



Rules of
**Department of Economic
Development**

**Division 30—Missouri Board for Architects,
Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors,
and Landscape Architects
Chapter 17—United States Public
Land Survey Corners**

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**Title 4—DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Division 30—Missouri Board for
Architects, Professional Engineers,
Professional Land Surveyors,
and Landscape Architects
Chapter 17—United States Public Land
Survey Corners**

4 CSR 30-17.010 Definitions

PURPOSE: This rule defines the various technical and legal terms used in Chapter 17.

(1) Alteration of a corner, the changing of the physical monumentation of the corner or accessories.

(2) Corners of the United States Public Land Survey, those points that determine the boundaries of the various subdivisions represented on the official plat such as the township corner, the section corner, the quarter-section corner, blank quarter section corners, fractional section corner, center of section, grant corner, lot corner and meander corner.

(3) Date of the field work is the date on which the monument was physically placed in the ground.

(4) Existent corner, a corner whose position can be identified by verifying the evidence of the original monument or its accessories, or by some physical evidence described in the field notes, or located by an acceptable supplemental survey record or some physical evidence thereof, or by testimony. The physical evidence of a corner may have been entirely obliterated but the corner will be considered existent if its position can be recovered through the testimony of one (1) or more witnesses who have a dependable knowledge of the original location. A legally reestablished corner shall have the same status as an existent corner.

(5) Lost corner, a corner whose position cannot be determined, beyond reasonable doubt, either from traces of the original marks or from acceptable evidence or testimony that bears upon the original position.

(6) Monument, the physical object which marks the corner point determined by the surveying process. The accessories, such as bearing trees, bearing objects, reference monuments, mounds of stone and other similar objects that aid in identifying the corner position, are also considered a part of a corner monument.

(7) Reestablishment of a corner, the remonumentation of a lost corner using statutory procedures.

(8) Removal of a corner, the complete elimination of the existing corner monument because of construction, clearing or similar operations.

(9) Restoration of a corner, the remonumentation of an existent or obliterated corner from survey records, physical evidence or by testimony.

(10) Suitable reference monuments, monuments set in such a manner and position that the corner which is referenced could be located by angle and distance or by two (2) distances from these monuments.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 2005. Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994. Amended: Filed Dec. 1, 2005, effective June 30, 2006.*

**Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2001.*

4 CSR 30-17.020 Removal or Alteration of Corners

PURPOSE: This rule defines a procedure to alter or remove a government corner and to obtain approval of the Department of Natural Resources.

All persons wishing to remove or alter a corner of the United States Public Land Survey shall employ a registered land surveyor to establish suitable reference monuments and shall file an approved document showing the reference monument or alteration within ninety (90) days from the date of the field work. The permission required by section 60.550, RSMo is granted upon filing the approved document with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Land Survey Program.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 1993. Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994.*

**Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999.*

4 CSR 30-17.030 Reestablished or Restored Corners

PURPOSE: This rule prescribes the time frame for filing documentation on restored or reestablished corners.

Every surveyor who reestablishes a lost corner or restores an existent corner shall monument the corner, and shall file an approved document with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Land Survey Program. This document must be filed no later than ninety (90) days after the date of field work.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 1993. Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994.*

**Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999.*

4 CSR 30-17.040 Procedure for Filing Documents

PURPOSE: This rule describes the procedure for filing corner restoration or reestablishment documents with the Department of Natural Resources.

(1) Approved documents shall be filed with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Land Survey, P. O. Box 250, Rolla, MO 65401. Documents filed with the county recorder must first be filed with the Department of Natural Resources.

(2) Restoration/Reestablishment and Resident Witness Affidavit forms may be obtained in a reasonable number from the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Land Survey, P. O. Box 250, Rolla, MO 65401.

(3) There is no fee for filing these documents.

(4) Filing of corner documentation with the Department of Natural Resources does not create an implied warranty by either the surveyor or the Department of Natural Resources as to conclusive evidence of the corner location.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 1993. Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994.*

**Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999.*

4 CSR 30-17.050 Monumentation

PURPOSE: This rule prescribes the type of monument to be installed to preserve the position of the United States Public Land Survey Corner.

(1) All corner witness and reference monuments shall be permanent monuments of a



type providing a degree of permanency consistent with that of the adjacent terrain and physical features. Monuments will meet the requirements for a permanent monument in accordance with 4 CSR 30-16.060.

(2) In such cases where the placement of a required corner monument at its proper location is impractical, it shall be permissible to set a reference or witness monument or mark near that point, and if such reference monument or mark is set, its location shall be properly shown on the documentation.

(3) All monuments shall be marked and designated in accordance with 4 CSR 30-17.060. The precise position shall be marked by a point, cross, or appropriate symbol on the monument.

(4) Where possible, four (4) reference ties (distance and/or direction) to durable objects will be made to provide the means for relocating the marked corner if the monument is disturbed. Durable objects include, but are not restricted to: house corners (fully describe), marks on concrete structures or pavement, marks on ledge or bedrock, trees, additional permanent monuments, fence posts, utility poles, and crosses on curbs.

(5) In some special cases where an existing monument is found and it is deemed appropriate to preserve the monument in its original location, a reference or witness monument may be installed nearby.

(6) At locations where a stone, iron pin, pipe or other monument is to be replaced by a permanent monument, the existing monument will be removed and buried or placed alongside the permanent monument. If there is an "X" or other mark on the old monument, it should be buried facing down or on its side so as not to be confused with the permanent monument.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 1993. Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994.*

**Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999.*

4 CSR 30-17.060 Monument Marking

PURPOSE: This rule prescribes a uniform procedure for marking corner monuments.

Survey monument caps used on United States Public Land Survey Corners will be marked in accordance with the Bureau of Land Man-

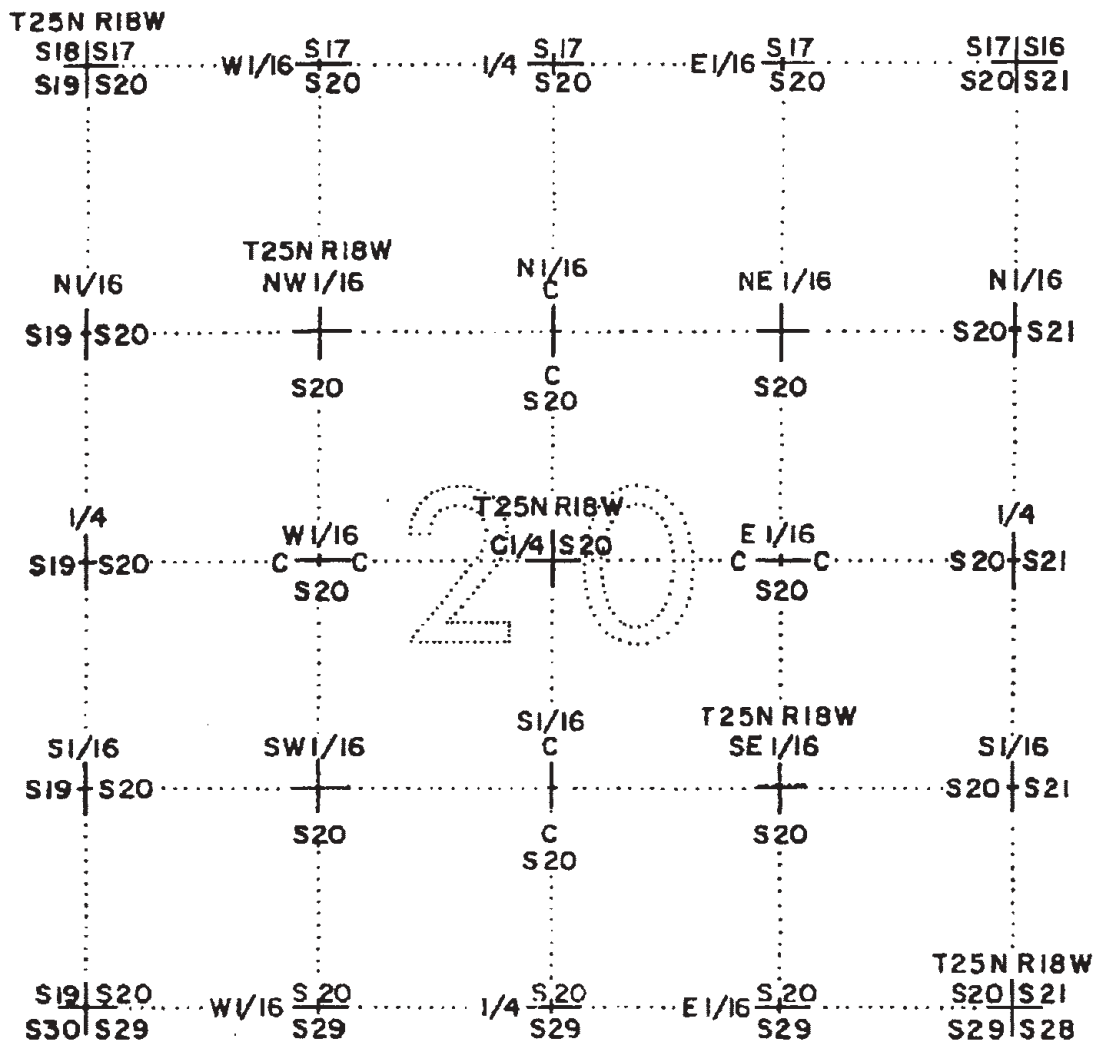
agement (BLM) system of marking monuments that furnishes ready identification of the position of the monument which bears the mark. Letters and numerals should be carefully stamped with three-sixteenths inch (3/16") one-eighth inch (1/8") steel dies and should always be made to read from the south. Lines and crosses should be made with a sharp cold chisel.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 1993. Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994.*

**Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999.*



Example of marking in Section 20. Note that township and range, and registration number of the surveyor are to be included on all monuments.





4 CSR 30-17.070 Missouri Coordinate System, 1983

PURPOSE: This rule prescribes the use of Missouri Coordinate System of 1983 in special situations.

(1) When the corner that is reestablished or restored is part of a survey to create a subdivision and if that subdivision is required to be tied to the Missouri Coordinate System of 1983, the corner shall also be tied to the Missouri Coordinate System of 1983 and the coordinates shall be shown on the Restoration/Reestablishment form.

(2) State coordinates to be shown on restoration forms shall be in accordance with 4 CSR 30-16.050.

(3) State coordinates may be used to reference corners in lieu of monuments.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 1993.* Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994.

*Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999.

4 CSR 30-17.080 Approved Documents

PURPOSE: This rule prescribes the form of the document to be registered with the Department of Natural Resources.

(1) An approved document may be any one (1) of the following:

(A) Certified Land Corner Restoration form (for restoration and alteration of existing corners and for referencing of corners to be destroyed);

(B) Certified Land Corner Reestablishment form (for reestablished corners); and

(C) Special form approved by the Department of Natural Resources.

(2) Preparation of Restoration or Reestablishment Forms. All information (except drawings), will be typed or completed in black ink. Lettering or typing shall not be less than eight-hundredths inch (0.08") in height. Drawings may be made in black pencil so long as all drawings will make sharp and clear copies.

(A) The following information shall be given on all corner forms:

1. The description of the original monument, witness ties and any subsequent restorations (including book and page, or microfilm location and date). Original survey

notes need not be given in urban or built-up areas;

2. Signature and seal of the registered land surveyor;

3. Date of the survey field work;

4. Basis of bearing system used;

5. Description of the monument, monument marking and witness/reference ties;

6. Comprehensive sketch of the corner location sufficient to find the monument; and

7. State coordinates, if known.

(B) The following additional information is required for forms showing the restoration or alteration of existing corner monuments:

1. Description of the evidence found to show that the corner is an existing corner position;

2. Resident witness affidavits when the corner is restored from testimony;

3. Distances and directions used to retrace prior evidence.

(C) The following additional information will be required for reestablished corners:

1. Statement of the method used to reestablish the corner; and

2. Distances and bearings used in the reestablishment procedure.

AUTHORITY: section 327.041, RSMo Supp. 1993.* Original rule filed May 3, 1994, effective Dec. 30, 1994.

*Original authority: 327.041, RSMo 1969, amended 1981, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1999.