED

Figure 17.

REDACTED
Figure 18.

Metal (top) and lithic artifacts in-situ at the Pawnee Tipi Ring site (14EL406).
Figure 19.

REDACTED
Figure 20.
Figure 21.

Front facade, REDACTED farmstead house
Figure 22.

Top: 1887 Everts Atlas drawing
Bottom: Modern view from the same perspective
Figure 23.

Top: east wall, REDACTED farmstead barn ruin (metal outbuilding at left)
Bottom: interior view, REDACTED farmstead barn ruin
Figure 24.

Top: **REDACTED** farmstead barn in 1976 showing the complete (replacement) arched roof.
Bottom: West wall of the **REDACTED** farmstead barn ruin, showing a break in masonry at the base of the top 7–8 courses of stone.
Figure 25.

Above ground portion of the cellar and stairway leading to the underground portion
Figure 26.

Arched below-ground features of the cellar
Figure 27.

Golden Spring Beach poster advertising opening day 1928.
Figure 28.
REDACTED

Figure 29.
Top: Vertical access shaft; Bottom: Stone-lined tunnel leading from the spring to the pool, GSB
Figure 30.

Diving Tower, Golden Spring Beach
Figure 31.

Top: Pavilion, Golden Spring Beach  
Bottom: Remains of pavilion floor adjacent to the pool, Golden Spring Beach
Pawnee Tipi of the type likely in use during Frémont's 1844 visit (Prettyman and Cunningham 1957, cited in Hyde 1974:87).
**Figure 33.**

**REDACTED**

**Figure 34.**

1845 Frémont/Preuss Map, extending from Fort Leavenworth to the Great Salt Lake.

Full Title: “Map of a Reconnoissance between Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River, and the Great Salt Lake in the Territory Of Utah, made in 1849 and 1850 under the orders of Col. J.J. Abert ... By Capt. Howard Stansbury ... aided by Lieut. J.W. Gunnison ... and Albert Carrington. The adjacent country laid down from the latest and most authentic data. Drawn by Lieut. Gunnison and Charles Preuss. Ackerman Lith. 379 Broadway N.Y.” David Rumsey Map Collection, Stanford University: [http://www.davidrumsey.com/home](http://www.davidrumsey.com/home)
Figure 35.

REDACTED

Figure 36 (Boundary Map). UTM Coordinates. Datum: WGS 84. Zone: 14S

REDACTED