

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

SELGEN

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Diamond of the Plain

AND/OR COMMON
Diamond Spring (preferred name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Three and one-half miles west, one and one-fourth miles south, and one mile west of Wilsey; SW1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 34, T 16 S, R 6 E

CITY, TOWN Wilsey VICINITY OF no. 5, Joe Skubitz
STATE Kansas CODE 20 COUNTY Morris CODE 127

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John Vanier

STREET & NUMBER Box 58

CITY, TOWN Salina VICINITY OF STATE Kansas 67401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Morris County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Council Grove STATE Kansas 66846

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas

DATE 1957 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Diamond Spring is located on a Morris county ranch about 15 miles southwest of Council Grove. The spring is a few feet south of an interior ranch road near the bottom of a westward facing slope.

Originally the Santa Fe trail passed a short distance to the north of the spring and the whole area was open and grass covered. Now a great deal of brush and undergrowth (and snakes) are found in the immediate spring vicinity. For many years the spring has not had the original appearance and beauty as described by travelers on the Santa Fe trail. Where the spring once flowed freely; it is today enclosed in a circular concrete coping. Although the viewer cannot see it gushing or bubbling forth, the spring still flows and the water leaves the concrete cistern through iron pipes and runs down the hill to the creek. Two sheets of corrugated metal are placed over the concrete enclosure to prevent debris from falling in.

Up the slope to the east of the spring is a commemorative marker placed in 1907. The legend on the stone has been almost erased by the elements and the marker, too, is in the midst of heavy brush.

The spring can be reached only by following a ranch lane road almost a mile to the ranch house and yard and then proceeding from the yard down an incline to the north and west along the ranch road.

If the concrete coping and the iron pipes were to be removed, it should be possible to restore the former appearance of the spring.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1820's - 1870's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From the 1820's to the 1870's one of the most significant land routes in the United States was the Santa Fe trail, which had two-thirds of its length in Kansas. William Becknell's first successful trade ventures to Santa Fe in 1821 and 1822 opened the way for other entrepreneurs. So many had become involved in the Santa Fe trade by 1825 that the federal government began to survey and mark the trail. The location of water sources helped to determine the route.

Diamond Spring was one of the most widely known camping sites along the Santa Fe trail. Located 15 miles west of Council Grove, it had the three necessities for overland travelers: a plentiful supply of good water, grass and timber.

The spring was discovered on August 11, 1825, by "Old Ben Jones," a hunter with the U. S. Surveying Expedition. According to the report of George C. Sibley, one of the three commissioners appointed by the President to mark the road from Missouri to Santa Fe, he had named it "The Diamond of the Plain" and caused that name to be carved on a nearby elm tree on a return visit in 1827. Sibley wrote the following:

"This spring gushes out from the head of a hollow in the prairie, and runs off boldly among clean stones into Otter creek, a short distance--it is very large, perfectly accessible, and furnishes the greatest abundance of most excellent, clear, cold water--enough to supply an army. There is a fountain, inferior to this, in the Arabian Desert, known as 'The Diamond of the Desert.' This magnificent spring may, with at least equal propriety, be called 'The Diamond of the Plain.'"

Many of the travelers, soldiers, traders and others using the trail who kept diaries and journals or later wrote accounts of their trips recorded their stop at Diamond Spring and the plentiful supply of clear, cold water. These records begin with the members of the surveying expedition of 1825-1827 and include a number of men with the Doniphan Expedition of 1846, as well as others. One observer noted that on July 5, 1846, the temperature in the shade was 87° while the spring water was 54°.

All the printed guides to the Santa Fe trail included Diamond Spring and identified it as a good camping ground. It was regarded as one of the few places where travelers could find shelter from the elements, particularly in winter.

Later a stage station was established near the spring, and there is record of a small store at the place in 1861. Foundations of these structures were still visible in 1907 when a D. A. R. commemorative marker was dedicated.

Still later a rancher installed a ram in the spring to supply running water for the ranch house and barn up a rise to the southeast. The concrete coping and some of the pipes, long useless, still remain. The spring flows but the beauty noted by Joseph Brown, George Sibley and others is gone.

Diamond Spring has long been recognized as an important landmark on the Santa Fe trail.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Connelley, William E., ed., "A Journal of the Santa Fe Trail," The Mississippi Valley Historical Review, v. 12, no. 1 (June, 1925), pp. 72-98.
 Connelley, William E., War with Mexico, 1846-1847; Doniphan's Expedition and the Conquest of Mexico and California (Topeka, Kan., Crane and Co., 1907), pp. 619-634.
 "Diamond Springs--A Famous Spot on the Old Santa Fe Trail," Topeka Capital, Sept. 22, 1907.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY five
 UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

12/5/75

STREET & NUMBER

120 West Tenth Street

TELEPHONE

(913) 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Nyle H. Miller

TITLE

Executive Director

DATE

12/5/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Diamond Spring

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER 6, 9 PAGE 1

6.

Advisory List to the National Register of Historic Places

1969

Federal

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

9.

- Galvin, John, ed., Western America in 1846-1847; The Original Travel Diary of Lieutenant J. W. Abert. . . . (San Francisco, John Howell-Books, 1966), p. 10.
- Gregg, Josiah, Commerce of the Prairies, Thwaites, Reuben Gold, ed., Early Western Travels, 1748-1846 (Cleveland, A. H. Clark Co., 1905), pp. 93, 203, 204.
- Gregg, Kate L., ed., The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley and Others Pertaining to the Surveying and Marking of a Road from the Missouri Frontier to the Settlements of New Mexico, 1825-1827 (Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1952), pp. 46, 60, 169, 184, 254, 272.
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- Hughes, John T., Doniphan's Expedition; Containing an Account of the Conquest of New Mexico (Cincinnati, J. A. and U. P. James, 1850), pp. 40, 41.
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- Journal of William H. Richardson (Baltimore, John W. Woods, Printer, 1848), p. 11.
"Santa Fe Trail, Survey of 1825-1827. Field Notes and Maps by Jos. Brown."
Copied from the original in Washington, D. C. Map Division, Kansas State Historical Society.
- Sibley, George C., "Article IV.--Route to Santa Fe, Council Grove, etc.," The Western Journal, v. 5, no. 3 (Dec., 1850), pp. 171-181.
- Webb, James Josiah, Adventures in the Santa Fe Trade, 1844-1847, Bieber, Ralph P., ed., Southwest Historical Series, Vol. I (Glendale, California, A. H. Clark Co., 1931), pp. 21, 46, 47, 164, 165.
- Wislizenus, A., M. D., Memoir of a Tour to Northern Mexico, Connected with Colonel Doniphan's Expedition in 1846 and 1847 (Albuquerque, Calvin Horn Pub., Inc., 1969, reprint of 1848 edition), pp. 8, 116, 118, 119.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Morris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

DIAMOND SPRING

Attn: Steve Livingood

In response to your telephone call of May 3, 1976, concerning Diamond Spring, we have checked the file for justification of the five acres of the nomination. Five acres would not be of sufficient size to include the reported area of the trail ruts to the north of the spring. The file shows that our original draft of the form had indicated one acre. At this time it is only speculation as to why the number was raised to five. After reviewing the map, it would be agreeable to us to reduce the acreage to one-two.

Richard Pankratz
Historic Sites Survey

May 3, 1976