California Energy Commission
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the point in question is somewhere on that latitude line. Fremont recorded that the party camped at 35°58'19" and, as shown on the map on page 157, this would have put the campsite near the present boundary between California and Nevada. Fremont's campsite was apparently about two miles south of the position of Stump Spring shown on the current topographic maps.

At several points in this narrative it has been stated that the Old Spanish Trail was never a clearly defined single trace that was followed doggedly. The following entry from Henry W. Bigler's diary concerning his party's experience at Stump Spring illustrates the capriciousness of desert watering sources and actions taken to compensate. Bigler and his party were traveling from Utah to Los Angeles. On Sunday, 25 November 1849 they had camped at Mountain Springs. Bigler's entry for Monday reads:

> *Mo 26th. Clear & fine, last night I stood guard, at 8 or 9 we was on the march, had a good Road all day, downhill for 27 miles by the roadometer*[13] *whare we struck the first water [Stump Spring], 3 or 4 clusters of willow trees growing near by. we thought of Camping here but what little feed there had been was eat off. we turned to the right (west) about 4 m. and found plenty of bunch [grass] in a deep bed of a Creek, but no water, and campted. . .*
> *Tuesday, 27th Clear and frosty. Bro. Fife found some water about 1 mile and a half down the creek below us. we went there and took breakfast. . .*

[Lines this Steiner's Coming down The trail fr. Spr. Mts, "night" would be to NW - likely Hidden Spring or Roche gui pleure

The source of feed described by Bigler was most likely near the present Hidden Hills Ranch and the water was probably from the spring known as "*Le Pleu du Roche* (The Rock that Weeps)." Later this became a hub where several desert roads met (see Sec 16, T2S, R54E on the 7.5-minute Hidden Hills Quadrangle).

<u>POI N47/C1 - The Nevada-California State Line (Map pages 157 & 158)</u>: Nevada Centennial Marker No. 27 marks the trace and direction of the Old Spanish Trail after it left Stump Spring. The marker was located about 0.3 mile southwest of the spring at the beginning of the well-defined dirt road that exits just west of the Stump Spring wash. The Old Spanish Trail continued southwest about two miles to the Nevada/California boundary.

Stump/Hidden Spring

[13] A roadometer was a crude measuring devise used by early wagons to determine distance traveled. It worked on the principle that as a wagon wheel made one complete revolution it would travel a certain distance over the terrain. This distance could be accurately measured. A crude counter was rigged to count the number of revolutions the wagon wheel made during a period of time (e.g. per day). At the end of the day, the number of revolutions multiplied by the distance traveled in one revolution would give a rough estimate of the total distance traveled during that day.