



1. Survey No. CL-AS-010-030		2. Survey name: Mineral Water Resources of Excelsior Springs	
3. County: CL		4. Address (Street No.)	Street (name) West of 703 S. Kansas City Avenue
5. City: Excelsior Springs	Vicinity: <input type="checkbox"/>	6. UTM: 15 S/ 394246.54E/ 4354532.91N	7. Township/Range/Section: T: 52N R: 30W S:12
8. Historic name (if known): Soterian Spring		9. Present/other name (if known):	
10. Ownership: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public		11a. Historic use (if known): HEALTH CARE/resort facility	11b. Current use: VACANT/not in use

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

12. Construction date: 1888	15. Architect:	18. Previously surveyed? <input type="checkbox"/> Cite survey name in box 22 cont. (page 3)
13. Significant date/period: Ca. 1888-1920s	16. Builder/contractor:	19. On National Register? <input type="checkbox"/> individual <input type="checkbox"/> district Cite nomination name in box 22 cont. (page 3)
14. Area(s) of significance: HEALTH/MEDICINE	17. Original or significant owner: Excelsior Springs Company	20. National Register eligible? <input type="checkbox"/> individually eligible <input type="checkbox"/> district potential (<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC) <input type="checkbox"/> not eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not determined
21. History and significance on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22. Sources of information on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

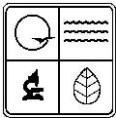
23. Category of property: <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	30. Roof material: N/A	37. Windows: <input type="checkbox"/> historic <input type="checkbox"/> replacement Pane arrangement:
24. Vernacular or property type:	31. Chimney placement: N/A	38. Acreage (rural): 16.24 Visible from public road? <input type="checkbox"/>
25. Architectural Style:	32. Structural system: Concrete	39. Changes (describe in box 41 cont.): <input type="checkbox"/> Addition(s) Date(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Moved Date(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Other Date(s): Endangered by: neglect
26. Plan shape: N/A	33. Exterior wall cladding: N/A	
27. No. of stories: N/A	34. Foundation material: N/A	
28. No. of bays (1 st floor): N/A	35. Basement type: N/A	40. No. of outbuildings (describe in box 40 cont.): N/A
29. Roof type: N/A	36. Front porch type/placement: N/A	41. Further description of building features and associated resources on continuation page. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

OTHER

42. Current owner/address: Clay-Ray Veterans Assoc. Po Box 297 Excelsior Springs Mo 64024-0297	43. Form prepared by (name and org.): Deon Wolfenbarger Three Gables Preservation 320 Pine Glade Road, Nederland, CO Deon@threegables.net	44. Survey date: 2012
		45. Date of revisions:

FOR SHPO USE

Date entered in inventory:	Level of survey <input type="checkbox"/> reconnaissance <input type="checkbox"/> intensive	Additional research needed? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
National Register Status: <input type="checkbox"/> listed <input type="checkbox"/> in listed district Name: <input type="checkbox"/> pending listing <input type="checkbox"/> eligible (individually) <input type="checkbox"/> eligible (district) <input type="checkbox"/> not eligible <input type="checkbox"/> not determined	Other:	



LOCATION MAP (include north arrow)

SITE MAP/PLAN (include north arrow)

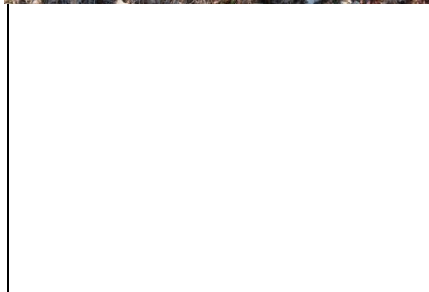
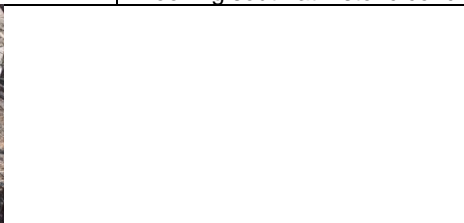
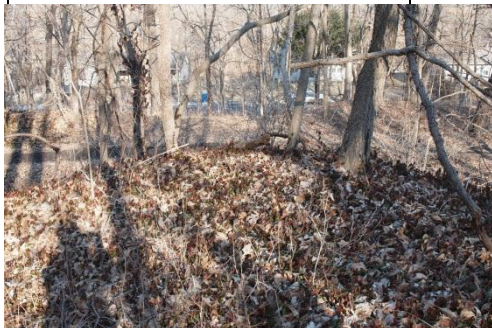


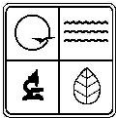
PHOTOGRAPH

Photographer:
Deon Wolfenbarger

Date:
2/17/2012

Description:
(left) Looking east from possible well site [west of former RR bed]; (center) looking west towards possible well site [standing in former RR bed]; (right) looking south at historic concrete pillars lying east of RR bed

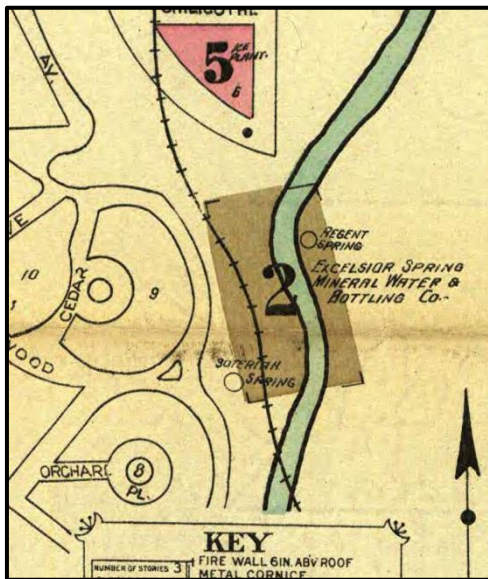




ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

21. (cont.) History and significance. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

Soterian Spring was discovered in 1888 while workmen were digging a ditch. It was located about fifty yards southwest of the Excelsior Springs bottling works, and was sometimes considered a "plain" water which was carbonated and bottled for table use. It was also included in the *Calcium Bicarbonate/Lithia* waters category. The water was used to make Soterian Ginger Ale, which won the highest award medal and diploma at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The formula for the ginger ale was lost when Charles W. Fish died. Fish formed the Excelsior Springs Company in 1887 and spent more than a half million dollars acquiring almost 1,000 acres of land. Soterian was one of four waters bottled by the Excelsior Springs Bottling Co., and was only available in bottle form. In other words, a dispensing pavilion was never constructed; instead, pipes connected the springs with the Bottling Works. In a booklet *The Famous Waters of Excelsior Springs Missouri*, Soterian was described as a pure sparkling water similar to the Waukesha, Eureka and Poland springs. "Soterian is a pure, sparkling, highly carbonated water, slightly alkaline in reaction and a diuretic. It is especially recommended for home, club and bar use. It is the best of dilutents for wines and liquors. Soterian Ginger Ale is made from the Soterian water combined with the purest ingredients; it is a delightful, refreshing beverage. In purity of quality, delicacy of bouquet and richness of flavor, it has no equal. It is notably popular and is prescribed by physicians when a mild, non-alcoholic stomach stimulant is needed." Another pamphlet published by the company recommended that the carbonated waters be part of the regime. "Drink not less than one quart bottle per day, following above general directions as to time. Do not expect to be cured by drinking only two or three bottles." Since the Soterian Spring was never open to the public, there are no historic photographs, although its approximate location shows up in a few historic maps. In the 1905, 1909 and 1913 Sanborn Maps, the Soterian is visible only on the index page; its relation to the Regent and the area of the bottling works can be seen here. It is also on the 1909 "Map of Excelsior Springs" prepared by B. VandeGreyn; all maps show it west of the Wabash rail line. It was listed at the south end of Kansas City Avenue in the 1917 City Directory. The parcel containing the Soterian was eventually acquired by the federal government, and was sold by the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration in 1997 to the Clay-Ray Veterans Association.

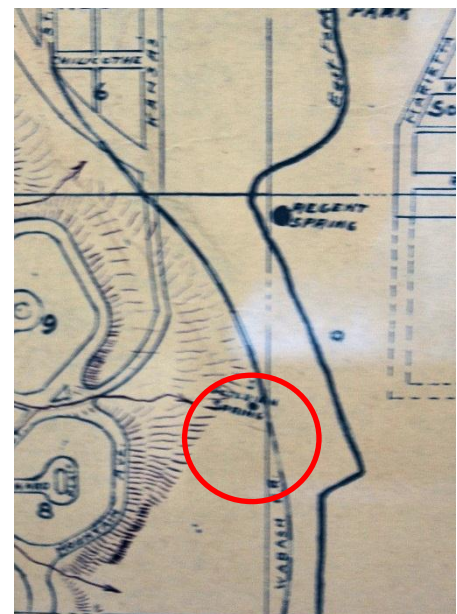


Soterian Water Analysis	Salts in Solution in Grains Per Gallon
Calcium Bicarbonate	23.9393
Calcium Sulphate	14.9997
Magnesium Bicarbonate	3.8668
Silica	1.1098
Sodium Chloride	3.1890
Mineral Matter	46.7921
Carbon Dioxide Escaping	8.5396
Fixed Residue	38.2525

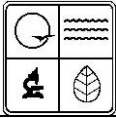
1905 Sanborn map, showing distance from Regent to Soterian



Historic advertisement for Soterian Ginger Ale



1909 "Map of Excelsior Springs"



22. (cont.) Sources of information. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

Clay County Assessor's Office

The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

The Famous Waters of Excelsior Springs Missouri (Excelsior Springs, MO: Excelsior Springs Bottling Co., n.d.). At the Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives, V1.200.100.68.

Excelsior Springs, Mo.: A Brief History of Their Discovery and a Description of the Famous Medicinal Waters (Excelsior Springs, MO: Excelsior Springs Company, n.d.). At the Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives, V1.200.100.58.

"Large Growing Industry is the Excelsior Springs Bottling Works," *Excelsior Springs Daily Call* (15 July 1905) 1.

"Map of Excelsior Springs," 1909, information and survey compiled by B. VandeGreyn, City Hall, Excelsior Springs, MO 1917 City Directory

40. (cont.) Description of environment and outbuildings. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

The 16+ acre linear parcel extends north/south on the west side of S. Kansas City Avenue. It slopes upward steeply from Kansas City Avenue to the west; approximately halfway up the slope is a flat linear trail which marks the historic location of the Wabash Railroad. Although not visible when the trees of the heavily wooded site are in full leaf, the former railroad bed does not contain trees. The property is currently addressed 000000 S Kansas City Ave, Excelsior Springs city block 146 and part of blocks 125 and 130. Clay County parcel ID: 12-315-00-16-005.02.

41. (cont.) Further description of important architectural features. Expand box as necessary, or add continuation pages.

The location for the Soterian Spring was determined through historic Sanborn maps and its relative location to Regent Springs. Measurements place the former bottling works approximately 150' south and 200' west of the Regent, and historical records place the Soterian 150' feet southwest of the bottling works. The Soterian was also located west of the Wabash Railroad. In this general area, a raised semi-circular area ringed with deciduous trees is located west of the former railroad bed (still extant), and north of a ravine which appears to contain stone steps. Down the hill from this area, and east of the railroad bed, are several historic tapered square concrete pillars. These pillars are scattered around the area; in a few instances, the pillars have separated from nearby bases.