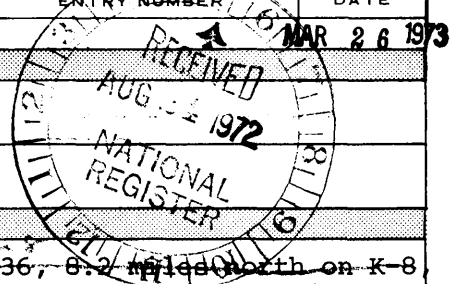


PP 055735

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Smith	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



**1. NAME**

COMMON: "Home on the Range" Cabin

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *about 1/2 mile NW of* 8 miles west of Smith Center on US 36, 6.2 miles north on K-8  
 3/4 mile west on secondary roads. SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 7, T 2 S, R 14 W

CITY OR TOWN: Smith Center vicinity

STATE Kansas	CODE 66967	COUNTY: Smith	CODE 183
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Peter A. Rust and Ellen M. Rust

STREET AND NUMBER: R.R.

CITY OR TOWN: Athol

STATE: Kansas

CODE: 66932

20

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Smith County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Smith Center

STATE: Kansas

CODE: 66967

20

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas

CODE: 66612

20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Smith

ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 26 1973

DATE: MAR 26 1973

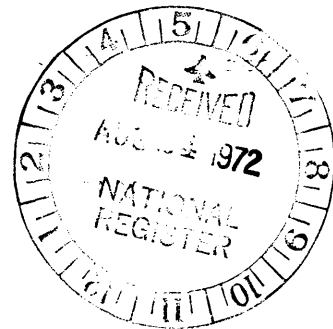
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "Home on the Range" cabin is a rectangular one story log structure. The logs are generally circular with the bark peeled off except that the logs on the cabin end are split face. The logs do not interlock at the corners. The simple gable roof is covered with wood shingles and has a narrow overhang on all sides. The gable end of the wall is constructed of logs set vertically. All openings for windows and doors are small, simple and rectangular. The supporting lintels are provided by one of the logs of the wall. The cabin was restored in the 1950's by a Smith Center civic club.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Smith	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 26 1973

(Number all entries)

6. Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration (1939)  
Federal  
Records destroyed. A guidebook, Kansas, was published in 1939.
  
9. Schmidt, Heinie, "Portrait of Man Who Wrote Kansas State Song...,"  
(Dodge City) High Plains Journal, June 23, 1949.  
Smith County Pioneer, March 18, 1948.  
Van Dyke, June, "But Over the Land the Song Lives On," Salina Journal,  
April 5, 1964.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

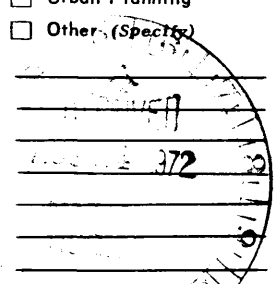
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Home on the Range" Cabin near Smith Center was built in 1875 by Dr. Brewster Higley. Dr. Higley, born November 30, 1823, at Rutland, Ohio, began the study of medicine at the age of 18, was graduated from the State Medical College of Indiana in 1848, and practiced medicine in the vicinity of La Porte, Indiana, for some time. Higley moved to Kansas about 1871 and established a homestead near Beaver Creek in Smith County, approximately ten miles northwest of Smith Center. Here he continued his practice of medicine, living in a dugout at first.

In the fall of 1872, Higley began a poem which provided the lyrics for the song "Home on the Range." He took the words to a friend, Dan Kelley, at Gaylord in Smith County, in 1873, and Kelley wrote music to fit the poem. The song, which was originally called "My Western Home," was first published in the Smith County Pioneer in 1873.

It is noteworthy that many people claimed authorship of the song. A half-million-dollar lawsuit in the 1930's, plus reports that it was Pres. Franklin Roosevelt's favorite song, drew attention to it and made it a popular hit. The Kansas legislature designated "Home on the Range" as the official state song in 1947.

The cabin built by Higley in 1875 still stands. It has often been erroneously referred to as the place where the song was written; however, at the time he composed the song Higley was living in the dugout. He and his family lived in the log cabin until the early 1880's when they moved to Smith Center. In 1886 he sold the homestead and moved to Van Buren, Arkansas.

The "Home on the Range" Cabin is important because of the nationally-known song written by Dr. Higley. The fact that it is now the official state song of Kansas adds to its significance and makes the cabin a more interesting landmark for Kansans to visit.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Dedication--'Home on the Range' Cabin," Sunday, July 25, 1954 (n.p., n.d.).  
 "Dr. Bruce Higley's Early Day Cabin Still Stands at Site on Beaver Creek,"  
 Smith Center Pioneer, September 26, 1946.  
 "History of Famous Song is Reviewed," Dodge City Globe, May 23, 1947.  
 Kansas City Star, September 20, 1949.  
 Mechem, Kirke, "The Story of Home on the Range," Kansas Historical Quarterly,  
 v. 17, no. 4 (November, 1949), pp. 313-339.  
 "Medical Ballader," Medical Newsmagazine, May, 1960, pp. 157, 158.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY.			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		39	53	23
SE	° ' "	° ' "		98	56	47
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: March 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Nyle H. Miller  
 Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date Nov. 24, 1971

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert K. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/26/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Date 3/21/77

NO UTM HL SEE INSTRUCTIONS