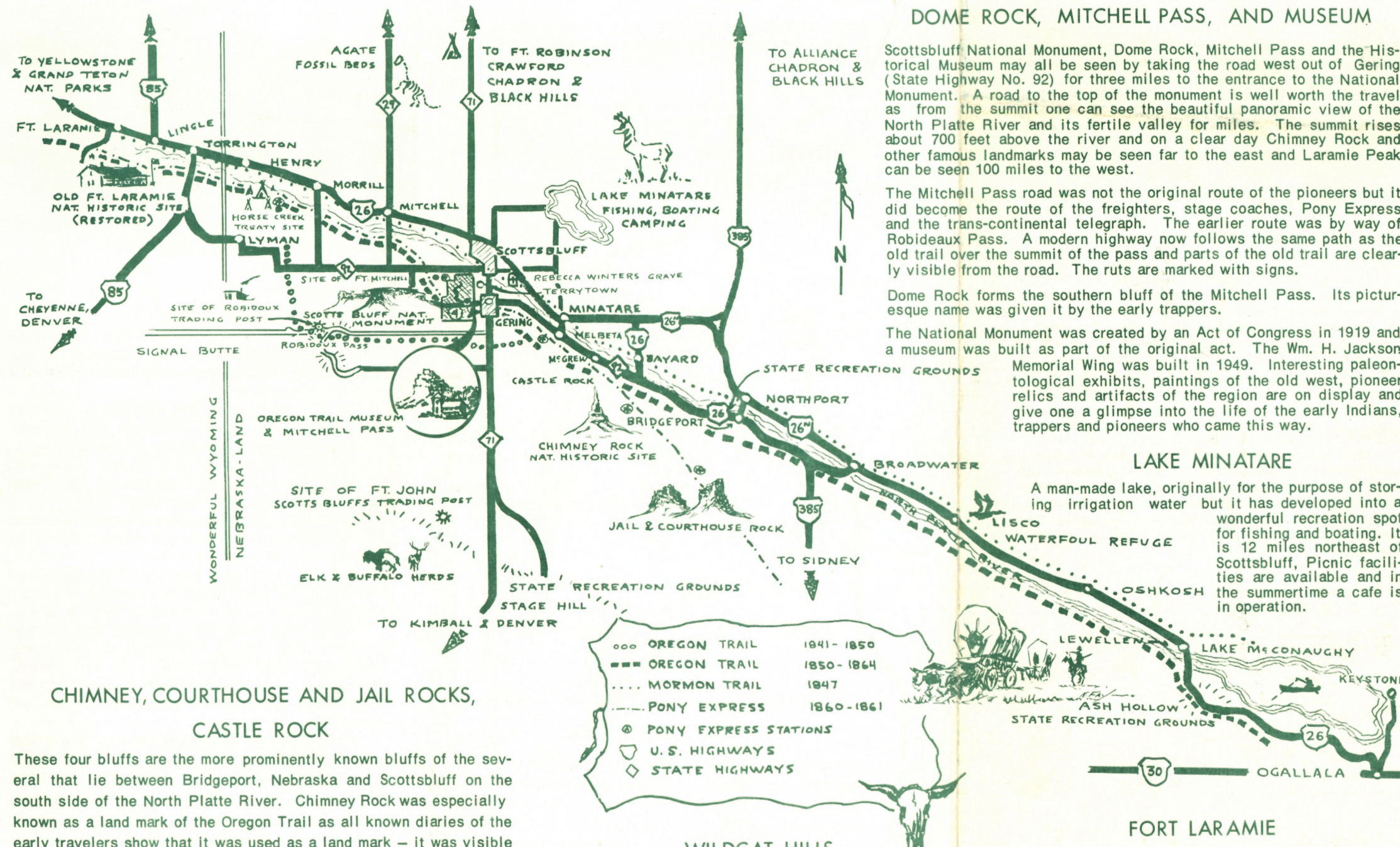




## SCOTTSBLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT, DOME ROCK, MITCHELL PASS, AND MUSEUM

Scottsbluff National Monument, Dome Rock, Mitchell Pass and the Historical Museum may all be seen by taking the road west out of Gering (State Highway No. 92) for three miles to the entrance to the National Monument. A road to the top of the monument is well worth the travel as from the summit one can see the beautiful panoramic view of the North Platte River and its fertile valley for miles. The summit rises about 700 feet above the river and on a clear day Chimney Rock and other famous landmarks may be seen far to the east and Laramie Peak can be seen 100 miles to the west.

The Mitchell Pass road was not the original route of the pioneers but it did become the route of the freighters, stage coaches, Pony Express and the trans-continental telegraph. The earlier route was by way of Robideaux Pass. A modern highway now follows the same path as the old trail over the summit of the pass and parts of the old trail are clearly visible from the road. The ruts are marked with signs.

Dome Rock forms the southern bluff of the Mitchell Pass. Its picturesque name was given it by the early trappers.

The National Monument was created by an Act of Congress in 1919 and a museum was built as part of the original act. The Wm. H. Jackson Memorial Wing was built in 1949. Interesting paleontological exhibits, paintings of the old west, pioneer relics and artifacts of the region are on display and give one a glimpse into the life of the early Indians, trappers and pioneers who came this way.

### LAKE MINATARE

A man-made lake, originally for the purpose of storing irrigation water but it has developed into a wonderful recreation spot for fishing and boating. It is 12 miles northeast of Scottsbluff, Picnic facilities are available and in the summertime a cafe is in operation.

### FORT LARAMIE

This is the most historic place in the entire west. First as a trading post, then as an army post, the history of the west is tied in with this spot. Literature telling its story may be obtained at the fort; no attempt to do so will be made here. Now a National Monument, the National Park Service is restoring the existing buildings as rapidly as its funds will permit. At the town of Fort Laramie, a sign will direct visitors to the fort, which is on the other side of the river.

### CHIMNEY, COURTHOUSE AND JAIL ROCKS, CASTLE ROCK

These four bluffs are the more prominently known bluffs of the several that lie between Bridgeport, Nebraska and Scottsbluff on the south side of the North Platte River. Chimney Rock was especially known as a land mark of the Oregon Trail as all known diaries of the early travelers show that it was used as a land mark — it was visible for 40 miles and in the days of the slow moving covered wagon, this famous land mark was an objective that served as an incentive to reach the fine camp site located directly north of it on the river.

Many other formations also were given names by the pioneers but did not gain the prominence of Chimney, Castle, Courthouse and Jail Rocks. They may be seen by going east on Highway 92 from Gering, Nebraska and travelling as far down as Bayard, Nebraska.

### WILDCAT HILLS AND GAME RESERVE

This beautiful scenic spot is a State Game Reserve containing buffalo, elk and deer. It has picnic facilities with clear running water and contains several miles of foot paths. It is 8 miles south of Scottsbluff on Highway 71.



Scotts Bluff National Monument

### Scottsbluff-Gering Nebraska

# TOURING THE TRAILS

This pamphlet contains two self-guided tours of attractions in the Scottsbluff-Gering area.

Prepared by

SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chimney Rock





Tour Number One

1—RIVERSIDE PARK ZOO. Housing animals from around the world, Riverside Zoo is the largest free zoo in Nebraska. Also available in the park are approximately 40 camp sites, some with utility hook-ups, as well as playground and picnic areas.

2—SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTRY CLUB. This nine-hole grass green golf course is for members and their guests only. Members of other clubs are welcome. An 18-hole public course, Riverview Golf Club, is also located in Scottsbluff.

3—SCOTTS BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT. The bluffs served as a landmark on the Oregon and Mormon Trails. It also served the fur trappers and traders heading for the beaver country to the west. The Oregon Trail Museum located near Mitchell Pass is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. until sundown during the summer and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the rest of the year. The road to the top of the monument is open every day of the year except Christmas. From the summit of Scotts Bluff Monument one may see 125 miles to the west.

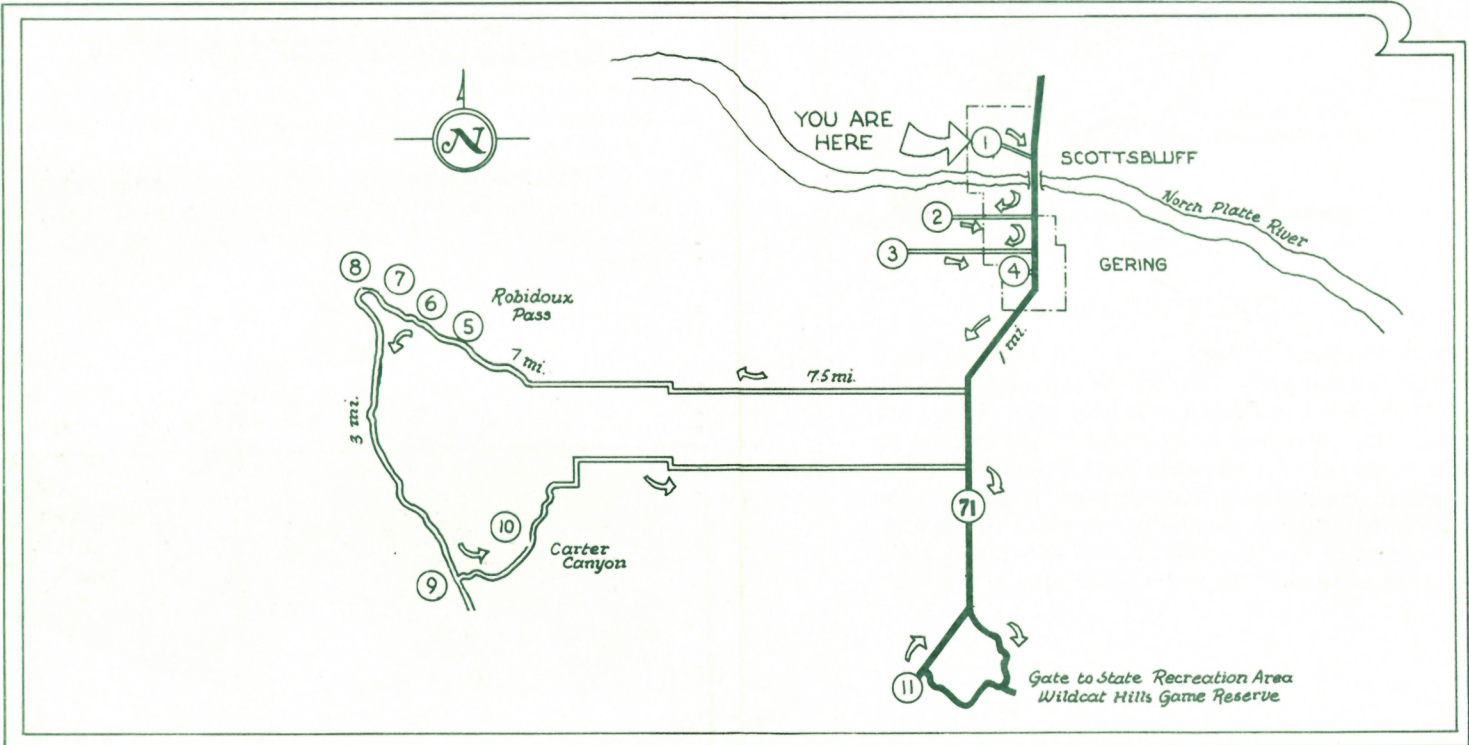
NORTH PLATTE VALLEY MUSEUM:  
4 — The museum has over 1,500 historical articles on display telling the history of the North Platte Valley and its people. Temporary location in Gering at 1349 10th St. Permanent location is to be in the Oregon Trail Park where they now have a log cabin and the sod house, which are of late 1800 vintage. The new museum building will be completed by September of 1973. Located in the museum is to be an information booth with free maps, brochures, etc. The museum at its present location is open to the public on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. during the winter, and from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. every day during the summer.

5—ROBIDOUX PASS. Western traffic passed through this pass from 1843 to 1851. It was a longer route, but the only pass through the Wild Cat Hills prior to 1869 when the U.S. Army cleared out Scotts Bluff Pass.

6—ROBIDOUX BLACKSMITH SHOP. On the left side of the road is the monument for the Robidoux Blacksmith Shop. On the right are the pioneer graves.

Tour Number One

Scotts Bluff Monument



7—TRAIL RUTS. To the north (right) side of the road ruts made by the traffic of the fur traders and emigrants headed for the Rocky Mountains and the West Coast are visible.

8—LARAMIE PEAK. Looking to the west, a clear day reveals Laramie Peak, 114 miles in the distance.

9—PIONEER TRAIL. The Old Pioneer Trail, a local highway for settlers in the area, passed this point. It carried traffic from the Pumpkin Creek Valley to the North Platte Valley.

10—ROBIDOUX TRADING POST. Here, where the old Indian Trail entered Carter Canyon and where the Indians camped on their trek across the hills, Robidoux built his second trading post in the area.

11—WILDCAT HILLS GAME RESERVE. Scenic views, camping facilities, and herds of buffalo, elk and deer can be seen in this wildlife enclosure.

Tour Number Two

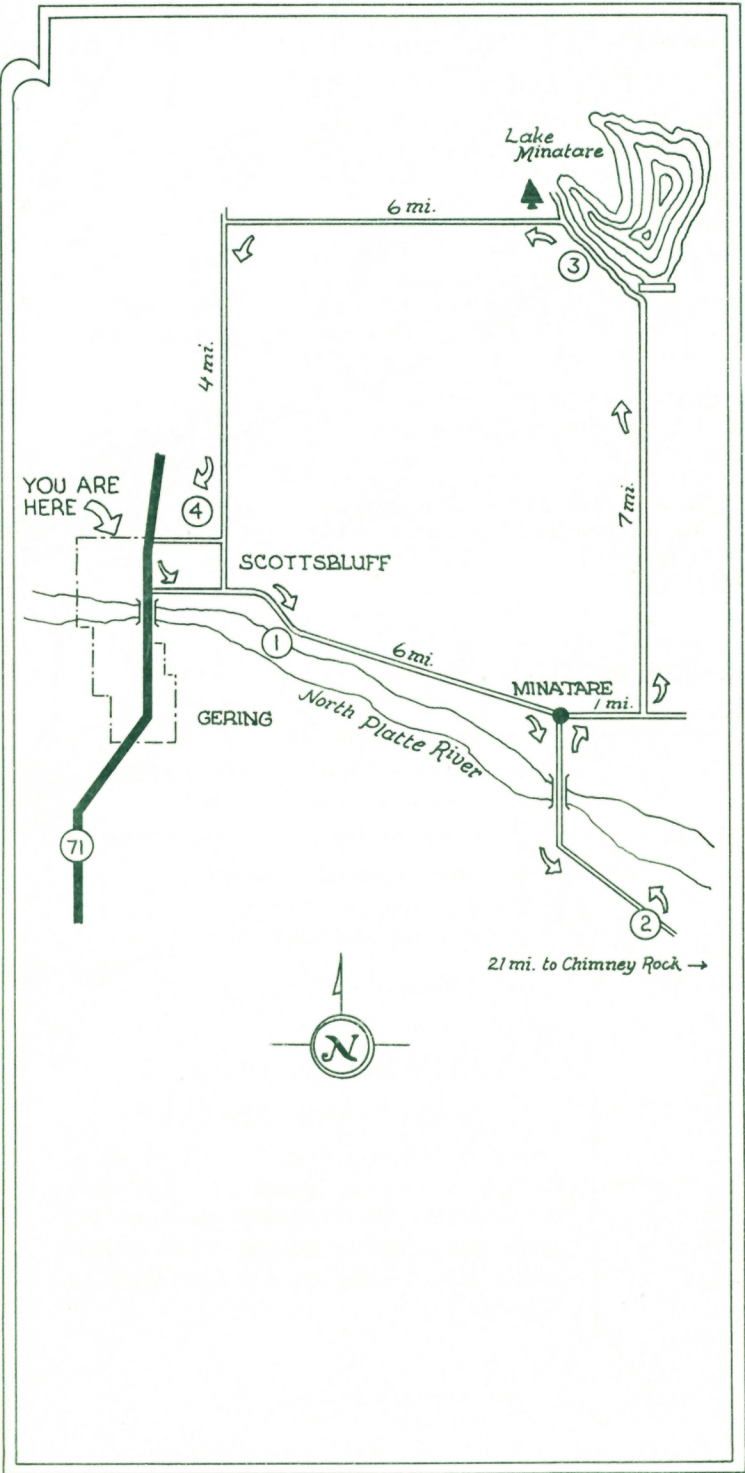
1—REBECCA WINTERS GRAVE. Rebecca Winters was born in New York state in 1802 and was a pioneer in the Church of the Latter Day Saints. In June of 1852, Rebecca, with her husband, Hiram, joined others of their faith in the great journey to Utah. Rebecca contracted the dreaded disease cholera and died. A friend chiseled her name and the year on an iron wagon tire to mark her grave on the prairie. In 1902, surveyors for the Burlington railroad found the crude marker and changed the right-of-way for the railroad. A historical marker now stands at the site of the grave.

2—CHIMNEY ROCK. One of the most important landmarks for all early day travelers headed west, Chimney Rock became a national historic site in 1956. The site is jointly administered by the City of Bayard, the Nebraska State Historical Society and the National Park Service. The unit stationed there is owned by the State of Nebraska. There are no trails or roads to the rock, but many good views of "The Chimney" may be obtained from Highway 92.

3—LAKE MINATARE STATE RECREATION AREA. Facilities for camping, fishing, boating, water skiing, and picnicking, as well as a restaurant, are found here. A panoramic view of the lake and surrounding area can be had by visiting the "Light House of the Plains" which was built during the depression by CCC workers.

4—NEBRASKA WESTERN COLLEGE. Built in Nebraska Western is one of the most modern facilities for a two year college in Nebraska.

Tour Number Two Chimney Rock



Wildcat Hills

History comes alive in the Nebraska Panhandle. With the help of this pamphlet, all you need add to bring pioneer days back to life is a touch of imagination.

As you catch your first glimpse of Chimney Rock, imagine the awe of the pioneer who had been traveling for weeks across the flat prairie.

Stand at the mouth of Mitchell Pass and imagine the creaks and rattles of Conestoga wagons lumbering their way West.

Gaze from Robidoux Pass towards Laramie Peak and imagine the feeling of distance which the pioneer traveler must have felt.

Look from the top of Scotts Bluff Monument or the Wildcat Hills and imagine a band of early-day Indians on the trail of a herd of buffalo far below.

These, and many other insights into history, are here for the taking. A few days or hours spent in the Scottsbluff-Gering area can be the highlight of a vacation journey or a short trip. Youngsters and oldsters alike will find something to enjoy and remember.

And while you're enjoying history, take a look around at the Scottsbluff or Gering of today. Enjoy our modern facilities, stay awhile, and come back often.

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