NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
COMMON: Battle of Mine Creek Site
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Two and one-half miles southwest of Pleasanton (see continuation sheet)
CITY OR TOWN: Pleasanton vicinity
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Cong. Joe Skubitz, No. 5
STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Linn

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Industrial
- Museum
- Military
- Religious
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Private

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Register of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER: Linn County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Mound City
STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Linn

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: A Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas
DATE OF SURVEY: 1957
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka
STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Linn

The Battle of Mine Creek was fought over the fields and pastures of pioneer Kansas farmers in 1864. The area has remained rural and continues to be used for agricultural purposes. Parts of three farmsteads are included in the 180 acres being nominated.

Generally speaking, Mine Creek runs from west to east through the area but makes a 45 degree bend to the south about midway through the battle site. The land along the course of the creek has always been fairly overgrown with brush; however, it probably has more trees and shrubs today than at the time of the battle. Contemporary accounts refer to grassy prairie land on either side of the creek. These flat areas are today tilled fields. The area has been fenced and at least one farm pond has been dug.

The old road leading from Trading Post to Fort Scott divided both north and south of Mine Creek and crossed it at three different fords. Two of the fords are still visible, and then as now the creek is practically impassable elsewhere because of the steep bluffs forming the creek banks. Evidences of the old road are also visible in places.
The Battle of Mine Creek was the only major Civil War battle fought on Kansas soil between uniformed troops of the Union and the Confederacy. Occurring on October 25, 1864, the engagement was a decisive factor in the failure of Price's raid.

In the spring and summer months of 1864, the situation of the Union armies was grim. In the east heavy losses had been incurred in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, while in the west campaigns in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas had failed, allowing the Confederate troops to take the offensive.

Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, who had been placed in command of the Confederate District of Arkansas in March, 1864, thought the time was right for an all-out invasion of Missouri. In an order issued by Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith on August 4, 1864, at the headquarters of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi department, Price was authorized to invade Missouri. Smith stated the purpose of the raid:

"Rally the loyal men of Missouri, and remember that our great want is men. . . . Make St. Louis the objective point of your movement, which, if rapidly made, will put you in possession of that place, its supplies, and military stores, and which will do more toward rallying Missouri to your standard than the possession of any other point. Should you be compelled to withdraw from the State, make your retreat through Kansas and the Indian Territory, sweeping that country of its mules, horses, cattle, and military supplies of all kinds. . . ."

Price's forces of some 12,000 entered Missouri on September 19. Union troop concentrations at St. Louis caused Price to change his target first to Pilot Knob, where his forces suffered a defeat on September 27, and then to the state capital, Jefferson City, which he reached on October 7. Errorneously believing himself outnumbered by that city's defenders, Price decided to push on toward Kansas. He faced growing opposition and continuing harassment as he moved westward.
2. South 60 acres of SW 1/4 Sec. 12, T 22 S, R 24 E. NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 13, T 22 S, R 24 E. E 1/2 NW 1/4 Sec. 13, T 22 S, R 24 E.

8. On October 8, the governor of Kansas, Thomas Carney, issued a proclamation calling out the state militia along the eastern border at the request of Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, commanding the Department of Kansas. In response to the call 12,622 men assembled at six locations in eastern Kansas.

Price's movement across Missouri was contested by regular Union forces. The Battle of the Big Blue near Independence, Mo., on October 22 was a victory for the Confederates as the Union forces were compelled to withdraw to previously prepared lines of fortifications. On the following day the Battle of Westport was fought. Price's attack was stopped and the Confederates forced to retreat southward. The Union forces under Generals Curtis and Pleasonton were in pursuit on the 24th. Contact was made that night near Trading Post, Kan. At 4 a.m. on the 25th the Union forces began a general advance.

The Battle of Mine Creek was forced because Price's supply train, which he was determined to save, had because of its slow movement blocked troop passage across the fords of Mine Creek. The troops defending the withdrawal of the supply train had no choice but to form a defensive line and fight. A fierce Union charge and about 20 minutes of brutal close quarter fighting resulted in a Confederate rout. Since the creek was impassable except at the fords and the Southern forces had to retreat along one narrow road, a tremendous pileup of men, horses and wagons occurred at the ford. In an area of only a few acres at the bend of the creek 300 Confederates were killed or wounded and about 900 were captured, including Generals Marmaduke and Cabell. Price and his officers could not rally the defeated Southern forces until they had fled miles further south. That night on the banks of the Marmaton river near Fort Scott, Price was forced to destroy his supply train. And because of his defeat at Mine Creek and the continuing Union pressure, he could not carry out his intended attack on Fort Scott, which had large quantities of needed supplies.

Price's raid failed to attain any of its major objectives. In his report he claimed to have captured and paroled more than 3,000 Federal officers and men, seized large quantities of supplies and stores of all kinds, destroyed many miles of railroad track and burned depots and bridges, all this property amounting to no less than $10,000,000, and added 5,000 recruits to the Confederate army. His losses were put at 1,000 men, 10 pieces of artillery and 1,000 small arms. No mention was made in his report of the hundreds of wagons and horses and the tons of ammunition and supplies which were abandoned or had to be destroyed in the retreat.
The Battle of Mine Creek was the only important Civil War battle fought in Kansas. Its major significance in addition to the prisoners, guns and other materials captured was that Price was forced out of Kansas and was unable to carry out his intended attack on Fort Scott. It was the conclusive battle of the Price raid after Westport, and it was probably the last significant battle of the Civil War in the trans-Mississippi area.

The area being nominated has been identified by local historians through the use of various battle accounts, old soldiers' written reminiscences, diaries, land records, and other sources as being the site of the major fighting of the battle. The Linn County Historical Society is working on plans for the acquisition of the 180 acres and restoration of the area to its 1864 condition, including reconstruction of the buildings which stood on the site at that time.

Pomeroy, Fletcher, Diary, Manuscript Division, Kansas State Historical Society.  
9. Major Bibliographical References

Castel, Albert, General Sterling Price and the Civil War in the West (Baton Rouge, La., Louisiana State University Press, 1968).

10. Geographical Data

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<th>Corner</th>
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Approximate acreage of nominated property: 180

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title:
Richard Pankratz, Planner

Organization:
Kansas State Historical Society

Street and Number:
120 West Tenth Street

City or Town:
Topeka

State:
Kansas

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:

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

Attest:

Keeper of the National Register

Date