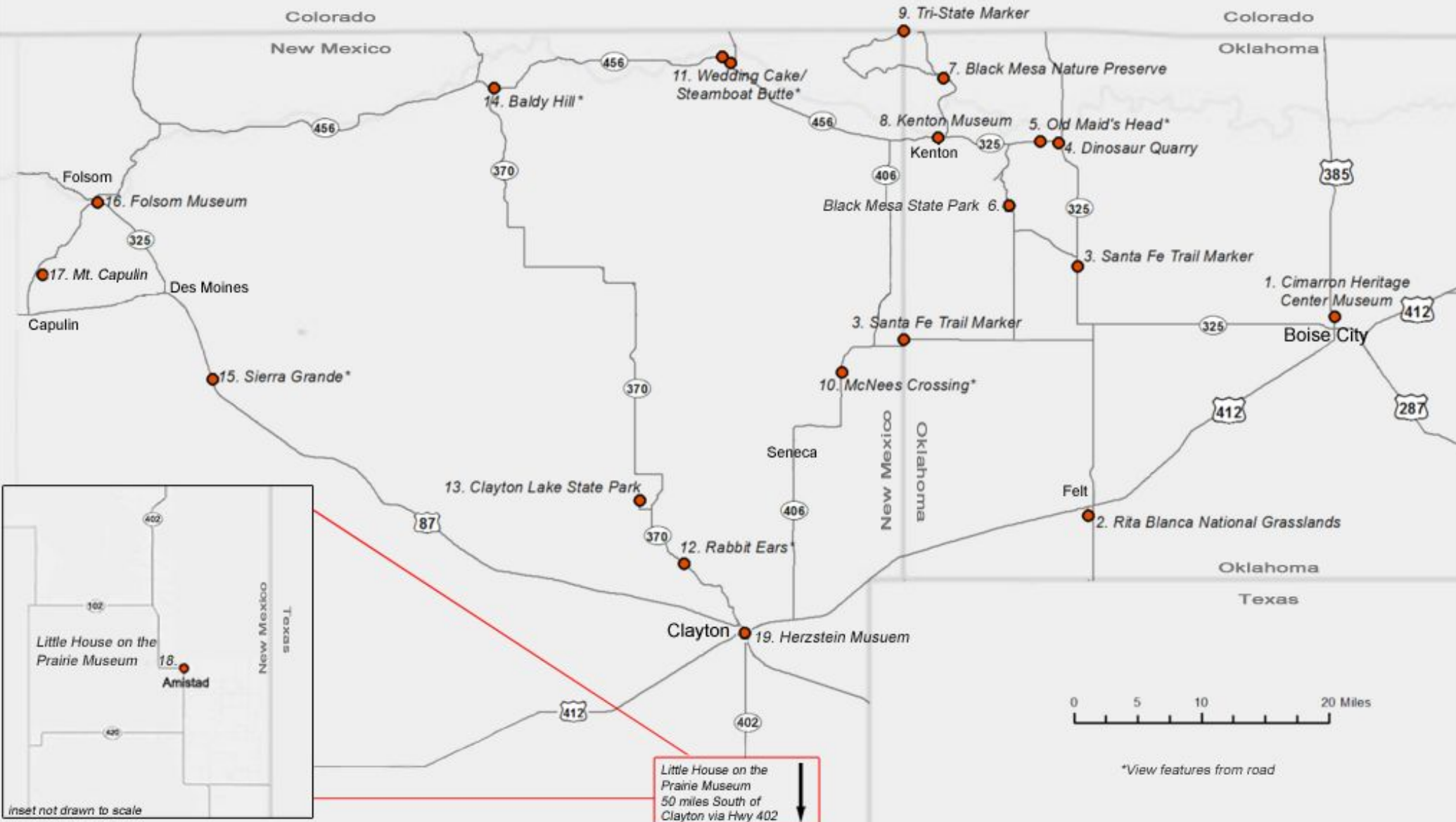


Cimarron County, OK and Union County, NM: Natural History Points of Interest



1. Cimarron Heritage Center

**View features from road*

The Cimarron Heritage Center is the go to museum in Boise City, OK. The museum is located within the famous Cox House designed by architect Bruce Goff, who was a protégé of the world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The museum buildings are on the north end of town and can be easily spotted due to the large cast-iron dinosaur named "Cimmy" on the front lawn. There is a Dust Bowl exhibit, a collection of old tractors, historical military displays, and dinosaur information as well as much more. The museum is open from Monday through Saturday at 10:00 am -12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Visit www.chcmuseumok.com or call at 580-544-3479.

2. Rita Blanca National Grasslands Picnic Area

The Rita Blanca National Grassland is a Federally maintained grassland on the Great Plains of Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. The grasslands sprawl a staggering 145.3 square miles and are managed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Within Felt, OK there is a picnic area where benches and barbeque pits can be found. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/cibola.

3. Santa Fe Markers

These markers indicate places along the historic Santa Fe trail that spanned across four states from Franklin, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico. This 19th century trail was mainly used for trading, as well as for military operations when needed. The map displays two trail markers; one can be found east of Wheelless, OK along the Oklahoma State Line road, and the other along Highway 325 just before the entry road to Black Mesa State park.

4. Dinosaur Quarry & 5. Old Maid's Head rock formation*

The dinosaur quarry can be found dug into the side of a hill at the westward bend of Highway 325 and marked by a large concrete dinosaur bone. The old maid's head rock formation is a grouping of rock formations naturally carved out of sandstone and other minerals. Private property, view from road only.

6. Black Mesa State Park

The Black Mesa State Park is just 15 miles south of the Black Mesa Nature Preserve and is located on the Carl Etling Lake. The state park contains several RV and camping spots, and has bathroom and shower facilities. The lake has a shoreline of 5 miles and average depth of 11 feet, making this state park a popular spot for anglers. For more information call: 580-426-2222

7. Black Mesa Nature Preserve

The Black Mesa Nature Preserve is located in the northern part of Cimarron County near the community of Kenton, OK. Although the mesa spans three states, the preserve section is only located in Oklahoma. Within the preserve's 1,600 acres rare plants and rare animal species can be found and is also home to the highest peak in Oklahoma at 4,973 feet. There are hiking trails within the park but camping and fires are prohibited.

8. Kenton, Oklahoma

The small town of Kenton, OK is home to a small community at the base of the Black Mesa. The residents of this community co-run the Kenton Museum, which holds an abundant collection of historical artifacts related to Kenton and the surrounding area. The museum is open on most weekends during the summer, or through special arrangement in advance.

9. Tri-State Marker

This marker identifies the intersection of three state borders; Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. The marker can be found along a dusty state road just past the Black Mesa trailhead and is marked by a granite column.

10. McNee's Crossing*

This feature marks a popular wagon crossing point along the Santa Fe Trail over the Corrupa Creek. Years of erosion and travel have permanently left wagon train wheel ruts at the crossing. These wheel markings are hard to spot, but are generally found at the eastern bank of the stream. The crossing is on private property. There is also a Santa Fe Trail marker on the western bank of the creek. Private property, view from road only.

11. Wedding Cake and Steamboat Buttes*

These large rock formations are shaped in a way that they resemble a wedding cake and steamboat. The formations can be seen from miles away along Highway 456. Private property, view from road only.

12. Rabbit Ears Mountain*

Rabbit Ear(s) Mountain is along Highway 370 just north of Clayton, New Mexico and south of Clayton Lake State Park. The mountain resembles a pair of rabbit ears and can only be seen from miles away due to its high elevation relative to the surrounding environment. Private property, view from road only.

13. Clayton Lake State Park

This 170 acre park has various activities for all ages. The park is located on a reservoir 15 miles away from Clayton, New Mexico. The park contains dinosaur fossil tracks where dinosaur footprints can be viewed up close. The state park is a popular destination for anglers and star viewers alike. It is a certified International Dark-Sky park designation making it a pristine star viewing area. For more information visit www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/claytonlakestatepark.html or call at 575-374-8808.

14. Baldy Hill*

Baldy Hill is a small rock formation at the intersection of Highway 456 and 370. The hill can be seen easily from the road. Private property, view from road only.

15. Sierra Grande*

Sierra Grande is an extinct shield volcano rising upwards to 8,723 feet from sea level and 1,880 feet from the surrounding plains area. The volcano is located within the Raton-Clayton volcanic field near the towns of Des Moines and Folsom. Private property, view from road only.

16. Folsom, New Mexico

The small town of Folsom is located 8 miles north of Des Moines, NM. Within the museum's walls are hundreds of historical artifacts and several displays examining the historical events of Folsom and the surrounding area. The Folsom Museum has regular summer operating hours, but can be viewed upon request via the museum director who has a telephone number posted on the front door of the building. For more information visit www.folsomvillage.com.

17. Mt. Capulin National Monument

This iconic cinder cone volcano towers over the vast grassland plains at an elevation of 8,182 feet. The volcano is managed by the National Park Service. There is a visitor's center at the base. The peak can be reached via a road that snakes up the side of the volcano to a parking lot with breathtaking panoramic views of the grasslands. At the top, visitors can see the snowcapped mountains of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range and four state boundaries. The rim of the volcanic crater has a hiking trail at a 1 mile circumference and a crater depth of 400 feet. The volcano and visitor center provide excellent opportunities to learn about volcanic formation and the 10 million year volcanic history of the local area. You can find more information at www.nps.gov/cavo/index.htm.

18. Little House on the Prairie Museum

The Little House on the Prairie Museum is located in Amistad, NM about 50 miles south of Clayton, NM. This museum offers exhibits and information about the local history in and around Amistad. The building itself was built in 1909 and was originally called the Montgomery Ward Kit house and later converted into a museum. Tours are by appointment only. For more info call: 575-633-224, 575-633-2251, or 575-633-2273.

19. Herzstein Museum

The Herzstein Museum is located on the corner of North 2nd Ave. and Walnut St. in Clayton, NM. In this museum one can find a vast number of Works Progress Administration (WPA) exhibits and a large collection of historical documents detailing the rich history of Union County. For more information call 575-374-2977 or visit www.herzsteinmuseum.com.

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