
**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey
Banner County**

Prepared for:

Nebraska State Historical Society



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Chapter 1

Introduction

Throughout most of Nebraska's history, historic preservation was the province of dedicated individuals and organizations working alone in their local communities. Since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, however, the Governor of each state has been required to appoint a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to oversee preservation efforts mandated by the 1966 act. In Nebraska, the Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) serves as SHPO. The staff of the NSHS' Historic Preservation Division forms the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO).

The NeSHPO administers a wide range of preservation programs. The duties of the NeSHPO relating to programs called for by the National Historic Preservation Act include:

- Conducting and maintaining a statewide historic building survey.
- Administering the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) program.
- Assisting local governments in the development of local historic preservation programs and certification of qualifying governments.

- Administering a federal tax incentives program for the preservation of historic buildings.

- Assisting federal agencies in their responsibility to identify and protect historic properties that may be affected by their projects.

- Providing preservation education, training, and technical assistance to individuals and groups and local, state, and federal agencies.

What follows is a brief description of NeSHPO programs, followed by a staff guide with telephone numbers. Though described separately, it is important to remember that NeSHPO programs often act in concert with other programs and should be considered elements of the NeSHPO mission and a part of the mission of the NSHS.

Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey

The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) was begun in 1974. The survey is conducted on a county-by-county basis and currently includes more than 60,000 properties that reflect the rich architectural and historic heritage of Nebraska. The survey is conducted by researchers who drive every rural and urban public road in a county and record each property that meets certain historic requirements. Surveyors never enter private property without permission. In addition to this

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fieldwork, surveyors research the history of the area in order to better understand their subject. The NeHBS often includes thematic subjects that may be unique to a certain county such as an historic highway or type of industry.

The purpose of the NeHBS is to help local preservation advocates, elected officials, land-use planners, economic development coordinators, and tourism promoters understand the wealth of historic properties in their community. Properties included in the survey have no use restrictions placed on them, nor does the survey require any level of maintenance or accessibility by property owners. Rather, the survey provides a foundation for identifying properties that may be worthy of preservation, promotion, and recognition within a community.

The NeHBS provides a basis for preservation and planning at all levels of government and for individual groups or citizens. Generally, the NeHBS includes properties that convey a sense of architectural significance. When possible and known, NeHBS also describes properties that have historical significance. The survey is not intended to be a comprehensive history of a county, but a detailed “first look” at historic properties. Additionally, as the NeHBS is in part federally funded, the NeSHPO must use federal guidelines when evaluating and identifying historic properties. In short, the NeHBS is not an end in itself, but a beginning for public planners and individuals who value their community’s history.

For more information, please call the NeHBS Program Associate or the Survey Coordinator listed below.

National Register of Historic Places

One of the goals of the NeHBS is to help identify properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register. The National Register is our nation’s official list of significant historic properties. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register includes buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites that are significant in our history or prehistory. These properties may

reflect a historically significant pattern, event, person, architectural style, or archaeological site. National Register properties may be significant at the local, state, or national levels.

Properties need not be as historic as Mount Vernon or architecturally spectacular as the Nebraska State Capitol to be listed in the National Register. Local properties that retain their physical integrity and convey local historic significance may also be listed.

It is important to note what listing a property on the National Register means or, perhaps more importantly, what it does not mean. The National Register does not:

- Restrict, in any way, a private property owner’s ability to alter, manage, or dispose of a property.
- Require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored.
- Invoke special zoning or local landmark designation.
- Allow the listing of individual private property over an owner’s objection.
- Allow the listing of historic districts over a majority of property owners’ objections.
- Require public access to private property.

Listing a property in the National Register does:

- Provide prestigious recognition to significant properties.
- Encourage the preservation of historic properties.
- Provide information about historic properties for local and statewide planning purposes.
- Help promote community development, tourism, and economic development.
- Provide basic eligibility for financial incentives, when available.

For more information, please call the National Register Coordinator listed below.

Certified Local Governments

An important goal of the NeSHPO is to translate the federal preservation program, as embodied by the National Historic Preservation Act, to the local level. An important element of this goal is to help link local governments with a nationwide network of federal, state, and local organizations. One of the most effective tools for this purpose is the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. A CLG is a local government, either a county or municipality that has adopted preservation as a priority. To become a CLG, a local government must:

- Establish a preservation ordinance that includes protection for historic properties at a level the community decides is appropriate.
- Promote preservation education and outreach.
- Conduct and maintain some level of a historic building survey.
- Establish a mechanism to designate local landmarks.
- Create a preservation commission to oversee the preservation ordinance and the CLG program.

There are a number of advantages to achieving CLG status:

- A CLG is eligible to receive matching funds from the NeSHPO that are unavailable to non-CLGs.
- Contributing buildings within local landmark districts may be eligible for preservation tax incentives (see below), without being listed in the National Register.
- CLGs have an additional tool when considering planning, zoning, and land-use issues through their landmarking and survey programs.

- CLGs have the ability to monitor and preserve structures that reflect the community's heritage.

- CLGs have access to a nationwide information network of local, state, federal, and private preservation institutions.

- Finally, but not least, a CLG through its ordinance and commission has a built-in mechanism to promote pride in, and understanding of, a community's history.

Certification of a local government for CLG status comes from the NeSHPO and the National Park Service, and there are general rules to follow. A community considering CLG status, however, is given broad flexibility within those rules when structuring their CLG program. The emphasis of the CLG program is local management of historic properties with technical and economic assistance from the NeSHPO.

Preservation Tax Incentives

Since 1976 the Internal Revenue Code has contained provisions offering tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties. Historic properties are defined as those listed in the National Register, or as buildings that contribute to the significance of a National Register or a locally landmarked (by a CLG see above) historic district. An income-producing property may be a rental residential, office, commercial, or industrial property. Historic working barns or other agriculture-related outbuildings may also qualify.

A certified rehabilitation is one that conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. The standards are a common sense approach to the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. It is important to remember that this program promotes the rehabilitation of historic properties so that they may be used to the benefit and enjoyment of the property owner and a community. The program is not necessarily intended to reconstruct or restore historic buildings to exact, as-built specifications.

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The tax incentive program in Nebraska has been responsible for:

- Reinvesting millions of dollars for the preservation of historic buildings.
- Establishing thousands of low- and moderate-income housing units and upper-end units.
- Encouraging the adaptive reuse of previously under or unutilized historic properties in older downtown commercial areas.
- Helping to broaden the tax base.
- Giving real estate developers and city planners a tool to consider projects in older, historic neighborhoods.
- Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods.

Certification of the historic character of the income-producing property (usually by listing the property in the National Register) and certification of the historic rehabilitation is made by both the NeSHPO and the National Park Service. We strongly urge contacting the NeSHPO and a professional tax advisor, legal counsel, or appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office before initiating any activity for a project that anticipates the use of preservation tax incentives.

For more information, please call the Review and Preservation Services Program Associate listed below.

Federal Project Review

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties; develop and evaluate alternatives that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects their projects may have on historic properties; and afford the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on historic properties. The regulations that govern the Section 106 process, as it is known, also require that the federal agency consult with the NeSHPO to

identify historic properties in the project area; assess the effects a project may have on historic properties located in the project area; and develop and evaluate alternatives that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects the project may have on historic properties.

For example, if the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), through the Nebraska Department of Roads, contemplates construction of a new highway, FHWA must contact the NeSHPO for assistance in determining whether any sites or structures are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register are located in the project area. If properties that meet this criteria are found, the FHWA must consult with the NeSHPO to avoid or reduce any harm the highway might cause the property. Note that a property need not actually be listed in the National Register, only eligible. This process is to take place early enough in the planning process to allow for alternatives that would avoid adverse effects to historic properties; i.e., in the example above, the modification of a new highway's right-of-way could avoid an archaeological site or historic barn.

It is important to note that public participation in this process is vital. The Section 106 process requires the federal agency to seek views of the public and interested parties if adverse effects to historic properties are discovered through consultation with the NeSHPO. The NeSHPO examines information provided by the federal agency, the NeHBS, and the National Register, but often the most valuable information comes from comments provided by the public. Section 106 was included in the National Historic Preservation Act to protect locally significant historic properties from unwitting federal action. It is truly a law that gives the public a voice in an often unsympathetic bureaucratic system.

For more information about Section 106 review, please contact a member of the Federal Agency Review staff at the NeSHPO listed below.

Public Outreach and Education

The primary function of the NeSHPO is to assist communities in preserving significant buildings, sites, and structures that convey a sense of community history. The most powerful tool available to the NeSHPO in this regard is public education. For this reason, NeSHPO staff spend considerable time conducting public meetings and workshops and disseminating information to the public.

Our goal is to assist local individuals, groups, and governments understand, promote, and preserve historic properties. The NeSHPO advocates not only the self-evident aesthetic advantages of historic preservation, but also the potential for preservation to help promote economic development, community planning, tourism, environmental sensitivity, and land-use planning.

The above short descriptions are meant to orient the reader to the NeSHPO programs within the larger mission of the NSHS. As all NeSHPO programs originate from a common source, the National Historic Preservation Act, they work best when they work together, either in whole or in part. For the programs to function at all, they require the interest and participation of the people they are meant to serve . . . the public.

For more information about the NeSHPO or the programs described above, please call (402) 471-4787 or 1-800-833-6747. Information is also available at the State Historical Society web page at www.nebraskahistory.org.

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Chapter 2

Historic Overview

Introduction

This historic overview provides a context in which to consider the various types of resources researched and documented in the 2001 reconnaissance survey of Banner County. When possible, the overview presents information about specific buildings within the survey area. Within the overview, when a surveyed building is mentioned, its Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) site number follows its reference in the text (BN01-001, for example). These site numbers begin with an abbreviation of the county, BN for Banner, and a two-digit number referring to its location within the county. Each community has a number, for example Harrisburg is "01," and rural sites are numbered "00." The last three numbers refer to the specific building or structure.

The Landscape and Environment of Nebraska's Panhandle Region

The Nebraska Panhandle borders Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota, and covers almost 14,000 square miles. The Panhandle encompasses Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties. The landscape of the Panhandle is diverse including the westernmost portion of the sand hills, rolling hills, rocky outcroppings and large

buttes, grasslands, and stands of trees. A wide range in seasonal temperatures characterizes the climate of the region. Counties of the Panhandle hold the state record for least precipitation in a year, recorded at 7.70 inches in 1964, and for the state record for most snowfall in a year, 112 inches in 1973. Overall, a combination of lower-than-average precipitation and high elevation makes the Panhandle drier than other regions in the state.¹

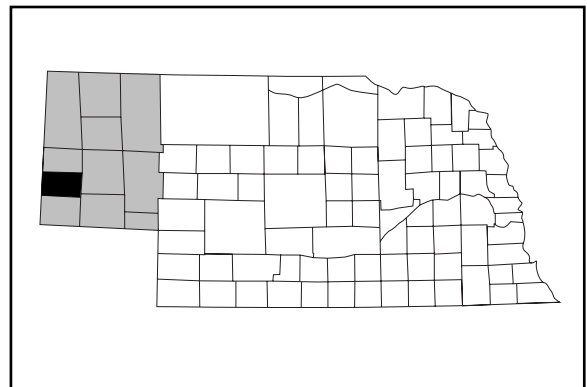


Figure 1. Map Showing Banner County and the Panhandle Region of Nebraska

Nebraska gained statehood on March 1, 1867. Initially, Lyons County covered the entire area of the present Panhandle region. By 1875, the southern half of the Panhandle organized into

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Cheyenne County. Beginning in the 1880s, the northern Panhandle counties of Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan, and Sioux were organized. To the south, Cheyenne County was divided to form Banner, Deuel, Kimball, and Scotts Bluff Counties in 1888. The remaining two counties, Garden and Morrill, were organized later in 1909.²

During the mid-1800s, settlers moved westward along the Mormon and Oregon trails. These trails roughly followed the Platte River through Nebraska into the western United States passing through the Nebraska Panhandle. Thousands of settlers traveling west ventured through the area during this period. The Panhandle contains many unique natural landforms, including Chimney Rock, Smokestack Rock, Jailhouse Rock, and Scotts Bluff, which provided settlers with visual landmarks along the journey.



"Smokestack Rock," c. 1898, a natural landscape feature in Banner County (BCHS)

Four railroad companies - the Union Pacific (UP); the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and the Nebraska, Wyoming, and Western - entered the Panhandle in the late 1800s. Settlement followed railroad construction across the state in the late 1800s, making western Nebraska - including the Panhandle - the last area of the state to be settled. Settlement of the Panhandle during the twentieth century has slowed. Portions of the Panhandle region consist of some of the least populated region of the state. Generally, rural residents are comprised of cattle ranchers and farmers who raise sugar beets, cereals and grains, such as wheat and

corn, and specialty crops like sunflowers. Residents of the urban centers engage in services that support agriculture, transportation, and trading.³

Reports of oil discovery and drilling in the Panhandle date back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. While oil was discovered in Banner County in 1919, the initial discoveries proved difficult and costly to drill and pump due to the depth of the reserves. With continued exploration and advances in the industry, oil was first pumped in the Nebraska Panhandle in 1949.



Early homesteads in Banner County (BCHS)



Oil well pump

The Oil Industry in Banner County

Presently, oil well pumps dot the landscape of western Nebraska. Reports of oil discovery and drilling attempts date back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, with oil discovered in Banner County in 1919. These initial discoveries proved difficult to drill and pump due to the depth of the reserves. With continued exploration and advances in the industry, oil was first pumped in Nebraska's Panhandle in 1949.

Early searches for oil began in 1889 near Crawford, in the northwest corner of the Panhandle and later in 1903 near Chadron, Nebraska. In 1917 speculation continued when the Prairie Oil and Gas Corporation, operating out of Kansas, leased 40,000 acres in central Banner County for the right to search for oil and gas. Standard Oil first discovered oil in Banner County in 1919 when the company dug an exploratory well on John Kelly's ranch. However, the gas and oil deposits were too deep to make it a successful commercial venture. The Nebraska Oil Company made the second unsuccessful attempt to find oil in 1946.

In 1949 the first successful oil production operation commenced southeast of Gurley in Cheyenne County. Then in January 1951, a well began producing oil in Banner County by Prairie Oil and Gas Company. The discovery of oil created a booming oil business in the county. Since 1951, Banner County has produced over 73 million barrels of oil and 20 million cubic feet of natural gas. Production peaked in 1960 when county wells produced over 7 million barrels of oil.

Numerous oil pumps and related resources, installed during the 1950s and 1960s, are still visible in the countryside today. Resources included a pumping unit that pumped the oil from the ground, a small shed that housed the electrical and mechanical equipment, a large cylindrical tank used to heat and separate the oil from the water, and large storage tanks to store the oil.

— Adapted from Banner County Historical Society, *Banner County and Its People*, vol.1 (Harrisburg, Nebr.: Banner County Historical Society, 1982), 226.



Oil heater and storage tanks

Banner County

Banner County is located in the Nebraska Panhandle, approximately 25 miles north of the Colorado state line, and directly east of Wyoming. The county measures 743 square miles and includes 472,320 acres. Pumpkin Creek, called Pumpkinseed Creek by the early settlers, runs through the center of the county

and Willow Creek, Lawrence Fork, and Gabe Springs are smaller waterways located in the county.

The Wildcat Range of bluffs and rock outcrops runs across Banner County's northern border. Historically, stands of timber - primarily pine, and cedar trees - covered the bluffs and gave the early settlers a source of fuel and building material. A second set of bluffs along the southern border known as the Divide, together with the Wildcat Range to the north form a valley out of much of the Banner County landscape. Over time the dry climate has resulted in large rock outcropping or buttes, such as Smokestack Rock. Wildcat and Hogback Mountains, both located in Banner County, are among the highest peaks in the state, standing 5,038 and 5,082 feet above sea level. The buttes and rock outcroppings create a distinctive landscape that many people associate with the American West.⁴

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Rapid settlement occurred after homesteaders began moving into western Nebraska in the late 1880s, which led to the division of then Cheyenne County into five smaller counties. Banner and Scotts Bluff Counties were both created on November 6, 1888. Residents of Banner County selected the former town site of Ashford as the temporary county seat until Harrisburg assumed the role in 1889. By 1900, the population of the county reached 1,114 and included several town sites and 26 registered post offices.⁵

Despite the dry conditions, Banner County has productive agricultural land with good, rich soil known as Sidney silt loam. The rolling hills and rocky outcroppings comprise good grazing lands ideal for raising beef cattle. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, large ranches and ranching companies grazed herds of cattle in Banner County and surrounding counties. Among these ranches was the Bay State Cattle Company, which held a significant amount of land in Banner County before settlement.⁶

The number of cattle that roamed Banner County numbered in the thousands. Access to water and good grass attracted stockmen and farmers along the Pumpkin Creek valley in the early 1870s. Ranchers initially did not pay rent on the land, but used the “right of discovery” to

establish cattle ranches to range their cattle. The cattlemen governed the use of the open range by an unwritten code. However, as homesteaders began to arrive in the early 1880s, the open range was fenced and farmed. By 1889, nearly every quarter section had a homestead, preemption, or tree claim filed on it. The settlers came from Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, and other states east of Nebraska and represented many of the same ethnic groups that had settled in eastern Nebraska a decade or two earlier. Settlers included Danes, Swedes, Germans, Russians, Swiss, and Scotch-Irish among others. Dugouts, log cabins, and sod houses sheltered the early settlers. As the range became settled, ranchers moved their herds of cattle further to the west into Wyoming.⁷

The population of Banner County in 1890 was 2,435. As settlement pushed westward, the demand for railroad service in the area increased. Several railroad companies constructed lines through the Panhandle, but did not enter Banner County, making it one of the only counties in the region without direct railroad service. This may account for the decrease in population after 1890 as settlement shifted north and south toward the rail lines.⁸

The Bay State Land and Cattle Company

The Bay State Land and Cattle Company was among the largest commercial ranches in western Nebraska. Capital from Scotland, England, and New England was used to finance the venture. The main ranch was located in central Kimball County, south of Banner County, until c.1880. The company owned a massive herd of cattle that roamed in and around Kimball, Banner, and Scotts Bluff Counties, along the North Platte River, and west into Wyoming. Purchases made by the company in 1882 and 1884 gave it possession rights to much of Scotts Bluff County south of the North Platte River, much of Banner County, and the northern portion of Kimball County. The company erected ranch buildings along Pumpkin Creek using timber from the Wildcat Hills located along the Banner and Scotts Bluff County border. Known as the Pumpkin Creek Ranch, this location became the home ranch. The company erected a fence that ran north to another Bay State home ranch along the North Platte River, just west of the present site of Haig in Scotts Bluff County. Laws regulating cattle herding enacted in 1888 and the influx of homesteaders were detrimental to the survival of the company. After 1888 Bay State moved its cattle herd west into Wyoming in a drive of more than 20,000 cattle. The company sold its Nebraska property in 1890 and relocated to Wyoming. Later the company faced financial failure and dissolved its holdings in 1896.

— Adapted from Banner County Historical Society, *Banner County and Its People*, vol. 1 (Harrisburg, Nebr.: Banner County Historical Society, 1982).

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By 1900, the population of Banner County was 1,114. The passage of the Kinkaid Act in 1904 increased the allowed size of homestead claims in western Nebraska from 160 to 640 acres. The passage led to an influx of farmers, known as “Kinkaiders,” that met with mixed results in their agricultural pursuits. Wheat was a cash crop grown by the early settlers. While the land in Banner County consists of soil that is ideally suited for raising winter wheat, the climate proved too dry. When wheat crops failed, settlers turned instead to cattle ranching. To raise cattle, Kinkaiders soon found that even a full section of land was an insufficient amount of grazing land. In areas where homesteaders found it impossible to earn a living from farming their land, they often resorted to selling the claim to experienced ranchers and continued west in search of a better future.⁹

With adequate rainfall, Banner County farmers operated successfully. When periods of drought struck, however, crops failed, and as one old-timer remarked “...the only ones who stayed were those who didn’t have enough money to leave.” The depression, coupled with the drought years in the 1890s, caused times of hardship for many Banner County farmers.¹⁰



*Stone barn on Barrett Ranch, c. 1915,
BN00-088 (BCHS)*

To combat the dry climate and periods of drought, Banner County farmers pursued the use of irrigation. The earliest irrigation attempts began in the early 1890s with the construction of irrigation ditches to provide water for crop land. By the early 1920s, Ambrose Scott drilled the first irrigation well, followed by L.H. and Wayne Warner in 1939. The Warners’

well yielded an estimated 900 to 1,000 gallons of water per minute. Since the 1920s, irrigation technology has evolved and now sophisticated center pivot systems are used in agricultural production in much of the area.¹¹



*“Cedar Grove” barn and farmstead on the Nelson
Farmstead, c. 1920, BN00-012
(Photos above courtesy of Katharine Nelson)*

Presently, the county has approximately 200 farms and ranches, with approximately 200,000 acres under cultivation and over 200,000 acres in hardgrass rangeland that supports a thriving cattle industry. The irrigation developments that began in the 1920s and 1930s have continued to the present day and allow for the production of corn, beans, sugar beets, potatoes, sunflowers, rapeseed, millet, and other dry land crops. The current county population is 819.¹²

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Public Education

Harrisburg High School building (BN01-009), constructed in 1916, was the first of several buildings in the Banner High School Complex that display Craftsman-style architectural details. In 1926 the district constructed a dormitory (BN01-010) for students that lived too far to make a daily commute. By 1929, the district added a gymnasium (BN01-011) and teacher apartment building to the complex.

In 1956 Banner County consolidated its 23 school districts and became the first county in Nebraska to create a countywide consolidated school district. As rural areas no longer needed schoolhouses many have been lost through disuse.

— Adapted from Nebraska High School Historical Society, Inc., *Pages of History – Nebraska High Schools Present and Past – Public and Private, 1854-1994* (Nebraska High School Historical Society, Inc., 1994), 26.



Former Harrisburg High School, BN01-009



*Former Harrisburg High School Gymnasium,
BN01-011*

Missiles and the Military

Intercontinental Ballistics Missile sites (ICBMs) were constructed in western Nebraska during the early 1960s. In an attempt to strengthen national defense, six sites throughout the United States served as strategic locations for military bases to oversee the network of ICBM sites. The Department of Defense clustered hundreds of missile launch sites in the countryside centered on and overseen by military bases located near Cheyenne, Wyoming; Grand Forks, North Dakota; Minot, North Dakota; Sedalia, Missouri; Rapid City, South Dakota; and Great Falls, Montana. Warren Air Force Base, located about 3 miles west of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was the base for the missile silos located in western Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming.¹³

The D-, E-, and F-series Atlas Missiles were the first generation of ICBMs in the state. The military introduced the Atlas D missile program to western Nebraska in early 1960 and installation work continued into 1963. The federal government constructed 200 missile-launching sites within a 100-mile area centered on the city of Kimball in neighboring Kimball County. Ninety of these 200 sites were located within the state of Nebraska; the remaining missile sites were located in Colorado and Wyoming.

Construction crews employed by the United States Air Force and the Boeing Company, responsible for the missile construction, brought a financial boom to western Nebraska. Purchases in the local communities by construction companies and workers accounted for up to \$200,000 a month. Preparation for the construction required upgrading of roads. During the installation of the missiles, Banner County improved 79 miles of roads at a cost of \$670,561.¹⁴

The first missile installations for the Minuteman Missile system began in Banner County in 1963. Development of the Minuteman Missile series began in early 1958 and progressed rapidly. The Minuteman I became operational in late 1962, replacing the earlier Atlas Missile series. The Minuteman I used solid propellant rather than liquid fuels and was designed to be stored and launched from underground silos.¹⁵

The Minuteman I was replaced with the more advanced Minuteman II three years later. The Minuteman II incorporated an improved guidance system, a greater range and payload capacity, and an increased ability to survive a nuclear attack. The tri-state corner of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska received 200 Minuteman II Missiles, located at converted Minuteman I sites.¹⁶

The Minuteman III replaced the earlier models during the 1970s. The Minuteman III was the most advanced version of the solid-propellant series of weapons and had a greater range and larger nuclear payload than the earlier models. Eighty-two Minuteman III missile silos were located in the Nebraska Panhandle at converted Minuteman I and II sites — Banner County had 20, Kimball County had 25, and Cheyenne County had 37.¹⁷

In 1988, 50 Peacekeeper missiles replaced Minuteman III missiles in the Nebraska Panhandle. The Peacekeeper is the most powerful ICBM in the world, capable of delivering ten independently-targeted warheads.¹⁸

Missile silo sites surrounded by chain link fences are visible across the landscape of Banner County. A hardened silo, 12 feet in diameter, located about 90 feet below the surface deploys the missiles from the Minuteman III and Peacekeeper series. Two underground equipment rooms are located around the silo casing, each extending 28 feet below the surface. Each launch area covers 2 to 3 acres. Twenty underground alert facilities connect the individual silos through a system of hardened cables.

Community Development

Currently, Banner County has only one community, Harrisburg. Historically, however, Banner County's countryside was dotted with hopeful town sites. In 1887 four town sites bid for the location of the county seat — Centropolis, Banner, Ashford, and Freeport. Each town site had a store, post office, and ardent supporters. Banner County history records that by 1900 several aspiring town sites

had established post offices served by a mail route. Since Banner County did not have railroad service, the mail was delivered from the rail lines to the north and south of Banner County to post offices by way of coach.¹⁹



Grade school building in Harrisburg, nonextant (BCHS)

The first post office in Banner County was established by Margaret Livingston, wife of rancher Lee D. Livingston, along Pumpkin Creek. The office operated between June 23, 1886, and October 30, 1890, when it was discontinued and the mail was sent to Ashford. Land speculators and town promoters established 26 post offices in the county during the 1880s and 1890s. Often stores were established near post offices to provide goods to area settlers. Without a rail connection, the supplies for these stores were freighted in from Kimball, Potter, Sidney, or Cheyenne by horse teams and wagons over rough roads that took two or more full days of travel. Gradually, mail delivery discontinued at all Banner County post offices, except Harrisburg, within a short time of their establishment.²⁰

Harrisburg is the only community remaining in Banner County. Although it is the county seat, residents never incorporated Harrisburg as a village or town. Originally established in 1886 as Centropolis, residents changed the name of the settlement to Harrisburg on May 9, 1889. The settlement was established when C. A. Schooley purchased land from Pete Clausen and laid out a town plan around a central courthouse square, before Banner County was organized. Schooley hired his nephew Charles Randall, a newspaperman, to establish a local

Chapter 2. Historic Overview

paper. Randall used the paper to promote the town and to lobby for the creation of Banner County. Randall constructed a frame building, known locally as “The Red Front,” from which he operated the Centropolis Post Office and served as the settlement’s first postmaster.²¹



Banner County Courthouse, nonextant (BCHS)

Local history records a disagreement between Schooley and Randall. After the disagreement, Randall learned that Schooley never recorded the Centropolis town site in the county records. After learning this information, Randall is said to have laid out a town site 1 mile north of Centropolis and moved the newspaper office and the post office with him to the new location. Randall then claimed that his town site was the real Centropolis and that Schooley’s town did not exist. Convinced that Centropolis settlers would abandon Schooley’s town site and relocate to his town site, Randall soon found that the settlers did not follow him and instead lobbied for their own post office. As a result, Schooley changed the name from Centropolis to Harrisburg, after his hometown in Pennsylvania—this time recording the name in the county records. Discouraged, Randall later returned his buildings to Harrisburg and continued to promote Harrisburg and Banner County to prospective settlers.²²

In 1892 Harrisburg had two livery stables, three hotels, a cheese factory, three newspapers, two banks, and a brick factory that had been awarded the contract for the bricks used to construct the 1889 Kimball County Courthouse. The town became a stop for stagecoach and mail route carriers, with as many as 75 people staying overnight in the

three hotels in town. Local history does not cite the population of Harrisburg during this time, but notes that after the 1930s, the population of Harrisburg began a slow decline. Many of the homes and businesses that were present in 1890 and the early twentieth century are no longer standing, as residents gradually moved away.²³

Residents replaced the 1889 County Courthouse in 1959 with a new building. Today the town includes a fire department and rescue unit building; a large county school complex; a bank; post office; modern county courthouse building; two churches, including the Harrisburg Community Church (BN01-002), a handful of services, and the Banner County Historical Society Museum (BN01-001), located along or just off State Street. The residents of Harrisburg have nineteenth- and twentieth-century homes located to the north and south of State Street – the community’s main street. The current population of Harrisburg is 75.²⁴

Former Town Sites

Ashford was located northeast of Harrisburg. The community was named for William Ashford who settled in the area in 1885. The town site was located along Pumpkin Creek and a stage road, and served as the temporary location for the Banner County seat. The town site was platted and divided into 16 blocks with one block reserved as the future location of the Banner County Courthouse. The Ashford Town Site Company, located in Kimball, Nebraska, advertised property in the community in the late 1800s.²⁵

At one time it appeared that Ashford had the potential to become Banner County’s largest and most prosperous community. A post office was established in October of 1887 and the community had a population of eight. Dooley and Logan constructed a large commercial building in the late 1880s. They carried the largest and most complete line of merchandise in the county. A hall on the second floor was used as a public gathering place and for community parties. Daniel and F. F. Stauffer planted a large orchard near the Ashford settlement and harvested acres of cherries

during the late 1800s. Prosperity in Ashford was short-lived, however. In 1889 the county selected Harrisburg as the location of the county seat of government, and by 1902, postal service was discontinued to Ashford. Soon afterward, the owners of the Dooley and Logan building dismantled it and moved the building to nearby Gehring, Nebraska. Today, there is little evidence to suggest that the community ever existed.²⁶

Banner was located northwest of Harrisburg, near the head of Pumpkin Creek. Mr. Robinson and Ebenezer Wells established the town on May 15, 1888. The town had a population of eight, a post office, and a grocery store. In May of 1889, the town vied with Ashford, Freeport, and Centropolis to host as the location of the county seat of government. Postal service was discontinued on May 1, 1895 and the community was abandoned by the turn of the century.²⁷



Epworth Episcopal Church, BN00-033

Epworth was centered on the Epworth Episcopal Methodist Church (BN00-033) and the Elizabeth Cox homestead, west of Harrisburg. Cox established the Epworth Post Office at her residence in January of 1906. The church, included in the 2001 survey, was constructed in 1910 on land donated by Rundell Cox. In 1918 the congregation had over 80 registered members and remained active through the mid-1930s before being vacated.²⁸

During the 1920s and 1930s, **Flowerfield** was an aspiring community located southwest of Harrisburg. Homesteader George A. Millet occupied the site, and in 1912 established a

post office. He platted Flowerfield in 1917, laid out lots, and constructed sidewalks. To stimulate development, Millet offered free lots to anyone wishing to establish a business in the new town site and advertised the community in the Kimball newspaper. Buildings found at Flowerfield included a small, square-frame building known as “The Land Office,” a two-story building with a grocery store on the lower level and a public hall on the second level, and a c. 1924 schoolhouse. In 1937 the population of Flowerfield reached 37. As crops failed during the period, the population declined. Eventually the grocery store closed, the town garage was moved to another location, the post office closed, residents moved their houses, and the school was consolidated. There are few lasting vestiges of the community on the landscape today.²⁹

Located east of Harrisburg, the town site of **Freeport** boasted a population of ten in the late 1800s. Elisha M. Cowen established Freeport and functioned as the town’s first postmaster in 1887. Cowen named the town site after his former home of Freeport, Illinois. In May of 1889 the town vied along with Ashford, Banner, and Centropolis as the location of the county seat. Little development in Freeport occurred, and by 1911, the small community dwindled and postal service was discontinued.³⁰

Mr. C. W. Johnson erected a general store and post office on his homestead southeast of Harrisburg, and named the concentration of buildings **Kirk**. The locality became known as “Swede Valley” after settlement of Swedish settlers in the area. It was later referred to as “Swede Point” and later as “Lone Pine.” Kirk consisted of about fifteen families, centered on Johnson’s two-story house. Kirk hosted religious activities and Sunday school services until 1890, when a schoolhouse was constructed by the pioneers in the district. The Kirk Schoolhouse became the center for religious and civic activities for the community. In October of 1957 the Kirk Schoolhouse was sold at auction and was purchased by the Kirk Ladies Aid and the Kirk Sunday school. The Kirk Chapel (BN00-019) still stands and was included in the survey.³¹

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Notes

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Chapter 3

Survey Results

Research Design

Objectives

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) retained Mead & Hunt to identify and document significant historic, architectural, and landscape resources within Banner County. Architectural historians from Mead & Hunt conducted the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) in the fall of 2001. The 2001 NeHBS and builds upon the previous survey efforts undertaken by NSHS. The last county wide survey was completed in 1982. The survey verified the location and evaluated the current status of resources previously surveyed, and identified additional resources that qualify for inclusion in the NeHBS. Mead & Hunt then examined the integrity and significance of each previously surveyed and newly identified resource and its potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Architectural historians also reviewed resources collectively to determine their potential to contribute to a National Register Historic District.

Methodology

Survey Area

The survey consisted of buildings, structures, sites, and objects within Banner County visible from the public right-of-way. Properties located a considerable distance from the public right-of-way were not included in the survey.

Background Research

Before beginning fieldwork, architectural historians from Mead & Hunt investigated published information about the history, culture, and settlement of Banner County and its communities at the following repositories:

- Nebraska State Historical Society Library/Archives
- Banner County Historical Society Museum
- Kimball Public Library
- Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO), Nebraska State Historical Society

Mead & Hunt collected information on previously surveyed properties and National Register listed properties. NeSHPO and Mead & Hunt staff participated in a public meeting in Harrisburg open to members of the Banner County Historical Society and interested members of the public to provide local residents with information about the survey. NeSHPO and Mead & Hunt staff encouraged residents to share information on local history and about sites that may gain significance for their association to historic events or that were not visible from the public right-of-way.

Chapter 3. Survey Results

Field Survey

During the field survey, architectural historians from Mead & Hunt drove known public roads and streets to identify properties with historic and architectural significance. Properties that are included in the survey met the evaluation considerations outlined in the *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) Manual* (July 9, 1997). Generally, the NeHBS uses the National Park Service guidelines, which state that a property must:

- Be at least 50 years old — Following NeHBS guidelines, Mead & Hunt included properties that fell a few years outside the 50-year mark if they were significant or unusual property types.
- Be in its original location — Generally, historical associations are absent when a property is moved from its original location, which reduces its significance.
- Retain its physical integrity — For a property to retain physical integrity, its present appearance must closely resemble its original appearance. Common alterations to buildings include the replacement of original materials with modern ones (such as new windows or porches), the construction of additions, and the installation of modern siding materials. Properties that display too many physical changes were excluded from the survey. Because urban residences are the most common resources within a building survey, we evaluated them using a strict integrity standard.

Following NeHBS guidelines, Mead & Hunt considered historic changes in siding materials. Historic siding materials include asphalt shingles and sheet rolls, and asbestos shingles that have been applied during the historic period of the property or more than 50 years ago. Generally, asphalt siding material was used before World War II and asbestos siding was popularized after World War II. Historic replacement siding on vernacular buildings (buildings with no distinctive architectural style) was found to be acceptable to qualify for inclusion in the survey if the building displayed no other alterations. However, properties that had an identifiable style with historic siding were not surveyed because the addition of the

replacement siding has a greater effect and diminishes the property's integrity. For a discussion of historic siding materials, see *Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms*.

Generally, the survey team evaluated farmsteads, ranches, and complexes of agricultural buildings and structures as a whole. If the primary building(s) of the farmstead, ranch, or complex did not retain integrity, the associated buildings were not included in the survey. The survey team did make exceptions for outbuildings or structures that held significance collectively or individually, even if the residence, main barn, or outbuilding did not retain sufficient integrity to qualify the entire collection of buildings. The survey included abandoned properties that pre-date 1900, represent a rare or unusual property type, or exhibited regional construction methods or materials such as sod, stone, or log.

Mead & Hunt evaluated commercial buildings individually and as potential contributing components of a commercial historic district. In accordance with NeHBS guidelines, we acknowledged that the first-floor storefronts of commercial buildings are often modernized. An altered first-floor storefront alone did not eliminate a building from the survey. If a commercial building retained historic wall surfaces, cornices, and second-level window openings, it was generally included in the survey. Mead & Hunt closely evaluated concentrations of commercial buildings within Harrisburg to determine the potential for a historic commercial district.

The survey team documented properties according to the NeHBS manual's procedures and requirements. Architectural historians from Mead & Hunt recorded information gathered in the field into an electronic database. Photographic documentation included two black-and-white photographs for each newly surveyed property, and color and digital pictures of potentially eligible properties and representative properties in Banner County. During the evaluation, the survey team related properties to historic contexts and property types developed by the NeSHPO and outlined in

the NeHBS manual, and recorded all surveyed property locations on a U.S. Geological Survey, county road, and/or city map and in the electronic database. All surveyed properties were evaluated for potential eligibility according to the National Register criteria listed below.

Limitations and biases of the survey

Architectural historians evaluated only those properties and resources identifiable from the public right-of-way and not obscured by foliage or other obstructions. Banner County included a number of agricultural properties that are setback from the public right-of-way and the survey team made all possible attempts to view and assess the historic integrity of these properties.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. A property can be significant at the local, state, or national level. To qualify as eligible for the National Register, properties generally must be at least 50 years old and possess historic significance and physical integrity.

To be listed in the National Register, a property's significance must be demonstrated by one or more of the following criteria established by the National Park Service:

- Criterion A – Association with events or activities that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Criterion B – Association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Criterion C – Association with the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D – Potential to provide important information about prehistory or history.

Generally, cemeteries, birthplaces, grave sites, religious properties, moved buildings, reconstructed properties, commemorative properties, and properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years are considered ineligible for listing in the National Register. However, they may qualify if they fall into one of the following categories:

- Religious properties deriving significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.
- Moved properties that are significant for architectural value.
- Birthplaces or gravesites if there is no other appropriate site directly associated with a significant person's public life.
- Cemeteries that derive primary significance from graves of person's of transcendent importance, from age, or distinctive design features.
- Reconstructed buildings when built in a suitable environment.
- Commemorative properties with significant design, age, tradition, or symbolic value.
- Properties less than 50 years old that are of exceptional importance.

Important in the determination of eligibility of a property is integrity. Integrity is defined as the ability of a property to convey its significance. A property's integrity must be evident through historic qualities, including:

- Location
- Design
- Setting
- Materials
- Workmanship
- Feeling
- Association

The Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms defines the seven elements of integrity.

Chapter 3. Survey Results

Survey Results

This report highlights the results of the survey conducted in the fall of 2001, including recommendations for potential National Register eligibility and listing. Products submitted to NSHS include the survey report, black-and-white photograph contact sheets, negatives, color slides and digital images, maps, site plans, a digital database, and research files.

The 2001 NeHBS of Banner County evaluated 101 properties. The survey team evaluated approximately 53 previously surveyed properties, including one property listed in the National Register. Mead & Hunt did not resurvey 14 previously surveyed properties that exhibited poor integrity or were nonextant. The survey team identified and documented 48 new properties resulting in a total of 87 properties meeting NeHBS criteria and included in the 2001 survey results. For survey results, see *Table 1. Numerical Summary of 2001 Reconnaissance Survey Results*, below.

Illustrated Discussion of Significant Historic Contexts

The survey team identified properties that relate to historic contexts outlined by the NeSHPO in the *Nebraska Historic Buildings (NeHBS) Manual*. Each historic context contains distinct property types and details the history of a particular theme as related to the state of Nebraska. In the survey area, we identified six significant historic contexts. The following discussion presents each of the historic contexts through an illustration of related properties identified in the reconnaissance survey. A list of potentially eligible properties associated with each context can be found in *Chapter 4. Recommendations*.

Agriculture

The agriculture context combines property types related to food production, including crops and livestock. Within Banner County, the survey identified farmsteads and ranches associated with this theme. Farmsteads typically contained a main house flanked by barns and smaller outbuildings, grain bins, machine sheds, garages, chicken coops, and

windmills. With the introduction of modern farming practices and irrigation systems, modern buildings and utility buildings, often of metal, are commonly found in rural areas. Many historic barns types survive on farmsteads throughout Banner County.



Example of gambrel roof barn, BN00-079



Example of monitor roof barn, BN00-085



Gambrel roof barn with extended forebay, BN00-036



Gable roof barn with long narrow form located on Barrett Ranch, BN00-088

Ranches were common within Banner County. In some cases, ranching complexes represent early agricultural operations within the county. Historic ranches commonly consist of a main house with barns that are long and narrow in plan surrounded by a multitude of wire and wooden fenced corrals, a water tank, and smaller outbuildings. Many of the ranches in Banner County are located a considerable distance from the public right-of-way, thereby precluding the inclusion of these properties in the survey inventory.



Rural schoolhouse, BN00-024

Education

The education context relates to the processes of teaching and learning. The reconnaissance survey identified public schools as related property types. Schools were typically one story, frame or brick buildings. Rural schools were simple frame gable roof buildings with few architectural details. Historic school and

education related buildings located in Harrisburg exhibited Craftsman style details. Examples of education related buildings documented during the survey include a rural schoolhouse (BN00-024) and the former elementary school (BN01-005) building in Harrisburg.



Former Harrisburg Elementary School, BN01-005

Religion

The historic context of religion relates to the institutionalized belief in, and practices of, faith. Related property types identified during the reconnaissance survey include churches, cemeteries, and clergy residences. The churches identified in the survey were typically of frame or brick construction and demonstrate elements of the Neo-Gothic style or were vernacular in form.



Primitive Baptist Church, BN00-017

Generally, religious properties are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register unless the property derives its primary significance from

Chapter 3. Survey Results

architectural distinction or historical importance. An example of churches recorded in the reconnaissance survey are the Primitive Baptist Church (BN00-017) and the Harrisburg Community Church (BN01-002).



Harrisburg Community Church, BN01-002

Services

The theme of services relates to properties that contain support facilities for an area, such as banking, public utilities, health care, and volunteer and charitable organizations. A service related property identified in the reconnaissance survey is the Banner County Bank (BN01-008).



Banner County Bank, BN01-008

Settlement/Architecture

The historic context of settlement pertains to the division, acquisition, and ownership of land. Houses are the primary property type associated with settlement in the survey area and represent the largest pool of buildings surveyed. Vernacular forms with some high style architectural characteristics generally

represent the residential properties within the survey area. (For definitions of architectural styles and terms, please refer to *Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms*).

Vernacular forms are the most prevalent types of buildings found in Banner County. Vernacular buildings are generally not constructed by architects in a popular architectural style, but are generally locally built and exhibit common forms, which include:

- The front gable is one of the most common forms identified in the survey and generally consists of a one and one-half story houses with the roof gable on the front facade.
- Side gable houses were also commonly one-and-one-half stories with few architectural details.

Examples of front and side gable houses were found throughout the survey area functioning as farmhouses. These houses commonly have a symmetrical fenestration pattern and modest architectural details. Most commonly displayed details include side bay windows and dormers. Together, these forms represent much of the rural housing constructed by the ranch and farming community during the early twentieth century.

A significant number of log constructed houses exhibiting these vernacular forms are found in Banner County. Many log constructed houses are abandoned, while the survey team found that other log constructed buildings, still in use, are clad in clapboard or other more recent siding materials.

Houses and other buildings frequently exhibit a vernacular form with a mixture of elements borrowed from high-style architecture. Uses of architectural styles surveyed in Banner County include:

- Craftsman and Craftsman-style bungalows dating from the early twentieth century. Houses and other buildings constructed in this manner commonly have sweeping gable roofs with exposed rafters, and brick or stucco exterior. While no surveyed houses exhibited the Craftsman style, the former Harrisburg

High School building (BN01-009) located in Harrisburg is a good example of Craftsman style architecture.



Former Harrisburg High School, BN01-009



Service station, BN00-060

Transportation

Transportation relates to the carrying, moving, or conveying of material and people from one place to another. Examples of associated property types include trails, roads, gas stations, bridges, railroad stations and depots, and airport terminals. A rural gas station (BN00-060) and the service station in Harrisburg (BN01-006) are examples of transportation related properties included in the reconnaissance survey. The gas station in Harrisburg was moved to its present location within the last 50 years from approximately one block south. *Applying Criterion Consideration B: Moved Properties*, the gas station retains architectural integrity under *Criterion C: Architecture* as an intact and excellent example of a 1920s gas station.



Gas station in Harrisburg, BN01-006

Chapter 3. Survey Results

Numerical Summary of Survey Results

The 2001 NeHBS of Banner County evaluated 101 new and previously surveyed historic properties. Eight properties were nonextant. The survey team evaluated approximately 53 previously surveyed historic properties including one property listed in the National Register. The previous countywide survey was completed in 1982. Mead & Hunt resurveyed 39 previously surveyed properties that retained historic integrity and identified and documented 48 new properties that meet NeHBS guideline resulting in 87 properties included in the 2001 NeHBS survey results.

Table 1. Numerical Summary of 2001 Reconnaissance Survey Results

Total number of historic properties evaluated	101
Previously identified historic properties	53
Previously identified historic properties that lost historic integrity	14
Previously identified historic properties with historic integrity	39
Newly identified properties with historic integrity	48
Total number of properties identified in 2001 NeHBS	87

Table 2. Numerical Summary of 2001 Reconnaissance Survey by Location

Location	Properties Surveyed
Harrisburg	10
Rural	77
Total	87

Table 3. Numerical Summary of 2001 Reconnaissance Survey by Historic Context

Historic Context	Properties Surveyed
Agriculture (including farmsteads and rural residences)	65
Diversion	1
Education	7
Extraction Industry	1
Religious	7
Services	1
Settlement	2
Transportation	3
Total	87

Chapter 4

Recommendations

Individual Properties Potentially Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

One purpose of the 2001 NeHBS survey of Banner County is to identify properties potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). National Register listing is an honorific status given to properties that possess historic or architectural significance at the local, state, or national level. One individual property in the survey area has already been recognized and listed in the National Register, the C. C. Hampton Homestead/Warner Ranch (BN00-029).

As a result of this survey, the survey team recommends eight individual properties as potentially eligible for the National Register. These properties retain good integrity and possess the characteristics and significance that may allow them to be listed in the National Register. Additional intensive-level research and review by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) is necessary before a final decision is made on eligibility.

Potentially eligible National Register properties are listed under their primary NeSHPO historic context and illustrated within the report, as indicated. (For historic context explanations, see *Illustrated Discussion of Significant Historic Contexts* section in Chapter 3).

C.C. Hampton Homestead/Warner Ranch

The Hampton Homestead (BN00-029, listed in the National Register in 1984) is located in the high plains of Banner County along the headwaters of Pumpkin Creek. The ranch headquarters consists of several buildings and corrals including the 1890 log ranch house. Commodore C. Hampton came to the area in the 1880s, filing a homestead claim of 160 acres. He established one of the first Aeromotor Windmill distributorships in Nebraska and promoted this windmill to his fellow ranchers to assure an adequate water supply in the Pumpkin Creek valley. Within ten years the homestead grew to a ranch of over 3,000 acres. After various ownership changes, the property was purchased by Lawrence Warner in 1942 and became known as the Warner Ranch.

—Adapted from Nebraska State Historical Society, “Nebraska National Register Sites in Banner County,” *Nebraska National Register Sites*, 30 November 2001, <www.nebraskahistory.org/histpres/nebraska/index.htm> (6 March 2002).

Chapter 4. Recommendations

Agriculture



This farmstead has a large Dutch Colonial Revival house and a good collection of intact outbuildings, including a gable roof barn with a decorative cupola, BN00-007. Further research is recommended due to the property's distance from the public right-of-way.



Barrett Ranch buildings, BN00-088. The Barrett Ranch represents an intact ranch complex including a historic stone house and barn, and an inscribed conical-shaped concrete water tank and other outbuildings.

Education

The Harrisburg High School Building Complex includes the Former Harrisburg High School, BN01-09; the Former Harrisburg High School Dormitory, BN01-010 (not pictured); and the Former Harrisburg High School Gymnasium, BN01-011. See *Education* section in Chapter 3 for a discussion of the historic significance of this educational complex.



Former Harrisburg High School, BN01-009



Former Harrisburg High School Gymnasium, BN01-011

Settlement/Architecture



Reverend Oscar Anderson Log House, BN00-020. The house reportedly was constructed by a Swedish missionary church community for use by preacher Oscar Anderson and his mother Kajsa. Future research is recommended; the property is abandoned and the integrity of the log construction should be evaluated.



Log-constructed house, BN00-032. This is an example of a large intact ell-shaped log house. Future research is recommended; the property is abandoned and the integrity of the log construction should be evaluated.

Transportation



*Gas Station located in Harrisburg, BN01-006. This gas station is an example of a canopy-style early gas station constructed c. 1920. This property was moved to its present location within Harrisburg from approximately one block to the south. Applying *Criterion Consideration B: Moved Properties*, the gas station retains architectural integrity under *Criterion C: Architecture*, and is recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register as an intact example of early gas station construction.*

Future Survey and Research Needs

The 2001 NeHBS Banner County identified historic topics and resource types that would benefit from further study. We recommend the following future research and survey activities to help interpret Banner County's unique history for local residents, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS), and interested historians in order to provide a clearer understanding of Nebraska Panhandle history and its resources.

Preservation Planning in Banner County

Banner County has a significant amount of historic preservation potential. The ultimate goal would be to have preservation as a shared community value, similar to public safety and quality education. The Banner County Historical Society and Museum is an active organization already engaging in local history and preservation activities. The NSHS together with the Banner County Historical Society and Museum need to champion further local preservation initiatives and activities, by increasing public education on preservation issues. Examples of activities that can be accomplished include:

- Establishing locally designated landmarks
- Listing properties in the National Register
- Strengthening regional preservation by partnering with neighboring counties and communities on projects such as interpretive driving tours, oral histories, and historic landscape studies.

Additionally, Mead & Hunt identified three themes for possible future research. Future research themes represent significant historic developments that have occurred within the survey area and often display visible patterns of resource development associated with these events.

Chapter 4. Recommendations

Intensive-level Survey of Log Construction

Banner County contains a concentration of log-constructed houses and outbuildings. The survey evaluated 12 log houses, and this property type represents approximately 13% of the extant historic properties recorded in the NeHBS for Banner County. Although many of these buildings are now abandoned, one property containing a log-constructed building is listed in the National Register and others may qualify after additional research is completed.

Context Development of the Oil Industry

The oil industry dramatically changed the landscape of Banner County beginning in the 1950s. The story of oil exploration started much earlier, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, for western Nebraska. As resources related with oil exploration and production begin to reach the 50 year age mark, they will need to be considered for their historic significance. A contextual study evaluating buildings, structures, and landscape features will guide in future evaluations.

Context Development of the Role of the U.S. Government in Missile Site Installation in Banner, Kimball, and Cheyenne Counties

The Cold War arms race, also visibly changed the landscape of Banner County. As the historical significance of the Cold War is continuing to be documented, its effects in rural areas and off military bases is an important component of this story. Beginning in 1963, Banner, Kimball, and Cheyenne County rural residents witnessed the installation of hundreds of nuclear missile sites as they plowed their fields and tended to their livestock. Future surveys of these counties will likely need to consider missile sites for their historical significance.

Table 4. Individual Properties Recommended Potentially Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

NeHBS Site Number	Resource Name	NeHBS Historic Context	National Register Area of Significance
BN00-007	Farmstead	Settlement/Architecture	Agriculture
BN00-088	Barrett Ranch buildings	Settlement/Architecture	Agriculture
BN01-009	Former Harrisburg High School*	Education	Education
BN01-011	Former Harrisburg High School Gymnasium*	Education	Education
BN01-010	Former Harrisburg High School Dormitory*	Education	Education
BN00-020	Reverend Oscar Anderson Log House**	Settlement/Architecture	Settlement/Architecture
BN00-032	Log-constructed House**	Settlement/Architecture	Settlement/Architecture
BN01-006	Gas Station***	Transportation	Architecture

*Evaluated together as the Harrisburg High School building complex.

**Further research is recommended to determine the integrity of the log construction.

***This property was moved to its present location within Harrisburg, and would need Criteria Consideration B: Moved Properties applied to determine eligibility.

List of Surveyed Properties

NeHBS No.	Property Name	Address
<i>Rural</i>		
BN00-002	School	Rural
BN00-003	Dale Ranch	Rural
BN00-004	District 41 Schoolhouse	Rural
BN00-005	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-007	Ranch	Rural
BN00-009	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-010	House	Rural
BN00-011	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-012	Nelson/Cedar Grove Farmstead	Rural
BN00-014	Barn	Rural
BN00-015	Barn	Rural
BN00-017	Primitive Baptist Church	Rural
BN00-018	Barn	Rural
BN00-019	Kirk Chapel	Rural
BN00-020	Rev. Oscar Anderson Log House	Rural
BN00-021	Kirk Cemetery	Rural
BN00-022	Log House	Rural
BN00-023	House	Rural
BN00-024	District 8 Schoolhouse	Rural
BN00-025	House	Rural
BN00-027	Stone Garage	Rural
BN00-028	Log House	Rural
BN00-029	C.C. Hampton Homestead	Rural
BN00-031	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural

List of Surveyed Properties

NeHBS No.	Property Name	Address
BN00-032	Log House	Rural
BN00-033	Epworth Church and Cemetery	Rural
BN00-034	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural
BN00-036	Barn	Rural
BN00-038	Log Building	Rural
BN00-039	Log Building	Rural
BN00-043	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural
BN00-044	Pleasant Hill Cemetery	Rural
BN00-045	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-046	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural
BN00-047	Weight Station	Rural
BN00-048	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-049	Roberts Ranch	Rural
BN00-050	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-051	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-052	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural
BN00-053	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-054	Abandoned House	Rural
BN00-055	Ranch	Rural
BN00-056	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-057	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-058	Gabe Rock Cemetery	Rural
BN00-059	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-060	Service Station	Rural
BN00-061	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural
BN00-062	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-063	Log Building	Rural
BN00-064	Abandoned Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-065	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-066	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-067	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-068	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-069	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural
BN00-070	Log Building	Rural
BN00-071	Chaulk Hill Cemetery	Rural
BN00-072	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-073	Buildings	Rural
BN00-074	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-075	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-076	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-077	Log Building	Rural

List of Surveyed Properties

NeHBS No.	Property Name	Address
BN00-078	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-079	Barn	Rural
BN00-080	Van Pelt Ranch	Rural
BN00-081	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-082	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-083	Abandoned House	Rural
BN00-084	Farmstead	Rural
BN00-085	Abandoned Farmstead	Rural
BN00-086	Farmhouse	Rural
BN00-087	Oil Well	Rural
BN00-088	Barrett Ranch	Rural
BN00-089	Farmstead	Rural
<i>Harrisburg</i>		
BN01-001	Banner Co. Historical Society Grounds	NW corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and Clausen St.
BN01-002	Harrisburg Community Church	SW corner of Clausen St. and Illinois Ave.
BN01-005	Former Elementary School	Maryland Ave., between Court St. and State St.
BN01-006	Gas Station	Pennsylvania Ave., west side between Court St. and Clausen St.
BN01-007	Service Station	State Street, north side
BN01-008	Banner County Bank building	SW corner of Court St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
BN01-009	Former Harrisburg High School	Pennsylvania Ave, west side north of Park St.
BN01-010	Former Harrisburg High School Dormitory	Pennsylvania Ave., west side north of Park St.
BN01-011	Former Harrisburg Gymnasium	Pennsylvania Ave., west side north of Park St.
BN01-012	House	NW corner Court St. and Missouri Ave.

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Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms

Art Moderne Style (circa 1930-1950). An architectural style featuring industrial technology and streamlined simplicity. Features include smooth, rounded corners, horizontal massing, details in concrete, glass block, aluminum, and stainless steel.

Association. Link of a historic property with a historic event, activity, or person. Also, the quality of integrity through which a historic property is linked to a particular past time and place.

Balloon frame. A type of support for wood-frame buildings that utilizes vertical studs that extend the full height of the wall and floor joists fastened to the studs with nails. Balloon-frame buildings in Nebraska became popular with the expansion of the railroad when milled lumber could be shipped to the plains for relatively low cost.

Bay window. A decorative window that projects out from the flat surface of an exterior wall, often polygonal in design. Bay windows are often seen on Queen Anne style buildings.

Boom-Town (circa 1850-1880). See false-front.

Brackets. Support members used under overhanging eaves of a roof, usually decorative in nature.

Building. A building is erected to house activities performed by people.

Bungalow/Craftsman Style (circa 1890-1940). An architectural style characterized by overhanging eaves, modest size, open porches with large piers and low-pitched roofs.

Circa, Ca., or c. At, in, or of approximately, used especially with dates.

Clapboard. Relatively long, thin boards that have a thick lower edge and a feathered, or tapered upper edge. The shape of the boards permits them to be overlapped horizontally. Clapboard is most commonly used as cladding material on vernacular form houses and their secondary buildings.

Column. A circular or square vertical support member.

Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms

Commercial Vernacular Style (circa 1860-1930). A form of building used to describe simply designed commercial buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which usually display large retail windows and recessed entrances on the first floor.



Example of Commercial Vernacular Style

Contributing (National Register definition). A building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities for which a property is significant. The resource was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity, or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

Contributing (NeHBS definition). A building, site, structure, object, or collection of buildings such as a farmstead that meets the NeHBS criteria of integrity, historic association, historic architectural qualities, and was present during the period of significance. A property that contributes to the NeHBS is generally evaluated with less strictness than for an individual listing in the National Register, yet more strictness than a building which may “contribute” to a proposed National Register district.

Cross gable (circa 1860-1910). A vernacular building form typically two stories and square in plan with two identical roofs whose ridges intersect to produce a cruciform.

Design. Quality of integrity applying to the elements that create the physical form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

Dormer. A vertical window projecting from the roof. Variations of dormer types can be based on the dormer’s roof form, for example shed dormer, gable dormers, and hipped dormers.

Dutch Colonial Revival Style (circa 1900-1940). A residential architectural style based on the more formal Georgian Revival style. This style is identified by its gambrel roof and symmetrical facade.

Eclectic Style (circa 1890-1910). An eclectic building displays a combination of architectural elements from various styles. It commonly resulted when a house designed in one architectural style was remodeled into another.

Elevation. Any single side of a building or structure.

Eligible. Properties that meet the National Park Service Criteria for nomination and listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Evaluation. Process by which the significance and integrity of a historic property are judged and eligibility for National Register of Historic Places (National Register) listing is determined.

Extant. Still standing or existing (as in a building, structure, site, and/or object).

False-front (circa 1850-1880). A vernacular building form, which is typically a one-and-one-half story front gable frame building with a square facade that extends vertically in front of the front-facing gable. This gives an entering visitor the sense of approaching a larger building. This form is often used in the construction of a first-generation commercial building, thus is also known as “boom-town.”



Example of Cross gable building form

Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms



Example of Dormer

Feeling. Quality of integrity through which a historic property evokes the aesthetic or historic sense of past time and place.

Fenestration. The arrangement of windows and other exterior openings on a building.

Foursquare Style (circa 1900-1930). Popularized by mail-order catalogues and speculative builders in the early twentieth century, this style is typified by its box-like massing, two-stories, hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, central dormers, and one-story porch spanning the front facade.

Front gable (circa 1860-1910). The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which the triangular end of the roof faces the street.

Gable. The vertical triangular end of a building from cornice or eaves to ridge.

Gabled Ell (circa 1860-1910). The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which two gabled wings are perpendicular to one another in order to form an “L”-shaped plan.



Example of Gabled Ell building form

Gable end. The triangular end of an exterior wall.

Gable roof. A roof type formed by the meeting of two sloping roof surfaces.

Gambrel roof. A roof type with two slopes on each side.

High Victorian Gothic (circa 1865-1900). This architectural style drew upon varied European medieval sources and employed pointed arches and polychromatic details. The heavier detailing and more complex massing made this style popular for public and institutional buildings.



Example of Front gable building form

Historic siding materials

As asphalt building materials became more popular, companies such as Flinkote, Johns-Manville, Ruberiod, and Pabco began creating siding materials in addition to roof shingles. The asphalt roofing industry developed between 1903 and 1920, creating varied shingle sizes and shapes. The siding shingles were typically similar in color and design to the roofing shingles, but were larger in size. During the 1930s, the Flintkote Company offered a siding pattern that imitated bricks. During World War II the use of asbestos-cement siding and roofing materials rose to new levels, primarily as a result of the need to enclose munitions supplies with an easy assembled, inexpensive, fireproof material. The material became a popular residential building material following the war. Asbestos-cement siding shingles, also referred to as slate siding, came in a wide variety of colors, sizes, and textures. During production, asbestos fibers were typically bound with cement, causing the asbestos to be unable to breathe, and therefore limiting the health risk. The material proved popular because of building material shortages caused by the war, the efficient price, and the benefit of being fireproof. Companies that produced asphalt building materials, such as Johns-Manville, Ruberoid, and Pabco also produced asbestos materials. Advertisements from the 1950s show how popular these products were, and claimed that they could modernize a home, add fireproof protection, and were a permanent, no maintenance product. Production began during World War II, and some companies produced siding into the 1980s, although rising health concerns about the materials in the 1960s curtailed popularity.

—Discussion adapted from Thomas C. Jester, ed., *Twentieth-Century Building Materials* (Washington D.C.: The McGraw-Hill Companies, 1995), 42, 250.

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Hipped roof. A roof type formed by the meeting of four sloping roof surfaces.

Historic context. The concept used to group related historic properties based upon a theme, a chronological period, and/or a geographic area.

Integrity. Authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. (See Chapter 3, Research Design.)

Italianate Style (circa 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.

Keystone. A wedge-shaped piece at the crown of an arch that locks the other pieces in place. It is seen most often over arched doors and window openings and is sometimes of a different material than the opening itself.

Late Gothic Revival Style (circa 1880-1920). 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 openings remain a key feature; however, designs are more subdued than those of the earlier period.

Location. Quality of integrity retained by a historic property existing in the same place as it did during the period of significance.

Materials. Quality of integrity applying to the physical elements that were combined or deposited in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

Mediterranean Revival (circa 1900-1940). These buildings are characterized by flat wall surfaces, often plastered, broken by a series of arches with terra cotta, plaster, or tile ornamentation. Details such as red tile roofs and heavy brackets are also commonly seen.

Multiple Property Nomination. The National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property documentation form nominates groups of related significant properties. The themes, trends, and patterns of history shared by the properties are organized into historic contexts. Property types that represent those historic contexts are defined within the nomination.

National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The official federal list of districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that are important in the prehistory or history of their community, state, or nation. The program is administered through the National Park Service by way of State Historic Preservation Offices (see Chapter 1, Introduction of this report).

National Register of Historic Places Criteria. Established criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register. See Chapter 3, Research Design.

Neo-Classical Style (circa 1900-1920). An architectural style characterized by a symmetrical facade and usually includes a pediment portico with classical columns.

Noncontributing (National Register definition). A building, site, structure, or object that does not add to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which a property is significant. The resource was not present during the period of significance; does not relate to the documented



Example of One-story Cube building form

Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms

significance of the property; or due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity nor is capable of yielding important information about the period.

Noncontributing (NeHBS definition). A building, site, structure, object, or collection of buildings such as a farmstead that does not meet the NeHBS criteria of integrity, historic association, historic architectural qualities, or was not present during the period of significance. Noncontributing properties are not generally entered into, nor kept in, the NeHBS inventory; however, exceptions do exist.

Object. An artistic, simple, and/or small-scale construction not identified as a building or structure; i.e. historic signs, markers, and monuments.

One-story Cube (circa 1870-1930). The vernacular form of a house, which is one-story and box-like in massing. Features generally include a low-hipped roof, a full front porch recessed under the roof, little ornamentation, and simple cladding, such as clapboard, brick, or stucco. Also known as a Prairie Cube.

Period of Significance. Span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the National Register criteria.

Pony truss bridge (circa 1880-1920). A low iron or steel truss, approximately 5 to 7 feet in height, located alongside and above the roadway surface. Pony truss bridges often range in span lengths of 20 to 100 feet.



Example of Side gable building form

Portico. A covered walk or porch supported by columns or pillars.

Potentially eligible. Properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register pending further research and investigation.

Property. A building, site, structure, and/or object situated within a delineated boundary.

Property type. A classification for a building, structure, site, or object based on its historic use or function.

Queen Anne Style (circa 1880-1900). A style that enjoyed widespread popularity, particularly in the eastern portion of Nebraska. These houses are typically two stories tall, 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.

Setting. Quality of integrity applying to the physical environment of a historic property.

Shed roof. A roof consisting of one inclined plane.

Side gable (circa 1860-1940). The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which the gable end of the roof is perpendicular to the street.

Significance. Importance of a historic property as defined by the National Register criteria in one or more areas of significance.

Site. The location of a prehistoric or historic event.

Spanish Colonial Revival Style (circa 1900-1920). These buildings, which have a southwestern flavor, show masonry construction usually covered with plaster or stucco, red clay tiled hipped roofs, and arcaded porches. Some facades are enriched with curvilinear and decorated roof lines.

Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms

Structure. Practical constructions not used to shelter human activities.

Stucco. A material usually made of Portland cement, sand, and a small percentage of lime and applied in a plastic state to form a hard covering for exterior walls.

Tudor Revival Style (circa 1920-1940). A style that reflects a blend of a variety of elements from late English medieval styles. It is identified by steep gables, half-timbering, and mixes of stone, stucco, and wood.

Turret. A little tower that is an ornamental structure and projects at an angle from a larger structure.

Two-story Cube (circa 1860-1890). The vernacular form, generally for a house, which is a two-story building, box-like in massing, with a hipped roof, near absence of surface ornament, and simple exterior cladding such as brick, clapboard, or stucco.

Vernacular. A functional, simplistic building or structure without stylistic details. Vernacular form buildings were usually designed by the builder, not by an architect.

Workmanship. Quality of integrity applying to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture, people, or artisan.

All images shown in glossary adapted from Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, vol. 2, Architecture (Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986).