

SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
Scotts Bluff National Monument
190276 Old Oregon Trail Road
Gering
Scotts Bluff County
Nebraska

HABS NE-47
HABS NE-47

PHOTOGRAPHS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

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Large format photographs by Daniel R. Pratt, March 2017

Scale stick in photographs is 4 feet long.

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| NE-47-1 | CONTEXT VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER FROM SOUTH OVERLOOK, LOOKING SOUTHWEST. |
| NE-47-2 | CONTEXT VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER FROM EAGLE ROCK TUNNEL, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST. |
| NE-47-3 | ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER, SOUTHWEST (MAIN) FAÇADE, EXTERIOR, LOOKING NORTHEAST. |
| NE-47-4 | OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER, NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST TOWER ELEVATIONS, EXTERIOR, LOOKING EAST. |
| NE-47-5 | ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER MAIN ENTRANCE ON SOUTHWEST (MAIN) FAÇADE, EXTERIOR, LOOKING NORTHEAST. |
| NE-47-6 | OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER NICHE NEAR MAIN ENTRANCE ON SOUTHWEST (MAIN) FAÇADE, EXTERIOR, LOOKING EAST. |
| NE-47-7 | OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EAVES ON SOUTH CORNER OF TOWER ROOF, EXTERIOR, LOOKING UP AND NORTH. |
| NE-47-8 | OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER FIRST FLOOR EAVES, ADJACENT TO MAIN ENTRANCE ON SOUTHWEST (MAIN) FAÇADE, EXTERIOR, LOOKING UP AND NORTH. |
| NE-47-9 | OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER SOUTHWEST (MAIN) FAÇADE OF SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, EXTERIOR, LOOKING NORTHWEST. |

SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 2)

NE-47-10	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER WALL AND FOUNDATION DETAIL, SOUTH CORNER OF SOUTHWEST (MAIN) FAÇADE, EXTERIOR, LOOKING NORTH.
NE-47-11	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER PARTITION WALL NORTHWEST ELEVATION, EXTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTH.
NE-47-12	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER SOUTHEAST PORTION OF NORTHEAST (REAR) ELEVATION, EXTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-13	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER SOUTHEAST PORTION OF NORTHEAST (REAR) ELEVATION, PROJECTION BOOTH, AND OUTDOOR THEATER, EXTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-14	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER NORTHWEST PORTION OF NORTHEAST (REAR) ELEVATION, PROJECTION BOOTH, AND OUTDOOR THEATER, EXTERIOR, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-15	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER OFFICE ENTRANCE ON NORTHEAST (REAR) ELEVATION, EXTERIOR, LOOKING WEST.
NE-47-16	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER SOUTHEAST ELEVATIONS IN REAR OF BUILDING, EXTERIOR, LOOKING WEST.
NE-47-17	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER NORTHEAST ELEVATION OF NORTH EXHIBIT EXTENSION OF BUILDING, EXTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-18	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER ENTRANCE ON NORTHWEST ELEVATION AND TOWER, EXTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTH.
NE-47-19	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER LIGHT FIXTURE NEAR ENTRANCE ON NORTHWEST ELEVATION, EXTERIOR, LOOKING EAST.
NE-47-20	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER ENTRANCE ON NORTHWEST ELEVATION AND TOWER, EXTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTH.

SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 3)

NE-47-21	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER ENTRANCE ON NORTHWEST ELEVATION AND TOWER, EXTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-22	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER LOBBY, INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST.
NE-47-23	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER LOBBY, INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST.
NE-47-24	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER LOBBY CHANDELIER, INTERIOR, LOOKING UP AND SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-25	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER FRONT OFFICE, INTERIOR SOUTHWEST AND NORTHEAST WALLS, LOOKING WEST.
NE-47-26	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER FRONT OFFICE, HALLWAY TO NORTHWEST BUILDING ENTRANCE, EMPLOYEE RESTROOM, AND WEST BASEMENT DOOR, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
NE-47-27	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER FRONT OFFICE, INTERIOR NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST WALLS AND STAIRS TO SECOND FLOOR TOWER OFFICE, LOOKING EAST.
NE-47-28	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EMPLOYEE RESTROOM, INTERIOR NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST WALLS, LOOKING EAST.
NE-47-29	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER LOBBY EXTENSION, REAR OFFICE DOORS ON NORTHEAST WALL INTERIOR, LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR.
NE-47-30	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL IN LOBBY EXTENSION: "SCOTTS BLUFF ON THE OREGON TRAIL," LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-31	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER CLOSET AND GUEST REGISTER AREA, INTERIOR, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
NE-47-32	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTH.
NE-47-33	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST.

SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 4)

NE-47-34	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "FOSSILS AND THE EMIGRANTS," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
NE-47-35	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "LIFE ON THE ANCIENT PLAINS," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
NE-47-36	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "HOW THE BLUFFS WERE FORMED," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
NE-47-37	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "SKULL OF TITANOTHERE," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
NE-47-38	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "WILDLIFE SEEN BY EMIGRANTS," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-39	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "THE FIRST WHITE MEN AT SCOTTS BLUFF," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-40	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "THE TRAGEDY OF HIRAM SCOTT," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-41	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "WHEELS ACROSS THE PLAINS," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-42	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "THE MORMON TRAIL," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-43	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "SETTING THE STAGE," NORTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-44	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER REAR OFFICE, LOOKING EAST. (CORNER OFFICE DOOR ON LEFT AND BASEMENT DOOR ON RIGHT IN BACKGROUND.)
NE-47-45	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER REAR OFFICE, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST. (DOOR TO LOBBY EXTENSION IN BACKGROUND.)

SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 5)

NE-47-46	VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER CORNER OFFICE, LOOKING EAST.
NE-47-47	VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING EAST-SOUTHEAST.
NE-47-48	VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST.
NE-47-49	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "THE MORMON TRAIL," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
NE-47-50	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "PASSING OF THE FRONTIER," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
NE-47-51	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "SCOTTS BLUFF AND THE 49ERS," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
NE-47-52	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "OX TEAM TO 'IRON HORSES,'" SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
NE-47-53	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "LIFE ON THE TRAIL," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
NE-47-54	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "ANCIENT MAN," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-55	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "MOUNTED HUNTERS OF THE PLAINS," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-56	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "THE AMERICAN FUR COMPANY'S POSTS," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-57	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "MITCHELL PASS," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.

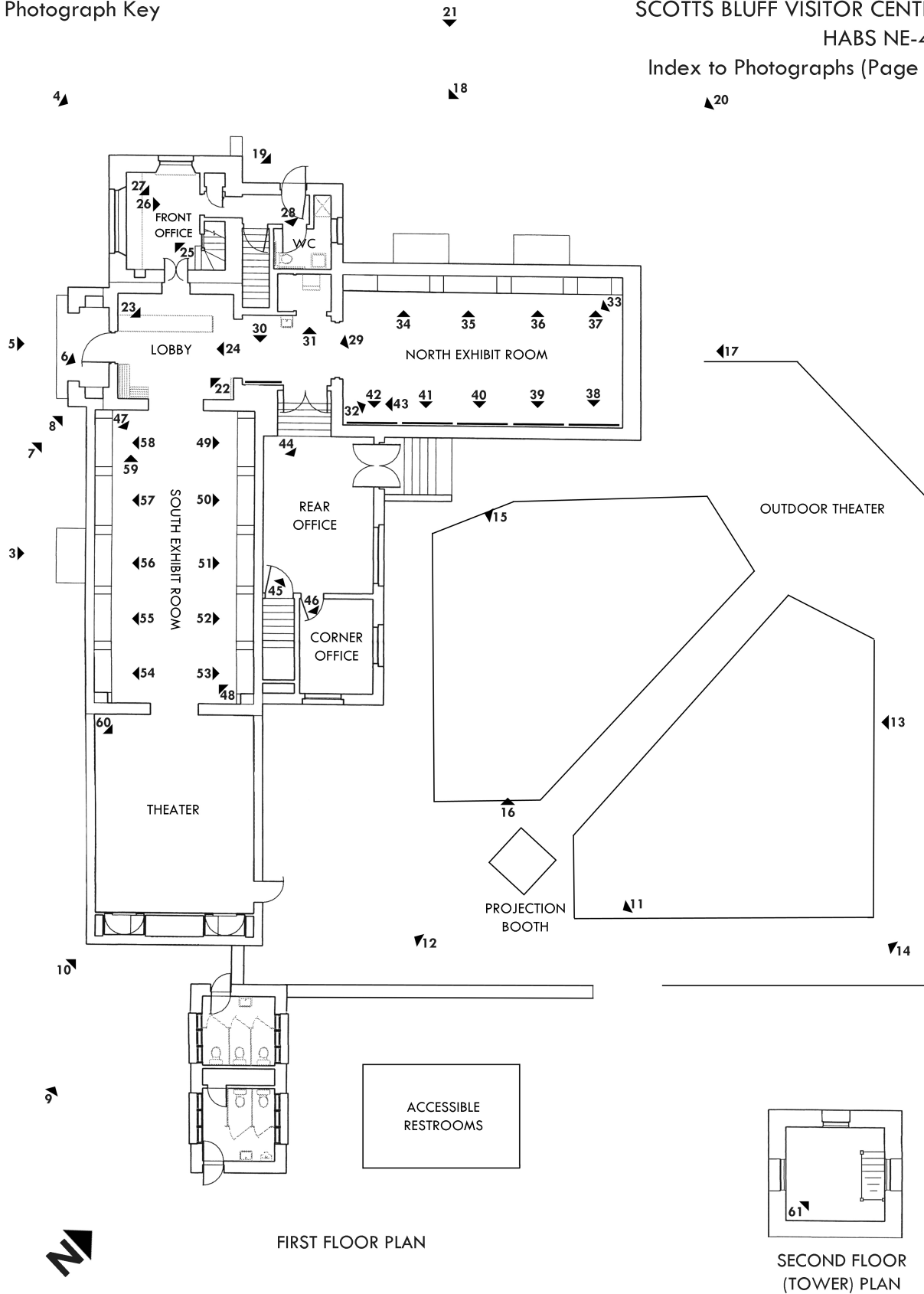
SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 6)

NE-47-58	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "ROBIDOUX," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-59	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT PANEL: "THE OREGON TRAIL," SOUTH EXHIBIT ROOM, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
NE-47-60	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER THEATER, INTERIOR NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST WALLS, LOOKING EAST.
NE-47-61	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER TOWER OFFICE, INTERIOR NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST WALLS, LOOKING NORTH.
NE-47-62	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER LIBRARY, INTERIOR SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST WALLS, BASEMENT, LOOKING SOUTH.
NE-47-63	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER LIBRARY, INTERIOR NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST WALLS, BASEMENT, LOOKING NORTH.
NE-47-64	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER STORAGE ROOM AND HALLWAY, INTERIOR SOUTHWEST WALL, BASEMENT, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
NE-47-65	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER HALLWAY, INTERIOR WALLS, BASEMENT, LOOKING EAST.
NE-47-66	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER STORAGE ROOM, BASEMENT, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
NE-47-67	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM, BASEMENT, LOOKING SOUTH.
NE-47-68	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER NORTHWEST ROOM, INTERIOR NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST WALLS, BASEMENT, LOOKING NORTH.
NE-47-69	OBLIQUE VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER NORTHWEST ROOM, INTERIOR SOUTHEAST BRICK WALL (SHOWING DOOR TO ARCHIVAL STORAGE ROOM), BASEMENT, LOOKING SOUTH.
NE-47-70	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER ARCHIVAL STORAGE ROOM, INTERIOR, BASEMENT, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.

SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 7)

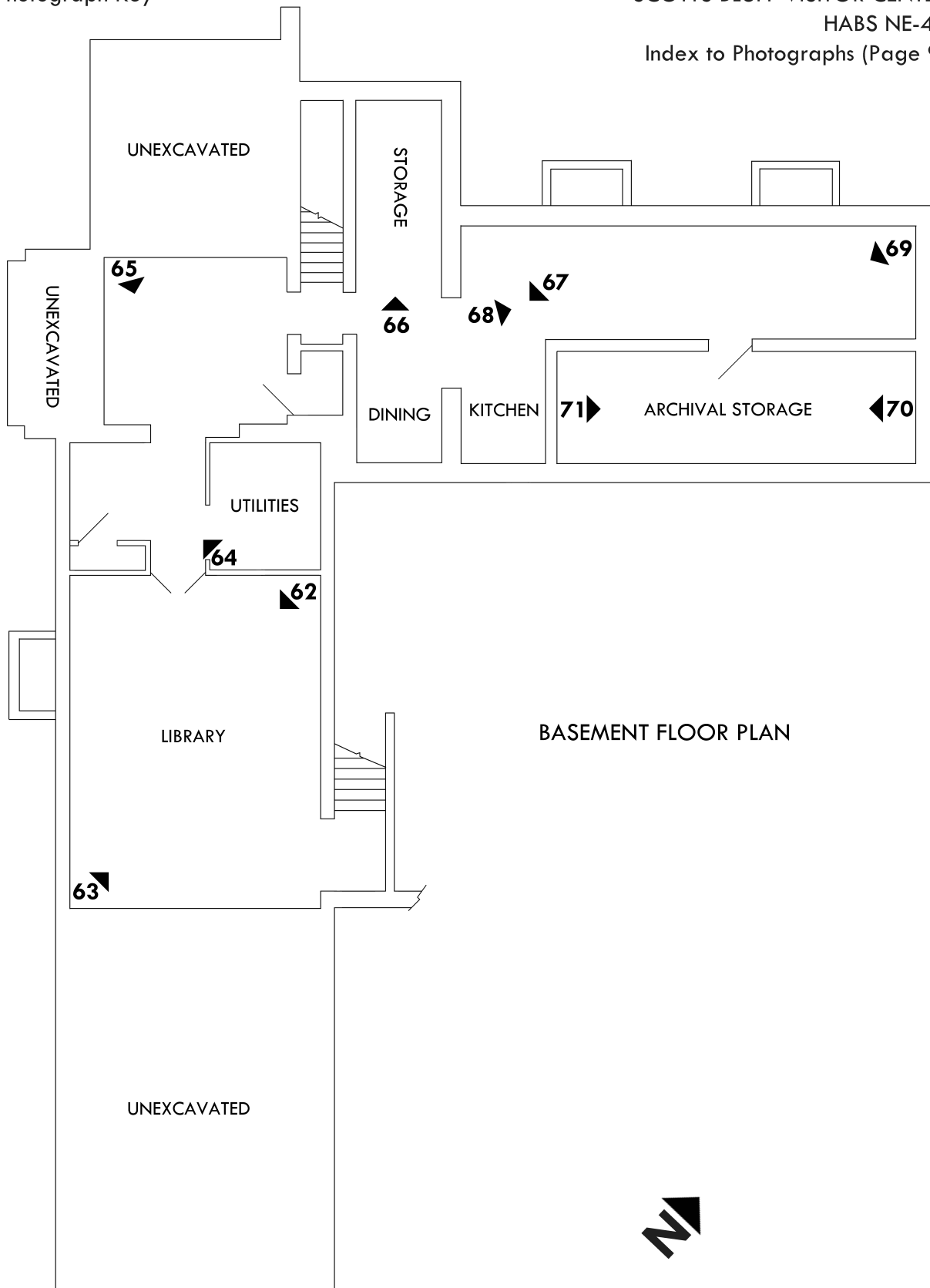
NE-47-71	ELEVATION VIEW OF SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER ARCHIVAL STORAGE ROOM, INTERIOR, BASEMENT, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
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SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 8)



Photograph Key

SCOTTS BLUFF VISITOR CENTER
HABS NE-47
Index to Photographs (Page 9)



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



HASS NE-47-1





HABS NE-47-2





HAUS NE-47-3





HABS NE-47-4





HABS NE-47-5









HABS NE-47-7





HABS NE-47-8





HABS NE-47-9



HABS NE-47-10







HABS NE-47-11





HABS NE-47-12





HABS NE-47-13





HABS NE-47-14





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HABS NE-47-16





HABS NE-47-17





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HABS NE-47-20





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HABS NE-47-22





HABS NE-47-23



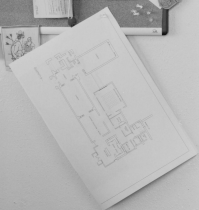






FIAS NE-47-25









HABS NE-47-27









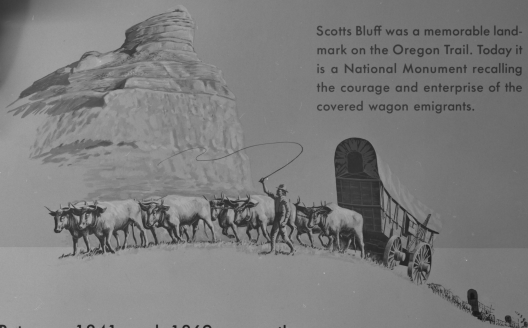
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SCOTTS BLUFF

on the Oregon Trail



Scotts Bluff was a memorable landmark on the Oregon Trail. Today it is a National Monument recalling the courage and enterprise of the covered wagon emigrants.

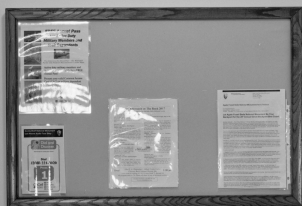
Between 1841 and 1869, more than 250,000 men, women and children passed within sight of these bluffs in the massive trek West.

Please look in the binder at our Site Bulletins. If you want a copy, write the number(s) down and show the ranger at the front desk





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PLEASE REGISTER









In 1846 Philip St. George Cooke of the Mounted Dragoons writes:

"I was once in a regular puzzle over a skeleton head of a small quadruped which was found here. It seems to have been a horse, but it seems to have been a horse or a mule. It seems to have been a horse or a mule."



Skull of deer with eye sockets hidden by stone.



Mammoth tooth.

In 1847 William Clayton of the Mormon pioneers observed:

"We saw about a mile this side of the foot of the bluffs, a very large bone almost petrified complete. Near the shoulder bone of a mammoth, and is very large indeed."



Large fossil teeth were thought by some Indians to be those of the "Horned Monster" or "Fossil Horse" which came to earth during Noah's deluge to chase and kill buffalo.

Tooth of Titanotherium



In 1849, Dr. Henry Pratt of St. Louis described a fossil animal, now known as a Titanotherium. He based his description on a "fossil jaw found by a Fur Trader."



Fossils and the Emigrants

In this country rich in fossils, exposed bones inspired Indian legends and impressed curious emigrants.



Pliocene Rhinoceros - Teleoceros

From the 1845 Journal of Johnson and Winter

"In the extreme point of these hills [Sante Bluffs] are found great numbers of semi-petrified Turtles, from one to two feet across."







Hyracodon was a small, fleet-footed, light-bodied rhinoceros well suited for life on the grassy plains.



The Odocoileus were cud-chewing animals with resemblances to both a sheep and a pig. They roamed the plains in vast herds.



Among the flesh-eaters was the powerful-jawed Hyaenodon which resembled modern hyenas of Africa.

LIFE ON THE ANCIENT PLAINS



The saber-toothed cat Haplophysus was about the size of a leopard, with short neck and legs and strong claws. It probably fed on rhinoceroses and similar thick-skinned animals.

Fossils found in the Brule formation, at the foot of Scotts Bluff, are remnants of creatures which lived during the Oligocene epoch about 40 million years ago.



An ancestral three-toed horse, Meshippus, was about as big as a collie dog and survived by speed and agility.



The tiny-footed Hyraxodus was hardly larger than a modern rabbit.



Palaeolagus was a rabbit, very similar to its modern relatives.

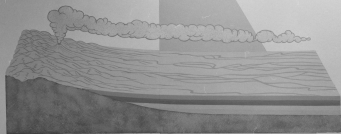


Ichneumon was an insect-eating animal related to the hedgehog of Europe.

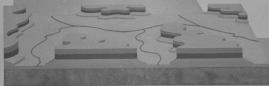




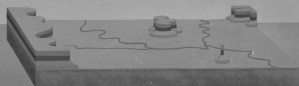
HOW THE BLUFFS WERE FORMED



The plains were built up by the deposits of silt, sand and gravel washed down by rivers. 30 to 40 million years ago from uplands to the west. Winds blew ash and dust from volcanoes far to the west, probably from what is now the Rocky Mountain region.



More recently, probably within the last million years, accumulation of the sediments slowed down, and the rivers cut broad valleys into the plain, separated by high tablelands.



The bluffs of this region, protected by hard rock caps, have worn away more slowly than the surrounding plains.



MONROE CREEK FORMATION
(soft sandstone, hard pipy concretions)
Miocene

GERING FORMATION
(soft sandstone)
Oligocene

VOLCANIC ASH LAYERS
are found throughout the bluff.

BRULE FORMATION
(soft siltstone)
Oligocene

See the geological cross (containing)
on the left wall of the exhibit, facing
this display.

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HOW THE BLUFFS
WERE FORMED



REPRODUCED BY THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY
J. W. H. H. H. H. H.

SKULL OF TITANOTHERE

This giant beast of the plains had a brain hardly bigger than an orange. The fossil remains of these ponderous plant eaters caught the attention of Indians and early pioneers.



LM-4

HABS NE-47-37





*On the eighth (June) we saw for the first time a grizzly bear, a large fierce, formidable animal....

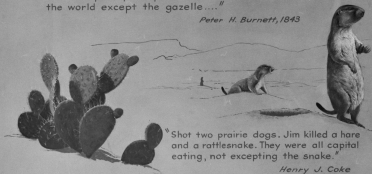
Ferris Journal



Pronghorn

*On the 15th of June one of our party killed an antelope...perhaps the fleetest animal in the world except the gazelle....

Peter H. Burnett, 1843



*Shot two prairie dogs, Jim killed a hare and a rattlesnake. They were all capital eating, not excepting the snake.

Henry J. Coke

*The prickly pear covers the ground here to the extent that we are frequently compelled to clear away with our spades space to erect our tents, it not being particularly agreeable to the seat of honor to sit down on the long sharp thorns.

E. S. Ingalls

WILDLIFE seen by emigrants

The travelers' journals tell of many animals now rare or vanished from the plains.



Prickly poppy

*A beautiful white flower resembling the poppy grew here, upon a low plant, the leaves of which were armed with prickles.

J. Quinn Thornton, 1840



In 1845, J. H. Carleton mistook an avocet for a curlew.

*A curlew was shot by one of the gentlemen today, which belonged to a species different from any we had ever seen before. It was quite as large as the Spanish curlew, or sickle bill, but had a brown head, white body, black wings and blue legs.



*I have seen the Bighorns, or Rocky mountain sheep, passing through a narrow gorge they were...peeping of us from their unapproachable towers.

Anderson



*...deer and elk (were) in great numbers along the streams and in the hills where timber grew....

Sarah A. Wier, 1866

*Wolves, like policemen, are numerous enough, unless you particularly want to find one.

Henry J. Coke



*There were many different classes of wolves... (one) a large, long-legged wolf... always being found near the herds of buffalo and was a constant menace to the calves.

L. Dow Stephens, 1840

*I now allude to the prevalence of Toads in this region which are adorned with a tail and a pair of horns.

Owen C. Coy



the FIRST WHITE MEN at Scotts Bluff

Seven fur traders, the first whites known to have seen Scotts Bluff, passed here on Christmas Day, 1812.



Astor's fur traders at Scotts Bluff

On the 21st of December, 1812, the first white men were known to have seen Scotts Bluff. They were seven fur traders, who were on their way to St. Louis from Astor's trading post on the Columbia River. They followed a new route, destined to become the Oregon Trail. Their journey was perilous, and they encountered many difficulties. They were forced to cross the Rocky Mountains, and they suffered from lack of food and shelter. They were also attacked by Indians, and they lost many of their horses and supplies. Despite these hardships, they reached St. Louis safely, and their discovery of the new route was a great achievement. The War of 1812 obscured their discovery, but it was not until the 1840s that the Oregon Trail became a major route for westward migration.

Their perilous journey to St. Louis from Astor's trading post on the Columbia River followed a new route, destined to become the Oregon Trail.

The War of 1812 obscured their discovery.



In 1823 Ashley's trappers, forced from the upper Missouri by Indians, rediscovered the Pierre River route. It led to South Pass, key crossing of the Rockies.

Each spring the Rocky Mountain trappers met at a rendezvous. Trade goods were packed in from St. Louis and exchanged for beaver pelts, which were sent in autumn. For 15 years fur trade caravans passed Scotts Bluff.

FIRST WHITE MEN at Seaside Bluff

July 18, 1792



THE
FIRST
WHITE
MEN
AT
SEASIDE
BLUFF



Seaside Bluff





the tragedy of
HIRAM SCOTT

[illegible]

A FUR TRADER DIED HERE
AND GAVE THE BLUFFS A
NAME.



Indians attacked Sublette's pack train returning from the 1828 fur trade rendezvous at Great Salt Lake. Scott, one of Sublette's men, was wounded too badly to continue on horseback.



Sublette detailed two men to take Scott downstream by bullboat to the great bluffs, where he promised to have help waiting.



Before reaching the bluff the boat capsized and the mountaineers were barely able to save themselves and drag Scott ashore.

Facts concerning Hiram Scott's death are not known. The illustrated legend presented here is but one of many stories of the tragedy.



Now desperate, with no food or dry powder, the men deserted Scott, overtook the main party and reported that he died below Laramie Fork.



Scott dragged himself to the bluffs
only to die there.



The following spring Sublette's hunters found Scott's skeleton. By tacit agreement the great bluffs became a monument to Scott's memory.

Scott was employed by Gen. William H. Ashley's Rocky Mountain Fur Company.



SCOTT'S EMULSION



Coughs



Sore Throat



Headache

The most effective
 remedy for all
 respiratory ailments
 and general weakness
 is Scott's Emulsion
 of Pure Cod Liver
 Oil with Hypophosphite
 of Lime. It is the only
 remedy that builds up
 the system and
 restores the natural
 color and vitality of
 the face. It is the only
 remedy that cures
 the most stubborn
 cases of Cough, Sore
 Throat, Bronchitis,
 Asthma, and all
 other respiratory
 ailments. It is the only
 remedy that builds up
 the system and
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 the most stubborn
 cases of Cough, Sore
 Throat, Bronchitis,
 Asthma, and all
 other respiratory
 ailments.



Cold



Fever



Rash

Scott's Emulsion
 is the only
 remedy that
 builds up the
 system and
 restores the
 natural color
 and vitality of
 the face. It is
 the only remedy
 that cures the
 most stubborn
 cases of Cough,
 Sore Throat,
 Bronchitis,
 Asthma, and
 all other
 respiratory
 ailments.





WHEELS CROSS THE PLAINS

In 1827 William Ashley sent a wheeled cannon up the Platte route to impress the Indians at the Great Salt Lake.



Ashley's 8-pounder pioneered a vehicle trail west for the wagons that followed.



The first wagons over the Oregon Trail were those of the Smith, Jackson, Sublette fur caravan of 1830. They went to the Wind River Valley, east of the Rockies.



The partners reported their achievement in a letter to Secretary of War Eaton.



In 1832 Captain Benjamin Bonneville took the first wagons across the Continental Divide at South Pass, foreshadowing the great covered wagon migration of the next decade.

HABS NE-47-41



WHEELS CROSS THE PLAINS

BY JAMES H. HARRIS



WHEELS CROSS THE PLAINS

THE STORY OF THE MORMON TRAIL

Beginning in 1840 and 1847 they came to the hundreds and then to the thousands. Some sought better control over their own lives, and made 1,000 miles of journey. They were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known as Mormons, who sought to build a new home in the West. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



1. Covered Wagon on the Trail

Mormons traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



2. The Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



3. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



4. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.

THE MORMON TRAIL 150 YEARS: 1847 TO 1997



"FAITH IN EVERY FOOTSTEP"

5. The Mormon Trail

The Mormon Trail was a journey of faith and courage. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



6. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



7. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



8. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



9. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



10. Mormon Leader

The Mormon leader was a man of faith and courage. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



11. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



12. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



13. Mormon Settlement

The Mormon settlement was a place where they lived and worked. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land. They traveled across the country, and the trail was the only way to reach the new land.



scientists



Townsend's warbler

With Nathaniel Wyeth's caravan in 1834 were John Townsend and Thomas Nuttall, the first naturalists over the trail.



Nuttall's sparrow

SETTING THE STAGE

When wagons went west, men of many callings joined the traders and paved the way for the great migrations to follow.

artist



In 1837 Alfred J. Miller painted the first picture of Scotts Bluff. He accompanied William Sublette to the Green River trappers' rendezvous.

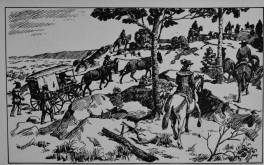


In 1838, August Johann Sutter, a Swiss, followed the trail west. On his California ranch the discovery of gold 10 years later was to precipitate the great gold rush.

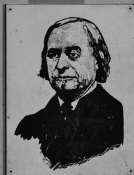


Also with Wyeth's caravan was Jason Lee, above, and his brother, Daniel, first Methodist missionaries to Oregon.

missionaries



Presbyterian missionary Marcus Whitman scouted the Oregon country in 1835. The next year he and Rev. Henry Spalding brought their wives west. They were the first white women to see Scotts Bluff.



Father Pierre Jean De Smet went with Andrew Drips' expedition to the last of the fur trade rendezvous in 1840. This Jesuit was to become one of the West's greatest reporters.



SETTING THE STAGE

THE HISTORY OF THE STAGE AND THE STAGE



THE STAGE





HABS NE-47-44





HABS NE-47-45





HABS NE-47-46



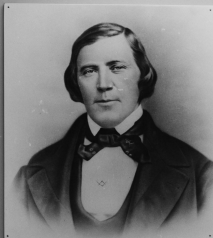






HABS NE-47-48





Brigham Young

The Mormons were persecuted in their Mississippi Valley homes. In 1847, their leader, Brigham Young, led the "Pioneer Band" to the Great Salt Lake, then in Mexican territory. There the Mormons prospered.

The Mormon Trail

Some 47,000 "saints" made their way across the plains between 1847 and 1868. To avoid unfriendly "gentiles," they followed the north bank of the Platte River to Fort Laramie.

Mormon's Eye-View of Scotts Bluff

The "saints" usually camped on the north side of the river across from these bluffs. Frequently, they came over to explore them.



The Mormon Mail Rider

Between 1847 and 1850 the Mormons conducted a private mail service between Salt Lake City and their Winter Quarters (present-day Omaha) over the Mormon Trail. Letters were carried on mule back.



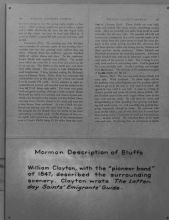
Grave of Rebecca Winters

Mormon pioneers suffered many hardships. The grave of Rebecca Winters, who died of cholera in 1852, lies near the old Mormon Trail east of the city of Scottsbluff.



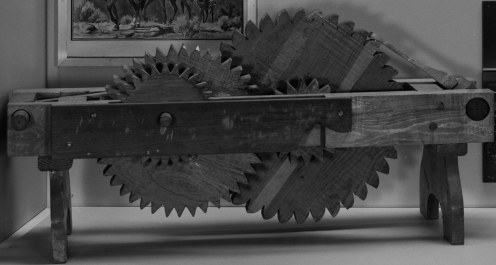
Mormon Description of Bluffs

William Clayton, with the "pioneer band" of 1847, described the surrounding country. Clayton wrote: *The Latter-day Saints' Emigrant Guide*.



Handcart Brigade

Many European converts, mostly from England, set out for the Salt Lake settlements. In 1856, a thousand Mormons moved west in two "Handcart Brigades." In one of the major disasters of overland travel, 225 of them perished.



Reproduction of the original saw blade used by the Mormon pioneers to cut the trail through the mountains. The blade was made of iron and was used to cut the trail through the mountains.

HABS NE-47-49



The Mormon Trail

1846-1847

Wagon Train

From Independence, Missouri
to Salt Lake City, Utah

Approx. 1,300 miles



This buffalo country changed to a land of cities and rich farms.



Hunting From the Train

Extermination of the Buffalo (American Bison)

Between 1860 and 1880 millions of buffalo were slaughtered in the West, depriving the Plains Indians of their principal food supply.

Ballard rifle, weighing 14½ pounds, designed especially for the buffalo hunter. This one was also used to shoot mountain sheep on Scotts Bluff.



Cowboys Driving Longhorn Cattle Past Scotts Bluff

In the 1870's many cattle ranches were established in this region. Big outfits grazed their animals here or herded them past the bluffs to the vast ranges of the Northern Plains.

Sharps rifle, 45-90. Hunters fired heavy rifles like this in the wholesale destruction of the buffalo.



Cowboy's rope



Cinch ring



View of the river at the foot of the bluffs, the first view of the river from the bluffs. The river was the main source of water for the buffalo and the Indians.



Passing of the Frontier

THE FRONTIER HAS PASSED
AND THE WEST IS BECOMING
THE EAST

THE
WEST



THE
WEST

THE
WEST

Scotts Bluff and the 49'

Remains of wagon from the original trail



Cavalcade of the 49'ers

Earlier trains had included many women and children. The 49'ers were chiefly men-in a hurry. About 25,000 of them passed by in 1849; some 35,000 in 1850.

With the discovery of gold near Sutter's Mill in 1848, a wave of "miners" headed Westward. The Oregon Trail became the road to California.

In January, 1848, James Marshall found gold on the American River in California's Coloma Valley.



Gold Rush Sales

News of the find reached the East in the summer of 1848. Then the scramble began. Many took ship before the end of the year. The spring of 1849 witnessed the start of the vast overland migration.

Allen & Thurber six-shot pepperbox pistol.

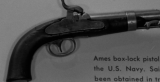


Pewter spoon



Oregon Trail Relics

49'ers may have lost these objects along the trail, or discarded them to lighten their wagons.



Anna's black pistol, made for the U.S. Navy. Said to have been obtained in trade in the 1850's from a man returning East over the Oregon Trail. Perhaps he was a "busted" 49'er.



Portion of spade

Ax head



Keys on ring



Handcuff and chain



HABS NE-47-SI

SINGAL

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100

100

100

OX TEAM TO "IRON HORSE"



Freighting

Trains of big freight wagons rolled through Mitchell Pass. Each wagon, hauled by 12 to 16 oxen or mules, carried about 5,000 pounds of goods.



Early stagecoach
The original covered stage
wagons had no roof for the driver



Wagons often camped at Scotts Bluff. This picture shows a camp at Independence Rock.



Pony Express

The First Pony Express Leaving St. Joseph, Missouri, April 3, 1860.

Pony Express riders, carrying mail between Missouri and California in 8 to 10 days, crossed Scotts Bluff through Mitchell Pass.

Riders changed horses at the Scotts Bluff Station. Stations were 10 to 15 miles apart. Each rider covered about 45 to 90 miles.



Riders carried a quirt and a revolver. Russell, Majors and Waddell developed the spectacular Pony Express to obtain a Government subsidy and save their freighting business from bankruptcy. The Pony Express was fast but costly. It lasted 18 months.



Stagecoach

Because of the Civil War the stagecoaches carrying overland mail used the central route past Scotts Bluff in 1861. Indian troubles in 1862 forced them to follow another route.

Telegraph

The first transcontinental telegraph line crossed Scotts Bluff through Mitchell Pass. Completed in October 1861, it doomed the Pony Express.



Destroying the "Singing Wires"

To the Plains Indians the wires spoke of troops and death. They frequently burned down poles. An early telegraph station was located at nearby Fort Mitchell.





Life on the Trail

The 2,000 mile trip from the Missouri frontier to the Pacific Coast required careful planning and organization. Crude grave markers lined the route to the West.

HAZARDS

Life on the trail was not all hardship. Games, weddings, "shivarees" and musical sessions enlivened spirits.



Jew's harp



Along the Oregon Trail (Albert Bierstadt)
The average train in 1843-1844 contained from 20 to 30 wagons. After that no more than 8 or 10 traveled together. Discipline was more easily maintained in smaller caravans.

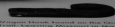


Oregon Trail Guidebook

Guidebooks were faulty. Reliance on them brought tragedy to



Many a pioneer's life was saved by the quick draw of a revolver. The Oregon Trail was a dangerous journey, and the revolver was a necessary tool for survival.



Small metal object, likely a button or fastener, used in the construction of the wagon.



ancient man

People have lived in the North Platte Valley for 10,000 years.



In the bank of Kiowa Creek, stone points were found with the bones of a now extinct giant bison. The mysterious bison hunters were here some 10,000 years ago.

Flint



Signs of campsites and signal fires have been found on top of Scotts Bluff, but the record is vague and the age unknown.

Flint

Flint

Flint

Flint

Flint

Kiowa Creek Site

Scotts Bluff

North Platte River

Ash Hollow Creek

On top of Signal Butte, 12 miles from Scotts Bluff, archeologists have found evidence of four periods of habitation.

Level I

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The two older groups were hunters. They were here perhaps 5,000 and 1,500 years ago.

Level II

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Flint



More recent groups, from the time of Columbus to some 250 years ago, were farmers who made pottery.

Many hunting parties during the last 2,000 years used Ash Hollow Creek, about 100 miles downstream from here.



HABS NE-47-54



the white emigrants met

MOUNTED HUNTERS OF THE PLAINS



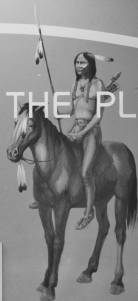
The Indians' horses were small, rough descendants of those introduced by Spanish of the Southwest.



Horns were often lashed to travois or drag poles which were used also as tipi poles.



After acquiring horses, the plains tribes became nomadic, even had and they depended on them for food, clothing, shelter and weapons.







The American Fur Company's Posts

Robidoux did not enjoy a monopoly.
A rival moved into the area.



Second Site, looking toward Scotts Bluff
In 1850 the company moved Fort John to Helvas Canyon, 8 miles south of here. The new post stayed until about 1852.



Trading Post at Belle Vue, Nebraska
American Fur Company stations here probably resembled this.

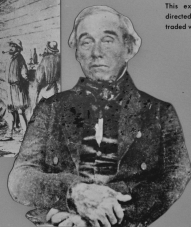


Fort Laramie

The American Fur Company called this adobe-walled trading post on the Laramie River Fort John. When the army bought it in 1849, the company set up a new "Fort John" near Scotts Bluffs.

Trade model

Overlaid on the original



Andrew Drips
This experienced "mountain man" directed post business. The company traded with both Indians and emigrants.

In this letter of May 4, 1852, to his superior, Andrew Drips discusses the state of trade and future prospects.



These specimens were found at the site of Fort John in Helvas Canyon. Private collection in the Scotts Bluff area region of Nebraska Post.

Native Indian artifacts

Trade goods and specimens

The Revolution for Company's Profit

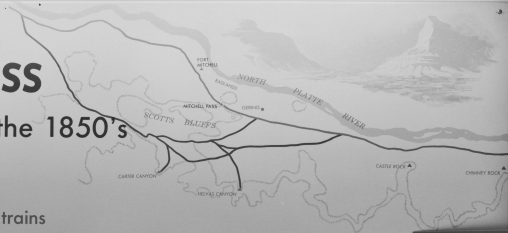


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MITCHELL PASS

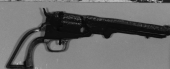
and migration of the 1850's

After 1850 most wagon trains crossed these bluffs by a shorter route through Mitchell Pass, where you are now.



William Webber, May 23, 1852—Michigan

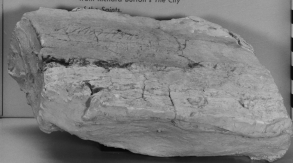
He carved his name on Scotts Bluff on the way west. It was the peak year when some 50,000 people followed the Oregon Trail through Mitchell Pass.



"Scotts Bluffs" (Mitchell Pass) from Richard Burton's The City



"Camp at Scotts Bluffs" by Alfred Lamborn. Oregon Trail pioneers called this horrid ridge Scott's Bluff. Today Scotts Bluff means the high southern end up which you can drive to take from the museum.



Looking to the right you can see the wagon trail that led to the top of the bluff and the river.

From the top of the bluff you can see the river and the city of Cheyenne.

MITCHELL RAIZ

and designer of the 1980s

His 1980s style was a
blend of modernism and
postmodernism, and
he was a pioneer of the
new wave.



His 1980s style was a
blend of modernism and
postmodernism, and
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new wave.

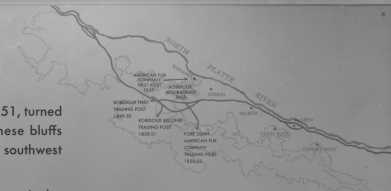


ROBIDOUX:

The Pass and the Posts

The Oregon Trail, until about 1851, turned away from the river to cross these bluffs through Robidoux Pass 8 miles southwest of here.

Antoine Robidoux ran a trading post in the pass where emigrants could get a few supplies or repair their wagons and gear.

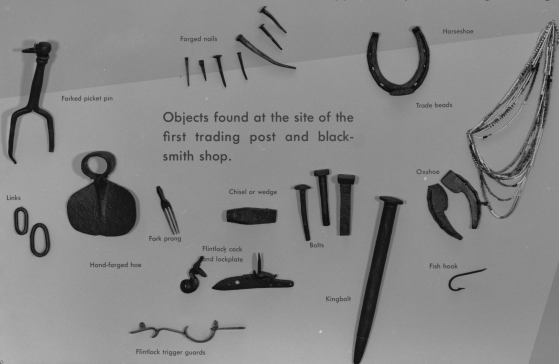


Robidoux's Second Trading Post, sketched by a German traveler.

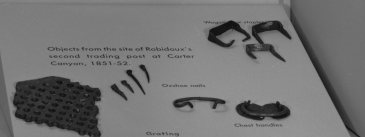
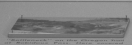
Overwhelmed by the number of emigrants, Robidoux moved his post to the more secluded Carter Canyon about 1851. Soon the route of the wagon trains shifted to another pass nearer the river.



Objects from the site of Robidoux's second trading post at Carter Canyon, 1851-52.



U.S. Bull. 1851-52. Second trading post at Carter Canyon. The second trading post was a small one of log and brush, built on a bluff. It was here that the large number of emigrants gathered.



HABS NE-47-58



The Oregon Trail

Pioneers took many routes to the West. Most travelled the central route up the Platte River. This became the famous Oregon Trail.



These trails were not always straight and narrow like this. Frequently miles in width, they included numerous cut-offs and alternate routes and often changed from year to year.

There were two principal branches. One led toward the Oregon Country, the other to California. The Mormon Trail paralleled the Oregon Trail, sometimes merging with it.



HABS NC-47-60





HABS NE-47-61





HASS NE-47-62





HAB5 NE-47-63





HABS NE-47-64





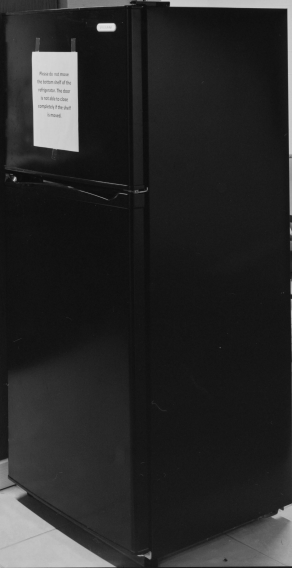
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