

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register Listed  
April 3, 2013**

# 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 Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5

other names/site number 14MT1101, 14MT1103, KHRI #129-173

## 2. Location

street & number 7 mi. N of US-56 Hwy along CR-16  not for publication

city or town Wilburton (Cimarron National Grassland)  vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Morton code 129 zip code 67950

## 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:

X national     statewide     local

SEE FILE  
Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	district
1	0	site
0	0	structure
1	0	object
<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail (2012)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

RECREATION AND CULTURE/marker

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/conservation area

RECREATION AND CULTURE/marker

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: N/A

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: Stone (DAR marker)

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## Narrative Description

### Summary

The Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5 is comprised of Trail Segment (14MT1103) and the Wilburton Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) marker (14MT1101), as well as a 50-meter (164-foot) contributing linear land area around the documented swales.<sup>1</sup> This linear 121.28-acre site is located entirely within the Cimarron National Grassland about seven miles north of US-56 Highway and about seven miles south of K-51 Highway in Morton County, Kansas, on either side of CR-16. The DAR marker, which sits on the east side of CR-16, retains its original location. Segment 14MT1103 is a good example of a Transportation Site (Trail Segment subtype) and the Wilburton DAR marker is an example of a Memorial and Monument property type, as defined in the *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail* revised multiple property nomination. The Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5 begins at the fence line along the eastern boundary of the Grassland in the NE1/4 of Section 15, Township 33 South, Range 41 West and heads southwest through the entire section. The segment is interrupted by CR-16 and its right-of-way. Its western terminus is in the N1/2, SE1/4 of Section 21, Township 33 South, Range 41 West.

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### Elaboration

The Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5 is comprised of the Wilburton Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) marker (14MT1101) and Trail Segment (14MT1103), which played a key role in transportation of travelers and goods along this length of trail in Morton County between 1822 and 1868. This segment, a remnant of the Cimarron Route, leads to and away from Middle Spring and Point of Rocks. Dust storms produced a minor shift in vegetation during the Dust Bowl, with the most severe erosion in Morton County taking place between 1935 and 1938.<sup>2</sup> Despite the landscape changes, this site maintains a similar visual landscape to that of its period of significance (1822-1868).

#### *Landscape<sup>3</sup>*

Morton County is located within the High Plains section of the Great Plains province of the Interior Plains division of North America. The natural vegetation of the High Plains consists of a vast expanse of prairie cut through by narrow, discontinuous ribbons of riverine forest. The potential natural vegetation of the region includes short grass prairie and floodplain forest or savanna.<sup>4</sup> The prairie contains a growth of blue grama and buffalograss along with a few other grasses and forbs. The forbs are most common in the southern part of the state. The overall terrain surrounding this site in Morton County is prairie, having intermittent patches of yucca (*Yucca spp.*) and buffalograss (*Buchloë dactyloides*) throughout the area.<sup>5</sup> In the Cimarron National Grassland, sand sagebrush (*Artemisia filifolia*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia spp.*) are also prevalent.

This site – and the surrounding landscape – north of the Cimarron River is relatively flat. Beginning at an elevation of 1039 meters (3410 feet) at the eastern terminus, this site slopes down to an elevation of 1012 meters (3320 feet) and its western terminus. The swales are located in a rural area of Morton County and the viewshed from the nominated site shows minimal visual intrusions, namely small windmills, livestock fences, and limestone posts erected to mark the general location of the trail. The rural nature of this area and its conservation as a national grassland maintains the historic visual integrity of the linear site. The United States Forest Service (USFS) maintains a protective corridor on either side of the trail which helps to protect and preserve this nationally significant trail yet allow the USFS to meet its multiple use mandate.

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<sup>1</sup> 14MT1101 and 14MT1103 are these resources' Kansas State Historical Society archeological site numbers.

<sup>2</sup> Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), 28, 30.

<sup>3</sup> The following paragraph is adapted from standard language used in reports written by Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Archeology Department.

<sup>4</sup> A.W. Kuchler, "A New Vegetation Map of Kansas," *Ecology* 55, no. 3 (1974): 586-604.

<sup>5</sup> Prior to a site visit by the Kansas Historical Society in October 2011, the Cimarron National Grassland experienced a fire, which burned much of the vegetation. The fire was spurred by a severe drought in the area. Though the fire did not produce a shift in plant species or other major changes, it left much of the soil exposed.

*Trail Segment 14MT1103*

Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. conducted a reconnaissance survey of several potential Santa Fe Trail swales in the Cimarron National Grassland for the USDA Forest Service in 2000. The purpose of this investigation was to determine the validity of proposed trail sites identified in 1990 by William Buckles and Kathie Arwood of the University of Southern Colorado.<sup>6</sup> Alpine's lead investigator Jonathon C. Horn's report provides a basis for the summary of this segment.

Trail Segment 14MT1103 is an example of a Transportation Site (Trail Segment subtype), as described in the revised multiple property nomination. The eastern terminus of this 3-kilometer (1.9-mile) long segment starts at an elevation of 1039 meters (3410 feet) in the NE1/4 of Section 15, Township 33 South, Range 41 West at a north-south fence line. Proceeding southwesterly, the segment crosses the entire section and into the NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 22, Township 33 South, Range 41 West where it is then interrupted by CR-16. The segment begins again on the west side of this road's right-of-way in the NE1/4 of Section 21, Township 33 South, Range 41 West and heads south-southwest to end in the N1/2, SE1/4 of the section at an approximate elevation of 1012 meters (3320 feet).

At the eastern terminus, at least eight swales in an 80-meter (260-foot) wide corridor are visible heading west-southwest from the fence line to a north-south intermittent drainage (Figure 1).<sup>7</sup> Soil accumulation on both sides of this drainage has erased evidence of the trail for 15 meters (50 feet). Two swales become visible, though less distinct, as they head southwest from the drainage for the about 150 meters (490 feet). These swales are within a 30-meter (100-foot) wide corridor that narrows to 15 meters (50 feet). The width of this corridor indicates that other swales would have once been present between the two that are extant. These two shallow swales disappear as they reach an east-west two-track road in the SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 15.

Approximately 50 meters (164 feet) southwest of this road, the trail becomes visible on a slight southwest slope in a 20-meter (65-foot) wide single swale, paralleling a mown path. This swale continues southwestward for about 60 meters (200 feet) until it reaches another intermittent drainage in the NW1/4, SE1/4 of the section and is lost for the next 10 meters (30 feet). According to recent aerial photography, more swales may be extant paralleling this swale to the southeast (Figure 2). Future archeological investigations could verify the existence of more swales in this location.

Southwest of the drainage, a shallow 8-meter (25-foot) wide swale continues for an additional 100 meters (330 feet) after which distance, the corridor widens to 50 meters (164 feet) containing four parallel swales. The southernmost swale of this set is 10 to 12 meters (35 to 40 feet) wide, while the other three range between 2.5 to 3.5 meters (8 to 12 feet) again indicating that the widest swale may be an eroded corridor in which multiple swales were located. After 100 meters (325 feet), another drainage interrupts the visible corridor for 140 meters (450 feet). The corridor becomes visible on the west side of the drainage as an 80-meter (260-foot) wide single swale that narrows to 50 meters (164 feet). After 80 meters (260 feet) three distinct parallel swales are visible, with the most discernible swale on the south side of the corridor.

As the segment reaches a grassy drainage bottom in the SW/4, SW/4 of the section, the corridor narrows to a single 40-meter (130-foot) wide swale that widens again to 91 meters (300ft). About 200 meters (660 feet) west of the drainage, the corridor further narrows to 50 meters (164 feet) with at least three visible swales evident. Upon entering the NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 22, Township 33 South, Range 41 West, the trail widens to a 60-meter (200-foot) corridor containing up to five parallel swales. This corridor narrows to 25 meters (80 feet) at the right-of-way to CR-16.

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<sup>6</sup> Jonathon C. Horn, *Santa Fe Trail Documentation on the Cimarron National Grassland, Morton County, Kansas* (Montrose: Alpine Archeological Consultants, Inc., 2000), ii. See William G. Buckles and Kathie Arwood, *Investigations of the Cimarron Branch of the Santa Fe Trail Cimarron National Grassland, Morton County, Kansas* (Pueblo: University of Southern Colorado, 1990) on file with the Kansas State Historical Society's Cultural Resources Division.

<sup>7</sup> Horn's report mentions "multiple swales" were visible during his survey in 2000; during a site visit in the fall of 2011, at least eight swales were visible.

The segment – and the boundaries of this site – is interrupted by the county road but at least three deep swales are evident on the west side of the road in a 50-meter (164-foot) wide corridor (Figure 3). One of the swales is located farther northwest than the other swales, extending 500 meters (1650 feet) southwest before disappearing at an intermittent drainage. The other swales also continue southwest to the drainage, becoming indistinct within the drainage bottom. After a 50-meter (164-foot) break in the corridor at this point, the trail becomes vaguely discernible for another 80 meters (260 feet). In the drainage bottom there is a pipeline crossing that is marked by about a 0.6-meter (2-foot) high berm. From the west edge of the drainage bottom the trail continues as a single swale that splits into two swales in a 20-meter (65-foot) wide corridor for about 80 meters (260 feet). At this point, the corridor, though indistinct, continues southwest for 75 meters (250 feet) where it finally ends.<sup>8</sup>

*Wilburton DAR Marker 14MT1101*

The Wilburton (or Mid-Morton County) DAR Marker is an example of a Monument and Memorial property type, as described in the multiple property nomination.<sup>9</sup> It was made in 1906 with the intention of having it placed as soon as it was received by Morton County residents. The marker sits on the east side of CR-16 behind a barbed wire fence.

The red granite stone marker faces west and stands about 2.5 feet tall on a concrete base. Between 2007 and 2011, the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution refurbished all the Santa Fe Trail stone markers, including this one. The refurbishment included the lithographing of the letters.

The condition of this marker is good. The flat and windy environment has contributed to some marker erosion and slight fading of the letters. The inscription is legible and reads: SANTA FE TRAIL / 1822-1872 / MARKED BY THE / DAUGHTERS OF / THE AMERICAN / REVOLUTION / AND THE / STATE OF KANSAS / 1906.

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<sup>8</sup> Horn, 11, 14. Citation includes the preceding six paragraphs.

<sup>9</sup> Name given by Kansas Society DAR. See Shirley S. Coupal and Patricia Dorsch Traffas, *The Century Survey of the Kansas Santa Fe Trail DAR Markers Placed by the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution in 1906*, Unpublished report of the “Historical [sic] Preservation Project of the ‘At Home on the Plains Administration,’ Shirley S. Coupal, State Regent, Patricia Dorsch Traffas, Honorary State Regent and Project Coordinator, 2007-2010,” (2011).

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Transportation
Commerce
Social History

Period of Significance

- 1822-1868
1906-1907

Significant Dates

- c1906

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

- N/A

Cultural Affiliation

- N/A

Architect/Builder

- N/A

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, 1822-1868 was selected because it spans the years the Santa Fe Trail was active in this part of Kansas as a route of transportation and commerce. A later period of significance, 1906-1907, spans the years of commemoration of the trail at this site.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

As discussed in the revised MPDF, the commemorative DAR marker is eligible because the age, intent, and symbolic value of this resource contribute to the marker's own historical significance. This significance is in large-part directly tied to the effort to memorialize the trail by those who were associated with the trail. This object also provides the location of a Santa Fe Trail swale, and in this way helps to confirm and illuminate the history of the trail itself.

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

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### Summary

The Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5 is nationally significant as a historic resource of the Santa Fe Trail under Criterion A for its association with transportation and commerce along the Santa Fe Trail from 1822 to 1868 and for its association with the commemoration of the trail by the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution from 1906 to 1907. This segment is also nationally significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield information on the use of the trail during its initial period of significance. This site's trail segment, marker, and contributing land area retain a good degree of integrity in terms of location, setting, feeling, and association. The period of significance begins with the initiation of wagon movement over this segment of the Cimarron Route in 1822 and ends with the arrival of the Union Pacific Eastern Division Railroad at the town of Sheridan, Kansas in June 1868. This site materially reflects important historic events outlined in the historic contexts International Trade on the Mexican Road, 1821-1846; The Mexican-American War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1848; Expanding National Trade on the Santa Fe Trail, 1848-1861; The Effects of the Civil War on the Santa Fe Trail, 1861-1865; The Santa Fe Trail and the Railroad, 1865-1880; and Commemoration and Reuse of the Santa Fe Trail, 1880-1987, as well as The Santa Fe Trail in Kansas.

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### Elaboration

From 1821 to 1880, the Santa Fe Trail was a significant trade route between Missouri and New Mexico. Unlike other trails such as the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails, which served as a highway for emigrants bound for new homes in the far West, the bulk of traffic along the Santa Fe Trail consisted of civilian traders and military personnel. The Cimarron Route, which passed through what is now the Cimarron National Grassland, traversed 294 miles between its departure from the Mountain Route near Ingalls, Kansas and its reunification with the Mountain Route at La Junta (Watrous), New Mexico; 88 miles of the Cimarron Route were in Kansas, including a portion of the 60-mile waterless stretch known as *La Jornada*.

This trail segment is closely related to neighboring Point of Rocks and Middle Spring, which was the next reliable water source west of the Lower Cimarron (or Wagon Bed) Spring at the western end of *La Jornada*.<sup>10</sup> A lack of reliable water sources contributed to difficult travel through *La Jornada*. With the Cimarron River containing only small pools of water after heavy rains, Middle Spring was a crucial stop for travelers.<sup>11</sup> Almost all travelers looking for Middle Spring would have used neighboring Point of Rocks as a navigational aid. In evidence of this today, visible trail segments curve around Middle Spring and directly to the south of Point of Rocks. The Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5 is part of the Cimarron Route and is closely associated with Point of Rocks and Middle Spring, which are located approximately 10 miles (16km) southwest of this segment.

#### *Trail Traffic (1822-1868)*

Although William Becknell initiated travel to Santa Fe in 1821, his expedition entered New Mexico using pack animals through Emery Gap on the present-day Colorado-New Mexico border, not through this portion of Morton County. Becknell's second trading expedition in the spring of 1822, however, likely did pass through this portion of Morton County. This expedition included 21 men and three wagons – the first American attempt to use wagons on the trail.<sup>12</sup> The use of wagons required the party to adopt a trail route that avoided the

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<sup>10</sup> Lower Cimarron Spring is a National Historic Landmark (12/19/1960) and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (10/15/1966). Both the NHL and NR nominations are on file with the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office.

<sup>11</sup> William E. Brown, *The Santa Fe Trail: National Park Service 1963 Historic Sites Survey* (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1988), 113.

<sup>12</sup> Larry M. Beachum, *William Becknell, Father of the Santa Fe Trade* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1982), 34; Larry M. Beachum, "To the Westward: William Becknell and the Beginning of the Santa Fe Trade," *Journal of the West* 28

mountains Becknell used during his first trip; this new route followed what became the Cimarron Route in Morton County, Kansas (Figure 4).<sup>13</sup> From 1822 to the start of the Mexican-American War in 1846, the Cimarron Route was known as *the* Santa Fe Trail (in its various naming iterations) by traders between New Mexico and Missouri. During the Mexican-American War, users of the Cimarron Route were predominately the United States military. This route continued to see commercial and military traffic after the war until the Union Pacific Eastern Division reached the short-lived town of Sheridan, Kansas, in June 1868. Santa Fe-bound freight was shipped to this rail-end town approximately 140 miles north of Elkhart where it was then loaded onto wagons and hauled along the Mountain Route (Figure 5). The portion of the trail through sections 14, 15, 21, and 22 of township 33 south, range 41 west was completely abandoned by 1874. The General Land Office surveyors reached this area of Morton County in 1874 but did not include the trail on their survey maps.

Documented use of this route in Morton County occurred throughout the trail's history, specifically with the mention of Point of Rocks and Middle Spring. Traveler Josiah Gregg mentioned Middle Spring in his 1824 journal of the trail.<sup>14</sup> In 1825 surveyors George Sibley and Joseph C. Brown both made mention of Point of Rocks and Middle Spring in their journals and field notes in October 1825.<sup>15</sup> During the Mexican-American War, US Captain Alexander B. Dyer mentioned Middle Spring in his field notes.<sup>16</sup> In 1865, Kansas settler Frank Stahl was employed by Leavenworth contractor James Kerr to drive over 1100 head of cattle to Fort Union, New Mexico for the US military.<sup>17</sup> Stahl passed by Middle Spring in September 1865, noting it in his travel journal.<sup>18</sup>

Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. concluded that this swale is an impression left by traffic that traveled along the Cimarron Route to and from Santa Fe. Archeological prospection, geophysical survey, and metal detector survey of similar trail segments have been shown to reveal associated artifact assemblages, sometimes buried and sometimes not, that can inform on the use of the trail during its period of significance. Though no such surveys have been undertaken on this trail segment, there is every reason to believe that the presence of such an assemblage is possible. These swales and their contributing land area have the potential to yield important information to understanding the use and nature of the Cimarron Route through Morton County, including patterns of use and change over time, evolving trade patterns, and cultural interactions. Study of both the remnant trail swale and adjacent archeological features can provide valuable insight into the evolving patterns of historic development in this region. This site likely contains data which may be vital to any wider study of the 19th-century trade and economic development. Further investigation could address key questions regarding trade and transportation variability and change. Excavation could also provide additional social data including better estimates of the frequency of use during various phases of history, the role played by the

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(April 1989): 9; Brown, 8; William E. Connelley, *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans Vol. I* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1918-1919), 89.

<sup>13</sup> According to Josiah Gregg's 1844 "Map of the Indian Territory Northern Texas and New Mexico Showing the Great Western Plains," the "First Wagon Route" left Cool Spring (in present-day Oklahoma) and headed further south of the Cimarron Route, crossing Arroyo de los Yutas and the Canadian River before arriving in San Jose, New Mexico where it rejoined the Cimarron Route into Santa Fe. The map is viewable on the University of Tulsa's website: <http://www.lib.utulsa.edu/speccoll/collections/maps/gregg/Gregg%20%20complete.jpg> (accessed 29 February 2012).

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix B in the multiple property nomination.

<sup>15</sup> Kate L. Gregg, 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: The University of New Mexico Press, 1952), 92, 258.

<sup>16</sup> See Appendix D in the multiple property nomination.

<sup>17</sup> William E. Connelley, *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans Vol. III* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1918-1919), 1316.

<sup>18</sup> Francis (Frank) M. Stahl, John Meredith, trans., *Santa Fe Trail Diary: Cattle drive from Leavenworth, Kansas to Fort Union, New Mexico* (Unpublished, 1865, 2008), 12 [electronic transcription on-line]; available from <http://www.frankstahlbio.net/Frank%20Stahl%20Santa%20Fe%20Trail%20diary%20transcription.pdf>; Internet; accessed 21 June 2012.



military, various ethnic and social groups, and the nature of trail users, material culture and the production, distribution, and consumption of commodities.<sup>19</sup>

Recent drought conditions and a subsequent grass fire in 2011 have made additional potential swales visible that Alpine was unable to discern in their 2000 survey. Further investigation of these swales could yield additional information regarding traffic patterns through the Cimarron National Grassland. This is especially true for those locations where only a single swale was visible in 2000. Additionally, archeological investigations into the NW/4 of S14-T33S-R41W – an area of private land not included within the boundaries of this nomination – may produce further evidence of swales that could add to the context of this segment.

*Commemorating the Trail (1906-1907)*

Efforts to mark the Santa Fe Trail through Kansas by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began in 1904. Five markers were shipped to Morton County in circa 1907, but only three of these were installed at the time. The Wilburton (Mid-Morton County) Marker (14MT1101) was one of those three; although, it is unaccounted for in DAR historian Almira Cordry's 1915 list of markers placed.<sup>20</sup> The County Commissioners paid for the markers to be hauled the almost 60 miles from the ATSF railroad to Morton County and for the markers to be set by county residents.<sup>21</sup>

Little is known concerning the siting of this marker. In 1906, the town of Wilburton, approximately seven miles south of this marker, had not been established.<sup>22</sup> However, the marker's proximity to visible swales along a county road and its location near the center of the county likely all played into the selection of this site.

Point of Rocks and Middle Spring were both key stops along the Cimarron Route for Santa Fe Trail travelers and remain central components to the associated trail segments throughout the Cimarron National Grassland, including the Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5. The commemorative DAR marker was installed at this location because of its trail remnant, which was part of the Cimarron Route in Kansas.

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<sup>19</sup> Kansas State Historical Society, *Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail Multiple Property Documentation Form (Revised)*. August 2012, F116.

<sup>20</sup> Cordry, 164. Cordry lists four markers in Morton County on page 164, though earlier in her history, she notes there were five markers in the county. The four she notes in her list include one at the Morton-Stevens county line; one in the "Southwest quarter of Section 33," which is most likely the one near Rolla in Section 35; one at Point of Rocks; and one at the state line.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 141.

<sup>22</sup> Ethel Coen, "Wilburton," Morton County Historical Society, *Morton County 1886-1886: Cornerstone of Kansas* (N.p., c1987), 56. Wilburton was platted in 1912 under the name Tice. The name was changed to Wilburton in 1913 and was named for the first postmistress, Nellie Wilbur.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Beachum, Larry M. "To the Westward: William Becknell and the Beginning of the Santa Fe Trade," *Journal of the West* 28 (April 1989).
- Beachum, Larry M. *William Becknell, Father of the Santa Fe Trade*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1982.
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- Worster, Donald. *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

x State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 121.28
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Map Datum: WGS84

See attached Boundary Maps for additional coordinates; letters correspond to map.

A: 37.161658,-101.779593 D: 37.177067,-101.764610
C: 37.169324,-101.773288 F: 37.182812,-101.755171

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

A linear 121.28-acre site beginning at the fence line designating the eastern boundary of the Cimarron National Grassland in the NE/4 of S15-T33S-R41W, continuing southwest through the section and into the NW/4, NW/4 of S22-T33S-R41W. The segment is interrupted by CR-16 and its right-of-way but begins again on the west side of CR-16 in the NE/4, NE/4 of S21-T33S-R41W and continuing south-southwest to terminate in the center of the N/2, SE/4 of S21-T33S-R41W.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the documented archeological sites 14MT1101 and 14MT1103 and a 50-meter (164-foot) contributing land area around the two sites as required in the revised multiple property nomination. This contributing land area ties the two sites together along their original corridor. The segment is interrupted by CR-16 and its right-of-way. The eastern boundary stops at a fence line that designates the edge of the Cimarron National Grassland and the edge of the area investigated by Alpine Archeological Consultants, Inc.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John R. Barry & Amanda K. Loughlin
organization Kansas State Historical Society date June 2012
street & number 6425 SW 6th Ave telephone 785-272-8681
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66615-1099
e-mail cultural\_resources@kshs.org

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
     A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Historic images, maps, etc.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5  
**City or Vicinity:** Wilburton vicinity  
**County/State:** Morton County, Kansas  
**Photographer:** Laura Groves  
**Date of Photos:** 11 October 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 5:** Looking NE from CR-16 right-of-way, showing DAR marker and 14MT1103. Swales visible on the horizon.
- 2 of 5:** Looking SW from CR-16 right of way, showing start of 14MT1103 as it heads southwest from road.
- 3 of 5:** Wilburton (Mid-Morton County) DAR Marker. West face.
- 4 of 5:** Looking WNW from eastern boundary of site across multiple shallow swales.
- 5 of 5:** Looking WNW from eastern boundary of site across multiple shallow swales. Green vegetation appears in swales.

**Property Owner:**

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name On file with SHPO.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.).

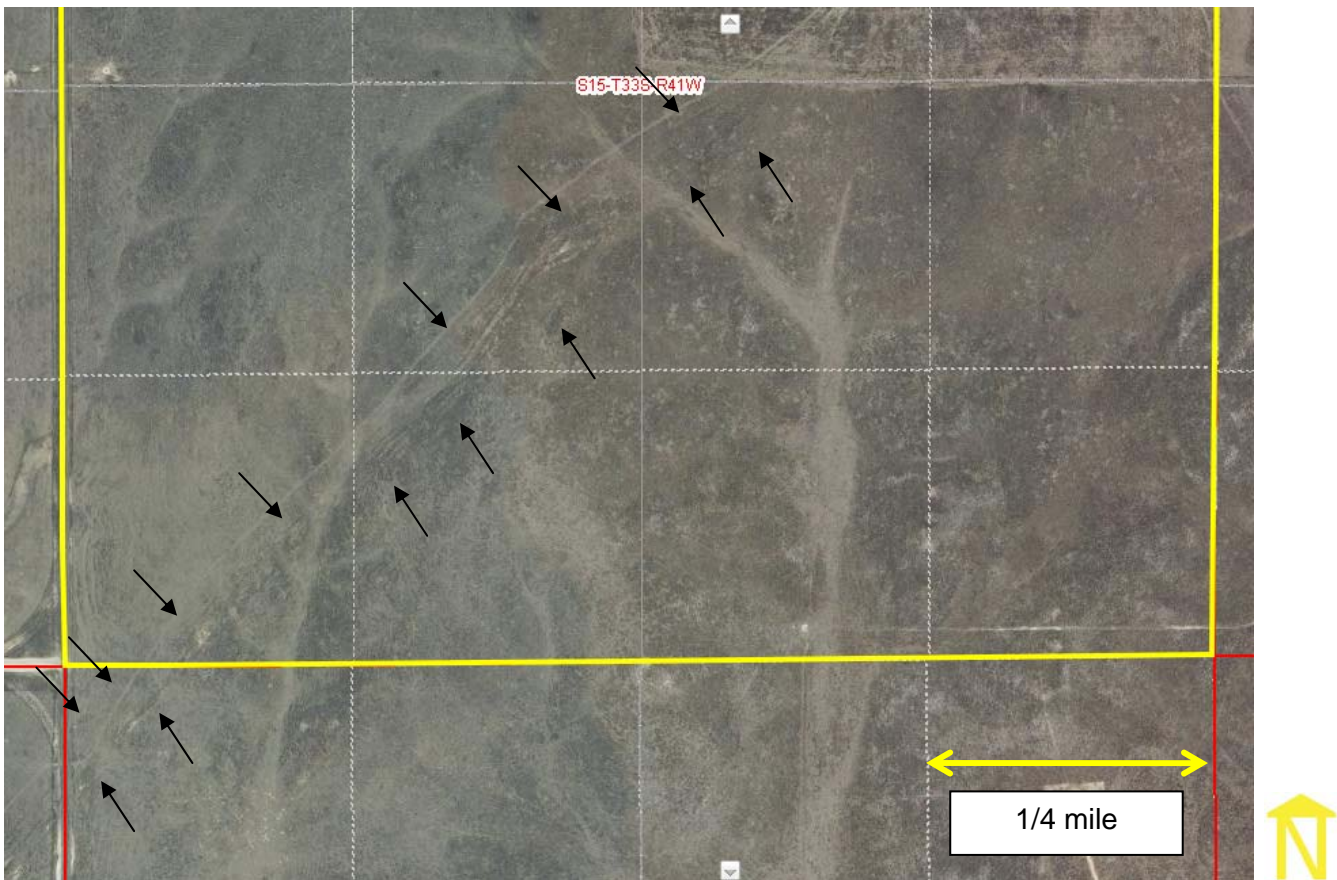
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Figure 1.



Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5.  
2008 aerial view. Arrows indicate location within which swales are located. Swales can be discerned as darker lines within the area, heading in a southwesterly direction.  
NE/4 S15-T33S-R41W  
Kansas Historic Resources Inventory ([kshs.org/khri](http://kshs.org/khri)).  
Accessed 28 June 2012.

Figure 2.



Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5.  
2008 aerial view. Arrows indicate location within which swales are located.  
S/2 S15-T33S-R41W (within yellow box) and N/4 S22-T33-R41W (bottom of image).  
Kansas Historic Resources Inventory (kshs.org/khri).  
Accessed 28 June 2012.

Figure 3.



Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5.  
2008 aerial view. Arrows indicate location of swales.  
NE/4 & N/2, SE/4 S21-T33S-R41W.  
Kansas Historic Resources Inventory (kshs.org/khri).  
Accessed 28 June 2012.

Figure 4.



Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5.

Detail of “Map of the Indian Territory Northern Texas and New Mexico Showing the Great Western Plains.” Box indicates general area around the nominated segment.

Josiah Gregg.

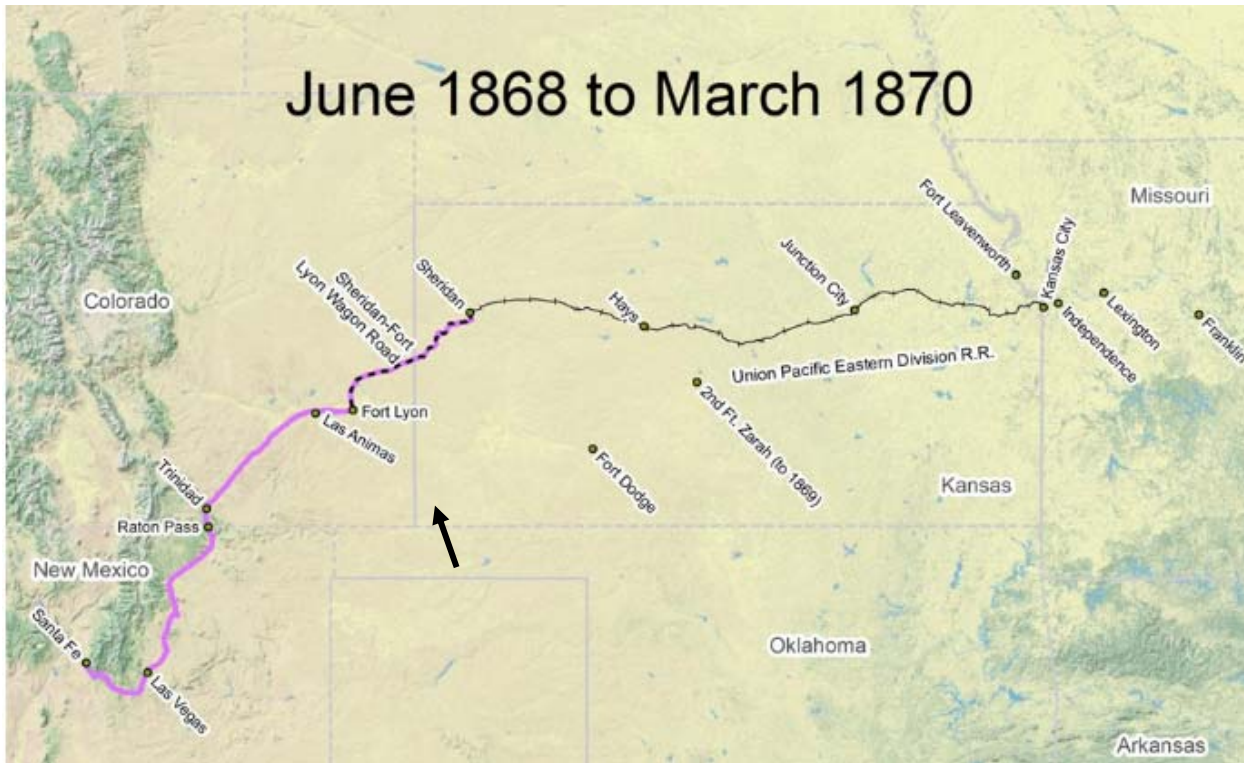
1844.

The University of Tulsa’s website:

<http://www.lib.utulsa.edu/speccoll/collections/maps/gregg/Gregg%20%20complete.jpg>  
(accessed 29 February 2012).



Figure 5.



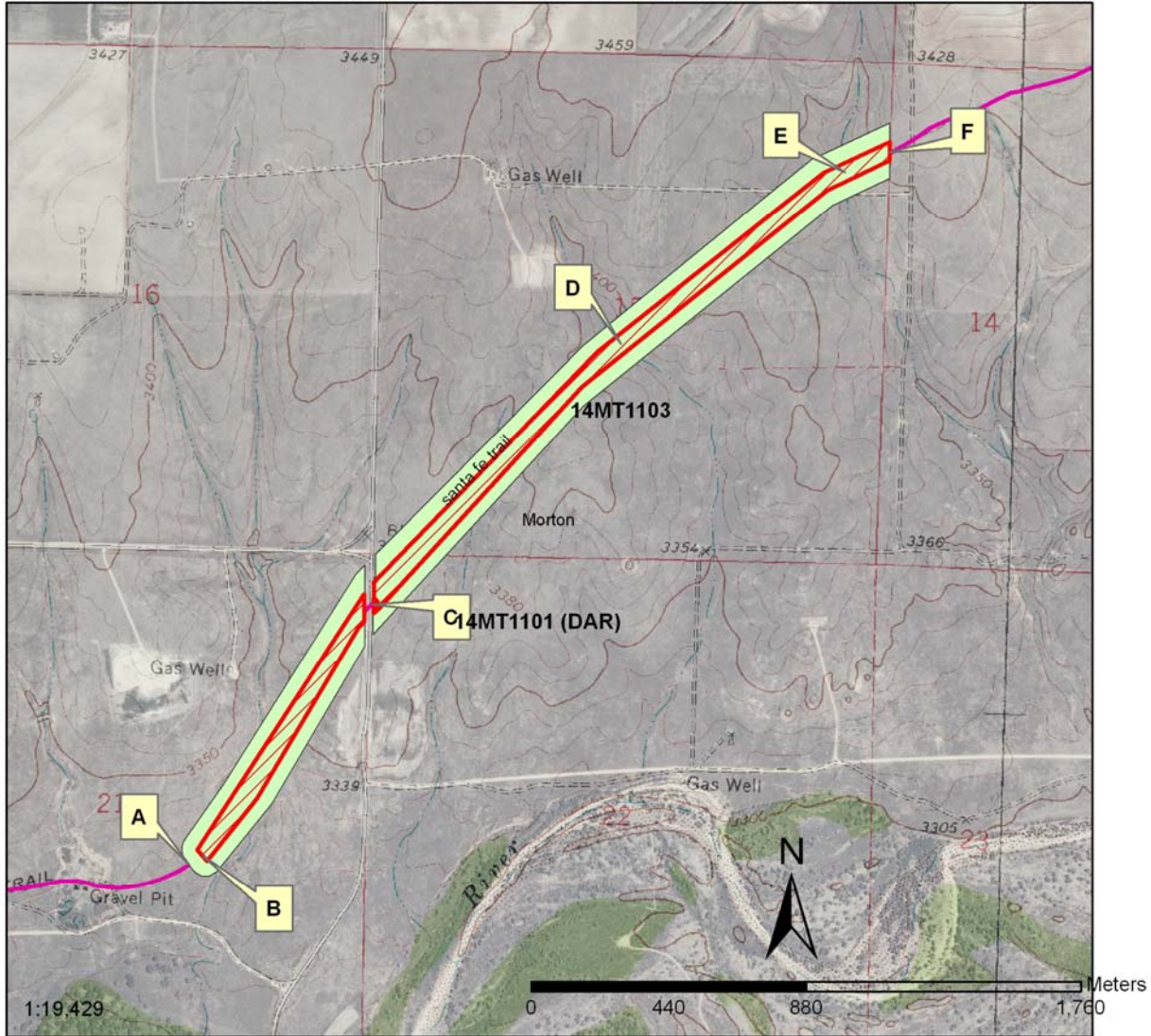
Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5.  
Arrow indicates general location of nominated site.  
June 1868-March 1870 Timeline Map of the Santa Fe Trail.  
National Park Service GIS.  
<http://www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/map-timeline-3.htm>  
Accessed 9 October 2012.

**Photograph Key Plan**



Santa Fe Trail – Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5.  
2008 aerial view (no scale).  
Kansas Historic Resources Inventory ([kshs.org/khri](http://kshs.org/khri)).  
Accessed 28 June 2012.

**Boundary Map.**

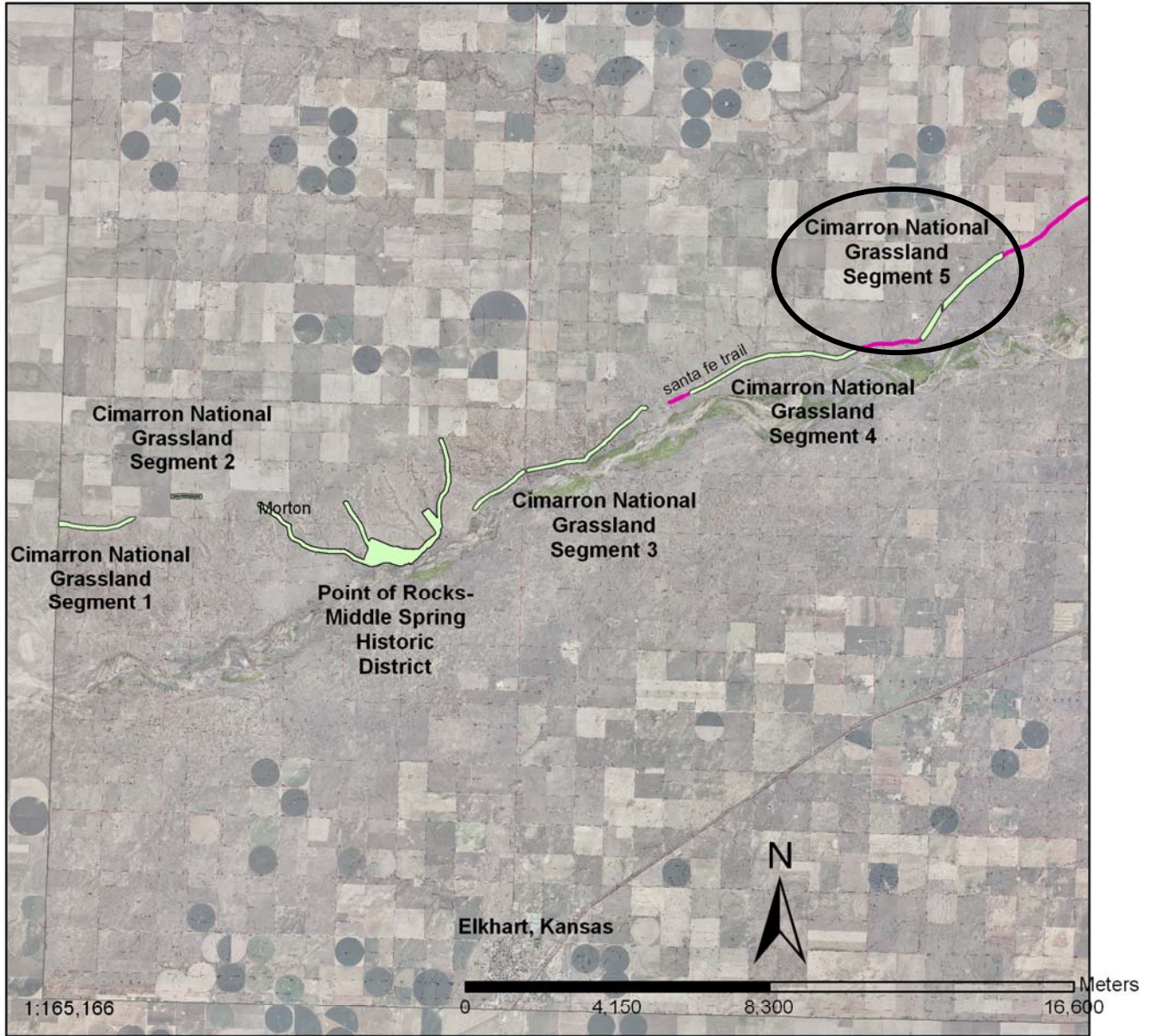


Santa Fe Trail - Cimarron National Grassland Segment 5  
Wilburton vicinity, Morton County, Kansas  
Image shows trail segment boundary with the recorded sites in hatched area.  
Note: Eastern boundary stops at fence line (edge of CNG).  
Note: Boundary of segment is interrupted by CR-16 and its right-of-way.

- Site Boundary Coordinates (Datum = WGS84):
- A: 37.161658,-101.779593 (west boundary edge)
  - B: 37.161923,-101.779122 (west edge of 14MT1103)
  - C: 37.169324,-101.773288 (DAR marker 14MT1101)
  - D: 37.177067,-101.764610 (location at drainage)
  - E: 37.182194,-101.756735 (location at drainage)
  - F: 37.182812,-101.755171 (east boundary edge & east edge of 14MT1103)

Total area: 121.28 acres (0.49 sqkm) / Total area of Swales: 49.14 acres (0.2 sqkm)

**Contextual Map.**



The Santa Fe Trail in  
the Cimarron National Grassland  
Elkhart vicinity, Morton County, Kansas