

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

27

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000617

Date Listed: 6/30/94

Santa Fe Trail

Minor Park, Kansas City, Trail Segments Jackson

MO

Property Name

County

State

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Paul R. Livingston*  
Signature of the Keeper

11/8/94  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Level of Significance:

The appropriate level of significance is National.  
[No selection was provided by the SHPO.]

Classification:

The proper category for this property is Site.  
[A continuous site is best categorized as a single unit regardless of its size or complexity. This has been the approach taken with other historic trail segments.]

This information has been confirmed with the MO SHPO staff.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments)

other names/site number Minor Park Ruts/NPS Master Plan #40

### 2. Location


street & number Red Bridge Road [n/a] not for publication

city or town Kansas City [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64055

### 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 [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [ ] locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

 10 March 1994  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell, Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

[ ] removed from the  
National Register

[ ] other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Santa Fe Trail

(Minor Park...)

Jackson Co., MO

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail

Name of Property

County/State

Multiple Property Submission

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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
6	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	2	objects
6	2	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road-related

Commerce/trade

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/park

Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

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Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

---

roof N/A

other N/A

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Santa Fe Trail

(Minor Park...)

Jackson Co., MO

Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail

Name of Property

County/State

Multiple Property Submission

## 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Commerce

### Periods of Significance

1821 - 1865

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

N/A

### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

National Park Service Regional Office--  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe Trail  
(Minor Park...) Jackson Co., MO Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail  
Name of Property County/State Multiple Property Submission

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone	15	363460	4309300	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing	[ ] See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title See Continuation Sheet, section 11  
organization The URBANA Group date May 1993  
street & number 202 South Broadway, Suite 206, P.O. Box 1028 telephone (217) 344-7526  
city or town Urbana state IL zip code 61801-9028

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 7

Page 1

**Narrative Description**

The site is located in William E. Minor Park, Kansas City. The Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments) site contains six contributing resources in the form of six rutted Trail segments. A D.A.R. marker and a fence, while removable, are counted as non-contributing features since their placement within rutted segments is intrusive (see sketch map). Since the physical characteristics of land, natural features, and vegetation play a dominant role in the assessment of the site's integrity, the seven qualities of integrity called for in the National Register criteria are applied to the site in a special way similar to their application to rural landscapes.<sup>1</sup>

Four sets of ruts enter the site to the east. Substantial physical remains of three of these ruts remain while only faint remains of a fourth set of ruts could be distinguished. The orientation of the ruts is generally in a westerly or southwesterly direction across the site. The most southerly set of ruts on this site follows a meandering southwestward path for approximately 150 meters before diverging into three sets of ruts at the southwest corner of the site. One set of ruts, which appears to be a continuation of the main trail artery, continues southwestward for approximately 50 meters before fading into the landscape. Another set of ruts leads from the main trail artery in a northwesterly direction for approximately 75 meters before it fades. At a point 20 meters along this latter set of ruts, another sets of ruts emerge moving in a southwesterly direction for approximately 25 meters after which the ruts visibly fade but suggest convergence with the main trail artery. A rock outcrop on the site has disrupted the continuity of the site's two most northerly rutted segments. The two sets of ruts enter the northeast quadrant of the site and proceed parallel in a westerly direction for approximately 35 meters until they are disturbed by a rock outcrop. The rock outcrop disrupts the continuity of the ruts for approximately 15 meters after which the most northerly rut continues to proceed westward for approximately 65 meters while the rut to its south turns southwest and continues for a further 40 meters.

The terrain slopes from approximately 850 feet above sea level on the western boundary of the site to 810 feet along the site's eastern margin. While the site retains integrity of location, the surrounding environment has undergone several changes--both natural and artificial. The indigenous vegetation has been replaced by regularly-mown grass. Despite the fact that only the terrain immediately surrounding the ruts remains unmodified, much of the site is subject to current standards of lawn care maintenance employed by the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. Artificial features disturb the environment in the vicinity of the ruts, but care has been taken to exclude as much disturbance from the site as possible. Thus, the parking lot to the northwest, Red Bridge Road to the north, the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks to the east, and the buildings to the west have been excluded from the site or aid in the composition of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 7

Page 2

---

boundary of the site. The human influence on the environment and the forces of weathering and erosion have contributed to the visibly faint rutted segments identified. The non-contributing wood fence intrudes on the site and forms the boundary between the park to its east and south and the golf course to its west.

**Endnotes**

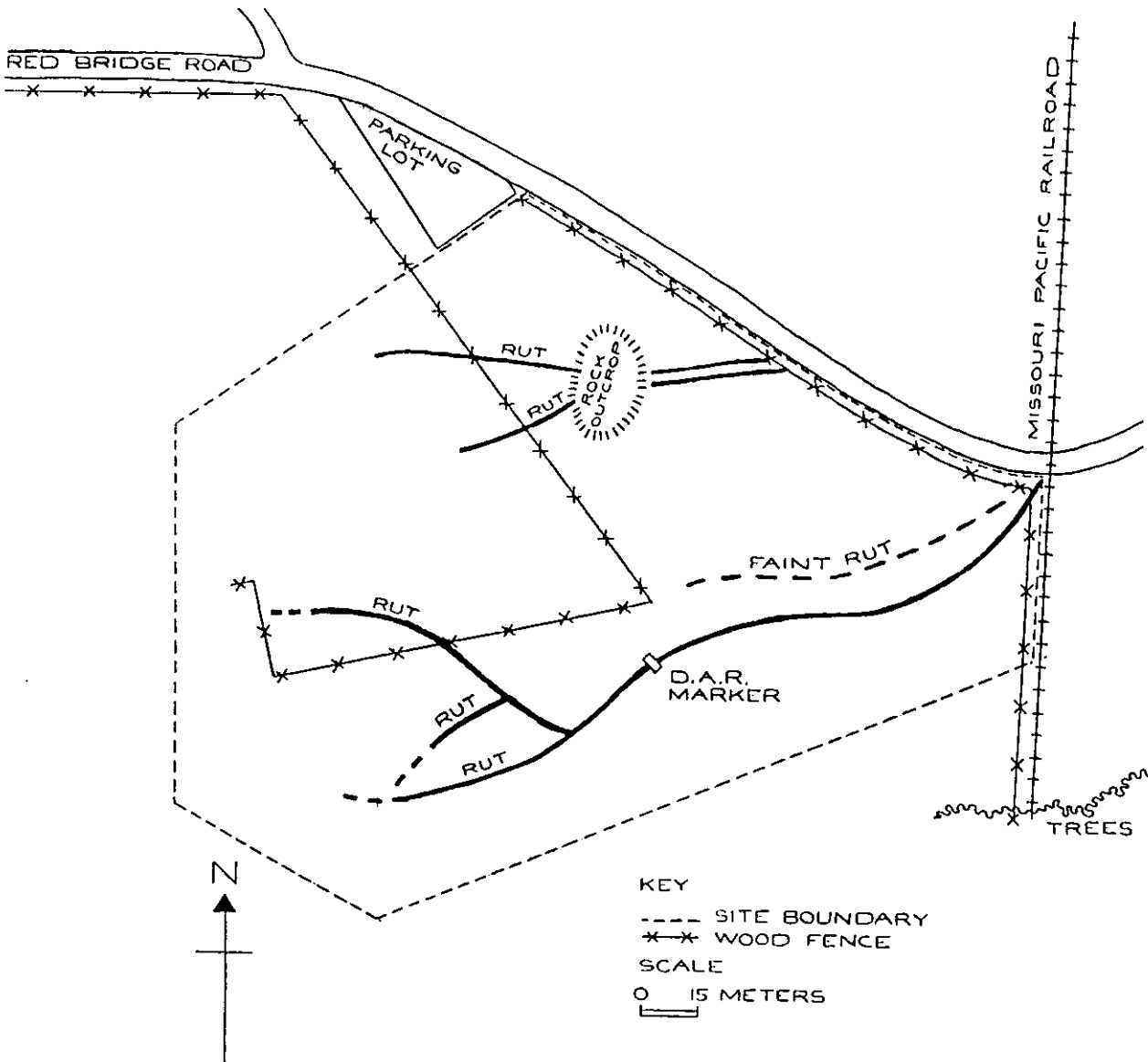
1. United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990), pp. 22-23.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 7

Sketch Map





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 8

Page 4

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Summary

The Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments) site is eligible to the National Register under Criterion A as a reflection of historically-significant Trail activity. The ruts are eligible within the areas of significance for commerce and transportation, and fall into the Historic Trail property type and Commercial Trail sub-type as detailed in Section F of the Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880 Multiple Property Documentation form. The site's period of significance extends from 1821 to 1865. Caravans loaded with goods and traders participating in the trade between Santa Fe and Kansas City and destinations farther east traversed this site. This segment of the Trail was in use shortly after the establishment of the Santa Fe Trail as a highway of commerce until its decline as a corridor of overland trade and travel with the emergence of the railroad. The ruts materially reflect important historic events outlined in the historic contexts: International Trade on the Mexican Road, 1821-1846; The Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-48; Expanding National Trade on the Santa Fe Trail, 1848-1865 and Effects of the Civil War on the Santa Fe Trail, 1861-1865. These rutted segments are recognized as some of the best extant examples of ruts in the Kansas City area and in the state.<sup>1</sup>

History

This portion of the Santa Fe Trail was used from the time of the establishment of the Trail until the coming of the railroad. These ruts formed part of the international, and subsequent national, highway over which much of the Santa Fe trade was conducted. In 1839, the Kansas City vicinity accommodated several varied trading opportunities. Among the traders frequenting the settlement were American Indians, employees of mountain traders and freighters, and Mackinaw boatmen with ponies, pelts, furs, trinkets, annuity moneys, powder, lead, tobacco, sugar, coffee, candies, and beads among the goods exchanged.<sup>2</sup> The population of Kansas City increased from 300 people in April 1846 to 700 people by the end of that year as a result of the Mexican War, the Santa Fe trade, and the American Indian trade.<sup>3</sup> The Kansas City/Westport area had replaced Independence as the principal outfitting post by 1850 while dividing that same trade for several years before.<sup>4</sup> Government freighting composed a large share of Kansas City business in 1860 especially after the relocation, from Leavenworth, of the army depot responsible for supplying the West's military posts.<sup>5</sup> By 1863, the Barlow-Sanderson Overland Mail Company had established stages between Kansas City and Santa Fe.<sup>6</sup> The Civil War (1861-1865) disrupted the trade between Kansas City and Santa Fe because raids on caravans by bushwhackers, Jayhawkers, Redlegs and highwaymen drove traders north to Leavenworth City.<sup>7</sup> Secession and border disturbances between 1861 and 1863 weakened the position of Kansas City in the Santa Fe trade and threatened to destroy it.<sup>8</sup> Despite the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 8

Page 5

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reestablishment of Kansas City as a trade center in 1865, the coming of the railroad in 1866 ensured that it would only retain this distinction for a short period of time. The last Santa Fe wagon train to leave Kansas City was in the spring of 1866 but smaller trading parties still departed from here up until 1868.<sup>9</sup>

The ruts contained within in this site still retain sufficient visual integrity to be readily identifiable to the observer as rutted segments. Integrity of location, aspects of setting, feeling and association are retained on this site. The fact that so few other remains of, or relating to, this historic roadway exist in the Kansas City area strengthens the case for the eligibility of these rutted segments.<sup>10</sup> Indeed, the ruts themselves have been recognized as "some of the most interesting trail remains in the Kansas City area"<sup>11</sup> while Stanley Kimball declared that contained within the site "are the best SFT [Santa Fe Trail] ruts in Missouri and some of the best along the entire trail."<sup>12</sup> Of forty-eight Missouri properties identified by the National Park Service as being associated with the Santa Fe Trail, seven contain rutted segments.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 8

Page 6

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Endnotes

1. Marc Simmons, Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers, 2nd ed. (Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1986), p. 48; Stanley B. Kimball, Historic Sites and Markers along the Mormon and Other Great Western Trails (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1988), p. 262.
2. Dean E. Wood, The Old Santa Fe Trail From the Missouri River (Kansas City: E. L. Mendenhall, Inc., 1955), p. 115.
3. Ibid, p. 146.
4. William E. Brown, The Santa Fe Trail: National Park Service 1963 Historic Sites Survey (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1990), pp. 50, 84.
5. Ibid, p. 86.
6. Ibid, p. 50.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid, p. 86; Simmons, p. 49.
9. Wood, p. 258.
10. Brown, p. 86.
11. Simmons, p. 48.
12. Kimball, p. 262.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 9

Page 7

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**Bibliography**

- Brown, William E. The Santa Fe Trail: National Park Service 1963 Historic Sites Survey. St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1990.
- Simmons, Marc. Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers. 2nd ed. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1986.
- United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service. National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990.
- United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service. Santa Fe National Historic Trail: Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990.
- Wood, Dean E. The Old Santa Fe Trail From the Missouri River. Kansas City: E. L. Mendenhall, Inc., 1955.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 10

Page 8

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Commencing at a point to the south of the southwest margin of Red Bridge Road and at the southeast corner of the parking lot, proceed for 160 meters along the southwest margin of Red Bridge Road until the western margin of the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks is reached. Continue southward along the western margin of the tracks for 50 meters before proceeding in a southwesterly direction for 180 meters until a point 220 meters south of Red Bridge Road. Moving northwestward, continue the boundary for 60 meters until a point 190 meters south of Red Bridge Road is reached. Proceed north for 100 meters before turning northeastward and returning to the point of origin--a distance of 110 meters. The use of the road margin as a boundary, contained within this nomination, presupposes the exclusion of the road's current publicly-designated rights-of-way.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the site enclose an area of approximately 7 acres which include the rutted segments and their immediate environs. The boundaries were formed only to encompass the historically significant Trail resources and are largely determined by man-made features of the surrounding landscape. The site is bounded to the north by Red Bridge Road and to the east by the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks. The southern and western boundaries are determined by the location of the site's historic resources and avoidance of the golf course and buildings to the west and the parking lot to the northwest.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Santa Fe Trail (Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments); Jackson Co., MO;  
Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880  
Section number 11**

Page 9

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**Form Prepared By**

For The URBANA Group:

Joseph Gallagher/Cultural Geographer  
Writer

Alice Edwards/Vice President; Preservation Planner  
Editor

Archaeological Survey, University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Colleen Hamilton and Brad Mueller/Historic Archaeologists  
Field Work

NPS # 40

A/2

Santa Fe Trail  
(Minor Park, Kansas City Trail Segments)

Jackson, MO

C. Hamilton; 6/91

negs.: NM / SHPO

looking east; "main" Trail just below  
DAR marker

photo # 3/3

