Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey
Reconnaissance Survey Final Report
of
Hitchcock County, Nebraska
prepared for
Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
by

Save America's Heritage
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INTRODUCTION

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 42,000 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.

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. A brief description of Historic Preservation Office programs follows.

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. It is part of a national program to
coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our
historic and archeological resources. The National Register was developed to recognize
historic places and those who contributed to our country's heritage. These properties--
whether districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects--are architecturally or
historically significant for their associations with important persons or events.

The National Register is designed to include properties of importance in every
locality, not just great national landmarks. A general store, a community's park, a main
street, or the remains of a prehistoric Indian village may be just as eligible for
inclusion in the National Register as Independence Hall or Gettysburg Battlefield.

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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Another primary objective of the survey was the identification of a definitive group of historic material resources existing in the southwestern and south-central Nebraska region. The primary objective of the survey was to provide a preliminary characterization of statewide coverage by 1991-92.

In the fall of the 1989-90, the survey was completed in the summer of 1991. With the completion of the eight-county project, the Republican Valley and Central Plains were the only two remaining regions of the state to be completed under the NEHPSO plan for preliminary fieldwork in eight southwestern and south-central Nebraska counties: Hitchcock, Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Clay, and Thayer.

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The State Historic Preservation Office (NEHPSO) and engaged in a contractual agreement to conduct the Republican Valley and Central Plains Historic Buildings Survey. The survey was completed in the summer of 1991. With the completion of the eight-county project, the Republican Valley and Central Plains were the only two remaining regions of the state to be completed under the NEHPSO plan for preliminary fieldwork in eight southwestern and south-central Nebraska counties: Hitchcock, Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Clay, and Thayer.
Historic Places (NRHP). The Historic Buildings Survey of Hitchcock County has accomplished this goal by identifying a total of 63 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 Hitchcock 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 Hitchcock County Reconnaissance Survey**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HITCOC COUNTY</th>
<th>TOTAL PROPERTIES</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING SITES</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HK00: Rural</td>
<td>75 (2)</td>
<td>272 (1)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>8 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HK01: Beverly</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HK02: Culbertson</td>
<td>37 (1)</td>
<td>56 (1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HK03: Palisade</td>
<td>47 (1)</td>
<td>59 (1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HK04: Stratton</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HK05: Trenton</td>
<td>28 (13)</td>
<td>36 (13)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL NUMBER SURVEYED**

IN FY 1990-1991: 207 (17) 450 (16) 2 (1) 76 8 (1)

**TOTAL NEHBS TO DATE:**

224 466 3 76 9

Approximated Area of Survey Coverage: 316.625 square miles (202,640 acres)
Numbers in parenthesis indicate previously surveyed properties
HITCHCOCK COUNTY HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Fig. 1: Hitchcock County Atlas, circa 1910.

Physical Description

Hitchcock County is located near the southwestern corner of the state of Nebraska, bordering Kansas on the south. It is one of many counties in the southern part of Nebraska that measures thirty miles wide (east to west) and twenty-four miles long (north to south). The total land area of Hitchcock County is 709 square miles. The overall appearance is one of hilly land, with elevations ranging from 2,550 to 3,230 feet.

Three types of topography can be found within the county borders: valley land, plains, and dissected plains. Valley land is flat land located along the major waterways: the Republican River, Frenchman Creek, and Driftwood Creek. This soil is rich, consisting
of stream-deposited silt, clay, sand, and gravel. Plains are also flat lands, but they lie above the valley lands. The soil materials are overlain by rich, wind-deposited silt called loess. In Hitchcock County the plains are located in the northwestern part of the county, between the Republican River and Frenchman Creek. The remainder of the county is composed of dissected plains. These are old plains that have been eroded by water and wind, often with steep slopes and sharp ridge crests. The result is the hilly landscape that is most characteristic of this area.

Fig. 2: Dissected Plains topography in Hitchcock County.

The county's primary drainage system is the Republican River and its tributaries. The river runs from west to east across the center of the county, angling slightly to the north. The main tributaries are Frenchman Creek, running northwest, Blackwood Creek, just to the east of Frenchman, and Driftwood Creek which cuts across the southeast corner of the county. The Republican River has been dammed just west of the town of Trenton, creating Swanson Reservoir.
The climate in Hitchcock County, as in the entire state of Nebraska, is characterized by seasonal temperature extremes, conditions that range from subhumid to semiarid, and highly variable precipitation. The average January temperature for the southwest portion of the state is 24.2 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average July temperature is 75.9 degrees Fahrenheit. The average annual precipitation for the southwest is 18.87 inches (Nebraska Statistical Handbook, 1986-1987). The least amount of precipitation ever recorded in this area was 8.74 inches, and the greatest was 38.26 inches (Nebraska Atlas).

Original Inhabitants

Some of the earliest inhabitants of this portion of the Great Plains were people of the Woodland Culture. Excavations in Hitchcock County have revealed small lodges and burial sites of the Woodland people.

Until the mid-nineteenth century the eastern half of what is today the state of Nebraska was occupied by village dwellers, and the western half by nomadic groups of people. Many of the village dwellers participated in buffalo hunts that required extended periods of time away from their villages. The Pawnee, village dwellers who lived along the Loup Rivers, may have roamed into the area of Hitchcock County in search of buffalo. The largest groups of nomadic people in the western third of the state were the Dakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho. They relied heavily upon the buffalo for food and other necessities of life and practiced little agriculture, although they did gather fruits, berries, and roots. In Hitchcock County the Cheyenne and Arapaho, and occasionally the Dakota, found buffalo to hunt. However, the Battle of Summit Springs in Colorado in 1863, in which the Indians were defeated, cleared much of the Republican River Valley for settlement by whites. In addition, by 1880 the buffalo were nearly wiped out by white hunters and the
nomadic hunters of the plains were reduced to dependency on government supplies for their survival.

History and Settlement of Nebraska

From 1541 until the end of the eighteenth-century the primary white contact on the plains was with the Spanish, who were seeking a route to the Pacific and, secondarily, trade with the Indians. In 1804 Lewis and Clark explored the region for the United States with much the same goals. Later explorers also crossed the plains in search of other goals: Pike looking for the source of the Arkansas River in 1806, and Long looking for the headwaters of Red River in 1820, for example. Some did, however, find interest in Nebraska itself. Fur traders, many of them French, sought out the resources of the region. Trading posts were established as places where trade goods could be exchanged for buffalo robes, beaver pelts and other furs. The posts, the first of which was built in 1812, were located along the Missouri River, and in the panhandle area. To provide protection for the trade, Fort Atkinson was built in 1821 on the Missouri River north of Council Bluffs.

In succeeding decades the Platte River became a primary transportation route across the continent. Fur traders in canoes travelled up and down its waters as they extended their range further west. In the 1840's pioneers on foot and in wagons followed its banks into the Rocky Mountains headed for the rich soils of Oregon, religious freedom of Utah, and gold of California. Few stayed within Nebraska's borders, however, because the area was not officially open for settlement. That changed with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, when Nebraska became a territory.

Settlement began in the eastern part of the state along the Missouri River. Towns were platted almost immediately, and farmers took up land in the rural areas. Land was most often purchased from the government or obtained by military bounty land warrants.
In the 1860's, settlement spread out gradually from the banks of the Missouri, often following the streams and rivers of the state, with the greatest population being in the east and south. The passage of the Homestead Act in 1862, which allowed individuals to obtain 160 acres of land free of cost if certain conditions were met, encouraged settlement in the relatively new and sparsely populated state of Nebraska.

Communications were limited to the Pony Express, which operated in the southern part of the state from 1859 to 1861, when the transcontinental telegraph line was established. However, in 1863 Omaha was selected as the eastern terminus of the transcontinental railroad. Nebraska was granted statehood in 1867, and by the end of that year the state was spanned by rail.

At the beginning of the next decade people were moving into the northern portions of the state and following the rail lines into other areas. Much of the state's economy was based on agriculture and the early 1870's were prosperous. However, a series of bad years involving low rainfall and hordes of grasshoppers, added to the economic decline begun with the nation-wide Panic of 1873.

The year of 1880 heralded a new decade--one that was to be the greatest settlement era for the great plains. Weather was almost perfect for crops, the railroads promised secure futures for many towns, and population boomed in both urban and rural areas. Cities began improving their environs and rural settlement spread throughout the state, including the previously unsettled portions in the west and central areas.

The year of 1890 may have been a harbinger of things to come. The state averaged only 17 inches of rain for the year, with even lower amounts in 1893 and 1894. The drought was accompanied by general economic decline and a national panic in 1893. During this period, thousands of people--both farm and city dwellers--left the state. By 1896, normal rainfall
returned and economic recovery began. Manufacturing was also encouraged by improved transportation that resulted in lower freight rates on fuel.

The first two decades of the twentieth-century were ones of prosperity. Favorable conditions for agriculture persisted and towns benefited from the farmers' economic good fortunes. This period was one of maturation for the plains towns. If a town's economic base had been unstable, and substantially weakened by the recession of the 1890's, it often faded from the landscape in the early 1900's. If it survived the 1890's, however, it began to mature in this era, often expanding, and adding city improvements. In fact, virtually all of the state's population increase in this era was recorded in the cities (Olson, 249). The Kincaid Act of 1904 attempted to increase population in the dry western parts of the state by providing increased amounts of land (640 acres) available for homesteading. This proved to be too little for most areas and did not substantially increase the population of the dry regions.

World War I caused an increased demand for food production. Nebraska farmers, already experiencing higher prices than ever before, expanded both their acreage and production to accommodate the war effort. However, land prices began to rise after the war and bank lending increased. Mortgage debt skyrocketed and when war-time food prices were not maintained, Nebraska agriculture went into a tailspin. Despite the overall prosperity of the 1920's for the nation, agricultural areas were depressed, and since Nebraska's economy was based almost wholly on agriculture the state suffered for two decades under a major economic depression. The drought conditions of the 1930's only added to the already depressed farm economy and in many cases was the final blow that forced people off the land, resulting in significant population declines in the state.

In the 1940's war once again resulted in unprecedented prosperity for Nebraska farmers and city dwellers as well. This war-generated prosperity continued well into the next
decade. Some decline was experienced in the 1960’s, particularly by small towns that were by-passed by the new Interstate Highway System. Small towns also suffered in the sixties and seventies as railroads curtailed their services and some lines were completely abandoned. The farm crisis of the 1980’s brought corporate farming into the forefront and resulted in a fight to save the family farm from both the corporations and the economy.

County History

One of the first signs of permanent white settlement in the area of present day Hitchcock County was the establishment of the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Stage Line which crossed the county for a few months in 1859. Entering the county from near Ludell, Kansas, the line ran south of Trenton, then southwest of Stratton and on to Benkelman and Denver. In the late 1860’s Texas cattle ranchers began driving their cattle northward to the first available railhead. In 1869 the first cattle drive across Hitchcock County took place, crossing the Republican River one-fourth mile west of present day Trenton. The drive originated in Texas and terminated at the Union Pacific railroad tracks in Ogallala, Nebraska.

The first person known to actually settle in Hitchcock County, George C. Gesselman, arrived in 1873. He, and those who followed him in the subsequent months, chose land along Blackwood Creek, north and east of present day Culbertson. In the summer of 1873 Culbertson was established. In that same year, Hitchcock County was organized and Culbertson, being the only town within the county boundaries, was named county seat. The location of the town was also the only spot between Indianola and Benkelman where the Republican River could be forded year round. Building began in Culbertson, with supplies brought in by rail, usually from North Platte or Lexington.

When the county was only a few months old a major battle took place between the Pawnee
and the Sioux (Dakota). The Pawnee, returning from a successful buffalo hunt, were attacked by the Sioux. The arrival of the U.S. Calvalry saved many of the outnumbered Pawnee and prevented the Sioux from completely annihilating the Pawnee hunting party. The encounter may have been the last major battle between Indian tribes in the United States. The site of the battle, three miles east of present day Trenton, is called Massacre Canyon. It was marked with a monument in 1930, but the marker was moved one mile north to a highway location in 1961.

Hitchcock County suffered agricultural difficulty along with the rest of the state in the mid 1870's, particularly from the relentless grasshoppers. Many settlers who had hoped to farm in the county left the area during this period. In 1875, however, a new agriculture enterprise was established. Migrants from both the east and west (i.e., Colorado) moved into the county and established large cattle ranches on the open range. The primary crop in the county, corn, was used to feed the cattle. Culbertson boomed, being the only town between Indianola and Ogallala, and also the winter home for many of the ranch families. The number of towns in the county soon increased with the establishment of Palisade and Stratton in 1879.

The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad arrived in Culbertson in 1881 and was completed into Colorado in 1882. This event was followed by the rapid establishment of several new post offices and towns, including Trenton. With the favorable weather conditions in the 1880's, 1884 saw homesteaders return to Hitchcock County to once again try their hand at farming. In addition to the traditional corn crop, wheat was also grown. In 1885 the county passed a law requiring cattle pastures to be fenced, and the state placed an embargo on Texas cattle. These two actions ended the cattle drives through Hitchcock County and in most of Nebraska. The loss of the cattle drives did not hinder county development, however. In 1886 a courthouse was built in Culbertson and a bridge was
completed over the Republican River at Trenton, providing a year-round crossing at that location.

The drought, grasshoppers, and economic depression of the 1890's may have been the catalyst for the first irrigation project in Hitchcock County. The contract was let in 1893 and shortly thereafter corn and sugar beets were being irrigated. The latter crop, along with conditions in Russia, played an important role in the arrival of German-Russian settlers in the county before the turn-of-the-century. The decade also witnessed the removal of the county seat from Culbertson to Trenton in 1894.

Prosperity returned in the early twentieth-century and the county built a new courthouse in 1906. In the rural areas settlers took advantage of the Kincaid Act to acquire 640 acres of land. Technological advances, such a refrigeration, encouraged the cattle industry, and World War I encouraged wheat production.

Wheat prices dropped dramatically after the war and the agricultural depression of the 1920's began. The first oil drilling in the county engendered some positive feelings in the midst of the farming decline, but the quantity produced was minimal. Drought was a major component in the depression which continued into the 1930's. Despite the dry conditions, a major flood on the Republican River struck the county in 1935, destroying many homes and farms, downing telephone lines, washing out roads and railroad tracks, and damaging private property. In 1938 Diehl Dam and Lake were built on Camp Creek to provide flood control. County residents hoped for some relief for their economy in 1938 when the first significant oil drilling took place ten miles southeast of Trenton.

World War II had more than the average effect on Hitchcock County. A German prisoner-of-war camp was established in Palisade and remained in service until the end of the war. After the war, a grant was approved for an airport at Trenton and money provided by the Rural Electrification Administration began to supply power to rural areas of the county.
In the early 1950's, Trenton Dam--begun in 1949--and Swanson Lake were completed near Trenton. The decade also witnessed an oil boom in the southern half of the county, with the first oil well producing 100 barrels per day in 1955. In the 1960's many improvements were made in the county highways and oil was discovered north of the Republican River. By 1981 the county led the state in the number of new oil wells.

**County Towns**

**Culbertson** was both organized and named the county seat of Hitchcock County in 1873. It occupied a prime site at the point where the cattle trail from Texas to Ogallala crossed the overland trail that headed west along the Republican River. In addition, it was less than a mile from both Frenchman Creek and Blackwood Creek. Early settlers came from Ohio, Wisconsin, and Iowa, with many having roots in Norway. The town boomed in the 1870's and 1880's, achieving a population of approximately 450 by 1886. Supplying both the cowboys and the west-bound settlers, Culbertson saw much activity, earning the reputation of a "wild" town. The end of the cattle drives in 1885 resulted in a quieter community. The railroad built a roundhouse in Culbertson in 1881 when the tracks reached the town, but moved it to McCook in 1882. The town incorporated in 1885 as Bangor, but quickly changed the name back to Culbertson. Despite the loss of the roundhouse, the town grew to 650 people by 1893, boasting three banks and two hotels. A second loss occurred in 1894, when Trenton won the county seat.

Irrigation projects were begun in the 1890's near Culbertson and drew new settlers to the area, many of whom were Germans from Russia. By 1907 the new immigrants had swelled the town's population to 800 and three grain elevators and a creamery had been added to its list of businesses. Despite bad times in agriculture in the 1920's, Culbertson experienced
a boom period during which over 20 new homes, a cooperative creamery, a school, and a church were built.

While the drought and depression of the 1930's resulted in significant emigration from southwest Nebraska, including Culbertson, the town experienced a temporary influx of population in 1943 when an Army Air base was established at McCook. The town's 1940 population was 815, with a slight decline over the next four decades to 767 in 1980.

Palisade is located at the point where the Bobtail and Stinking Water Creeks flow together and join Frenchman Creek. The town was named for the river bluff and also for the remains of an old Cavalry pallisade or stockade nearby. Samuel True established the town in 1879 and for eight years it prospered.

Fig. 3: Historic birds-eye view of Palisade, Hitchcock County, circa 1910.

In 1886 the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad surveyed a branch line from McCook to Holyoke, Colorado, purchasing land for a townsite across the Bobtail Creek west of Palisade. The following year the majority of the buildings in town were moved across the creek to the town named New Palisade in which could be found the usual array of businesses: lumberyards, hotels, saloons, and general stores. Soon Palisade was no more, and the
younger town dropped "New" from its name.

Work was discontinued on the branch line in 1890 and the town declined. Work was later resumed and the town again prospered, adding such amenities as telephone service in 1903 and in 1911 a fire department and electricity, generated from a dam on Frenchman Creek. By 1921 population had reached 600. In 1931, before the austere times of the thirties truly set in, the town added a park and swimming pool.

Palisade reached its peak population of 799 in 1940. World War II brought a temporary rise in the population with the establishment of a German prisoner-of-war camp in town, which served as a branch of the main camp at Indianola. The prisoners worked on farms helping the farmers of the county who were short-handed due to the war. Population held steady all through the forties, but began a decline in the fifties, reaching a low of 372 in 1970.

Stratton:

Fig. 4: Historic view, Stratton, Hitchcock County, circa 1884.

Stratton was established as "Frontier" in 1879. In the period 1881-1882 the name was changed to Stratton, and the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad reached the town.
In 1883 the town was officially platted, and had attained over 200 inhabitants by 1886. By 1900 the area was a prosperous agricultural region and Stratton became a livestock and grain shipping center, with a large amount of agricultural freight transported to Denver. By 1893 the town population stood at 500, but the drought and grasshoppers of 1894 resulted in the emigration of many residents.

The first two decades of the twentieth-century witnessed a stabilization in Stratton. The town added a telephone system, a waterworks, and a new brick school, and had increased slightly in population to 527.

Fig. 5: Historic view west side Main Street, Stratton, Hitchcock County, circa 1900.

Many new businesses were established in the twenties, including the forerunner of Miller Manufacturing and Miller Weeder, with the town reaching its peak population of 660 in 1930. The Republican River flood of 1935 prompted the construction of Diehl Dam and Lake east of Stratton on Camp Creek in 1937.

The years immediately following the war were prosperous ones for Stratton. A new school and swimming pool were built and the first oil well was drilled near the town. In
the 1960's the town constructed a new hospital and post office, and U.S. Highway 34 was expanded to four lanes. In the late seventies the economy slowed and the hospital was closed. In the early eighties, Miller Manufacturing relocated to McCook and closed soon after; a result of the poor farm economy. The population had only dropped to 499 by 1980, however. This may have been due in part to the upturn in the oil business. By the end of 1985 the area within a ten mile radius of Stratton boasted 380 wells which had pumped 1,697,000 barrels of oil in the preceding year (Hitchcock County History, p. 109).

Trenton started its life as “Trail City” in 1882 when the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad built a depot and section house on the north side of the Republican River in the center of Hitchcock County. Due to uneven terrain, the town was moved slightly east in 1884 and named Trenton. At the time of incorporation in 1887 the town’s population stood at 239, and the businesses were numerous.

Fig. 6: Historic birds-eye view of Main Street, Trenton, Hitchcock County, circa 1890.

A brick kiln on the T. D. Morgan homestead (site of the present day airport) provided building material for some of the construction. The town’s prosperity was due in part to
the completion of a bridge across the Republican in 1886, which opened up trade south of
the river.

Despite almost complete crop failure in some of the early years of the 1890's, Trenton
built a waterworks and successfully won the title of county seat away from Culbertson.
Construction of a new brick courthouse did wait however, until prosperity returned after
the turn-of-the-century.

The town grew in the twentieth-century, despite major fires in 1904 and 1926. The
population had increased to 592 in 1920, and by the time the town celebrated its fiftieth
anniversary the population was near 900. Following World War II, an airport and golf course
were constructed in Trenton and Trenton dam was built, providing flood control, irrigation,
and recreation on Swanson Reservoir. Population peaked just after this, at 1,299 in 1950.
Despite economic benefits derived from the oil industry in the county, Trenton's population
dropped after 1950, to 796 in 1980. Necessities were added to the town, such as a nursing
home in 1971, and in the late 1980's businesses still numbered near 60.

Towns No Longer in Existence: with approximate dates and locations

Beverly: 1881-c.1945; north central, on Frenchman Creek; brick school house still
standing

Cornell: 1800-c.1920; southeast; frame church is still standing

Driftwood: 1800-1888; southeast

Rural Communities

While the word "community" often evokes images only of towns and cities, rural areas
can also be considered communities. Regions develop in rural areas with their own
particular characteristics and often with an isolated church, store, or meeting hall as a
focal point. The following rural communities have existed over the years in Hitchcock County.

**Eden** was a farming district located in the northwest corner of the county. Eden church, built in 1907, was the focal point for the community. The congregation was established in 1892 by German settlers. The school was in use until 1971, and served as a community center.

The **Upper Driftwood** area, south of Trenton, was settled by German Lutherans who built a church, school, and cemetery.

The **Irish Community** was established in 1884 when several single Irish men arrived from McCook and settled southeast of Trenton on the divide between the Republican River and Driftwood Creek.

**Stone Ranch** was not a community, but was a distinctive element in the rural landscape. Located in the southeast part of the county, the Circle V or Stone Ranch is thought to be the oldest continual ranch in the county. The ranch house was built from stone quarried on the ranch, hence the name. Other buildings in the county are thought to have been constructed from stone from the ranch's quarry.

**Population Characteristics**

The decennial federal censuses of the population of the United States show Hitchcock County to be a typical plains county whose economy is based primarily on agriculture (see table). The population grew very rapidly in the agriculturally favorable 1880's, declined in the dry 1890's, and again grew in the first three decades of the twentieth-century. After peaking in 1930, the population began a decline that it has been in, with small variation, ever since.

The 1890 federal census indicated that the largest number of foreign born persons in
Hitchcock County were German. They accounted for four percent of the total population, while people born in Russia accounted for three percent. By 1900 these two groups had reversed order, with Russians comprising seven percent of the population and Germans three percent. In the nineteenth-century there was also a Norwegian settlement about seven miles north of Culbertson, and Irish settlements and Welsh settlements in the county (see "Rural Communities"). The majority of the Russians enumerated in the census are probably the Germans from Russia who migrated to Hitchcock County with the advent of irrigation. Recent censuses indicate only two percent still of Russian stock.

### Hitchcock County Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>5,799</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>4,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>5,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>6,045</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>7,269</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>6,404</td>
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<td>1950</td>
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<td>1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>4,079</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>3,996</td>
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</table>
Bibliography


GENERAL SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

Introduction

The primary objective of the Hitchcock 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 Hitchcock 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 Hitchcock 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 Hitchcock 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 335 properties in Hitchcock County at the completion of the survey.

B. The coverage of approximately 230,400 acres (360 square miles) in Hitchcock County.
In addition, each street of the five extant Hitchcock County communities would be surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods.

C. Identification of at least 40 properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

D. Identification of at least one 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 Hitchcock County Historic Buildings Survey was generally successful in satisfying its preliminary objectives. The satisfaction of these goals can be expressed in two quantifiable terms: numerical and geographic. Each street of the five Hitchcock County communities and nearly every rural road was surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods.

Fig. 7:  Hitchcock County rural survey map.
While the overall totals were somewhat lower than anticipated, the numbers produced by the survey still indicate the comprehensive nature of the project. A total of 536 contributing buildings, structures, objects and sites were documented on 207 individual properties. The survey canvassed approximately 202,640 acres (316.6 square miles) and identified 12 properties eligible and 51 potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Hitchcock 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). Completed Historic Context Reports residing in the NESHPO Cultural Resource Plan are indicated in bold type face.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Context</th>
<th>Properties</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02.00. Religion: Religious/Ceremonial</td>
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<tr>
<td>02.05.01. Congregational Churches in Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>02.05.02. Religion: United Church of Christ in Nebraska</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.06.01. Religion: Methodist Episcopal Church in Nebraska</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.06.04. Religion: Methodist-Protestant Church in Nebraska</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.06.07. Religion: United Methodist Church in Nebraska</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.13. Aesthetic Systems: Sculpture</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.13.01. Aesthetic Systems: Civil War Monuments</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.06. Government: Federal Government, Relief Programs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
06.01. Education: Schooling

06.01.01. Education: Rural Education

07.03. Diversion: Fairs and Expositions

07.07. Diversion: Entertainment

07.07.01. Diversion: Opera Houses Built in Nebraska

08.06. Republican Valley Gen. Farming, Cash Grain and Livestock

12.02.06. Commerce: Retail Commerce in the Republican Valley Region

13.03. Transportation: Rail

13.04.02. Transportation: Burlington Railroad

15.01. Services: Public Utilities

15.04. Services: Professional

15.05.03. Services: The Age of Main Street Banking, (1889-1920)

15.05.04. Services: The Nebraska Banking System is Tried, (1920-1940)

16.05. Settlement: Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of Hitchcock County Historic Properties

The following discussion consists of a topical summary and Preliminary Inventory of the historic properties documented during the Hitchcock 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. Properties judged eligible generally precede those considered potentially eligible. 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 Hitchcock 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.

The reconnaissance survey of Hitchcock County recorded a total of seven (7) properties associated with the context of Religion which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey. Of the seven properties, six have been included in the preliminary inventory as potentially eligible for National Register listing. In addition, one property (HK00-001:
St. Paul's Methodist-Protestant Church) was previously listed by the NESHPO to the National Register of Historic Places. The following table outlines the basic data regarding the eight total properties in Hitchcock County relating to the context of Religion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEHBS NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COMMON/RESOURCE NAME</th>
<th>HISTORIC CONTEXT</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY</th>
<th>BLDG. SITE</th>
<th>STRU.OBJ. TYPE</th>
<th>DOE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HK00-027</td>
<td>C1887</td>
<td>ROSEFIELD CEMETERY</td>
<td>02.00</td>
<td>0 1 0 0</td>
<td>02.3.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>HK00-020</td>
<td>C1910</td>
<td>ABANDONED CHURCH</td>
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<td>02.1.4:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>HK03-013</td>
<td>C1900</td>
<td>CHURCH</td>
<td>02.00</td>
<td>1 0 0 0</td>
<td>02.1.4:1</td>
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<td>HK03-022</td>
<td>C1900</td>
<td>CHURCH OF CHRIST</td>
<td>02.05.02</td>
<td>1 0 0 0</td>
<td>02.1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>HK05-033</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>CONG. CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER</td>
<td>02.05.01</td>
<td>1 0 0 0</td>
<td>02.1.4</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>HK05-020</td>
<td>1925, 1906</td>
<td>UNITED METH. CHURCH &amp; PARSON.</td>
<td>02.06.07</td>
<td>2 0 0 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>HK04-004</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>COMMUNITY METH. EPISC. CHURCH</td>
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<td>1 0 0 0</td>
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<td>P</td>
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</tr>
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<td>HK00-001</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>ST. PAUL'S METH. PROT. CHURCH</td>
<td>02.06.04</td>
<td>1 0 0 0</td>
<td>02.1.4:1</td>
<td>NRHP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While a significantly larger number of religious properties exist within Hitchcock County, only the seven properties (in addition to HK00-001) listed above met the criteria necessary for reconnaissance level survey (see NESHPO Files: Research Design). Due to the nature of reconnaissance level survey, the association of the seven properties with a specific denomination is difficult. For example, two of the properties (HK00-020, HK03-013) are not clearly linked with a specific sub-context without conducting further research.

However, preliminary investigation suggests that four newly surveyed properties are associated with existing Religion sub-contexts. The Congregational Church of the Redeemer in Trenton (HK05-033) and the Church of Christ in Palisade are linked to the Congregationalism sub-context (02.05) while the United Methodist Church in Trenton and the Community Methodist-Episcopal Church in Stratton are associated with the Methodism sub-context (02.06.).
St. Paul's Methodist-Protestant Church, commonly known as the Stone Church, is significant as a rare survivor of early stone construction and as the hub of local religious worship during the early twentieth-century.

One-story frame hall-type church building potentially significant to the development of religious worship in southern Hitchcock County.

Well-preserved one-story frame church building selected for its association with the early twentieth-century development of religious worship in Palisade.
Despite various alterations, the Palisade Church of Christ building is representative of early twentieth-century religious property types in Hitchcock County.

Well-preserved brick church building indicative of the Tudor Revival style and associated with the temporal Period of Stability and Growth (1900-1930) defined by the Congregational Historic Context Report.

Brick Church building (1925) and frame parsonage (1906) indicative of the growth of religious facilities during the first three decades of the twentieth-century.
Built in 1930, the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Stratton exemplifies Tudor Revival religious architecture. Despite compromising historic integrity, the C.1980 south addition is a good example of "sympathetic" design.

**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 these aesthetic components can be quite broad and open-ended. In terms of the Hitchcock County Historic Buildings Survey, two (2) properties were recorded which exhibit association to the Aesthetic Systems context. In addition, the Massacre Canyon Memorial (HK00-003) was previously surveyed by the NESHPO and is included in the National Register nomination of the Massacre Canyon Battlefield (25 HK 13). The following table outlines the basic data of these three properties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEHBS NUMBER</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Common/Resource</th>
<th>Historic Context</th>
<th>Contributing Property Type</th>
<th>Doe</th>
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<tr>
<td>HK00-011</td>
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<td>WWI &amp; WWII Memorial</td>
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<td>0 0 0 1 07.5.1.2.5</td>
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<td>HK00-003</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Massacre Canyon Memorial</td>
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<td>0 1 0 1 07.5.1.2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>HK00-005</td>
<td>C1900</td>
<td>Civil War Memorial</td>
<td>03.13.01</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three Aesthetic System properties recorded in Hitchcock County have been associated with the sub-context of Sculpture (H.C.: 03.13). Of the three properties recorded, one
(HK00-011: Civil War Memorial) has been judged potentially eligible for National Register listing.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-003 Rural
DATE: 1930
RESOURCE NAME: Massacre Canyon Memorial
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Aesthetic System (03.13)
PROPERTY TYPE: Memorial (07.5.1.2.5)
DOE: National Register, 1974
Large granite memorial erected in memory of the final inter-tribal Indian battle in Nebraska—August 1873.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-005 Rural
DATE: C.1900
COMMON NAME: Civil War Memorial
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Aesth. System (03.13.01)
PROPERTY TYPE: Memorial (07.5.1.2.5)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Cast iron Civil War memorial included in the inventory as a contributor to the Civil War Monuments in Nebraska Historic Context Report.

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 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 Hitchcock County found only one (1) property relating to the context of Government which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey: the city park gateposts in Trenton (HK05-016). Constructed in 1938 with the help of a grant from the Works Progress Administration, the rubble gateposts are the last identifying element to what may have been a more cohesive WPA park. Though the site lacks historic integrity as a whole, the gateposts (HK05-016) were deemed potentially eligible for associations with the WPA and as a contributor in the potential multiple property study of WPA resources in Nebraska.

**NEHBS NUMBER:** HK05-016 Trenton  
**DATE:** 1938  
**COMMON NAME:** WPA City Park Gateposts  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Government (04.06)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Gatepost (07.5.6)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible
Two stone gateposts considered for National Register listing based on their association with the Works Progress Administration relief program.

**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 Hitchcock County recorded a total of six properties associated with the context of education which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey. Among the six properties, one was considered potentially eligible for National Register listing. The six properties surveyed relate to the sub-contexts of Schooling (H.C.: 06.01) and Rural Education (H.C.: 06.01.01) and are outlined in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEHBS NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COMMON/RESOURCE NAME</th>
<th>HISTORIC CONTEXT</th>
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<th>DOE</th>
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<tr>
<td>HK02-029</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>DISTRICT #1 SCHOOL BUILDING</td>
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<td>1900</td>
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<td>1905</td>
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<td>HK00-072</td>
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<td>06.01.01</td>
<td>1 0 0 0 06.3.1:1 P</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consistent with the pattern established by previous historic buildings survey projects in Nebraska, the school buildings recorded in Hitchcock 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 rural environs, Hitchcock 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 by a gable roof placed in longitudinal orientation to the road. The school buildings recorded in Hitchcock County which fit this type are: HK00-023, HK00-037, and HK00-072.

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 1915 and 1930 and consist of a raised basement two-story masonry structure occupying the grounds of a single town block.
Education properties recorded in Hitchcock County which portray the "modern" school characteristics include HK01-001, HK02-029, and HK03-023.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-072 Rural
DATE: C.1900
COMMON NAME: Abandoned School
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education (06.01.01)
PROPERTY TYPE: Hall Type School (06.3.1:1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Rural-based schoolhouse selected for potential listing based on an association with the establishment of public education in northeastern Hitchcock County.

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 dance halls.

Hitchcock County's Historic Buildings Survey identified one (1) property associated with the context of Diversion which met the criteria for reconnaissance survey. In addition, two properties were previously recorded by the NESHPHO. Among the two previously surveyed properties, one has been judged potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: the George Wacker Commercial Building and Opera House. This property is significant for associations with the Diversion sub-context of Opera Houses Built in Nebraska (H.C.: 07.06.01). The other previously surveyed property (HK03-001: Palace Grand Theatre) was identified as non-extant during reconnaissance survey. Pertinent information regarding all three surveyed properties linked to diversion in Hitchcock County is outlined in the following table.
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 1,000 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: HK02-001 Culbertson
DATE: C.1904
RESOURCE NAME: Wacker Comm. Bldg/Opera House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Diversion (07.07.01)
PROPERTY TYPE: Mixed Use Commercial (12.1.2)
Opera House (07.1.4)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Previously surveyed by the NESHPO; mixed use commercial building and opera house. Despite severe deterioration, the Wacker Building contributes to the multiple property study of opera houses in Nebraska.
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 settlement of Hitchcock County was correspondent to the agricultural success of the early permanent settlers. Consequently, the documentation of historic agricultural properties in Hitchcock County was an important and numerically significant task. Bearing this out is the fact that a total of sixty-three (63) individual properties associated with the agriculture context were documented by the Historic Buildings Survey of Hitchcock County. These sixty-three properties accounted for 338 contributing buildings, structures and objects. Of the sixty-three total agriculture related properties in the Hitchcock County database, one (1) has been judged eligible for National Register listing with an additional fifteen (15) properties considered potentially eligible for such listing. These judgements are based on reconnaissance survey observations and must be confirmed by the NESHIPO 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 Hitchcock County is, however, doubtful. In fact, over one-third (43%) of the sixty-three agriculture properties recorded by the survey consisted of abandoned farms or farm houses. The majority of these farms range in 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, cellars, and hay barns.
Particular emphasis was placed on the observance of farm properties relating to the Republican Valley General Farming, Cash Grain and Livestock Production (H.C.: 08.06) and identified by the NESHPO as the predominant type of agriculture practised in Hitchcock County (see Historic Contexts in Nebraska--Topical Listing, 1989).

**NEHBS NUMBER:** HK00-014 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1890  
**COMMON NAME:** Abandoned Farm w/Rock Buildings  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.06)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Farm (08.1)  
  *Stone Construction (11.4.3:3)*  
**DOE:** Eligible  
Homestead property consisting of rock and grout house and pumphouse. Significant as a locally rare survivor from the Expansion of Agricultural Land (1870-1900) Temporal Period defined in the Republican Valley farming context.

**NEHBS NUMBER:** HK00-006 Rural  
**DATE:** C.1897  
**COMMON NAME:** Abandoned Farm  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Agriculture (08.06)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Farm (08.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
Despite abandonment, this property reflects the scale and character of farm buildings constructed during the 1870-1900 Expansion of Agricultural Land period in Republican Valley farming.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-010 Rural
DATE: C.1903
COMMON NAME: Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Included as a representative farm from the early 1900's. Five contributing buildings reflect farming practices during the 1900-1919 Temporal Period defined by the Republican Valley Agriculture Historic Context.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-015 Rural
DATE: C.1890, C.1910
COMMON NAME: Farm w/Stone Buildings
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
Stone Construction (11.4.3:3)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Despite the presence of non-contributing buildings, this farmstead was considered significant for the use of native materials in the construction of the banked barn, summer kitchen and outbuildings.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-016 Rural
DATE: C.1907
COMMON NAME: Abandoned Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Although abandoned and deteriorated, this farm is significant for the use of poured cement in the construction of the house, outbuildings and retaining walls. Represents large scale farming from the early twentieth-century.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-017 Rural
DATE: C.1922
RESOURCE NAME: Willard Hoyt Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Primarily important for the large frame barn with gambrel roof which dominates the farmstead. Possible stone house located behind the main house.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-022 Rural
DATE: C.1914
COMMON NAME: Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Despite non-contributing aspects, this farm is potentially significant as a representative of the 1900-1919 Beginnings of Scientific Development and Economic Prosperity period in Republican Valley farming.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-024 Rural
DATE: C.1900
COMMON NAME: Abandoned Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Significant for the stone house in addition to four contributing buildings. Important to the multiple property study of native stone construction in Nebraska.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-029 Rural
DATE: C.1915
COMMON NAME: Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Eight notable frame buildings including two houses contribute to the historic integrity of this farm. Important for association with agriculture and settlement in Hitchcock County.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-035 Rural
DATE: C.1911, C.1927
COMMON NAME: Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Two periods of farm building construction are represented in this farm which contains eight contributing buildings and five contributing structures.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-041 Rural
DATE: C.1927
COMMON NAME: Clay Tile Outbuilding
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Outbuilding (08.1.02)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Potential significance based on the presence of the large clay tile L-shaped outbuilding. Included as a future research building on otherwise non-contributing property.
Despite deterioration, this abandoned farm displays the scale and function of early twentieth-century farm practice in Hitchcock County as exhibited by the six contributing buildings.

Visually obscured from reconnaissance survey view. Potentially noteworthy primarily for the use of cement or stone in the construction of the house.

Important for possible associations with ethnic cultures and as a livestock producing farm representing the Republican Valley Agriculture Historic Context.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-064 Rural
DATE: C.1918
COMMON NAME: Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Six notable buildings contribute to the historic integrity of this farm. Significant as an example of the development of agriculture and settlement in Hitchcock County.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-076 Rural
DATE: 1928
COMMON NAME: Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Four contributing buildings reflect farm practices common during the 1919-1930 Economic Decline and Increased Mechanization period defined in the Republican Valley Agriculture Historic Context.

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 Hitchcock County found twenty-eight (28) properties related to the context of Commerce which met the criteria for reconnaissance level survey.
Among the twenty-eight properties, three (3) were judged eligible and nine (9) potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The twenty-eight properties surveyed relate to the sub-context of Retail Commerce in the Republican Valley Region (H.C.: 12.02.06). In addition to the twenty-eight properties found during the 1990 survey, one building (HK05-011) in Trenton was previously assessed into the NEHBS database under Section 106 (Review and Compliance) of the National Historic Preservation Act. Pertinent information regarding the twenty-nine total properties linked to Commerce in Hitchcock County is outlined in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEHBS NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COMMERCIAL/RESOURCE NAME</th>
<th>HISTORIC CONTEXT</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING BLDG.</th>
<th>SITE STRU.</th>
<th>OBJ. TYPE</th>
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<td>HK05-025</td>
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<td>HK03-045</td>
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<td>HK05-027</td>
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<td>HK02-017</td>
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Main street commercial buildings accounted for the majority of the 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 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 Hitchcock County for this type was from 1890 to 1910. 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-story 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: HK03-045 Palisade
DATE: C.1911
RESOURCE NAME: Former Valley Hotel
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Hotel (12.3.1)
DOE: Eligible
Two-story brick "main street" hotel which has retained a high degree of historic integrity. Important as a contributor to the multiple property study of hotels in Nebraska and to the development of commerce in Palisade.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-019 Palisade
DATE: 1920
COMMON NAME: Commercial Garage
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
                      Transportation (13.03)
PROPERTY TYPE: Commercial Garage (13.3.3.4)
DOE: Eligible
Included in the Preliminary Inventory as a well-preserved contributor to the Historic Contexts of Commerce and Transportation in Hitchcock County.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-020 Palisade
DATE: C.1920
COMMON NAME: Commercial Garage
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
                      Transportation (13.03)
PROPERTY TYPE: Commercial Garage (13.3.3.4)
DOE: Eligible
One-story, brick commercial garage with corbelled cornice. Significant contributor to commerce and transportation during the Development and Growth Temporal Period.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-021 Palisade
DATE: C.1890
COMMON NAME: Commercial Building/Store
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
                      Transportation (13.03)
PROPERTY TYPE: Store (12.1.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Despite altered siding on the south facade, this frame structure is a rare survivor of late nineteenth-century commercial buildings and is important to the historic character of Palisade's business district.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-040
DATE: C.1916
COMMON NAME: Commercial Building
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Commercial Building (12.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Well-preserved double wide commercial building. Considered significant as an example of masonry commercial building types in Hitchcock County.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-043 Palisade
DATE: C.1916
COMMON NAME: Commercial Building
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Commercial Building (12.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
One-story double wide commercial building with two shops important to the historic fabric of Palisade's business district.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-044 Palisade
DATE: C.1917
COMMON NAME: Commercial Building
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Commercial Building (12.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Triple-wide brick commercial building significant for association with early twentieth-century retail commerce in Hitchcock County.
Frame commercial building indicative of the false front compositional type and significant as an example of sole proprietor retail commerce.

Significant contributor to the central business district of Trenton during the Spurious Economic Growth and Post-War periods in Trenton. Also contributes to the multiple property study of hotels in Nebraska.

One-story brick garage important in the development of transportation related support facilities during the advent of the mass-produced automobile.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-036 Palisade
DATE: C.1928
COMMON NAME: Service Station
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
Transportation (13.03)
PROPERTY TYPE: Filling Station (13.3.3.3)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Included in the Inventory as an example of the "full service" gas station property type associated with the contexts of Commerce and Transportation. Located near former Roosevelt Highway (currently U.S. Highway 6).

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-037 Palisade
DATE: C.1921
COMMON NAME: Former Filling Station
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12.02.06)
Transportation (13.03)
PROPERTY TYPE: Filling Station (13.3.3.3)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Irregular-shaped brick filling station with porte-cochere. Exemplifies the evolution of automobile support facilities and their impact on the landscape.

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 Hitchcock County did not find any properties strictly associated with Transportation which met the criteria for reconnaissance level. However, two (2) properties in Hitchcock County relating to the context of Transportation were previously recorded by the NESHPO. Identified in 1980 under a statewide survey of Nebraska depots, the C.B. & Q. Railroad depots (HK05-006: C.1888 and HK05-007: C.1952) both contribute to the historical development of Transportation and Settlement in Trenton. The 1888 depot consists of a one and one-half story frame freight and passenger building exhibiting a moderate degree of historic integrity with respect to its considerable age. Pertinent information regarding the two depots is outlined in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEHBS NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COMMON/RESOURCE NAME</th>
<th>HISTORIC CONTEXT</th>
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</table>

Because the primary emphasis of Transportation related properties involves the generation of income, many properties have been catalogued in the Commerce Historic Context database with secondary reference to the context of Transportation. Examples of Commerce related property types with association to transportation include gas stations, commercial garages, and hotels.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK05-006 Trenton
DATE: C.1885
RESOURCE NAME: C. B. & Q. Railroad Depot
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Transportation (13.04.06)
PROPERTY TYPE: Depot (13.5.2)
DOE: Eligible
Included in the 1980 Nebraska Depot Survey conducted by the NESHPO. HK05-006 exemplifies the development of railroad transportation and is an excellent example of a late nineteenth-century small town depot.

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 Hitchcock County found seven (7) properties worthy of recordation based on reconnaissance survey criteria. Among the seven properties, one (1) has been judged eligible for National Register listing: a professional building in Palisade (HK03-033). In addition, three (3) other Service related properties were also considered potentially eligible for National Register listing. The seven recorded properties represent a good cross-section of sub-contexts within the Services topic. These sub-contexts consist of: Public Utilities (H.C.:15.01.), Professional Services (H.C.:15.04.), The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska (1890-1920), (H.C.:15.05.03.), and The Nebraska
Banking System is Tried: Agriculture and Economic Distress (1920-1940), (H.C.: 15.05.04.).

An outline of data regarding the seven properties is included in the following table.

<table>
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<th>NEHBS NUMBER</th>
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**NEHBS NUMBER:** HK03-033 Palisade  
**DATE:** C.1913  
**COMMON NAME:** Professional Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Service (15.04)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Professional Building (15.3.1)  
**DOE:** Eligible  
One-story brick professional building with two offices. Important to context and property type development in Hitchcock County.

**NEHBS NUMBER:** HK03-038 Palisade  
**DATE:** C.1912  
**COMMON NAME:** Professional Building  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:** Service (15.04)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Professional Building (15.3.1)  
**DOE:** Potentially Eligible  
Well-preserved brick building determined significant for associations with twentieth-century Professional Services in Palisade. Contributes to the historic character of Palisade's central business district.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK05-026 Trenton
DATE: C.1912
COMMON NAME: Professional Building
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Service (15.04)
PROPERTY TYPE: Professional Building (15.3.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Good example of early twentieth-century professional practice building in Hitchcock County. Despite razing of adjacent structure, this modest brick building retains a high degree of historic integrity.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK05-037 Trenton
DATE: C.1924
COMMON NAME: Bank
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Service (15.05.04)
PROPERTY TYPE: Bank (15.1.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
One-story brick bank potentially eligible to the National Register based on its role in the establishment of financial services during early twentieth-century settlement in Trenton.

**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 Hitchcock County. Of the 224 total recorded properties in Hitchcock County meeting the criteria for reconnaissance level survey, 102 or 45.5% fall within the context of Settlement. The majority of these were recognized simply as contributors to the historic built environment of Hitchcock County. However, six (6) properties were judged eligible and fourteen (14) potentially eligible for National Register listing.

The retention of historic integrity that these 102 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) of Hitchcock County was no exception: 155 houses were documented, or 33.3% 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 may assist in identifying these houses during building surveys.
Further research 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 rubric of "type." The term "supratype" 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 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).

Hitchcock 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. Once houses are documented, the information is then analyzed to determine the number of each different type. There are usually many different types, due to variations in width, height, and roof configurations. Most houses however, can be categorized into a "family" of similar house forms. "Families" consist of house groupings based on core, roof shape, and orientation to the site.

The residential properties documented in the Hitchcock County survey are represented by forty-eight 48 different types in 155 houses. Numerical designation has been assigned to each of these forty-eight types (e.g., S.1, S.2, S.3, etc.). A master list of the forty-eight individual types is found in the NESHPO Survey Report file. While forty-eight different types may seem like a tremendous variation for 155 total resources, a smaller group actually represents the majority of documented houses. In fact, four types (S.12, S.13, S.17, and S.38) account for 43.2% of all recorded sites. Furthermore, 83.2% of all Hitchcock County houses fit into one of only four dominant families. The following pages illustrate some of the numerically significant house types documented in Hitchcock County.
Family #1

This family, composed of ten various types, represents 31.6% of all Hitchcock County house types. The common characteristics displayed by this group are a rectangular-shaped core covered by a gable roof with the broad dimension of the core facing the street. Of the ten combinations comprising this family, two distinct types are numerically significant: S.12 (12.3%) and S.6 (5.2%)
This family, composed of five various types, represents 22.6% of all Hitchcock County house types. Identical to the form of Family #1, the distinguishing difference is in the longitudinal orientation (versus the latitudinal orientation of the former family). Of the nine different combinations comprising this family, two distinct types are numerically significant: S.13 (14.2%) and S.7 (5.8%).
Family #3

This family, composed of nine various types, represents 16.8% of all Hitchcock 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 nine combinations comprising this family, one type appeared most frequently: S.38 (7.1%).
Family #4

This family, composed of five various types, represents 12.3% of all Hitchcock 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 five combinations comprising this family, S.17 appears most frequently (9.7%).
Settlement Preliminary Inventory

NEHBS NUMBER: HK02-002 Culbertson
DATE: C.1901
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Eligible
Despite a non-contributing rear addition, this one and one-half story brick building is important for its portrayal of town settlement during the Development and Growth Temporal Period (Topical Listing: NESHPO, 1989).

NEHBS NUMBER: HK02-009 Culbertson
DATE: C.1926
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Eligible
Built during the Spurious Economic Growth period of the 1920's (Topical Listing: NESHPO 1989), this building is a well-preserved example of the popular bungaloid house type.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK02-021 Culbertson
DATE: C.1900
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Eligible
Frame house with Eastlake porch, side box bay and pedimented window hoods; important as a well-preserved example of turn-of-the-century domestic architecture in Hitchcock County.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK02-030 Culbertson
DATE: C.1900
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Eligible
Well-preserved example of early twentieth-century domestic architecture in Hitchcock County. Contributes to the context of early Settlement in Culbertson.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-015 Palisade
DATE: C.1910
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Eligible
Large two-story frame house with wrap-around porch, ionic columns and fishscale shingle siding. Possible associations with person of local significance.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-024 Palisade
DATE: C.1895
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Eligible
Eligible for National Register listing as an early example of masonry construction from the Development and Growth Temporal Period (1890-1920) as defined by the NESHPO (Topical Listing: NESHPO 1989).
NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-008 Rural
DATE: C.1885
COMMON NAME: Abandoned Homestead
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible

One-story frame hall and parlor house deemed significant as a locally rare survivor of the Settlement and Expansion period (1867-1890), and for possible association with Homestead Act settlement.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK00-044 Rural
DATE: C.1899
COMMON NAME: Abandoned Farm
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Farm (08.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible

Included in the Preliminary Inventory under Criterion D of the National Register. Further research of this property may reveal association with Homestead Act settlement in Hitchcock County.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK02-016 Culbertson
DATE: C.1900
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible

Despite possible alterations to the original exterior material, this stucco house remains an important contributor to the historic character of Settlement in Culbertson.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK02-024 Culbertson
DATE: C.1920
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-006 Palisade
DATE: C.1910
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Modest frame bungalow retaining a high degree of historic integrity and exemplifying the popularity of the Bungalow house type dominant during the 1910’s and 1920’s.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-012 Palisade
DATE: C.1913
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
One and one-half story frame house indicative of domestic architecture in the early twentieth century. Contributes to the historic context of Settlement in Palisade.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-014 Palisade  
DATE: C.1916  
COMMON NAME: House  
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)  
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
DOE: Potentially Eligible  
Well-preserved bungalow style house built during the Development and Growth period (1890-1920) in Hitchcock County.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK03-016  
DATE: C.1906  
COMMON NAME: House  
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)  
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
DOE: Potentially Eligible  
One-story concrete block house significant for the early use of alternative building materials in house construction and the retention of historic integrity.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK04-001 Stratton  
DATE: C.1926  
COMMON NAME: House  
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)  
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling: Bungalow (16.5.1:5.2)  
DOE: Potentially Eligible  
Significant representative of the "Bungalow" house type in Hitchcock County. Portrays the evolution of single family dwellings types in early twentieth-century Nebraska.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK04-009 Stratton  
DATE: C.1927  
COMMON NAME: House  
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)  
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling:  
Bungalow (16.5.1:5.2)  
DOE: Potentially Eligible  
Brick and stucco house significant as an example of the bungalow style popularized during the Spurious Economic Growth period of the 1920's (See Topical Listing: NESHPO 1989).

NEHBS NUMBER: HK04-011 Stratton  
DATE: C.1896  
COMMON NAME: House  
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)  
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
DOE: Potentially Eligible  
Deemed eligible to the National Register for association with early settlement in Stratton and for the use of brick masonry in the construction of the one-story rectangular house.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK04-012 Stratton  
DATE: C.1908  
COMMON NAME: House  
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)  
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)  
DOE: Potentially Eligible  
One-story frame house with double internal chimney. Potentially eligible as a well-preserved example of early twentieth-century domestic architecture in Stratton.
NEHBS NUMBER: HK04-015 Stratton
DATE: C.1938
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
Well-preserved example of period revival house types built during the 1930's and late 1940's. Important to the evolutionary study of post-settlement housing trends.

NEHBS NUMBER: HK04-017 Stratton
DATE: C.1910
COMMON NAME: House
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement (16.05)
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)
DOE: Potentially Eligible
One-story frame house with attached L-shaped front porch. Chosen as an example of early twentieth-century domestic architecture and as a contributor to the historic character of Stratton.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

By nature, reconnaissance level surveys often generate more questions than answers. These surveys provide an excellent preview of extant historic resources in Nebraska, but should be viewed only as the beginning of more extensive research efforts. The purpose of the recommendations for future work is to guide these efforts towards the buildings of potential historic significance within Hitchcock County.

Throughout the duration of the Hitchcock County survey, random observations were recorded regarding historic context themes which appeared 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. These recommendations include National Register nominations of the properties presented in the Preliminary Inventory (see p. 28-68), suggestions for further Historic Context development, research questions, and potential Multiple Property projects.

Potential Historic Context Reports

Republican Valley General Farming, Cash Grain and Livestock Production (H.C.: 08.06.) was identified by the NESHPO as the predominant type of agriculture practised in Hitchcock County. This context report was developed in 1990 by the NESHPO and served as a vital reference in determining the qualification of properties for reconnaissance level recordation. However, due to a lack of survey data, the current form of the report does not include discussion regarding property types. Now that the survey is complete and the Agriculture database contains approximately 338 contributing resources, it is our recommendation that a discussion of Republican Valley General Farming, Cash Grain and Livestock Production property types be integrated into the existing report.
The development of historic context reports relative to ethnic groups in Hitchcock County is also worthy of recommendation. The most numerically significant foreign-born immigrant groups to settle in Hitchcock County include German-Americans (H.C.: 18.05.01.), German-Russian Settlement in Nebraska (H.C.: 18.06.02.), Norwegian-Americans in Nebraska (H.C.: 18.04.03.), Irish-Americans in Nebraska (H.C.: 18.02.02.), and Welsh-Americans in Nebraska (H.C.: 18.02.04.).

In addition, three Settlement related contexts appear significant with regard to the surveyed properties in Hitchcock County: Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement (H.C.: 16.05.), Land Ownership: The Homestead Act, 1862 (H.C.: 16.01.), and Land Ownership: The Kinkaid Act, 1904 (H.C.: 16.01.). Properties of historic significance with respect to these topics are found in the Agriculture Inventory (p. 38-44) and the Settlement Inventory (p. 54-68).
Conclusion

It is our belief that people, and the places they live, are the raw materials of history. The built environment, and its development through time, are proper subjects for research for it is through the study of the past that we gain a fuller comprehension of the present. The need for preserving historic properties was expressed on a national level in 1966 by Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine as he addressed the eighty-ninth Congress on 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 1991, America has passed the halfway point in the forty-year period of expansion delineated in this speech. 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 does not say that all older buildings are worthy of preservation. In some cases, the neglect or destruction of non-contributing buildings has no adverse affect on the historic character of the built environment. However, the heightening of public awareness and the education of our elected public officials to the concept of historic preservation is a topic not open to subjectivity. It is imperative that documentation and review of threatened historic buildings be conducted and appropriate decisions made regarding the cultural value of historic properties. It was toward this goal that the historic built environment of the Republican Valley and Central Plains region was preliminarily recorded. It is our hope that the historic properties within this region will be enjoyed by many future generations of Nebraska citizens.
### APPENDICES

#### APPENDIX 1: Hitchcock County Town and Rural Inventory of all Surveyed Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COMMON/RESOURCE</th>
<th>HISTORIC CONTEXT</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING SITE</th>
<th>STRU. OBJ.</th>
<th>PROPERTY TYPE</th>
<th>DOE</th>
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HK01: BEVERLY, HITCHCOCK COUNTY INVENTORY

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**HK03: PALISADE, HITCHCOCK COUNTY INVENTORY**

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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 general periods of construction, 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.

**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 over-hanging eaves, two stories high with one-story porch, and an overall horizontal emphasis in the design.

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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