

**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey  
Reconnaissance Survey Final Report**

**of**

**Keith County, Nebraska**

**prepared for**

**Nebraska State Historical Society**

**State Historic Preservation Office**

**by**

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## **Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey**

The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NEHBS) is an ongoing project of the State Historic Preservation Office. Since its beginnings in 1974 with limited fieldwork by staff and student interns, NEHBS has expanded from a few thousand sites in urban and rural areas to over 40,000 recorded properties in three-fourths of the state. By 1992, the office plans to cover the entire state.

Through its documentation of the state's historic and architectural resources, NEHBS provides a basis for historic preservation in Nebraska. Survey data is used to list buildings in the National Register, which in turn may result in recognition and preservation. NEHBS data is also used to determine needs for further documentation and planning for the state's historic places. A brief description of Historic Preservation Office programs follows.

Equally important, while contributing to the history of the entire state, the survey also promotes local and regional awareness of significant buildings and sites. County officials, historical societies, planning organizations, and individuals are encouraged to use the information for community development, tourism, and historic preservation in their own communities.

## **National Register**

The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, which documents historic buildings and places throughout the state, also identifies those that may qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Established in 1966, the National Register is America's official inventory of sites, buildings, and districts, recognized for their importance to national, state, and local history. To qualify for listing, properties must be at least

fifty (50) years old and have associations with one or more of the following: historic events, significant individuals, architecture, or future research potential.

#### **Tax Incentive Program**

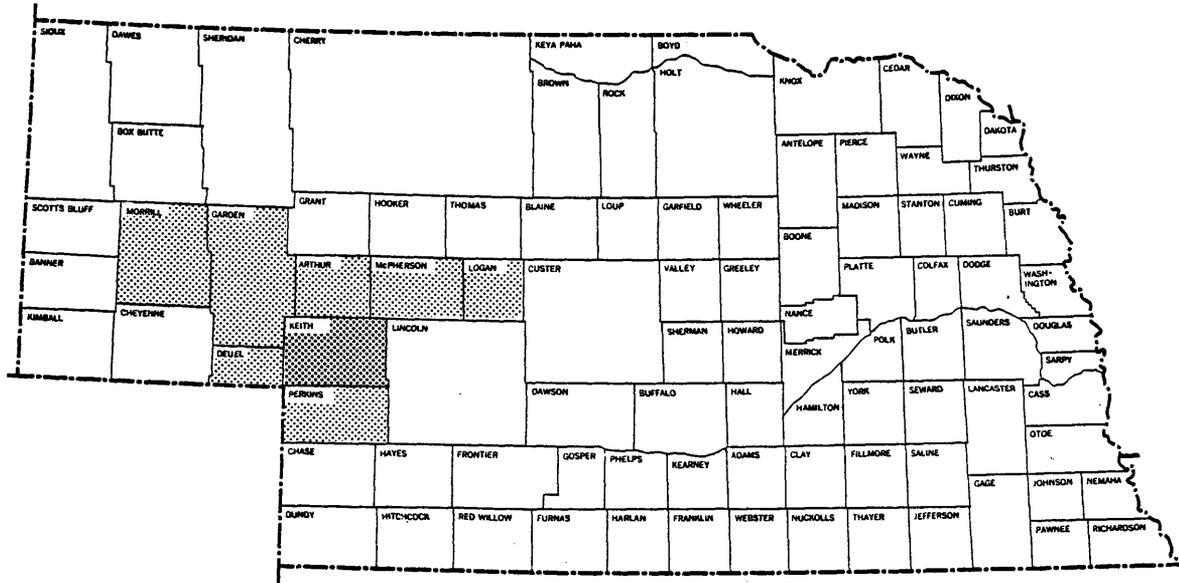
Inclusion in the National Register may enable income-producing properties to qualify for federal tax credits as certified rehabilitation projects. Designed to encourage the reuse and revitalization of historic buildings, neighborhoods, and "main street" districts, the tax incentives have been available since 1976. The program seeks to promote the reuse of historic buildings, including community redevelopment efforts and economic opportunities by retaining the distinctive qualities of buildings or districts.

#### **Review and Compliance**

The Historic Buildings Survey is an important source of information for the State Historic Preservation Office and government agencies when complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Commonly referred to as "review and compliance," Section 106 was established to ensure the documentation and protection of buildings and sites which may be affected by any federally funded or licensed project, such as highway construction. NEHBS survey data enables preservation staff and federal agencies to evaluate potentially affected properties and upon evaluation, to seek methods to mitigate the effect of these projects on important resources.

These and other programs are administered in Nebraska by the State Historic Preservation Office. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the office.

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### Western Nebraska Sandhills and High Plains Survey Area

The architectural research firm of Save America's Heritage was selected by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NESHPO) and engaged in a contractual agreement to conduct the Western Nebraska Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey. The survey consisted of the completed preliminary fieldwork in eight western Nebraska counties: Morrill, Deuel, Perkins, Keith, Garden, Arthur, McPherson, and Logan. Initiated in September, 1989, the survey was completed in the summer of 1990. With the completion of the eight-county project, the Western Nebraska Sandhills and High Plains were the third region of the state to be completed under the NESHPO's plan for preliminary statewide coverage by 1991-92.

The primary objective of the survey was to provide a preliminary characterization of the historic material resources extant in the western Nebraska region. Another primary objective of the survey was the identification of a definitive group of historic properties judged eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

(NRHP). The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County has accomplished this goal by identifying a total of 48 historic properties considered eligible or potentially eligible for the NRHP. In addition to the completion of these primary goals, several of the survey's secondary goals were also satisfied. These include the identification of specific building types or construction methods which either related to or were unique to the historic built environment of Nebraska, and the expansion of knowledge regarding ethnic settlement and building technologies.

The following table outlines the numerical results of the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey. The results included in parentheses indicate those properties previously surveyed by the NESHPO. The numbers are summarized according to the NEHBS number prefixes for rural and town locations.

Numerical Summary of Keith County Reconnaissance Survey

KEITH COUNTY	TOTAL PROPERTIES	CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS	CONTRIBUTING SITES	CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES	CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS
KH00: Rural	87 (4)	309 (10)	2 (1)	10	66
KH01: Brule	13 (1)	18 (2)	0	0	1
KH02: Keystone	5 (3)	11 (3)	0	0	0
KH04: Ogallala	106 (3)	157 (4)	1	4	0
KH05: Paxton	35	46	0	1	3
KH06: Roscoe	4	5	0	0	0
KH07: Sarben	2	2	0	0	1
<hr/>					
TOTAL NUMBER SURVEYED					
IN FY 1989-1990:	252 (11)	548 (19)	3 (1)	15	71
TOTAL NEHBS TO DATE:	263	567	4	15	71

Approximated Area of Survey Coverage: 393.5 square miles (251,840 acres).  
Numbers in parenthesis indicate previously surveyed properties

## HISTORIC OVERVIEW

### Physical Description

Keith County lies on the southern edge of the state's panhandle, traversed by the South Platte River through the southern section of the county. Keith County is bordered by Perkins County to the south, Deuel County to the west, Garden, Arthur and McPherson Counties to the north and by Lincoln County to the east. The North Platte River also runs through the northern half of the county with Lake McConaughy in its north-eastern section near Ogallala.

Those areas in Keith County south of the Platte River are categorized in the High Plains geographic zone. This zone is characterized by flat-lying land like the Central Plain zone, which is composed of sandstone or stream-deposited silt, sand, clay and gravel overlain with loess. The eastern section of the zone is also composed of scattered segments of sandhills which, unlike the Sand Hills zone, are stabilized by sandsage prairie grasses. The vegetation of the High Plains is exclusively short grass prairie. The Lodgepole Creek and the South Platte River transect the zone from west to east. Quantities of limestone of the White River formation outcrop along Lodgepole Creek and Sidney Draw.

The northern section of Keith County is designated in the Sand Hills zone and includes all lands north of the Platte River. This zone is characterized by a composition of hilly land of low to high sand dunes stabilized by grass cover. These dunes mantle stream-deposited silt, sand, gravel and sandstone. The sandhills prairie and topography are unique to Nebraska and North America. This zone is drained by the Loup River system except along the northern edge which is drained by the Niobrara.

### **Original Inhabitants**

Prior to nineteenth-century white settlement, the Pawnee and Sioux tribes claimed the land of the Sandhills as hunting grounds. The two tribes disputed various tracts between themselves. The Pawnee claimed the drainage area of the Loup River as their hunting grounds and camped near the mouth of the river. The Sioux claimed lands east to the forks of the Platte and north to the mouth of the White River in South Dakota as their hunting grounds. Both tribes depended on the bison, which roamed the sandhills in vast numbers, as their primary source of food and raw material.

Other Native American tribes in Nebraska included the Omahas, the Otoe and the Ponca, all of whom were more sedentary than the Sioux or Pawnee, and other tribes claimed had been acquired by the federal government either through treaty and/or coercion. The final treaty, in 1876, opened the sandhills region to settlement.

### **Settlement of Nebraska**

The first Europeans to reach what would become Nebraska were Spanish soldiers in search of mythical Quivira (Olson, page 29). By the early 1700's the French had begun to move into the trans-Missouri country. In 1763 the Spanish, through that year's Treaty of Paris, had possession of all land west of the Mississippi. In 1800 the French took possession of the region under the Treaty of San Ildefonso. However, in 1803 the French, under Napoleon, sold this vast expanse of land to the Americans for about four cents and acre, or \$15,000,000 U.S. dollars. The Louisiana Purchase, as the exchange was called, included the territory that would become the State of Nebraska.

In 1803 the Americans began plans to initiate the exploration of their new possession with the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition. Undertaken "for purposes of extending the

external commerce of the United States," Congress appropriated \$2,500.00 for the expedition (Olson, page 36). In the Spring of 1804 the members of the exploration team left the St. Louis area and by July, 1804 had made their first camp, in the area that would become Nebraska, near the mouth of the Little Nemaha River. The expedition passed through Nebraska and continued to the Pacific Ocean.

Although the area to become Nebraska was part of a vast expanse of land west of the Mississippi to be designated by an 1834 Act of Congress as land for Native Americans, the region was traversed by fur trappers and traders, missionaries and settlers headed further west between the years of 1804 and 1854, when the Territory of Nebraska was officially opened to settlement. Some of the early establishments of western culture in Nebraska included Fort Atkinson in the 1820's and the Merrill Mission in Bellevue.

Another aspect of settlement in Nebraska, both prior to official opening of the territory and after, were the famous Oregon, Mormon and California Trails, all of which passed through the southern half of the state. All of these trails passed westward along the Platte River and were used between 1841 and 1848.

The Territory of Nebraska was officially established in 1854, with the first legislature convening in January, 1855. Between 1854 and 1862 the majority of settlement took place in the southeast and eastern sections of the state. In this period, settlement was done through either the provisions of the Pre-Emption Law of 1841, which allowed a settler to file a claim on 160 acres and pay \$1.25 per acre at time of sale, through the purchase of military bounty land warrants or through direct purchase. The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed for more liberal disbursement of the public domain. This act allowed settlers to acquire between 40 and 160 acres of land without the standard per acre fee if he/she remained on the claim for 5 years and meet a specified level of improvements (i.e., buildings, and land under cultivation). Settlement in the western reaches of the State

occurred under this act, or later under the provisions of the 1904 Kinkaid Act.

Nebraska became a state in 1867 with its present borders defined. In the early 1860's the country began planning a transcontinental railway line for the transportation of people and goods which would unite the country. The railroad would extend through the territory, and then state, of Nebraska with a site near Omaha as the eastern terminus of the line. In 1867 the route was completed when the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Lines joined in Utah. The development of the line through Nebraska had a major impact on the settlement and growth of the small towns and communities throughout the western region of the state, and the state as a whole. Inland counties, without a railroad through their borders, generally developed at a slower rate and often did not achieve the kinds of settlement and sustained populations found in counties through which a line ran. In counties where the line did run, a town, or proposed town, could either prosper or fail depending on the decision made by the railroad company whether or not to place a depot or siding in the town.

While the eastern, northeastern, and central regions of the state had been settled by the late 1880's, the Sandhills region of Nebraska was only just beginning to be settled. This region, encompassing a great portion of the western section of the state north of the Platte River, was generally not suitable for the kinds of agricultural activities pursued in the rest of the state. Since the 1870's, cattlemen had free-ranged vast herds in the area. In the late 1860's and early 1870's, Texas cattlemen began to drive their herds north on the Texas Trail to feed in Nebraska. These early ranchers would later come into conflict with settlers and federal government regarding the fencing of lands and free-range ranching. Although settlement had begun in the Sandhills region it had progressed at a slow pace. Railroads had entered the region however, and along the lines development was more marked.

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In 1904 the Kinkaid Act was effected. Designed to encourage settlement in the Sandhills region the act allowed homesteaders to file 640 acres claim, as opposed to the usual 160 acres. This act recognized that the arid Sandhills required that the settler possess a greater land area in order to be successful in either agriculture or ranching. The Kinkaid Act was of great importance to the settlement of the Sandhills, resulting, in many of the counties, peak populations by 1920. Although many of the settlers eventually sold out to larger ranching endeavors, this act successfully disposed of the public domain in the area.

The success, in terms of social and economic development of the period between 1900 and 1930, came to an end with the drought and Depression of the 1930's. Many people left the western section of the state during this time and some towns ceased to exist. Populations declined in general, and much commercial development came to a halt. The end of the drought and the slow rebuilding of the economy, followed by the impact of World War II combined to stabilize not only this region but the country as a whole. Economically the state benefited from the War in terms of new industry and increased motivation. The post-war years and the 1950's were ones of economic development and stability generally intact until the economic and farm crises of the 1970's and 80's.

### County Development

Keith County was organized during the Settlement and Development period<sup>1</sup> in the year 1873 and was one of the earliest counties to be established in the western section of

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1 All temporal periods referred to in this text are taken from "Historic Contexts in Nebraska, Topical Listings," NESHPO, 1989 and specifically are:

- 1) Pre-Territorial, 1804-1854
- 2) Territorial Period, 1854-1867
- 3) Settlement and Expansion, 1867-1890
- 4) Development and Growth, 1890-1920
- 5) Spurious Economic Growth, 1920-1929
- 6) The Great Depression, 1929-1941
- 7) World War II, 1941-1945
- 8) Post-War Nebraska, 1945-Present

Nebraska. At this time the county included all its present territory and all that of Perkins County to the south. Prior to the establishment of Keith County, however, or even the state of Nebraska, the area had been traversed by settlers using the various overland trails. From 1859-1869, the Overland Stage Company passed through the area that would become Keith County. The area did not see any permanent settlement however until the Union Pacific Railroad line arrived in 1867. Both Ogallala and Paxton came into being first as sidings and then as depots on the U.P. mainline.

In 1884 more settlers began to move into Keith County and the days of the wild west began to fade into memory. The year 1887 saw Keith County take on its present boundaries as its southern portion seceded and became Perkins County. In 1888 a new courthouse was built in Ogallala which replaced the old building. Because of the federal government restrictions on free-range ranching, more and more homesteaders and settlers had entered the county. During the Development and Growth period as well as the Spurious Growth period, Keith County continued to develop as a primarily agricultural county dependent on both ranching and crop production for its economic stability.

A result of the Great Depression and drought of the 1930's was the construction of the George P Kingsley Dam. Part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration's Public Works Programs, the dam's importance to the economy and agriculture of the area cannot be overstated. Kingsley Dam is a hydraulic fill structure and was formed by pumping sand from the Platte River, which it dammed, to form the sides while at the same time pumping loose soil mixed with water into the center of the structure to form a water tight core. The Dam is 3.1 miles long and 28 feet wide. It is 1,100 feet wide at the base and the height is 161 feet. Behind the Dam lies Lake McConaughy, called by some Nebraska's "inland ocean" and has a storage capacity of 1.948,000 acre feet of water. The surface area of the lake at maximum is 35,000 acres or 22 miles long with 105 miles of shoreline. Over the

years, Lake McConaughy has become Nebraska's premier resort for both sports and recreation. A thriving tourism trade has developed near the lake as well as in Ogallala which markets its old wild west image to visitors making their way to the lake.

In 1963, a new courthouse was constructed in Ogallala which also houses the county extension offices, soil conservation service and other federal offices. Interstate 80 passes through Keith County and Brule. A good system of state highways has been constructed in the county to link its recreational areas to other sections of the state. The Post-War period has seen continued development in Keith County which has showed a steady increase in population during this period. In 1980, the county reached its peak population of 9,364 residents. In the summer of 1985 the Kingsley Hydro plant was completed, further improving the areas economy.

#### **Keith County Towns**

Ogallala had its beginnings in 1867 when the Union Pacific Railroad constructed a rail line along the Platte River. In August of 1867, the Union Pacific Railroad reached Ogallala. For some time Ogallala was the end of the line. Trains would turn around on a large circle track west of town. While the railroad created an influx of line workers into the Ogallala area, the early beginnings of the town consisted of little more than a section house, dining hall, and water tank.

Ogallala was named for the Oglala branch of Teton Sioux Indians who roamed the plains west of Keith County. The first post office in Ogallala was established in 1873. In 1874, the Union Pacific Railroad built holding pens and loading chutes just west of town hoping to attract cattle shippers. Soon Ogallala became the final destination of the drovers bringing huge herds of Texas Longhorn cattle up the Chisolm and Texas trails. The trail drives brought large herds of cattle each summer. Train load after train load were shipped

daily, sometimes loading both day and night. Ogallala soon became the ideal shipping point for Texas cattle and the second largest shipping point on the Union Pacific. Herds of Longhorn were driven from Texas to Ogallala on the Texas Trail for shipping to the East or to ranches in Wyoming and Montana. In 1875, between 60,000 and 75,000 head of cattle were brought up the Texas Trail to Ogallala. The days of the Texas trail drives earned Ogallala a reputation as a roaring boom town.

By 1877, the Sioux Indians had been confined to reservations in South Dakota and the cattlemen and ranchers forged into the open ranges north of Ogallala. The Texans began to establish ranches near Ogallala, thus giving the area its first stable business. Through mutual agreements, the cattle ranches divided the free open-range territory and formed large cattle companies. Both foreign and local investors profited from the growth of the cattle companies. One of the largest herds was owned by the Bosler Brothers. The Boslers produced thousands of cattle to provide beef for the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Indian agencies.

From 1875 to 1884, the number of cattle arriving in Ogallala increased annually until 1884 when 75,000 to 125,000 head arrived in Ogallala. During this year however, a serious epidemic of Texas fever spread among the cattle causing large losses to the companies. A ban on Texas cattle was implemented and resulted in severe economic losses to the community and stockyards. In addition, the arrival of settlers and establishment of smaller ranches between 1887 and 1896 proved damaging blows to the cattle business.

Farmers and settlers arrived in Ogallala in the mid-1880's encouraged by the Union Pacific promotions to buy "cheap land." The influx of settlers during the early 1880's resulted in the establishment of businesses reliant upon the economy of the cattle industry. Gradually settlers replaced the cowpokes of trail drives. The cattle drives no longer existed, and the wild and violent town had shifted to a more peaceful settlement. On

November 25, 1884, the city of Ogallala was incorporated by order of the Board of County Commissioners.

Ogallala was settled predominantly by persons of Irish, German, and Swedish descent. The Irish came with the construction of the railroad; the Germans and Swedish came to farm.

The 1867 arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in Keith County was also responsible for the founding of the community of Paxton. Located on the table land between the North and South Platte Rivers, Paxton was originally known as "Alkali" for the alkaline content of the soil. From 1867 to 1885, Alkali remained a sparse settlement reliant upon the presence of the railroad. In 1885, Alkali was renamed for prominent local rancher William Paxton. Originally involved in the construction of the Transcontinental Telegraph line as an employee of Omaha businessman Edward Creighton, Paxton subsequently engaged in grading contracts for the Union Pacific Railroad. This brought him to Keith County where he then established the Keystone Cattle Company in 1875. The ranch headquarters were located by the mouth of the Whitetail Creek and his cattle occupied most of the free-range along the North Platte River in Keith County.

With the end of the free-range ranch days and the influx of homesteaders in the mid 1880's, the community of Paxton experienced the first assemblage of permanent businesses and dwellings. In 1886, a bridge was constructed across the South Platte River which further encouraged the settlement and expansion of Paxton. By 1890, the community contained a depot, water tower, school, ten businesses and a dozen houses. Methodist, Catholic, and Baptist congregations were formed between 1886 and 1891. As with most other Nebraska communities, the drought of the 1890's brought economic hardships and population declines. During the early twentieth-century however conditions improved and Paxton witnessed steady growth. The Settlement and Expansion Period saw the development of larger schools, increased home construction, and the development of electrical and municipal

water systems. The construction of Kingsley dam provided a further boost to the community. The Sutherland canal and siphon tube was constructed in the late 1930's and carries water under the town and on to the Sutherland Reservoir.

Brule was established near the end of the Settlement and Expansion period in 1886 as permanent settlers began to move into Keith County. These settlers were interested in setting up permanent homesteads and in farming as their chief operation. In 1886, a bridge was constructed over the South Platte River which provided access to the Brule area. Unlike Ogallala, Brule has always been primarily an agricultural town and grew slowly but steadily through the Development and Growth period as well as during the Spurious Economic Growth periods.

#### **Population and Ethnic Trends**

The first available federal census for Keith County is the record for the decade of 1880 with just 194 residents being listed in the county. Of those, 47 were immigrants, majority from the British Isles (27), and Germany (11). The population of the county had greatly increased by 1890 with 2,556 residents being recorded; likewise the immigrant population had increased to 399. The majority of the immigrants were from the British Isles (153): Germany (137): Sweden (56), and Canada (33).

By 1900, the population had decreased to 1,951, reflecting the harsh times of the 1890's; the immigrant population stood at 344. Again immigrants were from Germany (110), the British Isles (93), Sweden (27), Denmark (27), and Italy (39). The 1910 census reflected an increase in population that would continue to the present. In 1910, the 3,692 residents included 387 immigrants: majority from Germany (121): the British Isles (79): Sweden (57): Denmark (33), and Greece (28).

The 1920 census showed a total population for Keith County of 5,294 residents with

432 immigrants. The immigrant population represents persons born in Germany (121), the British Isles (66), Sweden (62), Denmark (38), Russia (37) and Mexico (29). The 1930 census continues to show an increase of population with 6,721 residents recorded of which 343 were immigrants. The immigrant population began to decrease at this time with the majorities coming in relative terms from the same countries as mentioned above. The 1940 census for Keith County lists 8,333 residents while in 1950 there was a small decline to 7,449 residents. The population increased again in 1960 to 7,958 and to 8,487 in 1970. The peak population for Keith County was recorded in 1980 with 9,365 residents.

### **Agriculture and Ranching**

Keith County depends primarily on ranching for its main rural enterprise. The establishment of large ranches in the north section of the county began even prior to the county's establishment. The southern section of the county is more agrarian than the north with more crops being grown and smaller family holdings. The damming of the Platte River and the establishment of Lake McConaughy, helped to supplement the economy of the county. Lake McConaughy is a favorite recreational site for many Nebraskans and the development of services and entertainment for tourists provides stimulation to the otherwise predominantly agricultural economy of the county.

### **Final Comments**

Because of Ogallala's prominence as a early cattle town and a notorious wild west town, Keith County has a much longer and more colorful history than some of its surrounding neighbors. The influence of the railroad in the county's early development cannot be underestimated. Primarily a ranching area, Keith County relies on cattle production supplemented by the growth of crops in the south. An economic boon and

stabilizer to Keith County was the construction of the George P. Kingsley Dam, completed in 1941. Since that time, a thriving recreation economy has developed around the huge Lake that resulted from the damming of the Platte River. The Lake, combined with Ogallala's reputation and marketing of its wild west image, has made tourism an important aspect of the county's economy.

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## GENERAL SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

### Introduction

The primary objective of the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey was to provide a preliminary characterization of the historic resources extant within the county. In addition to this, several other objectives were identified in the Research Design which utilize the data collected by the survey and validate the need for its performance. First among these additional objectives was the contribution of information to the contextual setting of Nebraska's historic architecture. The performance of the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey has generated information which contributes to a statewide knowledge and builds a background with which future survey information can be evaluated.

Secondly, it was the objective of the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey to identify those properties within the county which are eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Additional objectives of the survey included: the identification of specific properties or geographic areas which, in the event of an intensive survey, would contribute useful information to the context of Nebraska's historic architecture; the identification of specific property types; the identification of construction methods which may relate to or are unique to those existing in the NEHBS database, and the expansion of knowledge regarding ethnic settlement, building technologies and architectural image.

In addition to these conceptual objectives, the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey was intended to fulfill several numerical objectives as stated in the Research Design.

These quantitative objectives consisted of:

- A. The recording of an estimated 350 properties in Keith County at the completion of the survey.

- B. The coverage of approximately 240,000 acres (375 square miles) in Keith County.  
In addition, each street of the six extant Keith County communities will be surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods.
- C. Identification of at least 35 properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- D. Identification of at least two possible Historic District or Multiple Property nominations eligible for National Register listing.
- E. Evaluating by the following hierarchy those properties which are eligible (E) or potentially eligible (P) for listing in the National Register, and those properties which contribute (C) to the database of extant material resources in the county.

A post-survey evaluation of these goals reveals that the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey has successfully satisfied its preliminary objectives. The satisfaction of these goals can be expressed in two quantifiable terms: numerical and geographic. Each street of the six Keith County communities and nearly every rural road was surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods. The numbers produced by the survey are indicative of the comprehensive nature with which the survey was performed. A total of 637 contributing buildings, structures, objects and sites were documented on 252 individual properties. The survey canvassed approximately 251,840 acres (393.5 square miles) and identified 48 properties eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County has produced a diverse collection of historic material resources. This diversity of these resources is expressed in the broad range of Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types represented in the database of the

surveyed properties. The list of Historic Contexts recorded by the reconnaissance level survey includes the following themes as defined by the NESHPO (Historic Contexts in Nebraska--Topical Listing, 1989).

Historic Context	# of Properties
02.00. Religion: Religious/Ceremonial	1
02.01.01. Religion: Roman Catholic Church in Nebraska	2
02.03.01. Religion: Lutheran Church in Nebraska	1
02.04.01. Religion: Presbyterian Church in America, in Nebraska	1
03.13.02. Aesthetic Systems: Historic Trail Markers	1
04.06. Government: Federal Government, United States Post Office	1
05.02.05. Association: Service Associations, Masons	1
05.02.06. Association: Service Associations, IOOF	1
06.01. Education: Schooling	2
06.01.01. Education: Rural Education	8
06.02.01. Education: Enrichment, Libraries	1
07.06. Diversion: Leisure and Recreation	2
07.07. Diversion: Entertainment	1
08.07. High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock, and Potato Production	60
08.08. Agriculture: Sand Hills Range Livestock Production	12
12.02.07. Commerce: Retail Commerce in the High Plains Region	11
12.05.01. Commerce: Grain Handling and Storage	1

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13.02.	Transportation: Roads	10
13.02.01.05.	Transportation: Oregon Trail, 1830	1
13.03.	Transportation: Rail	3
14.04.	Communication: Telephone Communications	2
15.01.	Services: Public Utilities	2
15.04.	Services: Professional	1
15.05.03.	Services: Financial	1
16.05.	Settlement: Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement	132

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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### **A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of Keith County Historic Properties**

The following discussion consists of a topical summary and Preliminary Inventory of the historic properties documented during the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey. This discussion is arranged according to the Topical Listing of Historic Contexts developed by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NESHPO, 1989). It includes summaries only of those historic contexts associated with properties judged eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Included at the end of each context summary is a photographic inventory of properties which appear eligible or potentially eligible for National Register listing. The properties judged eligible generally precede those considered potentially eligible. The properties labeled "potentially eligible" are included in the inventory for purposes of defining those buildings that may lack the significance or integrity for NRHP listing but which help define the character of the historic built environment of Keith County. In addition, those properties already listed on the NRHP are included in the inventory according to their respective context.

#### **Historic Context: Religion**

The contextual topic of Religion encompasses any cultural manifestation relative to the faithful devotion of an acknowledged deity. This includes any social entity relating to sacred organizations and rituals or considered a sacred place. In terms of historic buildings and structures, this includes churches, parsonage-rectories, cemeteries, fellowship halls, and schools.

Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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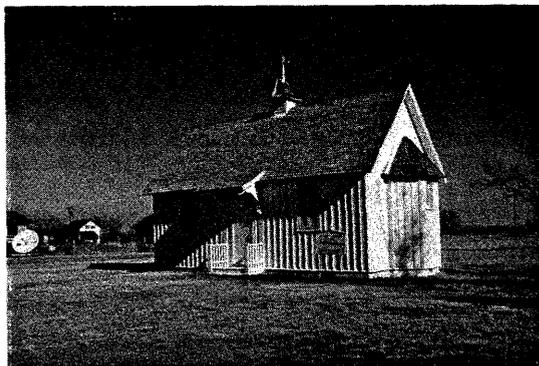
The reconnaissance survey of Keith County recorded a total of four (4) properties associated with the context of religion. A fifth building, the Keystone Community Church (KH02-001) was previously surveyed by the NESHPO and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Of the four properties added to the database, two (KH04-003, KH05-021) are included in the Preliminary Inventory as eligible for listing in the NRHP and one property (KH00-083) is considered potentially eligible for such listing. The following table outlines the basic data regarding the five surveyed properties.

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/Common NAME	HIST. CNTX.	CONTRIBUTING				PROP. TYPE	DOE
				BLDGS.	STRU.	SITE	OBJ.		
KH04-003	C1880	BOOT HILL CEMETERY	02.00	0	1	0	0	02.3.1	E
KH02-001	1908	KEYSTONE COMM. CHURCH	02.00, 02.01	1	0	0	0	02.4.1:1	NRHP
KH05-021	1930	ST. PAT'S CATH. CHURCH	02.01.01	1	0	0	0	02.1.4	E
KH00-083	1948	ST. JOHNS EV. CHURCH	02.03.01	1	1	0	0	02.1.4, 02.3.1	P
KH02-006	C1917	PRES. CHURCH & PAR.	02.04.01	2	0	0	0	02.1.4	C

While a significantly larger number of religious properties exist within Keith County, only the four properties added to the survey data met the criteria necessary for reconnaissance level survey (see NESHPO Files: Research Design). Due to the preliminary nature of reconnaissance level survey, only two of the buildings have been verified regarding their original denominations. The first of these, the St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Paxton (KH05-021) is associated with the Roman Catholic Church in Nebraska Historic Context (H.C.: 02.01.01). This brick masonry building was constructed in 1930 and incorporates Romanesque Revival stylistic detailing. The second property with verified denomination is St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church (KH00-083) located in south-central rural Keith County. This building was built in 1948 and is associated with Lutheranism (H.C.: 02.03).

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH02-001 Keystone  
**DATE:** 1908  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Keystone Community Church  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Religion (02.01.01, 02.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Church (02.1.4:1)  
**DOE:** National Register of Historic Places  
 Important to the context of Religion as a  
 unique church type housing both Catholic and  
 Protestant denominations (See Historic Places:  
NEBRASKAland, 1989).



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-003 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1880  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Boot Hill Cemetery  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Religion (02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Cemetery (02.3.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Considered Eligible to the National Register  
 for associations with early religious ceremony  
 and as a western folklore attraction.



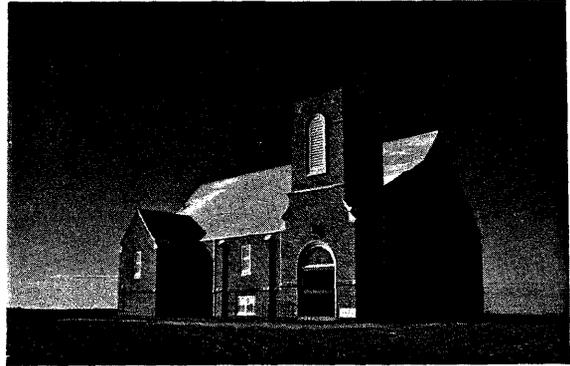
**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH05-021 Paxton  
**DATE:** 1930  
**RESOURCE NAME:** St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Religion (02.01.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Church (02.1.4)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Chosen for the preliminary inventory as a  
 locally significant architectural landmark in  
 the town of Paxton. Exhibits eclectic stylistic  
 influences.



Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-083 Rural  
**DATE:** 1948  
**RESOURCE NAME:** St. John's Evangelical Church  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Religion (02.03.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Church (02.1.4), (02.3.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
Rural brick church important in the development of religious practice in Keith County. Also contains a cemetery and a non-contributing, altered parsonage.

**Historic Context: Aesthetic Systems**

The Historic Context of Aesthetic Systems involves the application of skill to production according to aesthetic principles. Specific considerations within this context include: the performing arts of music, dance, theater, and oratory; the visual arts of sculpture, painting, and decorative arts; and various forms of literature such as myths, legends, and tales. The physical manifestation of the aforementioned aesthetic components can be quite broad and open-ended. In terms of the Keith County Historic Buildings Survey, one object with association to the Aesthetic Systems context was recorded. This is the Diamond Springs Pony Express Station commemorative marker (KH00-007) which is preliminarily associated with the sub-context of Sculpture (H.C: 03.13.02). The site of the Diamond Springs Station is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (25-KH-6). The table on the following page outlines the basic data of this object.

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HIST. CNTX.	CONTRIBUTING				PROP. TYPE	DO
				BLDGS.	STRU.	SITE	OBJ.		
KH00-007	1932	HISTORIC MARKER	03.13.02.	0	0	1	0	07.5.1.2.5	E

The Diamond Springs Pony Express Station marker has been judged eligible for National Register listing as part of a multiple property nomination of Pony Express trail markers located in the western Sandhills and High Plains study area. (see Recommendations For Future Work). These objects consist of poured cement markers with circular bronze plaques and commemorate the series of stations located on the Pony Express route. The location of this Pony Express Route illustrates one of the more colorful aspects of Keith County history during the Territorial (1854-1867) period in Nebraska. The Pony Express Route entered what is now east-central Keith County and paralleled the North Platte River before exiting into Deuel County, Nebraska. The location of the Pony Express stations were commemorated in the early 1930's by the Pony Express Society through the erection of the cement markers.

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-007 Rural  
**DATE:** 1932  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Diamond Springs Station Marker  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Aesthetic Systems (03.13.02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Monument (07.5.1.2.5)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Tombstone shaped monument of concrete with bronze Pony Express medallion. One in a series of historic trail markers which pay tribute to early travel routes (See Historic Places: NEBRASKAland, 1989).



## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

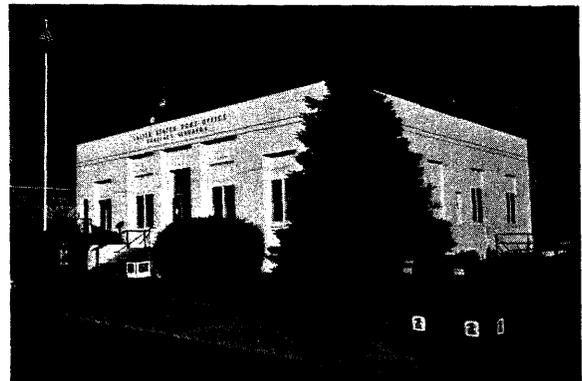
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### Historic Context: Government

The contextual topic of Government encompasses the art or science of established government as well as competition between interest groups for leadership of local, state, or national government. Associated historic buildings include post offices, courthouses, community halls, and fire stations. Typically, the recording of buildings fitting this context has been somewhat low due presumably to the fact that it only takes one or two of these buildings to satisfy the governing needs of small communities.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County found only one (1) property relating to the context of Government which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey: the United States Post Office in Ogallala (KH04-080). This building was constructed in 1937 with the help of a grant from the Works Progress Administration. The lobby of the Post Office contains a large mural which has been photographed by the NESHPO in conjunction with a documentation project of New Deal art in twelve Nebraska Post Offices. The Post Office murals were commissioned by the Treasury Department and produced in the late 1930's and early 1940's. The Post Office in Ogallala is considered eligible for National Register listing based on its association with the historic contexts of Federal Government (H.C.: 04.06) and Relief Programs (H.C.: 04.09).

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-080    Ogallala  
**DATE:** 1937  
**COMMON NAME:** United States Post Office  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Government (04.06)  
                                          Murals            (03.04.02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:**            Post Office (04.2.3)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Poured concrete building executed in the Moderne Style and adorned with relief sculpture. Significant for architectural merit and as a WPA building project. Mural located in the lobby is also from the WPA.



Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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**Historic Context: Education**

The contextual topic of Education encompasses any act or process which imparts or aids in the acquisition of knowledge. The primary emphasis of this context is focused upon the components of schooling and enrichment. Historic buildings which fit this context include schools, libraries, and museums. Considerations include formal apprenticeship and enculturation; primary, elementary, junior, and senior high schools, colleges and universities; vocational, adult, continuing, specialty and professional education.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County recorded a total of eleven (11) education related properties with three of these considered eligible and two potentially eligible for National Register listing. The eleven properties surveyed relate to the sub-contexts of

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HIST. CNTX.	CONTRIBUTING				PROP. TYPE	
				BLDGS.	STRU.	SITE	OBJ.		
KH04-061	1933	ST. PAULS SCHOOL	06.01	1	0	0	0	06.2.1	E
KH01-005	1921	DIST. #17 SCHOOL	06.01	1	0	0	0	06.3	E
KH00-018	C1910	FRMR SCHOOLHSE	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1:1	C
KH00-022	C1946	FRMR SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1:1	C
KH00-037	1939	DIST. #22 SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	5	06.3.1	P
KH00-043	C1903	ABAN. SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1:1	P
KH00-055	C1937	SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	2	06.3.1	C
KH00-078	C1885	SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1	C
KH00-081	C1923	SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1	C
KH00-084	C1925	KEITH CO. DIST #1 SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	2	06.3.1	C
KH02-002	C1910	KEYSTONE PUBLIC LIB.	06.02.01	1	0	0	0	04.2.4	E

Consistent with the pattern established by previous historic buildings survey projects in Nebraska, the school buildings recorded in Keith County fit into one of two distinct form types: a simple one-room frame hall-type building, and a larger-scale masonry building.

Predominantly found in the rural environs, Keith County's one-room hall-type schools appear to have been constructed primarily between 1900 and 1910. These buildings are typically one-story rectangular-shaped structures with a gable-end entry and were protected

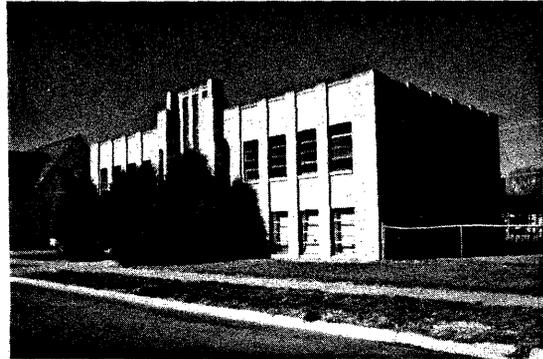
**Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey**

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by a gable roof placed in longitudinal orientation to the road. The school buildings recorded in Keith County which fit this type are: KH00-018, KH00-022, KH00-043, KH00-081, and KH00-084.

The second type of school building identified in NEHBS projects is the "modern" school which generally consists of larger scale brick masonry buildings found primarily in town locations. These buildings were generally built between 1910 and 1930 and consist of a raised basement two-story masonry structure occupying the grounds of a single town block. Education properties recorded in Keith County which portray the characteristics of the "modern" school type include KH04-061, and KH01-005.

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-061    Ogallala  
**DATE:** 1933  
**RESOURCE NAME:** St. Paul's School  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Education (06.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Parochial School (06.2.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Brick school building significant as an excellent example of the American Art Deco Style. The two-story building with central entry remains high in historic integrity.

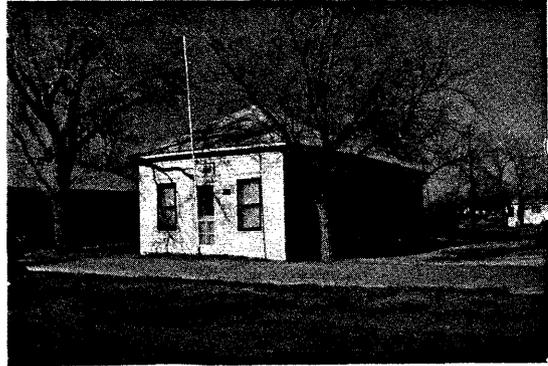


**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH01-005    Brule  
**DATE:** 1921  
**RESOURCE NAME:** School District #17  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Education (06.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Public School (06.3)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Two-story brick school building with raised basement important to the development of education in Brule. Excellent example of the "Modern" type school building.

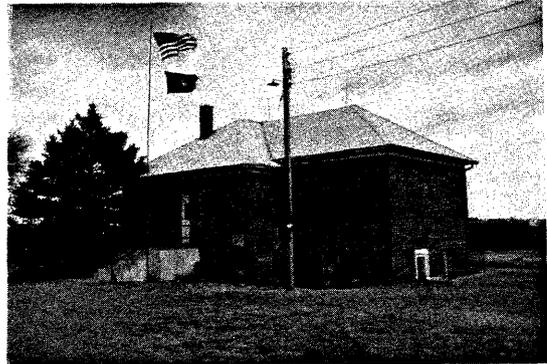


## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH02-002 Keystone  
**DATE:** C.1910  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Keystone Public Library  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Education (06.02.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Library (04.2.4)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Built by Ed Casey, this community operated library is an important contributor to the context of Enrichment in the small town of Keystone. Previously surveyed by the NESHPO.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-037 Rural  
**DATE:** 1939  
**RESOURCE NAME:** District #22 School  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Education (06.01.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Rural School (06.3.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 One-story brick school built during the Great Depression temporal period as defined by the NESHPO (Topical Listing: NESHPO, 1989). Important to the context of Education during the mid-1900's.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-043 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1903  
**COMMON NAME:** Abandoned School  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Education (06.01.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Hall Type School (06.3.1:1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Well preserved example of a frame Hall type school commonly built during the settlement years of Keith County.



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**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-078 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1885  
**COMMON NAME:** School  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Education (06.01.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Rural School (06.3.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
Late nineteenth-century school built of native stone. Despite deterioration, KH00-078 contributes to the study of rural education in western Nebraska.



**Historic Context:** Diversion

The context of diversion encompasses any activity which relaxes and amuses. Considerations include recreation and entertainment; sport and travel; participating and spectating. A broad range of properties fall under this context from cultural centers and theaters to nightclubs and houses of ill-repute.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County found three (3) properties associated with the context of Diversion which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey. Among the three surveyed properties, two have been judged eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: the Prairie Theater in Ogallala (KH04-081), and Ole's Big Game Bar in Paxton (KH05-032). These properties are significant for their association to the Diversion sub-contexts of Leisure and Recreation (H.C.: 07.06), and Entertainment (H.C.: 07.07). Pertinent information regarding the three surveyed properties linked to diversion in Keith County is outlined in the table on the following page.

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NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/Common NAME	HIST. CNTX.	CONTRIBUTING				PROP. TYPE	DOE
				BLDGS.	STRU.	SITE	OBJ.		
KH00-062	C1958	KINGSLEY LODGE	07.06	7	0	0	2	12.3.2	C
KH05-032	C1935	OLE'S BIG GAME BAR	07.06	1	0	0	0	07.6.7	E
KH04-081	C1935	PRAIRIE THEATER	07.07	1	0	0	0	07.1.5	E

Typically, the number of Diversion related properties documented in a reconnaissance survey are relatively low. This is attributed to the fact that, unlike houses or commercial buildings, a community of smaller population only required one or two entertainment related buildings. These were most commonly either theaters, opera houses or bars. Beyond that, it was not possible to financially support more than one of these activities in a community of 2,000 people or less. Compounding the infrequent survey of these buildings is the fact that often times they occupied the second floor of a two-story "Main Street" commercial building thus disguising their dual function to the uninformed surveyor.

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH05-032 Paxton  
**DATE:** C.1935  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Ole's Big Game Bar  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Diversion (07.06)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Tavern (07.6.7)  
**DOE:** Eligible

Emphasis on Ole's is placed upon the interior consisting of numerous game trophies acquired from the 50's, 60's and 70's set in a 1950's decor. Originally a small local town tavern, Ole's has become a major tourist stop for travellers.



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**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-081 Ogallala

**DATE:** C.1935

**COMMON NAME:** Prairie Theater

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Diversion (07.07)

**PROPERTY TYPE:** Movie Theater (07.1.5)

**DOE:** Eligible

Important as a well preserved example of a rapidly disappearing property type. Still in operation, KH04-081 has retained its historic integrity.



**Historic Context: Agriculture**

The historic contexts relating to the theme of agriculture will obviously be of great variety and importance to Nebraska. As a predominantly agrarian-based society, the economic well-being of the state is, in part, dependent upon the production of crops and livestock. Like other Nebraska counties, the permanent settlement of Keith County was correspondent to the agricultural success of the early permanent settlers. Consequently, the documentation of historic agricultural properties in Keith County was an important and numerically significant task. Bearing this out is the fact that a total of seventy (71) individual properties associated with the agriculture context were documented by the Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County. These seventy-one properties accounted for 350 contributing buildings, structures and objects. In addition, four rural properties with association to the agriculture context were previously surveyed by the NESHPO (KH00-001, KH00-002, KH00-003, and KH00-004). Of the seventy-five total agriculture related properties in the Keith County database, four have been judged eligible for National Register listing with an additional four properties considered potentially eligible for

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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such listing. These judgements are based on reconnaissance survey observations and must be confirmed by the NESHPO staff pending further research.

The farmsteads documented by the survey are collectively viewed as important material resources for the state of Nebraska. They portray the raw materials of a people and an industry responsible for the settlement of a vast portion of our state. The continued existence of some of the farmsteads documented in Keith County is, however, doubtful. In fact, over one-fourth (27%) of the seventy-one agriculture properties recorded by the survey consisted of abandoned farms or farm houses. The majority of these farms range in their era of construction from approximately 1890 to 1930. They contain the basic buildings necessary for crop and animal production such as livestock barns, loafing sheds, granaries, cribs, implement sheds, root crop cellars, and hay barns.

Particular emphasis was placed on the observance of farm properties relating to High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production (H.C.: 08.07), and Sand Hills Range Livestock Production agriculture (H.C.: 08.08). These two farming types were identified by the NESHPO as the predominant types of agriculture practised in Keith County (see Historic Contexts in Nebraska--Topical Listing, 1989). In consideration of their importance to the material resources found in Keith County, the aforementioned agriculture historic contexts are discussed in greater detail in the summary beginning on the following page.

## AGRICULTURE HISTORIC CONTEXTS IN KEITH COUNTY

### Introduction

Nebraska is a state of great diversity. Diversities exist among its people, its lands, its topography and, of more immediate concern to this discussion, its agriculture. The agricultural diversity of the state of Nebraska has been forged through one hundred years of adaptation and evolution in a land once labeled the "Great American Desert." During this time, the "desert" waste of Nebraska has been transformed into some of the most productive farm and ranch land in the United States.

The diversity of the agricultural industry in Nebraska is evident not only in geographic location but in historical development as well. The study of the various agricultural practises in Nebraska was first addressed in the 1930's by scientists from the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture. Their efforts focused upon defining a conceptual framework which would represent agriculture throughout the state. The result was the identification of type-of-farming, or system-of-farming areas which characterize regions by cropping and livestock systems. The publication of the type-of-farming definitions appeared in Research Bulletins issued by the College of Agriculture Experiment Station.

The term "type-of-farming" is used to describe a group of farms which are similar in size and enterprise combination. In this way, a group of farms having the same kind, quantity, and proportion of crops and livestock may be said to be following the same type of farming (Hedges and Elliott, p. 3). Likewise, the term type-of-farming area, refers to

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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a region which contains a high degree of uniformity in agricultural production and in the physical and economic conditions under which production takes place.

The boundaries of the type areas do not conform to imposed government boundaries. In most cases, the transition from one region to another is gradual. The differences between the regions lie mainly in the dominant enterprises and their relative importance in the farming systems. In addition, variations within specific regions may differ as a result of terrain, soil types, and relative size of farms. In these cases, the definition of each type-of-farming area identifies the dominant farm system and the significant variations of that system within the region.

The boundaries delineated by the Agriculture College Research Bulletins (No. 244, Hedges and Elliott, May 1930; & No. 299, L.F. Garey, May 1936) were modified by the NESHPO to incorporate the regions into a framework suitable for preservation planning and historic context development. The framework developed by the NESHPO uses the characterization of agricultural activity in Nebraska as a tool in identifying, evaluating, and nominating significant historic resources to the National Register of Historic Places. Using the Research Bulletins as a basis, the NESHPO developed a ten region agricultural and geographic definition of the state. The ten areas redefined by the NESHPO and incorporated into the Historic Context framework are: 1. Southeastern General Farming (08.01) 2. Northeastern Intensive Livestock Production (8.02) 3. Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production (08.03) 4. Loess Hills Livestock, General Farming, and Cash Grain Production (08.04) 5. Central Plains Cash Grain and Livestock Production (08.05) 6. Republican Valley General Farming, Cash Grain, and Livestock Production (08.06) 7. High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production (08.07) 8. Sand Hills Range Livestock

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

Production (08.08) 9. Pine Ridge Range Livestock, Cash Grain and Potato Production (08.09)  
 10. Scottsbluff Livestock, Cash Grain and Root Crop Production (08.10).

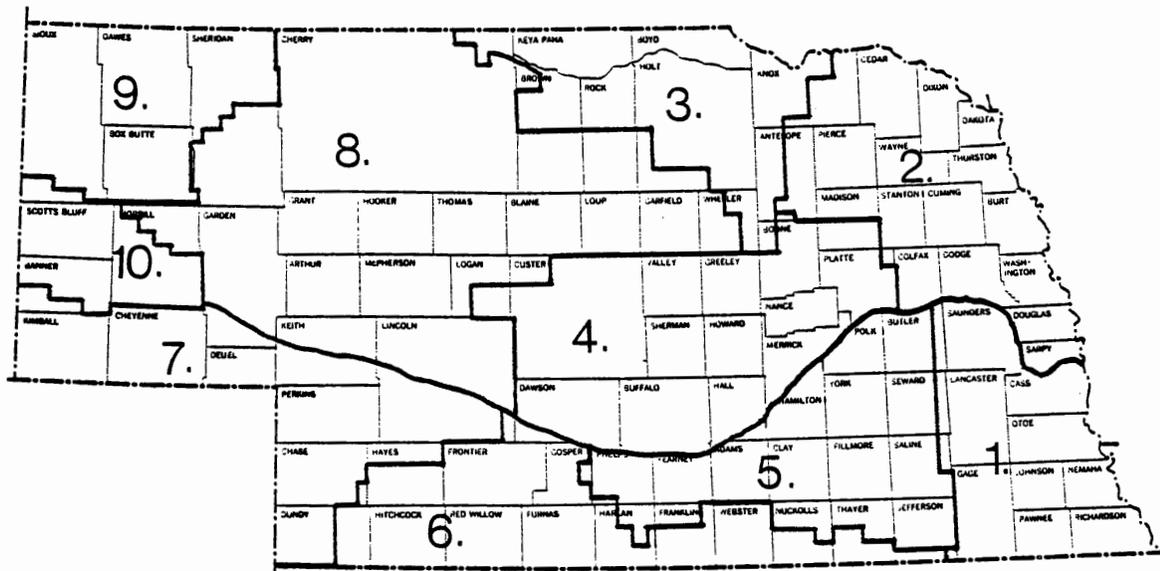


Fig. 1. Type-of-Farming and Geographic Regions for the state of Nebraska.

As evidenced by the Regions Map in Figure number 1, the Keith County Historic Building survey area contains two type-of-farming regions: the High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock, and Potato Production area and the Sand Hills Range Livestock Production area. Due to their influence on the settlement and development of Keith County, a discussion of the of these types and associated historic buildings is presented on the page 38.



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Cheyenne, Deuel and Perkins Counties and portions of Dundy, Chase, Lincoln, Hayes, Keith, and Garden Counties.

This region lies in the High Plains geographic zone of the state and is characterized by short grass prairie vegetation on flat-lying lands. It constitutes the major table land area of western Nebraska and is transected by Lodgepole Creek and the South Platte River. The western area of the region is comprised of shallow, sandy soils which are not well suited to cultivation. However, in other areas of this region, the soil is a medium-textured clay loam or silt and is well adapted to the production of cash grain crops--particularly wheat (Garey, 1936, p. 28).

Despite the presence of multiple farming systems, this region is historically known for its wheat production (Hedges and Elliott, p. 27). Corn, barley and oats have also been grown in the region but wheat occupied the dominant acreage during the period of historic importance (1900-1940). The suitability for wheat production in this region is attributable to the lower amounts of rainfall, higher altitudes, and silt loam soils.

The development of winter wheat had a significant impact on the agricultural economy of the state. The dominance of the wheat enterprise was first expressed in the early years of the twentieth-century (Olson, p. 251). Prior to this, wheat had found little favor among Nebraska farmers. Spring wheat was unsuitable for particular soils and climates within Nebraska and the Turkey Red winter wheat was viewed with disfavor by the milling industry which found it difficult to process. However, the development of new milling processes and the declining livestock and corn prices of the mid-1890's rekindled interest in wheat production. In addition to this, the introduction of the press drill enabled important pre-winter growth by planting the seed deeper, and spurred the increase in winter wheat cultivation (Olson, p. 251). By 1901, Nebraska was exceeded only by Kansas in winter wheat

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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production (Olson, p.252). In 1899 spring wheat acreage constituted 96.9% of total wheat acreage in Nebraska. However, by 1909 winter wheat accounted for 91.3% of the total wheat acreage (Olson, p. 252). No other plant had changed the agricultural complexion of the state in such a short time.

The importance of the Turkey Red winter wheat crop was particularly noteworthy in the High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production area. With the exception of a two-year decline between 1916 and 1918, wheat occupied a minimum of 75% of the crop land from 1915 to 1934. In 1929, 60% of the total farm income in the region was from the sale of wheat (Garey, p. 28,1936). The emergence of wheat in the early twentieth-century generally came at the expense of oat and corn production. The corn enterprise remained second in importance for the eastern portion of the region with barley the second grain crop of choice in the western portion (Hedges and Elliott, p. 27).

The production of beef cattle and hogs served as a supplement to the income generated by cash grain crops. In 1929, hog and cattle sales contributed a little over 30% of the total farm income (Garey, p. 28,1936). Of this total, hogs contributed more than any other kind of livestock. However, the production of livestock was generally of less importance than in any other type-of-farming region in the state (Hedges and Elliott, p. 27).

The third and final farming enterprise important to this region is the commercial potato industry. The production of potatoes is confined mainly to the irrigated northern portion of the region. This sub-region includes a portion of the North Platte River valley and is adjacent to the root crop production area of Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties.

### **Property Types of the High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production Region**

The High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production farming system requires a

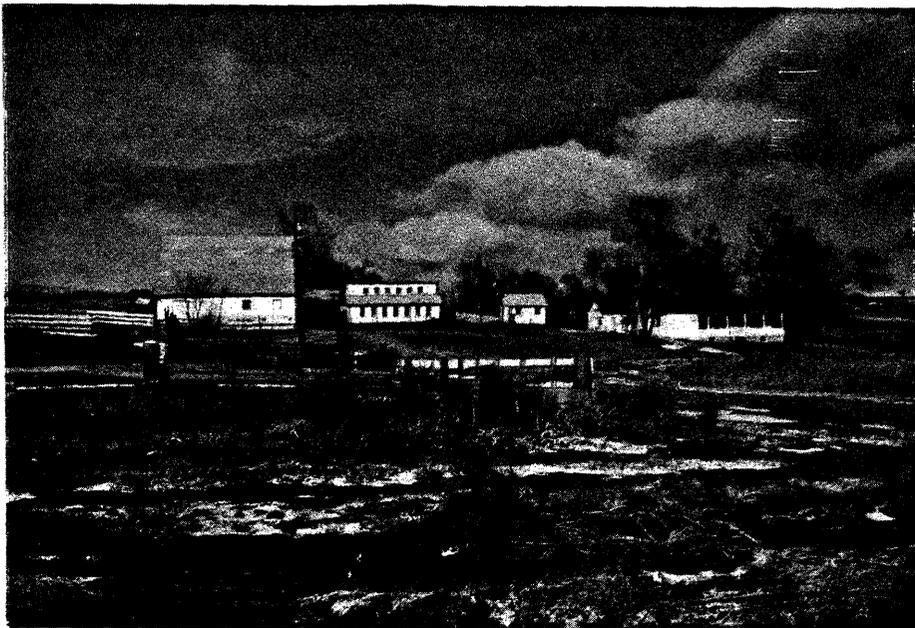
## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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variety of buildings and skills necessary for the successful management of cattle and the production of crops. Farmsteads which have retained their pre-mechanization buildings had a variety of structures important to the reconnaissance level survey. The buildings found on these farmsteads have been defined as component property types by the NESHPO and share broadly-defined physical characteristics with other farm buildings in the region.

The component property types of High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production fall into two general categories--commercially-related types and domestic types.

Commercial-related buildings are considered those structures which contribute to the commercial economy of the farm enterprise. In contrast, domestic buildings are comprised of those structures related to non-income producing activities and exist primarily for the subsistence of human occupants.



The buildings associated with the High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock, and Potato Production area reflect the variable character of the region. The farmsteads of this

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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region contained commercial and domestic building types necessary for crop cultivation and storage, cattle production, and human shelter. The major commercial property types associated with this farming system were barns (horse, hay and cattle), granaries, corn cribs, combination crib-granaries, implement sheds, root crop cellars and windbreaks. Commercial property types of secondary importance included fencing systems, loafing sheds, pump houses, tool sheds, and stock tank systems. The major domestic property types associated with this context include the ranch or farm house, wash house, cellar, summer kitchen, smokehouse, outhouse, chicken house, brooder house, vegetable garden, garage, cob house, cistern, orchard, and miscellaneous sheds.

The farmsteads of the High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production region did not generally contain all of the domestic and commercial property types listed above. Instead, a significant number of these types were found in various combinations based on the particular emphasis of the respective farmstead. Among the possible combinations of property types evident in the region, the highest priority in terms of reconnaissance level documentation went to those properties exhibiting complete farmstead units. A complete farmstead unit was defined as a property comprised of a significant collection of both commercial and domestic component property types.

While the complete farmstead unit was considered the most significant resource associated with this context, a large number of other properties were surveyed. These other properties include farmsteads with only a portion of their commercial or domestic buildings extant as well as individually significant buildings on otherwise non-contributing properties. Examples which fall into this category include buildings which possess architectural distinction based on technical or artistic merits and those buildings associated with ethnic cultures. In addition, individual buildings noteworthy

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

for their regional association with the predominant system-of-farming were also considered significant.

## Sand Hills Range Livestock Production

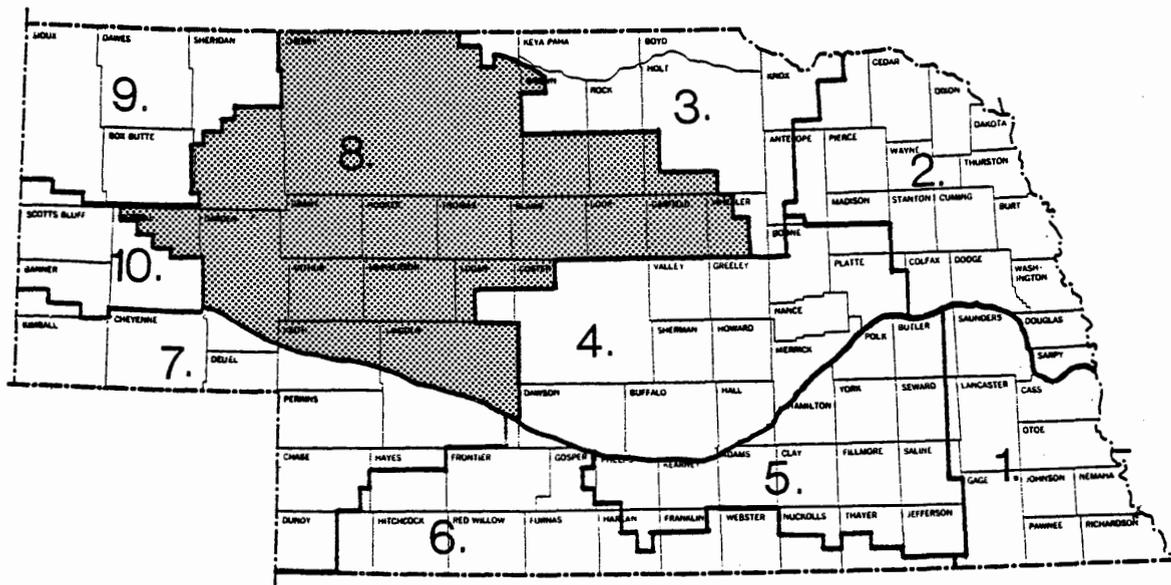


Fig. 2. The Sand Hills Range Livestock Production Area.

The Sand Hills Range Livestock Production region, in the north-central and northwest portions of the state, extends north from the Platte River Valley to the South Dakota border and varies in width from 100 to 200 miles. This region is the largest agricultural area identified by the NESHPO and includes Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Arthur and McPherson Counties. In addition to this, large portions of

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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Rock, Holt, Wheeler, Morrill, Garden, Keith, Lincoln, Sheridan and Logan Counties also lie within the Sand Hills Range Livestock Production region.

One of the fundamental characteristics of this area is the extremely large proportion of land devoted to the grazing of cattle. True to its name, the area includes the Nebraska Sand Hills region, the largest soil and topographic region in the state (Garey 1936, p. 27). A distinctive geographic region, the Sand Hills cover approximately one-fourth of the state and comprise the most extensive dune formation in the western hemisphere (Madson 1978, p.493). Characterized by low-lying sand dunes covered by native grasses, the Sand Hills are predominantly rangeland. There is little surface drainage due to the porous nature of the sandy soil, and beneath the vast dunes of the Sand hills are large aquifers which can reach a depth of one-thousand feet. Between the hills are numerous basins which sometimes widen into larger valleys. In many of these valleys the high water table has risen above the surface of the land and formed marshes, ponds, and lakes. The effect of the high water table is most evident by the presence of the 13,000 lakes scattered on the landscape of the north and west regions of the Sand Hills (Madson 1978, p. 499).

The soils of the Sand Hills region are exceptionally fine in texture and extremely susceptible to blowing. For this reason, it is the goal of the cattle producers to maintain the native grass covers to prevent "blow-outs" of the dune tops and provide the necessary supplements for grazing. Due to the presence of the sandy soils, the Sand Hills Range Livestock Production area is not conducive to the production of cultivated crops. In 1936, only eight-percent of the area was deemed suitable for cultivation (Garey 1936, p. 49). Only four-percent of the entire region was classified as containing good soils and much of those areas were located along the river and streambeds (Garey 1936, p. 49).

Given such environmental conditions it is easy to understand why the land is utilized

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

principally for the grazing of cattle. With more than 75 percent of the land in pasture and the majority of the remaining lands utilized for hay production, the cattle enterprise is the logical choice as the farming type in this region (Hedges and Elliott, p. 27). Hay, in combination with limited amounts of other grains provides the winter feed necessary for breeding herds. Since the grasses of the Sand Hills are not primarily suitable for the production of grass-fat cattle, these herds are maintained and the young cattle from the area are typically sent to the corn belt region prior to final shipment to market (Hedges and Elliott, p.59).

The Sand Hills Range Livestock Production area, therefore, is essentially a cattle-raising area. The economic base of this region, today and historically, is almost entirely from the sale of cattle with a small proportion coming from crop and dairy products (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Utilization of Land in the Sand Hills Cattle Ranching Area, 1899-1928.**

Land Utilization	1899	1909	1919	1924	1928
Cultivated Area	.5%	2.0%	3.9%	4.1%	4.2%
Wild Hay	3.9%	8.3%	10.5%	10.5%	11.0%
Pastures	11.3%	42.2%	63.2%	66.4%	80.3%
Land not in farms	84.3%	47.5%	22.4%	19.0%	4.5%

In reviewing this table, we see that the predominant trend among ranches in the Sand Hills was the increase of pasture land for the grazing of cattle. The only region to display a dominance in a singular agricultural type (in this case cattle) was the Sand Hills Range Livestock Production area. Therefore, comparatively speaking, no other single

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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agricultural type is as important to its respective region as the cattle industry is to the Sand Hills ranching area.

### **Property Types of the Sand Hills Range Livestock Production Area**

In the property type discussions previously generated for the NESHPO regarding ethnic-related contexts, the buildings of discussion were organized according to the separation of Old World and New World traditions. Unfortunately, the study of buildings associated with Sand Hills cattle ranching do not lend themselves to this conceptual separation. While it is acknowledged that the design and arrangement of farm buildings elsewhere in Nebraska may have been influenced considerably by cultural traditions, the buildings of the Sand Hills Range Livestock Production area are generally without a significant ethnic influence. This is in part due to the minimal influx of foreign-born immigrants as well as the overall lack of a population base capable of transferring ethnically-associated building characteristics. Even if the potential for variances in cultural design proves a valid concept in the Sand Hills ranching area, the nature of cattle production required a basic group of animal and human-related structures which were built with scarce materials and not a source for ethnic expression. The following property type discussion then, will focus upon the basic structures associated with Sand Hills Range Livestock Production.

The sand hills ranching system requires a variety of buildings and skills necessary for the successful management of significant numbers of cattle. Ranches which have retained their pre-mechanization buildings had a variety of structures important to the reconnaissance level survey. The buildings found on the Sand Hills cattle ranches are similar in some respects to those found on the Intensive Livestock Production farms of

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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northeast Nebraska: cattle barns, cattle loafing sheds, implement sheds, cattle fencing systems, windmills, windbreaks and the occasional small-scale corn crib. In addition to these animal-related structures, domestic buildings included the ranch or farm house, wash houses, privies, cellars, milk houses, smoke houses, tool sheds, and chicken houses.

Another group of buildings however, were found to be exclusive to the Nebraska Sand Hills Range Livestock Production area. These buildings were constructed to either meet the needs of the cattle themselves or to shelter the activities of the ranch hands employed in handling the herds. The buildings associated with the labor force include bunkhouses, saddle sheds, cookhouses, and commissaries. The specific structures or objects created exclusively for the handling of cattle include dipping stations for the cleaning and health maintenance of cattle, vaccination/branding stanchions for the immunization and identification of stock, breaking pens for the implementation of working stock, sorting pens for the management and separation of bulls, calves and heifers, holding corrals usually located in outlying pasture land, and loading chutes for the eventual shipping of sale-bound cattle.



Fig. 3: Range Corral, (KH00-069).

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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In addition to the fact that there exists a unique set of structures exclusive to Sand Hills cattle ranching, it is also important to note that the visual characteristics of a Sand Hills ranch are also unique in comparison with other type-of-farming areas in Nebraska. The overpowering presence of the Sand Hills landscape immediately imparts a mentality of no-nonsense survival tempered by intriguing beauty. A description of a Sand Hills ranch is found in John Madson's trip to the Abbott Ranch in west-central Cherry County (National Geographic, Oct., 1978).

From the main highway the road back to the ranch is nine tough miles of ruts and sand traps. The farther you go, the more you wonder where you made the wrong turn. Suddenly, around the shoulder of a high ridge, there is ranch headquarters. The main house, in a grove of cottonwoods and box elders, is 67 years old, high-ceilinged and spacious. Nearby stand the bunkhouse and cookhouse, and set into the side of the ridge is a combination butcher shop, creamery, and commissary that can feed the ranch crew for two months if blizzards close the road.

Across the ranch yard, a blacksmith forge and machine shop are equipped to serve either horse or tractor. Beyond the pens, corrals, loading chutes, and dipping tanks lies a broad, sheltered valley with herds of wintering cattle. There is a certain quality about a working ranch like this; it is a window into yesterday, with something unchanged since before the ranges were fenced.

And it is indeed true that the appearance of a Sand Hills ranch nestled among billowing hills imparts an ageless "old west" quality. A quality perhaps derived in part from its early beginnings as an outgrowth of the Texas cattle industry.

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**Agriculture Preliminary Inventory**

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-075 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1908  
**COMMON NAME:** Farmhouse & Barn  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

Excellent example showing the early use of cement block in domestic architecture. The two-story 4-square with frame barn retains a high degree of original integrity.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-002 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1884-1920  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Robert F. Lute Ranch  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Ranch (08.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Seven contributing buildings plus limestone house built in 1884. Represents the context of High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production as defined by the NESHPO (Topical Listing: NESHPO, 1989).



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-045 Rural  
**DATE:** 1886  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Clear Creek Ranch  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Ranch (08.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Homesteaded in 1886, KH00-045 contains a total of six contributing buildings including a late 1800's limestone house.



Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-065 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1911  
**COMMON NAME:** Abandoned Farmstead  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Farmstead (08.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

Hidden by vegetation, this intact sod house was the only sod structure found in Keith County by the survey. Contributes to the multiple property study of sod buildings and homesteading in western Nebraska.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-013 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1890  
**COMMON NAME:** Farmstead  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Farmstead (08.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible

Crude cement block house determined potentially eligible to the National Register for possible associations with an ethnic group.



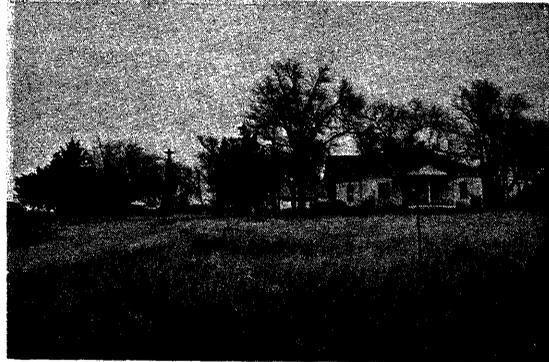
**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-020 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1910  
**COMMON NAME:** Farmstead  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Farmstead (08.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible

Well preserved example of a large scale farming operation in Keith County. Contributes to the context of High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato production.

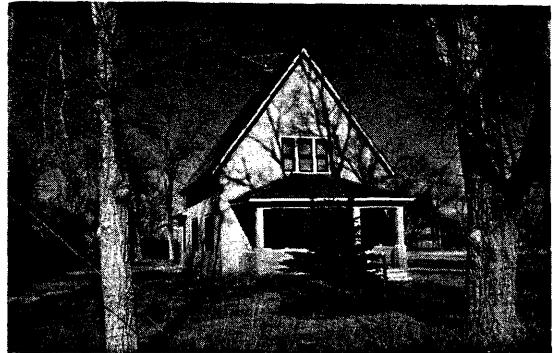


## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-061 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1911  
**COMMON NAME:** Farmstead  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Farmstead (08.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Farmstead built during the Development and Growth period (1890-1920). Five contributing buildings including a tile pumphouse, and frame barn with cupola.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-070 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1911  
**COMMON NAME:** Farmstead  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Farmstead (08.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Stucco house with steep-pitch gable roof, suggesting associations with an ethnic group. Important contributor to the context of Agriculture in the High Plains region.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-071 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1936  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Keystone Pumping Station  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Pumping Facilities (9.3.2.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 One of three similar water pumping stations documented in the Western Sandhills and High Plains region. Important to the development of canals in the High Plains region.



## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**Historic Context: Commerce**

The context of Commerce is defined as the buying and selling of commodities, involving transportation from place to place. Considerations include wholesaling and retailing; gift exchange; trade and barter; monetary economy including finance, business organization, and mercantile business. Commerce encompasses a diverse range of businesses including general stores, hotels, speciality stores and department stores.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County found twelve (12) Commerce related properties which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey. Among the twelve properties, three were judged potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The twelve surveyed properties relate to the sub-contexts of Grain Handling and Storage (H.C.: 12.05.01) and Retail Commerce in the High Plains Region (H.C.: 12.02.07). Pertinent information regarding the twelve surveyed properties linked to Commerce in Keith County is outlined in the following table.

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HIST. CNTX.	CONTRIBUTING				PROP. TYPE	DOE
				BLDGS.	STRU.	SITE	OBJ.		
KH05-034	C1917	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH05-035	C1890	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH06-003	C1910	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH06-004	C1910	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH07-001	C1890	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH01-006	C1918	COMM. BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH05-003	C1895	WELPTON LUMBER YARD	12.02.07	2	0	0	1	11.4.2.1	C
KH05-031	1919	DAFLER COMM. BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.3	P
KH04-082	C1903	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH04-104	C1950	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	P
KH04-064	C1917	ELEVATOR	12.05	1	0	0	0	12.2.3	P

Main street commercial buildings accounted for all of the twelve properties surveyed. These main street buildings can be categorized into two predominant types: the frame false-front and the masonry commercial building or block. The false-front types were generally

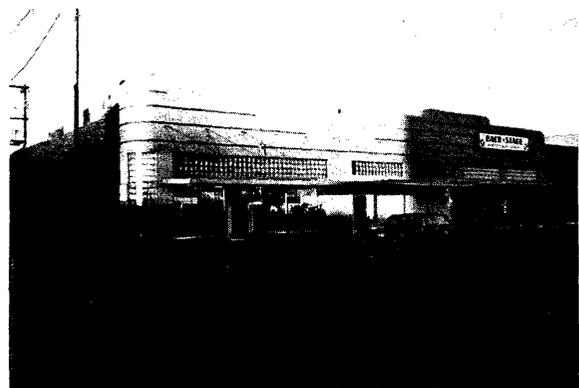
## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

found in smaller communities and consisted of one-story rectangular-shaped structures with gable roofs hidden behind an exaggerated facade. The false front helped to disguise the relatively low scale of the building by hiding the true size of the structure and thus conveying a greater sense of prominence. The primary era of construction in Keith County for this type was from 1900 to 1915. The second type documented by the survey, the masonry commercial building or block, were generally found in the larger communities of the survey area. These buildings were typically constructed between 1915 and 1930, and consisted of one and two-story masonry structures with one or two-part compositional facades. These buildings were often built on single twenty-five foot commercial lots or in double to triple wide commercial lots of fifty to seventy-five foot widths.

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH05-031 Paxton  
**DATE:** 1919  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Dafler Commercial Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Commerce (12.02.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Commercial Building (12.1.3)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Considered potentially eligible for National Register listing based on its role in early twentieth-century commercial development of Paxton.



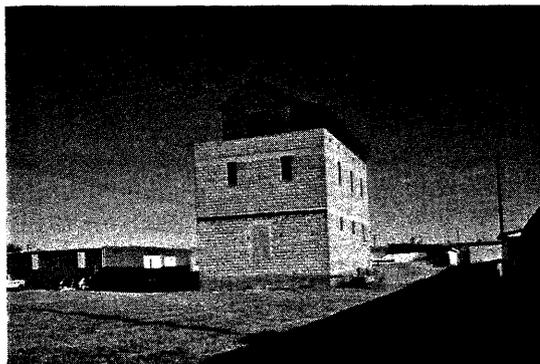
**NEHBS NUMBER:** KH04-104 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1950  
**COMMON NAME:** Commercial Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Commerce (12.02.07)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Commercial Building (12.1.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 One-story brick, clay tile and glass block commercial building representative of Art Moderne style architecture.



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**NEHBS NUMBER:** KH04-064      Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1920  
**COMMON NAME:** Storage Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Grain Handling (12.05.01.)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Grain Elevators (12.2.3)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
Two-story cement block building believed to have been related with early twentieth-century grain handling and storage.

**Historic Context: Transportation**

The context of Transportation involves the carrying, moving or conveying of material and people from one place to another. Considerations include transportation by land, water, and air; trails, roads, highways, interstates, railway; and related service accommodations such as railroad stations and depots, motels, gas stations, and airplane terminals.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County found thirteen (13) properties relating to the context of Transportation which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey. In addition to these thirteen properties, the context of Transportation in Keith County also includes one site previously by the NESHPO: California Hill (KH00-004). This site has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Among the thirteen transportation related properties in the Keith County database, three have been judged eligible, and two potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The majority of the thirteen surveyed properties consist of related support service facilities for either Road Transportation (H.C.: 13.02) or Rail Transportation (H.C.:13.03). Because the primary emphasis of the support service

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

facilities is the generation of income, these properties can be cross-referenced to the context of commerce. Pertinent information regarding the surveyed properties is outlined in the following table.

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE
				BLDG.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.		
KH00-040	C1936	FRMR. CIDER MILLS	13.02	5	0	0	12.4.3	P
KH01-007	C1915	COMM. BLDG/GAR.	13.02	1	0	0	13.3.3.4	C
KH02-008	C1912	SERVICE GARAGE	13.02	1	0	0	13.3.3.4	C
KH05-012	1928	LINCOLN HWY MARKER	13.02	0	0	1	13.3.3.1	E
KH05-030	1928	LINCOLN HWY MARKER	13.02	0	0	1	13.3.2.1	E
KH06-002	C1920	ROSCOE GARAGE	13.02	1	0	0	13.3.3.4	C
KH04-053	C1915	SPRUCE ST. STANDARD	13.02	2	0	0	13.3.3.3	C
KH04-060	C1922	COMMERCIAL GARAGE	13.02	1	0	0	13.3.3.4	C
KH04-063	C1940	CHIEFTAN MOTEL	13.02	10	0	0	12.3.2	E
KH04-106	C1951	WELSH MOTOR COURT	13.02	3	0	0	12.3.2	P
KH01-002	C1890	BRULE DEPOT	13.03	1	0	0	13.5.2	C
KH01-008	1890	FORMER HOTEL	13.03	1	0	0	12.3.1	C
KH05-001	C1887	FRMR DEPOT	13.03	2	0	0	13.5.2	C
KH04-029	C1878	HOUSE (FRMR DEPOT)	13.03	1	0	0	13.5.2	C

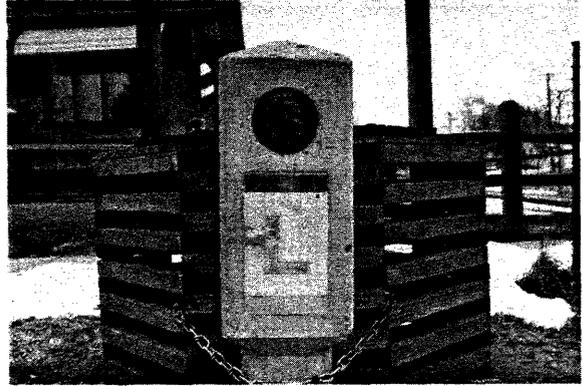
**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-004 Rural  
**RESOURCE NAME:** California Hill  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Transportation (13.02.01.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Overland Trails (13.3.1.1)  
**DOE:** National Register, 1974  
 Marks one of the points where Oregon-California Trail immigrants crossed the South Platte River enroute to Ash Hollow and the North Platte valley (See Historic Places: NEBRASKAland, 1989).

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## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

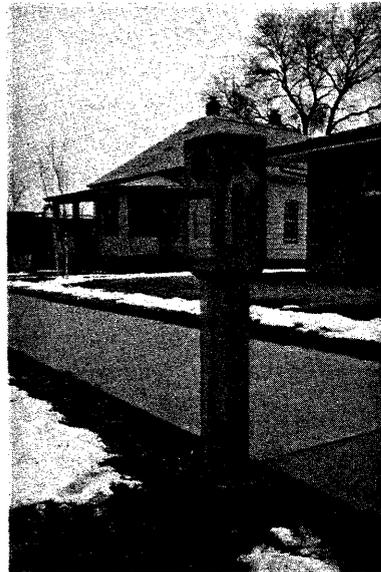
**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH05-012 Paxton  
**DATE:** 1928  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Lincoln Highway Marker  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Transportation (13.02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Sign (13.3.3.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

One of two Lincoln Highway markers in Paxton; both in their original location. Part of the first transcontinental highway system created in 1912 and later incorporated into U.S. 30.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH05-030 Paxton  
**DATE:** 1928  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Lincoln Highway Marker  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Transportation (13.02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Sign (13.3.3.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

Nationally, 2000 Lincoln Highway markers were erected on September 1, 1928 by boyscouts across the country. Last act by the L.H. Association before dissolving the organization.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-063 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1940  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Chieftain Motel  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Transportation (13.02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Motel (12.3.2)  
**DOE:** Eligible

This U-shaped motel is situated on Route 30 and despite abandonment, retains historic integrity. Reflects the early impact of highway travel in Ogallala and represents a rapidly disappearing property type.



## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-040 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1936  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Former Cider Mills  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Transportation (13.02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Duck (12.4.3)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible

Significant for associations with the property type "Duck" architecture as defined by Robert Venturi. The former Cider Mills was a popular tourist stop from the 1930's through the 60's. Unfortunately, the windmill/house was razed shortly after the completion of the survey.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-106 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1951  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Erin Welsh Motor Court  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Transportation (13.02)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Motel (13.3.2)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Built at an earlier date but extensively remodeled during the 1950's to its present 58 room condition. One of four similar motels built by Erin along U.S. 30 in Ogallala, Cozad, Grand Island and Fremont.



**Historic Context: Communications**

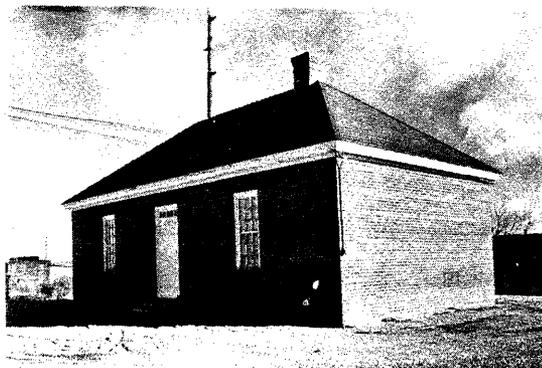
The context of Communication is defined as the transfer of information from location to location or from individual to individual. This includes communications transmitted through the means of telegraph, telephone, television, postal service, newspaper, and radio. Buildings which fit this context include post offices, telephone offices and exchanges, newspaper printers, and radio-television stations.

Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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The Historic Buildings Survey of Keith County found two (2) properties associated with Communication which met the criteria for reconnaissance survey: the North Platte Telephone and Telegraph Exchange buildings (KH00-042, KH00-079). These buildings are specifically associated with the sub-context of Telephone Communications-Rural Telephone Systems, 1890-1950 (H.C.: 14.04) and have been judged eligible for National Register listing. The building is similar in mass and scale to a rural telephone exchange building found in Deuel County, DU00-026, (see Deuel County Survey Report, 1990). These buildings may be associated with the North Platte Telegraph & Telephone Company and appear to be constructed between 1935 and 1940. They are composed of simple one-story brick masonry structures with rectangular-shaped plans. These buildings were generally without window fenestration with the exception of KH00-042 which has large 6-over-6 windows on the west facade. The rectangular-shaped structures are protected by hip roofs oriented in a latitudinal relationship to the road.

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-042 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1936  
**COMMON NAME:** North Platte Telephone Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Communication (14.04)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Telegraph Exchange (14.1.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
One in a series of Neo-Colonial telephone exchanges built during the 1930's. Important to the development of communication in western Nebraska.



Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH00-079 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1935  
**COMMON NAME:** Telephone Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Communication (14.04)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Telephone Exchange (14.1.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
One in a series of Neo-Colonial telephone exchanges built during the 1930's. Important to the development of communication in western Nebraska.

**Historic Context: Services**

The historic context of Services refers to the community support services provided or controlled by government and commonly viewed as necessities. This includes public services such as the supply of gas, electricity, and water; the disposal of waste; and the protective services of fire fighting and disaster relief. Private professional services are also considered under this context and include architecture, banking, medical and insurance industries.

The survey of Keith County found four (4) properties worthy of recordation based on reconnaissance survey criteria. Among the four properties, two have been judged eligible for National Register listing. The four properties recorded represent three sub-contexts within the Services topic: Public Utilities (H.C.: 15.01.), Professional Services (H.C.: 15.04.), and The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska (1890-1920), (H.C.: 15.05.03.).

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

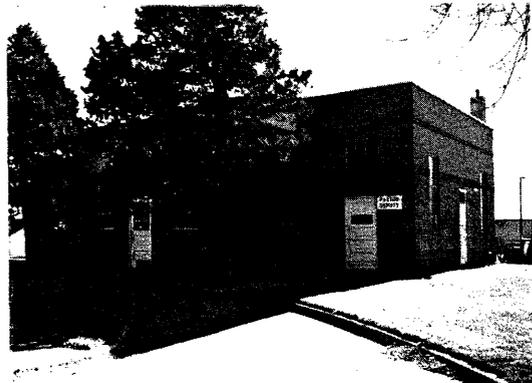
**NEHBS NUMBER:** KH05-033  
**DATE:** C.1890  
**COMMON NAME:** Professional Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Professional Services (15.04)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Office Building (15.3.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

Well-preserved example of a late nineteenth-century false front building type. Significance derived through an association with Service related activities during the Development and Growth period in Paxton.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH05-008 Paxton  
**DATE:** C.1938  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Paxton Municipal Light & Power  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Service (15.01)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Power Plant (15.6.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible

Potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places for associations to the sub-topic of Public Utilities.



**Historic Context: Settlement**

Settlement is the broad contextual title encompassing the division, acquisition, occupation, and ownership of land. This context contains settlement patterns generated through political, religious or commercial activities to facilitate the establishment of cultural systems. Specific considerations include acquisition methods and use patterns of land as well as the spatial delineation and organization of land including hamlets, villages, towns, cities and the furthest delineation--the individual dwelling.

This contextual topic contained the greatest number of documented historic properties within Keith County. Of the 263 total properties documented in Keith County, 132 or 50%

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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fall within the context of Settlement. The majority of the 132 properties were recorded simply for their compliance with minimum reconnaissance criteria. However, 10 properties were judged eligible and 7 potentially eligible for National Register listing based on their respective significant qualities.

The retention of historic integrity that these 132 properties displayed was quite varied. In some instances, the integrity had been severely compromised through later additions or alterations, while in other cases buildings were recorded which were extremely similar to their original condition.

The individual house-whether in an urban or a rural setting-is the most common feature of the built environment; it fulfills the basic human need for shelter. Houses represent the largest proportion of all buildings documented during reconnaissance level surveys. The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NEHBS) for Keith County was no exception: 191 houses were documented, or 34% percent of all the county's contributing buildings. Although houses are such a common part of our surroundings, describing them can be complex; variations result from style, age, building material, and even the ethnic heritage of owners or builders.

Architectural histories and guide books often provide descriptions of houses during various periods of popularity in terms of style such as Italianate, Queen Anne, or Romanesque. Good examples of these houses are usually referred to as "high style". Houses that cannot be identified as a particular style and that are built from local materials such a log, stone, and sod are generally referred to as "folk" houses. Usually dating from the settlement era of a particular locality, folk houses were often built by immigrants who patterned them after buildings in their homeland. Age, distinctive building material, or unusual form makes these houses easy to identify during building surveys. Further research

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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and comparison however, is necessary to determine how they might reflect "old world" buildings adapted to the Nebraska landscape.

During county-wide historic buildings surveys it becomes apparent that most houses are not associated with a specific architectural style, and that in many places, few survive from the settlement period. The goal of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, however, is to document all types of houses--from large Queen Annes with corner towers and stained glass windows, to small two-room, frame houses with simple porches.

The remaining houses that are not high style or folk, are generally referred to as "vernacular" or common. All houses, whether they are high style, folk, or vernacular, can be studied for their form, floor plans, and distribution. In the case of folk and vernacular, documenting the form becomes especially important since there may not be other ways to describe these houses. Information about the basic form and features such as roof shape, and number of stories can reveal patterns or house types within a region, the work of a local builder or an ethnic group.

To document all houses, the Nebraska Historic Preservation Office uses a system derived in part from several vernacular house studies that was further developed for use during historic buildings surveys. Under this method, house types are categorized as "supratypes" to eliminate subjective descriptions based on "style." Instead, descriptions are based on the external mass of the house. The components of this method are defined as the following: Supratypes are categorizations based on the external massing of house, similar to that first developed by Kniffen (1936) under the ruberick of "type." The term "supertype" is used to distinguish it from other methods of type analysis which are based on external form and internal space, such as that developed by Glassie (1975).

Supratypes are defined by combinations of five massing elements derived from the core

## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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structure of the house--the predominant mass which cannot be further subdivided--exclusive of wings and porches. The five mass elements are shape, relative size, height, roof type, and orientation on the site (D. Murphy, 1989).

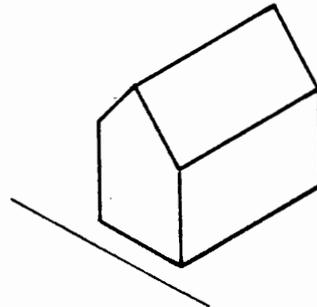
### Keith County House Type Summary

The use of the Core Supratype analysis in the reconnaissance-level survey proved beneficial in that it created an objective process of interpretation for the recording of historic residences. The residential properties documented in the Keith County survey are represented by 46 different types in 191 houses. Numerical designation has been assigned to each of these 46 types (e.g., S.1, S.2, S.3, etc.). A master list of the 46 individual types is included in the NESHPO Survey Final Report file.

While 46 different types may seem like a varied lot for 191 total resources, a somewhat more narrow group actually represents the majority of the documented properties. In fact, three types account for 51% of all recorded sites. Furthermore, 87% of all Keith County houses fit into one of only four dominant families. These four families are summarized in the discussion beginning on the following page.

Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

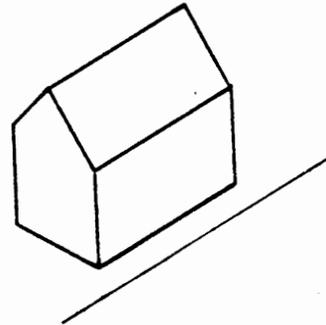
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**Family #1**

This family, composed of eleven various types, represents 50.25% of all Keith County house types. The common characteristics displayed by this group are a rectangular-shaped core covered by a gable roof with the narrow dimension of the core facing the street. Of the eleven combinations comprising this family, two distinct types are numerically significant: S.12 (24.61%), and S.5 (15.71%).

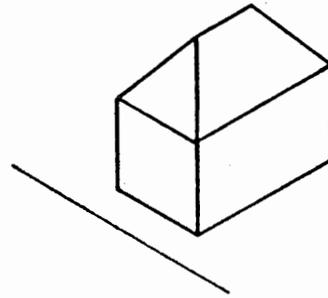
Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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**Family #2**

This family, composed of nine various types, represents 20.92% of all Keith County house types. Identical to the form of Family #1, the distinguishing difference is in the latitudinal orientation (verses the longitudinal orientation of the former family). Of the nine different combinations comprising this family, S.11 appears most frequently (10.99%).

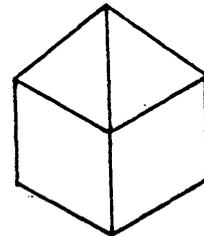
## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**Family #3**

This family, composed of six various types, represents 8.37% of all Keith County house types. The common characteristics displayed by this group are a rectangular-shaped core covered by a hip roof with the narrow dimension of the core facing the street (longitudinal). Of the six combinations comprising this family, S.18 appears most frequently (5.24%).

Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

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**Family #4**

This family, composed of five various types, represents 7.84% of all Keith County house types. The common characteristics displayed by this group are a square-shaped core covered by a hip roof with a non-applicable orientation. Of the five combinations comprising this family, three types appeared most frequently: S.41 (2.62%), S.34 (2.09%), and S.42 (2.09%).

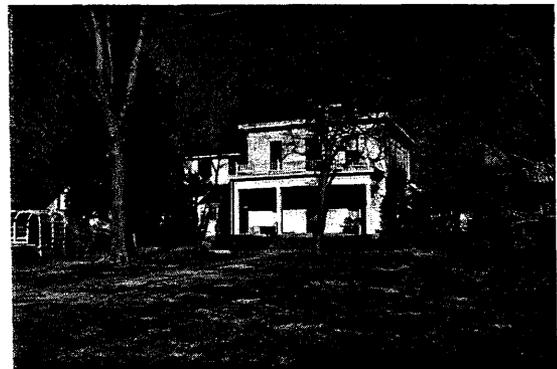
## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

## Settlement Preliminary Inventory

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-004 Ogallala  
**DATE:** 1887  
**RESOURCE NAME:** Brandhoefer House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** National Register, 1973  
 Built in 1887 by Leonidass A. Brandhoefer. The house incorporates Italianate and Queen Anne elements and was one of the first western Nebraska homes to display the popular eastern residential styles (See Historic Places: NEBRASKAland, 1989).



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-013 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1901  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Two-story frame Italianate house with later one-story addition on the west facade. Possibly associated with a person of local significance.

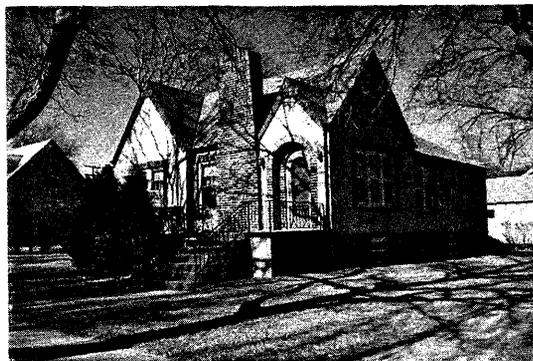


**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-026 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1947  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 One-story brick house with Tudor influence. Important as a well-preserved example of an eclectic house type frequently built during the 1920's and 1930's.

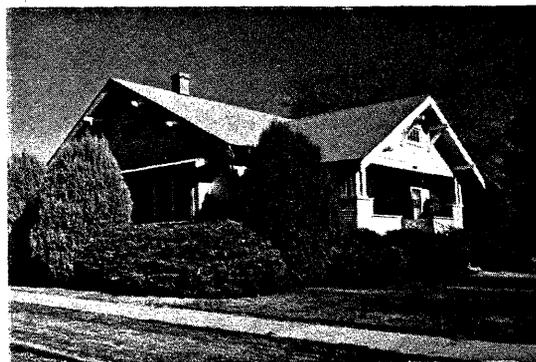


## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-043    Ogallala  
**DATE:** 1938  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Eclectic Tudor Style house chosen for the preliminary inventory for its contribution to the context of Settlement.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-044    Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1923  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Well preserved example of a California Bungalow with foundation plantings re-emphasizing the philosophy of "harmony with nature".



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-050    Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1900  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 One-and-one-half story frame house with pressed tin roof and Victorian details. Important example from the Development and Growth period (1890-1920) as defined by the NESHPO (Topical Listing: NESHPO, 1989).



## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-052    Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1947  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
 Well preserved house and landscaped yard.  
 Contributes to the context of Settlement and  
 represents an upscale dwelling from post-World  
 War One.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH01-012    Brule  
**DATE:** C.1913  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Potentially significant as a well preserved  
 example of an early twentieth-century gambrel  
 roof house type.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-014    Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1917  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Included in the preliminary inventory as a well  
 preserved example of early twentieth-century  
 town development and for possible associations  
 with significant persons.

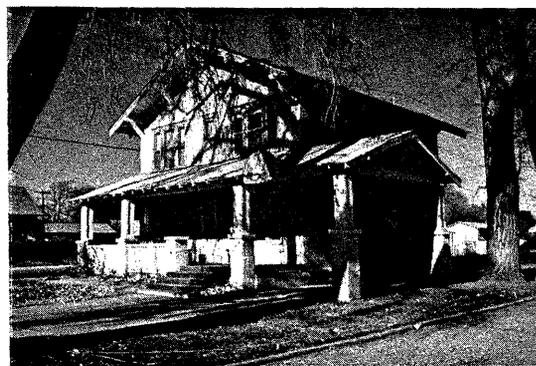


## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-027 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1925  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Example of the California Bungalow house type.  
 Built during the Spurious Growth Temporal  
 Period (1920-1929) as defined by the NESHPO  
 (Topical Listing: NESHPO, 1989).



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-028 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1914  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Two-story frame house with porte cochere  
 included in the preliminary inventory as an  
 example of the Craftsman Style.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-046 Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1914  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Chosen for the preliminary inventory for its  
 retained original integrity and as an example  
 of a modest bungalow.



## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

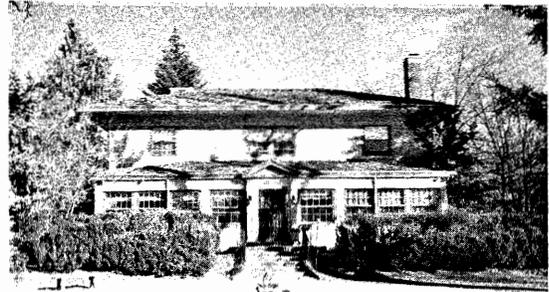
**NEHBS NUMBER:** KH04-054  
**DATE:** C.1926  
**COMMON NAME:** Apartment Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05.)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

Despite alterations to the windows, this two-story brick apartment building is an excellent example of a multiple dwelling unit built during the period of Spurious Economic Growth (1920-1929) in Nebraska.



**NEHBS NUMBER:** KH04-002  
**DATE:** 1916-17  
**RESOURCE NAME:** J.W. Welpton House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05.)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

This eclectic two-story frame house was built in 1916-17 by prominent Keith County businessman J.W. Welpton. It generally exhibits Prairie Style influences but also contains an engaged Greek Revival porch entry.



**NEHBS NUMBER:** KH04-055  
**DATE:** C.1947  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05.)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible

Chosen for the Preliminary Inventory as a well preserved example of Tudor Revival domestic architecture built during the Post-War period.

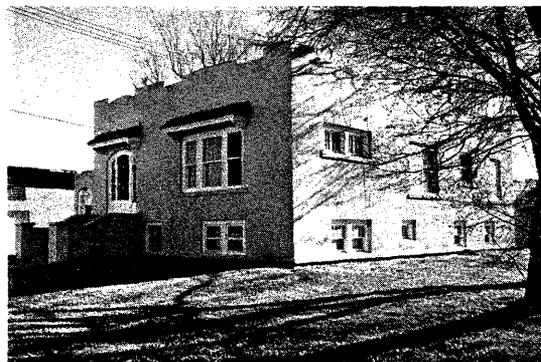


## Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-058    Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1907  
**COMMON NAME:** House  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Early twentieth-century house built during the developmental years of Ogallala. Possible associations to persons with local significance.



**NeHBS NUMBER:** KH04-062    Ogallala  
**DATE:** C.1940  
**COMMON NAME:** House/Professional Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Settlement (16.05), (15)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
 Mission Style influence on this one-story with raised basement house/professional building. Dual entry on the facade suggests something other than single family dwelling.



### Important Themes of the Settlement Historic Context

A post-survey evaluation of the settlement properties recorded by the Keith County survey has identified certain resource groups which may be of potential interest to the NESHPO. The historic context of Settlement contains two multiple property topics worthy of further discussion: Sod Houses of the Western Sandhills and High Plains region and Bungalow Style Houses. A discussion of each of these topics is presented in the following separate summaries. For examples of the properties associated with these topics, please refer to the Settlement Inventory found on pages 68 through 72 and the Agriculture Inventory of page 50.

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### Sod Houses of the Western Sandhills and High Plains Study Region



Fig. 4: Abandoned sod house rural Keith County (KH00-065).

The fundamental parameter of the Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey was the recordation of buildings, structures, sites, and objects fifty years old or older which retained their historic integrity. By doing this, the NESHPO generates data regarding historic resources which is used to identify, evaluate, and register properties to the National Register of Historic Places. Based on its reconnaissance nature, the properties recorded by the survey display various levels of significance. While the majority of the buildings recorded met the integrity criteria required for reconnaissance survey, they generally did not carry a substantial amount of historic significance. However, in contrast to this were those buildings which not only retained historic integrity, but possess qualities which enhance their significance as historic material resources.

One such group of resources found during the first phase of the Western Sandhills and High Plains survey that exhibit a greater level of significance are those buildings constructed of sod

"bricks". Thirty-two properties with sod buildings were recorded during the survey of Morrill, Deuel, Perkins, and Keith Counties. These four counties represent the first phase of the eight county Western Sandhills and High Plains survey project. The majority of these thirty-two properties were located in Morrill County (28), with only three found in Perkins County, and one in Keith County (see Sod House Inventory, p. 77). In addition to the importance of their structural systems, these buildings were also considered significant for their potential association with Homestead or Kinkaid Act settlement.

The sod houses recorded in the region consist of massive sod "brick" walls measuring up to twenty-four inches in thickness. There were two kinds of ground within the region suitable for use. The short alkali grass sod was most suitable but was only found in lower levels. Black root sod was also sufficient and was found in greater abundance in the higher elevations. Bunch grass sod was not suitable for construction due to the lack of a strong root system.



Fig. 5: Loading sod for building a sod house near Dismal River in Thomas County.  
(Photo: Nebraska State Historical Society).

The sod used for the houses was cut with a sod plow which would flip over one strip of sod approximately eighteen to twenty-four inches wide. These strips were then cut to desired length

and stacked in alternating fashion with the grass-side down. The sod "bricks" had to be of similar thickness to keep the walls plumb. The walls were carefully laid to accommodate openings and were trimmed with a sharp spade for smoothness.

In addition to finding adequate sources of sod, settlers were also challenged by the creation of a quality plaster. The most effective method employed in the region involved locating a low swampy spot and digging two to three feet down to obtain a sticky bluish-colored gumbo. This was then mixed with water and sand to make a serviceable plaster. The walls of the sod houses were generally covered on the exterior with the gumbo-based plaster. However, examples of sod houses with no evidence of exterior plaster were also recorded.

The sod houses found in the region have a distinctly low and bulky appearance and are often identifiable by their lack of plumb walls and corners. The exterior wall height of the soddies was considerably shorter than that of frame structures and little, if any, fenestration was included in the north walls of the buildings. The house typically contained rectangular two-room plans with a narrow side dimension of thirty feet or less. However, in some cases, a large one-story square-shaped plan in a basic four-square configuration was also recorded. The general era of construction for the Homestead-Kinkaid era sod houses ranged from approximately 1890 to as late as 1916. However, exceptions to this are found in the sub-group of houses built as novelties or as a result of Depression-era poverty.

The physical condition of the sod houses recorded by the survey was quite varied. In some instances, the only physical remains of a dwelling are sod wall ruins while in others, the sod structure is occupied and well-maintained.

Based on their importance as significant material resources within the Western Sandhills and High Plains region, the thirty-two sod houses recorded in Phase One of the survey are recommended for multiple property nomination to the National Register, (see Recommendations for

Future Work). An inventory of the properties containing sod houses, as recorded by the survey, is included below.

### Sod House Inventory for the Western Sandhills and High Plains Historic Buildings Survey

MORRILL COUNTY	DATE	RESOURCE/Common Name
M000-018	c.1940	Sod house
M000-024	c.1885	Withers sod house
M000-028	c.1895	Loomis sod house
M000-031	c.1900	Sod house
M000-035	c.1910	Potential sod house
M000-038	c.1885	Sod house
M000-056	c.1910	Sod house
M000-064	c.1908	Sod house
M000-065	1912	Carl Nichols sod house
M000-068	c.1910	Sod house
M000-069	c.1905	Sod house
M000-073	c.1910	Sod house
M000-084	c.1912	Sod house
M000-085	c.1908	Sod house
M000-094	c.1908	Sod house
M000-095	c.1903	Sod house
M000-099	c.1905	Sod house
M000-102	c.1888	Sod house
M000-105	c.1913	Sod house
M000-118	c.1900	Sod house ruins
M000-119	c.1888	Two sod dugouts
M000-134	1905	Sod house
M000-140	c.1908	Sod house
M000-143	c.1910	Greenwood Ranch sod house
M000-148	c.1905	Sod house
M000-165	c.1911	Sod house
M003-001	c.1914	Sod house
M003-054	c.1910	Sod house
PERKINS COUNTY		
PR00-053	c.1910	Altered sod house
PR00-065	c.1905	Sod house ruins
PR00-073	c.1905	Sod house
KEITH COUNTY		
KH00-065	c.1911	Sod house

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## Bungalow Style Houses

As the twenty-first century approaches, an evaluation of advances made during the past century is in order. Advances in technology, transportation and the built environment occurred at alarming rates. Whereas the nineteenth-century reflected Romanticism, separation of the social classes, and inner city crowding, the twentieth-century may be credited with Modernism, the growth of the middle class, and suburbia. It was during this time that a new house type was to emerge and forecast a change in domestic architecture. Known as the "bungalow" it soon became the dominant house type from the early 1900's to the mid 1920's. In Nebraska, Bungalows constitute a large proportion of single family dwellings built during the early part of this century. It is no surprise to discover that the population boom which occurred in Western Nebraska during the 1910's and 1920's resulted in a domestic architecture dominated by the Bungalow.



In 1880 the first use of the term bungalow in the United States was used to describe a summer retreat at Cape Cod. It wasn't until the California Bungalow appeared that the term would shift from meaning resort house to suburban house. Although the majority of bungalows fall into the category of California Bungalows, this does not mean that they were

confined specifically to the West Coast. The California Bungalow, the creation of pattern books and carpenters, made the greatest impact on the advancement of modern domestic architecture throughout the United States.

Many factors acted as the impetus for the California Bungalow's popularity. In the 1880's the Arts and Crafts Movement gained strength through an emphasis on simplicity, craftsmanship and harmony with nature; later reflected in the bungalow. Rather than separate building from site as the Victorian houses practiced, bungalow houses were to mesh with the surrounding environment, lessen the distinction between interior and exterior and be integral with the land rather than intrude upon. This was achieved through the use of natural building materials such as wood, rock or stone, and the separation of interior/exterior functions by pergolas, porches, in an open floor plan. Sleeping porches became synonymous with bungalows and further emphasized a back-to-nature, good health life-style. Most important was the design emphasis on horizontality. Prior to the bungalow, houses were usually two-stories with a moderately pitched roof. Bungalows took advantage of available building plots which allowed the structure to hug the ground by putting all functions on one story. Roofs became low-pitched in both gable or hip types. Applied ornamentation was pushed to the wayside to make way for a more honest "Form Follows Function" attitude. This philosophy coincided with modern architects of the period; Green and Green, Frank Lloyd Wright, and in furniture design, Gustav Stickley.

It was through the work of the California architects Green and Green that the bungalow as we know it found stylistic influence. The term bungalow refers primarily to the openness of its floor plan. A bungalow could be designed in a variety of styles such as Shingle, Mission, Swiss Chalet or Prairie. It was through the Craftsman Style, however, that certain details: exposed raftertails, brackets, attached pergolas, water tables and pane windows became synonymous with most bungalows.

The impact of the bungalow on domestic architecture provides an invaluable resource to evolution of housing in North America and more specifically Nebraska. In the Western Sandhills and High Plains survey region, the large number of bungalow houses reflects the prosperity that region experienced during the 1920's. The Settlement inventory (p. 60-72) includes examples of bungalow style houses ranging from the most commonly built one-story with gable roof, to the airplane bungalow, to the broad-gabled bungalow sometimes referred to as "bungaloid".

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

Throughout the duration of the Keith County survey, random observations were recorded concerning historic context themes which appear potentially significant based on their extant material resources. The general impressions recorded by the survey team were then combined with a post-survey analysis of all documented properties to determine recommendations for future work. The recommendations include National Register nominations as presented in the Preliminary Inventory (see p. 22-76) and suggestions for historic context development.

### Potential Historic Context Reports

The potential Agriculture Historic Context reports identified by the survey include Sand Hills Range Livestock Production (H.C.: 08.08), and High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock, and Potato Production (H.C.: 08.07). A summary of the major components of these agriculture types is found in the Agriculture inventory starting on page 35. The number of associated properties and the importance of agriculture to the region and the state makes this an apparent choice.

In addition, the Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement (H.C.: 16.05) Historic Context Report would also link the sod house and bungalow properties recorded by the survey to the framework established by the NESHPO. These properties are discussed on pages 73 through 79.

Other topics of potential multiple property development include the Lincoln Highway markers found in Paxton (see p. 56), and the set of commemorative Pony Express Trail markers surveyed in Keith, Morrill, and Deuel Counties.

## Conclusion

It is the belief of those associated with this project that people, and the places in which they live, are the raw materials of history. A community, its inhabitants and its development through time are proper subjects for our contemplation, for it is through such studies that we gain a fuller comprehension of the present. The value of cultural material studies and preservation of historic buildings was politically expressed on a national level in 1966 by Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine as he addressed the eighty-ninth Congress of the United States regarding the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act.

"In less than 200 years, America has grown from a sparsely populated agricultural community of States to the most urbanized and technologically advanced Nation in the world. During these 20 decades and before, American genius has created marvels of mortar and stone... In the next four decades alone, our expanding population and urbanization will require more construction than we have witnessed during our first 20 decades. This means that much of what we have created to date is threatened by the thrust of bulldozers or the corrosion of neglect. In many instances, efforts to preserve sites of architectural and historic value will be too late. America must move promptly and vigorously to protect the important legacies which remain. This we can achieve without blunting our progress. And this achievement will enrich our progress. With sensitive planning, the past and the future can live as neighbors and contribute jointly to the quality of our civilization."

In the year 1990, America has now passed the halfway point in the four decade period of expansion delineated by Senator Muskie. Have we achieved the balance of preserving our past while progressing toward the future? In some cases we have, but in many others we have not. This is not to say that all older buildings are worthy of preservation. Many of the older buildings which stand in the path of necessary expansion have rightfully been removed. However, the heightening of public awareness and the education of our elected public officials towards the concept of historic preservation is a topic not open to

subjectivity. It is imperative that the documentation and review of threatened historic buildings be conducted and appropriate decisions be made regarding the cultural value of historic buildings. It is toward this goal that the Western Sandhills and High Plains region has been researched and documented. It is the hope of those involved with this project that the historic properties within the region will be enjoyed by many future generations of Nebraska citizens.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1: Keith County Town and Rural Inventory Listings of All Surveyed Properties

## KH00: KEITH COUNTY RURAL INVENTORY

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/Common NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE
				BLDGS.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.		
KH00-002		ROBERT F. LUTE RANCH	08.07				08.1	E
KH00-004		CALIFORNIA HILL	13.02.01	0	1	0		NRHP
KH00-005	C1913	FARM	08.07	8	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-006	C1905	FARM	08.07	2	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-007	1932	HISTORIC MARKER	03.13.02			1	07.5.1.2.5	E
KH00-008	C1910	FARM	08.07	7	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-009	C1920	LAWLER FARM CO.	08.07	7	0	2	08.1	C
KH00-010	C1890	ABAN. FARM	08.07	5	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-011	C1920	FARM	08.07	4	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-012	C1915	ABAN. FARM	08.07	5	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-013	C1890	FARM	08.07	3	0	0	08.1	P
KH00-014	C1925	FARM	08.07	4	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-015	C1940	BARN	08.07	3	0	0	08.1.02	C
KH00-016	C1917	ABAN. HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH00-017	C1912	FARM	08.07	2	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-018	C1910	FORMER SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	06.3.1:1	C
KH00-019	C1910	FARM	08.07	9	0	2	08.1	C
KH00-020	C1910	FARM	08.07	10	0	1	08.1	P
KH00-021	C1927	FARM	08.07	3	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-022	C1946	FORMER SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	06.3.1:1	C
KH00-023	C1910	FARM	08.07	7	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-024	C1910	FARM	08.07	2	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-025	C1905	ABAN. FARMHOUSE	08.07	2	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-026	C1910	ABAN. FARMHOUSE	08.07	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH00-027	C1910	FARM	08.07	3	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-028	C1929	FARM	08.07	4	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-029	C1927	FARM	08.07	2	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-030	C1890, 1910	ABAN. FARM	08.07	4	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-031	C1911	FARM	08.07	6	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-032	C1912	ABAN. FARM	08.07	11	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-033	C1912	FARMHOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH00-034	C1910	BARN	08.07	1	0	0	08.1.02	C
KH00-035	C1915	ABAN. FARMHOUSE	08.07	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH00-036	C1948	FARM	08.07	6	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-037	1939	DIST. # 22 SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	06.3.1	P
KH00-038	C1919	ABAN. FARM	08.07	3	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-039	C1910	FARM OUTBLDGS	08.07	2	0	0	10.7.2	C
KH00-040	C1936	FORMER CIDER MILLS	13.02	5	0	0	12.4.3	P
KH00-041	C1918	FARM	08.07	6	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-042	C1936	NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH	14.04	1	0	0	14.1.1	E
KH00-043	C1903	ABAN. SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	06.3.1:1	P
KH00-044	C1900	ABAN. FARM	08.08	2	0	0	08.1	C

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDG.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH00-045	1886	CLEAR CREEK RANCH	08.08	6	0	0	2	08.1	E
KH00-046	C1910	ABAN. RANCH	08.08	4	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-047	1887	ABAN. FARM	08.07	3	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-048	C1905	FARM	08.07	3	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-049	C1895	ABAN. FARM	08.07	3	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-050	C1897	FARM	08.07	6	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-051	C1923	FARMHSE	08.07	2	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-052	C1930	FARM	08.07	3	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-053	C1890	ABAN. FARM	08.07	3	0	0	0	08.07	C
KH00-054	C1907	FARM	08.07	5	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-055	C1937	SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	2	06.3.1	C
KH00-056	C1895	ABAN. FARM	08.07	4	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-057	C1900	FARMHOUSE	08.07	2	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-058	C1918	FARM	08.07	2	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-059	C1890	ABAN. FARM	08.07	3	0	0	1		C
KH00-060	C1923	FARM	08.07	8	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-061	C1911	FARM	08.07	5	0	0	2	08.1	P
KH00-062	C1958	KINGSLEY LODGE	07.06	7	0	0	2	12.3.2	C
KH00-063	1880	STONE BLDG	08.07	1	0	0	0	21.2	C
KH00-064	C1920	FARM	08.07	4	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-065	C1911	ABAN. FARM	08.08	6	0	0	1	08.1	E
KH00-066	C1897	FARM	08.08	3	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-067	C1907	FARM	08.08	2	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-068	C1905	FARM	08.08	3	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-069	C1900	RANGE CORRAL	08.08	0	0	0	2	08.2.7	C
KH00-070	C1911	FARM	08.08	5	0	0	2	08.1	C
KH00-071	C1936	PUMPING STATION	08.07	1	0	0	0	09.3.2.1	P
KH00-072	C1904	FARM	08.08	2	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-073	C1900	BUCKHORN SPRINGS	08.08	7	0	0	2	08.1	C
KH00-074	C1889	ABAN. RANCH	08.08	1	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-075	C1908	FARMHOUSE & BARN	08.07	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	E
KH00-076	C1904	HOUSE	08.07	5	0	0	1	16.5.1	C
KH00-077	C1910	FARM	08.07	7	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-078	C1885	SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1	C
KH00-079	C1935	TELEPHONE BUILDING	14.04	1	0	0	0	14.1.1	E
KH00-080	C1922	FARM	08.07	5	0	0	3	08.1	C
KH00-081	C1923	SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1	C
KH00-082	C1905	FARM	08.07	5	0	2	2	08.1	C
KH00-083	1948	ST. JOHNS EV. LUTH. CHURCH	02.03.01	1	1	0	0	02.1.4, 02.3.1P	
KH00-084	C1925	DIST. # 1 SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	2	06.3.1	C
KH00-085	C1911	FARM	08.07	9	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-086	C1932	FARMHOUSE	08.07	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH00-087	C1890	ABAN. FARMHOUSE	08.07	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH00-088	C1912	ABAN. FARM	08.07	3	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-089	C1920	FARM	08.07	4	0	0	1	08.1	C
KH00-090	C1918	FARM	08.07	6	0	0	0	08.1	C
KH00-091	C1933	FARM	08.07	3	0	0	0	08.1	C

## KH01: BRULE, KEITH COUNTY INVENTORY

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/Common NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDGS.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH01-001	C1907	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH01-002	C1890	BRULE DEPOT	13.03	1	0	0	0	13.5.2	C
KH01-003	C1910	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	1	16.5.1	C
KH01-004	C1903	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH01-005	1921	SCHOOL DIST. # 17	06.01	1	0	0	0	06.3	E
KH01-006	C1918	COMMERCIAL BUILDING	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH01-007	C1915	COMMERCIAL BUILDING/GARAGE	13.02	1	0	0	0	13.3.3.4	C
KH01-008	1890	FORMER HOTEL	13.03	1	0	0	0	12.3.1	C
KH01-009	C1930	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1:5.2	C
KH01-010	C1923	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH01-011	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH01-012	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	P
KH01-013	C1905	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH01-014	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C

## KH02: KEYSTONE, KEITH COUNTY INVENTORY

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/Common NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDGS.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH02-001	1908	KEYSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	02	1	0	0	0	02.4.1:1	NRHP
KH02-002	C1910	KEYSTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY	06.02.01	1	0	0	0	04.2.4	E
KH02-004	C1907	HOUSE	16.05	4	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH02-005	C1910	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH02-006	C1917	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & PARSONAGE	02.04.1	2	0	0	0	02.1.4	c
KH02-007	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH02-008	C1912	SERVICE GARAGE	13.02	1	0	0	0	13.3.3.4	C

## KH04: OGALLALA, KEITH COUNTY INVENTORY

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY OBJ. TYPE	DOE
				BLDGS.	SITE	STRU.		
KH04-002	1916-17	J.W. WELPTON HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	E
KH04-003	C1880	BOOT HILL CEMETERY	02	0	1	0	02.3.1	E
KH04-004	1887	L.A. BRANDHOEFER HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	E
KH04-005	1916	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-006	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-007	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-008	C1919	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-009	C1940	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-010	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-011	C1920	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-012	C1915	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-013	C1901	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	E
KH04-014	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	P
KH04-015	C1900	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-016	C1905	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-017	C1907	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-018	C1901	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-019	C1907	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-020	C1926	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-021	1902	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-022	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-023	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-024	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-025	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-026	C1930	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	E
KH04-027	C1925	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	P
KH04-028	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	P
KH04-029	C1878	FORMER DEPOT (HOUSE)	13.03	1	0	0	13.5.2	C
KH04-030	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-031	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-032	C1930	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-033	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-034	C1920	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-035	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-036	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-037	C1919	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-038	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-039	C1924	HOUSE	16.05	3	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-040	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-041	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-042	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-043	1938	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	E

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDG.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH04-044	C1923	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	E	
KH04-045	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-046	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	P	
KH04-047	C1914	APARTMENT BUILDING	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.5	C	
KH04-048	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-049	C1912	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-050	C1900	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	E	
KH04-051	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-052	C1939	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	E	
KH04-053	C1915	SPRUCE ST. STANDARD	13.02	2	0	0	13.3.3.3	C	
KH04-054	C1919	APARTMENT BUILDING	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.5	E	
KH04-055	C1940	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	E	
KH04-056	C1922	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-057	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-058	C1907	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	P	
KH04-059	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-060	C1922	COMMERCIAL GARAGE	13.02	1	0	0	13.3.3.4	C	
KH04-061	1933	ST. PAULS SCHOOL	06.01	1	0	0	06.2.1	E	
KH04-062	C1940	HOUSE/PROFESSIONAL BLDG.	16.01, 15	1	0	0	16.5.1, 15.3.1	P	
KH04-063	C1940	CHEIFTAN MOTEL	13.02	10	0	0	12.3.2	E	
KH04-064	C1917	ELEVATOR	12.05.01	1	0	0	12.2.3	P	
KH04-065	C1913	DUPLEX	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.3	C	
KH04-066	C1890	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-067	C1919	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-068	C1900	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-069	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-070	C1947	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	2	16.5.1	C
KH04-071	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-072	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-073	C1910	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-074		HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-075	C1909	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-076	C1907	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-077	C1902	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-078	C1949	MASONIC TEMPLE	05.02.05	1	0	0	05.1.1	C	
KH04-079	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-080	1937	U.S. POST OFFICE	04.06	1	0	0	04.2.3	E	
KH04-081	C1935	PRAIRIE THEATER	07.07	1	0	0	07.1.5	E	
KH04-082	C1903	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	12.1.1	C	
KH04-083	1928	I.O.O.F. HALL	05.02.06	1	0	0	12.1.3, 05.1.1	C	
KH04-084	C1901	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-085	C1890	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-086	C1912	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-087	C1912	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	
KH04-088	C1919	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	16.5.1	C	

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDG.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH04-089	C1923	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-090	C1909	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-091	C1912	HOUSE	16.05	3	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-092	C1924	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-093	C	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-094	C1901	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-095	C1922	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-096	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-097	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-098	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-099	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-100	C1948	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-101		HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-102	C1910	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-103	C1915	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-104	C1950	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	P
KH04-105	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-106	C1951	WELSH MOTOR COURT	13.02	3	0	0	0	12.3.2	P
KH04-107	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-108	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH04-109	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C

## KH05: PAXTON, KEITH COUNTY INVENTORY

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDGS.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH05-001	C1887	FORMER DEPOT	13.03	2	0	0	0	13.5.2	C
KH05-002	1918	FORMER BANK	15.05.03	1	0	0	0	15.1.1	C
KH05-003	C1895	WELPTON LUMBER YARD	12.02.07	2	0	0	1	11.4.2.1	C
KH05-004	C1910	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-005	C1909	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-006	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-007	C1911	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-008	C1938	PAXTON MUNIC. LIGHT/POWER	15.01	1	0	0	0	15.6.1	C
KH05-009	C1901	HOUSE	16.05	3	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-010	C1915	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-011	C1908	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-012	1928	LINCOLN HIGHWAY MARKER	13.02	0	0	0	1	13.3.3.1	E

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDG.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH05-013	C1915	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-014	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-015	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-016	C1919	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-017	C1904	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-018	C1914	CABIN	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-019	C1928	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-020	C1914	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-021	1930	ST. PATRICKS' CATH. CHURCH	02.01.01	1	0	0	0	02.1.4	E
KH05-022	C1916	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-023	C1918	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-024	C1895	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-025	C1920	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-026	C1920	WATER TOWER	15.01	0	0	1	0	15.5.2	C
KH05-027	C1919	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-028	C1913	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-029	C1917	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH05-030	1928	LINCOLN HIGHWAY MARKER	13.02	0	0	0	1	13.3.2.1	E
KH05-031	1919	ED DAFLER COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.3	P
KH05-032	C1935	OLE'S BIG GAME BAR	07.06	1	0	0	0	07.6.7	E
KH05-033	C1885	PROFESSIONAL BLDG.	15.04	1	0	0	0	15.3.1	E
KH05-034	C1917	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH05-035	C1890	COMMERCIAL BLDG.	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C

## KH06: ROSCOE, KEITH COUNTY INVENTORY

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDGS.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH06-001	C1920	HOUSE	16.05	2	0	0	0	16.5.1	C
KH06-002	C1920	ROSCOE GARAGE	13.02	1	0	0	0	13.3.3.4	C
KH06-003	C1910	COMMERCIAL BUILDING	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH06-004	C1910	COMMERCIAL BUILDING	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C

## KH07: SARBEN, KEITH COUNTY INVENTORY

NEHBS NUMBER	DATE	COMMON/RESOURCE NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE	DOE	
				BLDGS.	SITE	STRU. OBJ.			
KH07-001	C1890	COMMERCIAL BUILDING	12.02.07	1	0	0	0	12.1.1	C
KH07-002	C1908	HOUSE	16.05	1	0	0	1	16.5.1	C

GLOSSARY

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This Glossary lists architectural styles common in Nebraska during the mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Style names are followed by dates suggesting the general time span, and brief descriptions identifying characteristic features. These summaries were defined by the NESHPO and included in their publication "Historic Places: The National Register for Nebraska" (NEBRASKAland, Jan.-Feb., 1989).

**Italianate 1870-1890**

A popular style for houses, these square, rectangular, or L-shaped two-story buildings have low-pitched hip roofs, with wide eaves usually supported by heavy brackets, tall narrow windows, and front porches. In some cases, the roof may be topped with a cupola.

**Queen Anne 1880-1900**

A style which enjoyed widespread popularity in the state, these two-story houses have asymmetrical facades and steeply pitched rooflines of irregular shape. Characteristics include a variety of surface textures on walls, prominent towers, tall chimneys, and porches with gingerbread trim.

**County Capitol 1880-1910**

This was a popular form for courthouses in the state and was inspired by the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. Usually situated on a courthouse square, these square-shaped monumental buildings exhibit corner pavilions, a prominent central domed tower, and Neo-Classical or Romanesque styling.

**Romanesque Revival 1880-1920**

These buildings are of masonry construction and usually show some rough-faced stonework. The Roman or round-topped arch is a key feature. Facades are asymmetrical and most examples have towers, brick corbelling and horizontal stone banding.

**Late Gothic Revival 1880-1930**

A later version of the Gothic style, these buildings are generally larger and use heavy masonry construction. In churches, masonry is sometimes used throughout the structure. The pointed-arch window opening remains a key feature, however designs are more subdued than those of the earlier period.

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**Eclectic 1890-1910**

An eclectic building displays a combination of architectural elements from various styles. It usually resulted when a house designed in one architectural style was remodeled.

**Shingle 1890-1920**

Characteristics include a two-story asymmetrical house with hip, gable, or gambrel roof; walls covered wholly or in part with wood shingles; little or no ornamentation; and extensive porches.

**Neo-Classical Revival 1900-1920**

Front facades are usually dominated by a full-height porch with the roof supported by classical columns. Symmetrically arranged buildings show monumental proportions, balanced windows, and a central entry.

**Renaissance Revival 1900-1920**

The style is characterized by formalism in plans, raised basements, low hipped roofs covered with clay tiles, symmetrical facades with wide overhanging eaves, arched entries and second story porches. Window treatments vary from story to story and are flat or round arched.

**Georgian or Colonial Revival 1900-1930**

A style characterized by a symmetrical facade enriched with classical detail, gable or hip roof, and eaves detailed as classical cornices. The standard window is rectangular with a double-hung sash. The Palladian window is often used as a focal point.

**Spanish Colonial Revival 1900-1920**

These buildings, which have a southwestern flavor, show masonry construction usually covered with plaster or stucco, red-tiled hipped roofs, and arcaded porches. Some facades are enriched with curvilinear and decorated roof lines.

**Prairie 1900-1930**

This movement, popularized by Frank Lloyd Wright, emphasized the integration of a building and its site. Elements of the style include a low-pitched roof line with wide overhanging eaves, two stories high with one-story porch, and an overall horizontal emphasis in the design.

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**Period 1920-1930**

Influenced by the styles of medieval English and French country cottages, these houses are usually of two stories and display irregular massing, steeply pitched roofs with slate or clay tile covering, massive chimneys, half-timbering, casement windows, and attached garages.

**Modernistic 1930-1940**

Art Deco, the earlier Modernistic phase, was used primarily for public and commercial buildings and is characterized by angular composition, with towers and vertical projections and smooth wall surfaces with stylized and geometric motifs, including zigzags and chevrons. Art Moderne, the later version, shows smooth wall finishes without surface ornamentation, asymmetrical facades with a horizontal emphasis, flat roofs, rounded corners, and bands of windows or curved window glass creating a streamlined effect.

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