

APPENDIX 5

PLOTTING ON USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

**Prepared by the
Mapping and Marking Committee**

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P.O. Box 1019
Independence, MO 64051-0519
816-252-2276
octa@indepmo.org
www.octa-trails.org**

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PLOTTING ON USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

The following instructions are for use on non-digital, paper USGS 7.5 minute series topographic quadrangle maps. They explain and illustrate the type of desirable information that can be plotted and recorded on these topographic maps. (See the CARLIN WEST QUADRANGLE, NEVADA example at end of this appendix.)

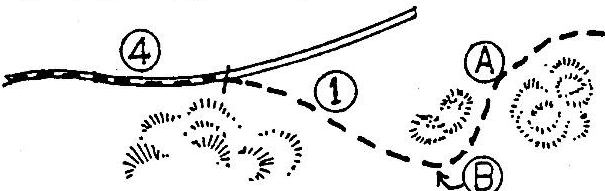
USE OF COMMENTS IN MAP MARGINS

To assist the user of completed paper USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps, short informative comments should be penciled in **BLOCK LETTERS** (for legibility and uniformity) on the left and/or right hand white margins of the maps. These descriptive notes should be lettered sequentially in the margins and circled in the same way that trail classification numbers are circled (A, B, C, etc.) using **3/16 inch** diameter circles. A lettered comment in the map margin must correspond to a circled letter on the map, indicating the location to which the margin comment refers. (See example below.)

The short comments in the map margins should be limited to those that provide the map user with **essential information** relating to the verification and location of a particular trail segment, to its particular condition, or to its historical significance. Where a diary or journal account might prove helpful to a map user in understanding more about a particular trail segment or site, record in the margin comments the emigrant author and entry date (for later referral if desired).

For legibility and possible photocopying, prepare the final copy in pencil using 'B' hardness of led and 0.5mm thickness, for all trail dashed lines, all letters and numbers, and margin notes.

Example:

Map Plot:	Margin Note:
	<p>(A) TRAIL DEEPLY ERODED HERE.</p> <p>(B) BYRON MCKINSTRY, AUG. 20, 1850, FOR DESCRIPTION OF ROCK FORMATION SOUTH OF SWALE.</p>

While not exhaustive in coverage, the following types of relevant margin comments or notes include:

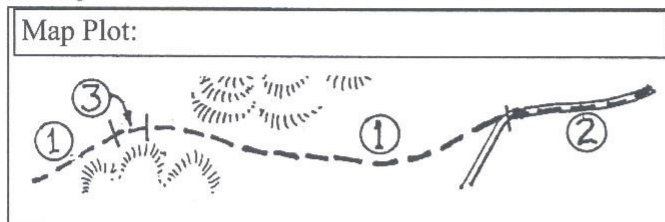
- (A) The character or condition of an existing trail segment.
- (B) A difficult trail segment to verify.
- (C) The beginning and end of a cutoff, alternate, or branch trail.

- Ⓓ An unusual rock formation mentioned in a diary account that either clarifies or confirms a trail location.
- Ⓔ Grave descriptions (including any known name, date, and origins).
- Ⓕ An important watering source used by emigrants.
- Ⓖ A significant trail site mentioned in diaries, such as a pass, river ford, ferry, bridge, trading post, station, fort, etc. (margin comments unnecessary if sites are already named and located on the topographic map).
- Ⓗ A common emigrant camping area near the trail.
- Ⓘ The location of emigrant wagon artifacts that either confirm or verify a trail location.
- Ⓙ The location of a record rock/bluff.
- Ⓚ A pertinent diary reference which may relate to one of the above comments.

PLOTTING TRAIL CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES

All six trail categories are plotted on USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps in **dashed lines** with the appropriate class number **circled** and placed next to the dashed line. The beginning and end of a trail classification and a change to a different classification are indicated by a short vertical line perpendicular to and crossing the dashed trail. A **3/16 inch** diameter circle encloses the trail category numbers. Should the trail segment be too short to place a 3/16 inch circle close to it, the circle may be offset with an arrow or line pointing to the short segment. A trail segments **shorter than 200 feet** need not be set apart by the short vertical line, although the existence of such a short trail segments may be described in a lettered margin comment.


Example:



Old traces are sometimes found running parallel to one another rather closely. Parallel trails were a common occurrence in certain types of terrain and attest to their wagon origins. However, parallel trails that are close to one another may prove difficult to plot on topographic maps. There are several ways to indicate the existing parallel character of these kinds of trails.

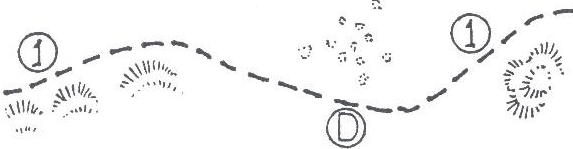
1. If the parallel traces are long enough and spaced sufficiently apart to delineate them on the map as separate **Class 1** trails, both are plotted with parallel dashed lines. (For clarity, this parallel situation can be described with a lettered comment on the map margin.)

Example:

Map Plot:	Margin Note:
	© PARALLEL SWALES VERY VISIBLE.


2. If the parallel traces are too short, intermittent, or too close to one another to plot individually, they should be plotted as a **Class 1** single dashed line and their trail characteristics described in a lettered comment on the map margin.

Example:

Map Plot:	Margin Note:
	Ⓓ SHORT, INTERMITTENT PARALLEL SWALES FOR TWO-TENTHS MILE SOUTH OF MAIN SWALE.

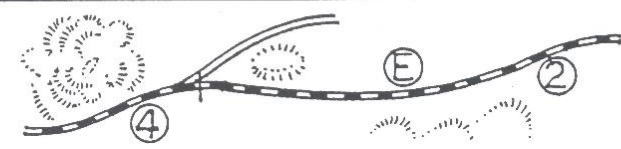
3. If a parallel **Class 1** trace is adjacent to a **Class 2** trail road (i.e., both were one-time emigrant trails), the plotting scheme is the same as described above in situations 1 & 2.
 - If a **Class 1** trace parallel to a **Class 2** trail road is long and distinctive, both are plotted with parallel dashed lines. (A lettered comment in the map margin can make this distinction clearer.)

Example:

Map Plot:


- If a **Class 1** trace parallel to a **Class 2** trail road is either too short, intermittent, or close to the **Class 2** road to plot accurately or clearly, it should be plotted as a single dashed line and its trail characteristics described in a lettered comment on the map margin.

Example:

Map Plot:	Margin Note:
	Ⓔ SHORT, INTERMITTENT PARALLEL SWALES ON NORTH SIDE OF CLASS 2 TRAIL.

USE OF SITE SYMBOLS IN MAPPING

All sites are designated in **1/8 inch** symbols (circle, square, or triangle). Plastic templates that have various sizes of circles, squares, and triangles are readily available at most stationary or art supply stores. In all cases, the site symbol is placed as close as possible to its location on the map. If a trail marker, grave site, or record rock/bluff already is printed on the topographic map, there is no need to duplicate them with MET site symbols. Important information about a grave, marker, or record rock can be included in a circled letter margin note.

Site Symbols: (enlarged)



Identified Grave



Unidentified or Possible Grave



Historical Marker



Register Rock (emigrant names carved or painted on boulders, cliffs, and rock outcrops)

USE OF UTM COORDINATES FOR PLOTTING TRAILS AND SITES ON USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Most mappers have found Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Easting and Northing coordinates taken from handheld GPS receivers to be the easiest and most accurate way of plotting trails and sites, especially in the field, on hardcopy USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangles. For an explanation of the UTM grid system and how it appears on topographic maps, see Appendix7: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Grid.

Various plastic overlay tools are available for plotting UTM coordinates on USGS 7.5 minute topographic series maps. An easy to use *UTM Grid Reader II*, along with instructions, is available from Forestry Suppliers, Inc. When plotting UTM coordinates on USGS 7.5 min. quads, be sure to program map datum NAD27 CONUS in your GPS receiver for accuracy.

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

④ PARALLEL SWALES.

