SFT crossing marker. Swales sometimes can be seen running southwest from the marker. Late in the afternoon, especially in the summer, dramatic swales can be seen on the hill in the distance to the southwest and to the right of the windmill in the distance.

ON 250th ROAD, ABOUT ¼ MILE EAST OF Chisholm Trail Road is a SFT crossing marker. SFT swales are clearly visible running to the northeast.

ON 245th ROAD, ABOUT ¼ MILE WEST OF Chisholm Trail Road is a D.A.R marker and SFT crossing sign. Swales are clearly visible running to the southwest from the marker. Running across the land to the southwest are five sets of two parallel swales, apparently created as travelers chose different routes over the years to cross the creek south of the marker. It was here that a French emigrant, Claude Frances Laloge (French Frank), established a road ranch in 1861 at what was known as Cottonwood Holes. The creek is named French Creek in honor of Mr. Laloge, the first homesteader in the area. Cottonwood Holes got its name because this was the first water that could be found west of the Cottonwood Crossing, and the water was found in small depressions along the creek, hence, Cottonwood Holes. The swales on this land are actually the westernmost extension of the Durham Ruts. South-southwest from here, the trail has been obliterated in Marion County by farming operations—well, almost.

ON 230th ROAD, ABOUT 0.6 MILES WEST OF Bison Road, is a trail crossing sign. The SFT ran south-southwest from the sign across what is now a wheat field. No sign of the trail—except, in the summer, when the field is plowed after wheat harvest. Then the tractor pulling the plow works harder when cutting across the SFT, and the earth turned up by the plow has a different sheen along the Trail than in the rest of the field.

A FEW YARDS NORTH OF HWY 56 ON THE Marion-McPherson County Line is a large stone marker placed by the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter. It depicts the locations of the Santa Fe Trail and the Chisholm Trail with a generalized map of the area.

Look for these signs to help guide you along the Auto Tour Route. These signs are located near road intersections at changes in direction of the Auto Tour Route.

WARNING: Some Roads may not be passable in wet weather.

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Marion County Auto Tour of the SANTA FE TRAIL
A Santa Fe National Historic Trail LOCAL TOUR ROUTE

ON SUNFLOWER ROAD, ABOUT ¼ MILE south of 340th Road is a trail crossing sign and another small limestone marker on the west
on the hill to the south of the Cottonwood Crossing, but they are on private land.

**SOUTHWEST OF DURHAM, ON 280° ROAD, about ½ mile west of Goldenrod Road is a SFT**

- **ON 290° ROAD, ABOUT A MILE AND A half west of Durham is the site of the Cottonwood Crossing of the Santa Fe Trail.** In addition to the kiosk and three historic interpretive plaques, adjacent to the kiosk is a D.A.R marker and across the road to the south is a limestone SFT marker. Some excellent SFT swales are in a meadow.

**ON 280° ROAD, just south of the railroad tracks can be found a**

- **DETAIL AT COTTONWOOD CROSSING**

- **ON DIAMOND ROAD, NORTH OF 250 ROAD, just south of the railroad tracks can be found a**

- **OUT, an area that has been deeply eroded where the SFT ascended a hill. William Scully emigrated from Ireland in the late 1800s and purchased huge tracts of land in Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas. Mr. Scully was a progressive agriculturalist. He carefully studied his land to determine the most suitable uses for the land. He decided that this land on which we see the Santa Fe Trail so clearly today was best kept in unprairie and used for cattle grazing. Therefore, the land has no longer been cultivated and is as close to undisturbed prairie as we will find along the Santa Fe Trail. This segment of Trail is truly a national treasure. The land is still held by Mr. Scully’s heirs who are committed to manage the land as it has been historically.**

- **BEGINNING ON FALCON ROAD ABOUT 0.5 miles south of 280° Road, and extending for over three and one-half miles to 250° Road about ½ mile east of Chisholm Trail Road, is an almost continuous segment of the Santa Fe Trail. This is located on private property owned by the Scully Estate and access is not allowed. From the air, the sight of this nearly continuous segment of Trail is breathtaking.** This segment of Trail includes the Durham Blow-