Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Lost Spring

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Two and one-half miles west of the town of Lost Springs
SW¼, SW ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 17, T 17 S, R 4 E — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Lost Springs — X VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 4, Garner Shriver

STATE: Kansas — CODE: 20 — COUNTY: Marion — CODE: 115

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mrs. Mildred J. Shields

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Lost Springs — __ VICINITY OF — STATE: Kansas 66859

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER: Marion County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Marion — STATE: Kansas 66861

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas

DATE: 1957 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: *Kansas State Historical Society*

CITY, TOWN: Topeka — STATE: Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lost Spring is located some 250-300 feet north of a county road two and one-half miles west of the town of Lost Springs. It is in a small grassy tract of land, which is fenced off from the adjoining fields. The spring comes bubbling out at the head of a small ravine and flows westward some 20 feet into the headwaters of Lyon creek, which flows in a northerly direction. Scattered scrub trees now dot the immediate area where the spring is located; no trees would have been found there in the early days of the Santa Fe trail travel. Water cress originally planted in the 1840's still grows at the spring and along the water course to the creek.

The Santa Fe trail was to the south of the spring, south of the present road. No visible evidence of the trail remains in the immediate vicinity. The location of the stage station in the field across the road is identifiable only by occasional relics discovered during farming operations.

Some 30 to 40 years ago the site was a popular picnic ground, but very little usage of the fenced-off area is made at the present time. There is no evidence of any activity occurring which would harm the spring. Although some of its surroundings have changed, in all likelihood the spring differs very little in appearance from that of the last century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__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 became 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.

Lost Spring was one of the favorite camping spots on the Santa Fe trail because it generally had an ample supply of good water. It was located 15 miles west of Diamond Spring, a day's travel for a wagon train.

Long before it was known to travelers on the Santa Fe trail, Lost Spring was used by the Indians and early explorers, traders, etc. The Kansa Indians are said to have called it "Nee-nee-oke-pi-yah," and the Spaniards named it "Aqua Perdida." Both phrases mean "lost water."

The spring apparently got its name because it is a periodic spring, drying up at times for a week, a month or even two years, so those visiting the site sometimes could not locate the spring on a return trip. Geologists say the water has its origin in the Rockies and that it follows a fault line. A cave-in somewhere will block the water, and pressure then mounts, forcing the water around or through the blockage.

The U. S. Surveying Expedition of 1825-1827 marked a route which ran several miles south of the spring, and the spring was not included in engineer Joseph Brown's field notes or maps. However, most wagon trains evidently followed the high ground between two drainage systems a couple miles to the north of the marked trail; by doing so they could avoid crossing a number of small creeks. That route brought them near the spring.

The spring was described by a diarist during an 1828 journey on the trail as "water bubbling through white sands at the head of a prairie ravine." Lost Spring is identified in most of the tables of distances printed and distributed for Santa Fe travelers after the mid-1830's. It was well-known to travelers in the 1840's and was one of the watering spots where the U. S. government authorized planting strawberries and water cress. It was hoped that by eating them the soldiers would prevent scurvy. The last strawberries at Lost Spring were picked around 1950, but the water cress still grows in abundance at the site.

Josiah Gregg mentioned Lost Spring in his Commerce of the Prairies published in 1844 but it was not named in the report of his first (1831) crossing of the prairie. William Richardson, a member of the 1846 Doniphan Expedition, in his journal wrote: "The stream rushes suddenly out of the ground and after rushing over the sand a few yards, as suddenly sinks and is seen no more."

A stage station was set up nearby in 1859 and was known as the Lost Springs Station. It served as a tavern, hotel, post office and stage stop. No visible evidence remains of the station; the site is in a tilled field.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Brief Summary of the Santa Fe Trail through Kansas," Eighteenth Biennial Report of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, State Printing Office, 1913), pp. 110-126.

"By Water Holes to Santa Fe," Kansas City Star, April 5, 1905.

Connelley, William E., ed., "A Journal of the Santa Fe Trail," Mississippi Valley Historical Review, v. 12, no. 1 (June, 1925), pp. 72-98.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8-10

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	14	673145	4270365
B			
C			
D			

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 X 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 12/8/75

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

8.

Since 1908 the land where the spring is located has been in the possession of the Shields family, which has displayed a high regard for its historical importance. The place was a popular local picnic and gathering spot between 1910 and the 1930's.

The spring's appearance has not been compromised; it has retained its integrity. Lost Spring was a well-known landmark of the Santa Fe trail, a popular camping site and the source of good water.

9.

Gregg, Josiah, Commerce of the Prairies, Thwaites, Reuben Gold, ed., Early Western Travels, 1748-1846, v. 20 (Cleveland, A. H. Clark Co., 1905, reprint of 1844 edition), p. 93.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 1255.

Hulbert, Archer Butler, ed., Southwest on the Turquoise Trail; The First Diaries on the Road to Santa Fe (Denver, The Denver Public Library, 1933), pp. 114, 185.

Journal of William H. Richardson (Baltimore, John W. Woods, Printer, 1848), pp. 11, 12.

"Lost Springs and the Santa Fe Trail," Marion Record, Dec. 10, 1908.

Marion County Record, Oct. 5, 1967.

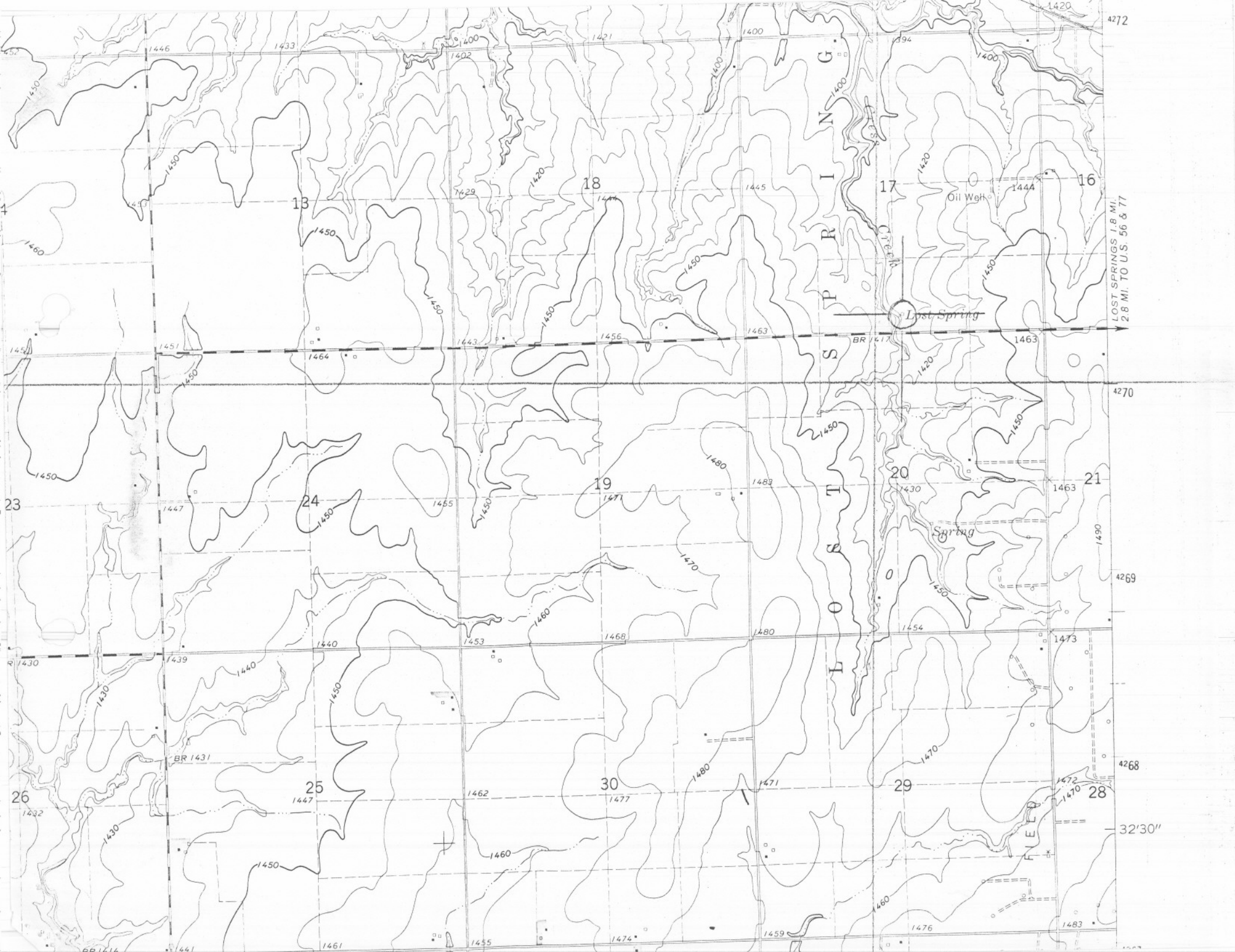
"Old Santa Fe Trail," Lost Springs Trail, Dec. 17, 1908.

"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.

Schoewe, Walter H., "The Geography of Kansas," Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, v. 56, no. 2 (June, 1953), pp. 140-142.

Shields, Clara M. Fengel, "The Lyon Creek Settlement," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 14 (1915-1918), pp. 143-170.

Van Meter, Sondra, Marion County, Kansas, Past and Present (Hillsboro, Kan., M. B. Publishing House, 1972), pp. 21-23, 225-227.


LOST SPRING
Lost Spring
Creek
Spring
Oil Well
LOST SPRINGS 1.8 MI.
2.8 MI. TO U.S. 56 & 77
BR 1417
BR 1431
BR 1414
4272
4270
4269
4268
32'30"
13
18
17
16
24
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