

PH0502740

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 17 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

** Scout's Rest Ranch

(LN00-12)

AND/OR COMMON

Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of N. Platte off US 30

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

North Platte

 VICINITY OFCONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

31

COUNTY

Lincoln

CODE

111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Nebraska, Game and Parks Commission

STREET & NUMBER

State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

North Platte

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Scout's Rest Ranch was the ranch home of William F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill". The ranch is located immediately west of the city of North Platte, Nebraska, and just south of the North Platte River. Scout Creek flows through the ranch, between the house and barn.

The ranch originally consisted of 4,000 acres. Now the Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park covers 65 acres, a portion of which is being nominated. The buildings constructed for Cody (the house, barn, ice house, and cob house) are being nominated, while the modern structures necessary for park maintenance are not felt to be eligible.

House, 1886

The two-story frame house was built in 1886 to accommodate the many friends Cody entertained and the family of Al & Julia Goodman, his sister and brother-in-law, who managed the ranch. Cody had certain specifications as to size and the furnishings of his rooms but general decisions about the house were left to his sister. The builder was Patrick Walsh of North Platte who completed the house for \$3,900. The rear addition to the house was added in 1909.

The design of the house is derived from the Second Empire style with Italianate and Eastlake features. The mansard roof with prominent dormers and the three-story tower are principal Second Empire characteristics. The mansard roof is covered with round-edged wood shingles. The gable-roofed dormer windows have a decorative projecting detail in the point of the gable. A mansard roof tops the three-story tower and is edged with a wooden cresting and small spires at the corners, as is the house roof. The irregular massing of the exterior is typical of the Second Empire style.

The Italianate features include the two-story bay window on the east which cuts through the mansard roof, and the brackets under the cornice. Cody requested that the front porch be ten feet wide so it would be spacious enough for entertaining. The porch trim suggests an Eastlake influence. It was fairly typical for the Second Empire style houses to be Americanized with Eastlake porches. Originally the porch railing did have turned posts as still exist on the porch roof railing.

During 1962-64 the house was renovated and restored by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission as part of their project to make Scout's Rest a State Historical Park. Major structural and interior renovation took place at that time. Original materials were saved where possible; however in many cases deterioration was so complete that parts had to be replaced. To provide structural strengthening, steel "I" beams and poured concrete footings were placed under the house. New joists and additional cross bracing under the floors were also added. The original shingle siding, porch railings and details were removed, cleaned, and reused when possible. The majority of the siding had to be replaced because of deterioration.

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The replacement siding was specially made to match the original. Interior walls and ceilings were stripped and new lath and plaster installed. Since 1964 the ranch has been open to the public.

Barn, ca. 1887

Of wood construction, the two-story barn has a lean-to addition on the north side and the siding is board and batten. The gambrel roof is covered with wood shingles and has three wooden ventilators. The sign "Scout's Rest Ranch" is painted on the roof as it was in Cody's day "in letters large enough to be read from the Union Pacific, a mile away" (see photo #2 and #4). The exposed rafters under the roof overhang are carved in the shape of gun stocks. At the point of the gable is Annie Oakley's trademark, the ace of spades with a hole in it. The barn is painted red with white trim and battens, as it appears in historic photographs. There are four slide-door entrances along the south side and one on each floor of the west end.

Original signs remain included "Col. W. F. Cody" painted on the center ventilator and the sign above the south wagon entrance. Original Wild West posters remain pasted on the interior walls.

Structural renovation was done in the same period as the house. New interior supports were placed to reinforce the structure. The siding and roofing material were replaced as needed to match the original.

Cob House

The cob house is a small one-story board and batten sided building with gable roof. There is a small four pane window on each gable end and a door in the center of the east and west sides. The boards are painted red and the battens white. On the west side, there are two small chutes covered with hinged wooden flaps painted white (see photo #5). Each chute empties into a bin which is separated from the center aisle by a partial wall.

The storage of corncobs near the house was helpful so they were easily accessible as kindling for the house stoves. The cob house and ice house are believed to have been built at the same time as the house.

Ice House

The ice house is a one-story board and batten sided building with one door (see photo #7). The hipped roof has a wooden louvered ventilator at the crest. The siding is painted the same as the barn and cob house, red and white.

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Wine Cellar

The stone wine cellar is half dug-out with a bulkhead entrance (see photo #8). The cellar was not built by Cody as it does not appear in photographs prior to 1928. The stones used in the construction were salvaged from Cody's T-barn that burned down.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Patrick Walsh, North Platte

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Scout's Rest" was the ranch home of Wm. F. Cody "Buffalo Bill", the premier showman whose Wild West shows created the legend of the American West which is perpetuated in the rodeos and western movies of today.

Although not the first to use the western frontier as an outdoor entertainment, Cody developed the Wild West show and dominated it throughout its era. His production became the top show of the genre because he was an excellent showman, one of America's finest. To put it in the words of the Hartford Courant, 1883, he "out-Barnumed Barnum". The show under various titles toured the U.S. and Europe and brought its special version of the American West to hundreds of thousands of people.

The glamour and romance of the American West was created in the Wild West extravaganza. The cowboy became a hero for the first time in the Wild West shows. The idea of the American Indian was changed from the Indian fighting afoot in the books of James Fenimore Cooper to the wild-riding Indian of the Plains. The most famous showmen of the era worked with Buffalo Bill; Annie Oakley "Little Sure Shot" is the most recognized name today.

William Frederick Cody was born Febr. 26, 1846 in Le Claire, Iowa. After his father's death in 1857, Will, as the eldest child, worked to help support the family. He had various jobs included those of Pony Express rider¹ and mounted messenger for Majors & Russell, a freighting firm. In 1864 he enlisted in the 7th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. Contracted to supply meat (buffalo) for construction workers on the Kansas Pacific, Cody became known as Buffalo Bill. For four years he was employed as chief of scouts by General Phil Sheridan for the 5th U.S. Cavalry. Employment as a scout for that length of time was unusual and he was highly respected. In 1869 Edward Judson alias Ned Buntline accompanied Cody on one expedition and wrote the first of four dime novels about him which started the legend of Buffalo Bill.

Buntline persuaded Cody to enter the melodrama stage in Chicago to capitalize on his fame. Cody was on the stage for eleven years before starting the Wild West show. In the summers he worked as a scout and guide for hunting parties, the most notable of which was the expeditions of Grand Duke Alexis of Russia and the Earl of Dunraven.

For the 4th of July, 1882 Cody organized the "Old Glory Blow Out" for North Platte, Nebraska, which included demonstrations of killing buffalo and prizes for contestants in roping, shooting, riding, and bronco breaking.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.93 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,4	3,4,9	480	4,5,8	3,2,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

B

1,4	3,4,9	480	4,5,8	1,4,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Penelope Chatfield, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

July, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

(402) 432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Martin W. Kneth

8/8/77

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Smith

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles Adams

DATE

1-24-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The success of the show encouraged Cody to stage the first professional Wild West show the following year. The "Old Glory Blow Out" was important to the development of the Wild West show and the rodeo.

The first show opened May 19, 1883 at the Omaha Fair Grounds and was entitled "The Wild West, Hon. W. F. Cody and Dr. W. F. Carver's Rocky Mountain and Prairie Exhibition". Although the first year was difficult, Cody and his partner, Carver were encouraged to continue. Other Wild West shows existed in the U.S. but the showmanship and legends of Buffalo Bill and the whole staff caught the public's attention. As a part of the American Exhibition at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, the show was a smashing success giving a Royal Command Performance and staying in England one year. The show continued to draw record-breaking crowds and played adjacent to the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893 and toured Europe several more times. The acts adapted to the times. The "Battle of San Juan Hill" replaced "Custer's Last Fight" after the Spanish-American War. After the turn of the century, financial problems occurred with increasing regularity. Cody lost money on several disastrous investments and there were financial and management problems with the Wild West show. Cody died January 10, 1917 after touring with the show until the previous November. World War I marked the end of the era of the Wild West show; very few existed after 1917.

As a ranch, Scout's Rest, under the management of Al Goodman & Cody, initiated several new ranching methods in the area. Cody purchased 4,000 acres in 1877 for the raising of cattle and horses. Cody used imported and blooded cattle and throughbred horses at a time when crossbreeding and throughbred animals were not common in the area. In the 1890's Cody and a neighboring rancher, Isaac Dillon, privately installed a 12 mile canal from the North Platte River in order to irrigate their ranches. Over 1,000 acres on the ranch were then farmed. When financial problems were pressing, Cody sold the ranch in 1911 for \$100,000.

Although the major stylistic influence is the French Second Empire, the house in general lacks the height and emphasis on the vertical normally associated with the style. The house is a popular version of the style and was built by a local contractor. Very few examples of the Second Empire style remain in Nebraska. It does not appear to have been a popular style especially in the western part of the state. The other extant examples are in the larger cities of Lincoln and Omaha (see Joel N. Cornish House, Omaha, and Lewis-Syford House, Lincoln, NRHP nominations).

Patrick Walsh was a successful builder in North Platte erecting many houses and the original St. Patrick's Catholic Church. A native of Rochester, New York, Walsh served in the Civil War as a craftsman with the New York Engineers. The contract with Cody to build the house was signed in 1886.

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- ¹ Russell, Don. The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill, Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma, 1960, page 45-54.

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Publications.

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Russell, Don

The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill, Norman, Okla:
University of Oklahoma, 1960.

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The Wild West or A History of the Wild West Shows, Fort
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Whiffen, Marcus

American Architectural Since 1780, Cambridge, Mass.:
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SCOUT'S REST RANCH HISTORIC BUILDINGS

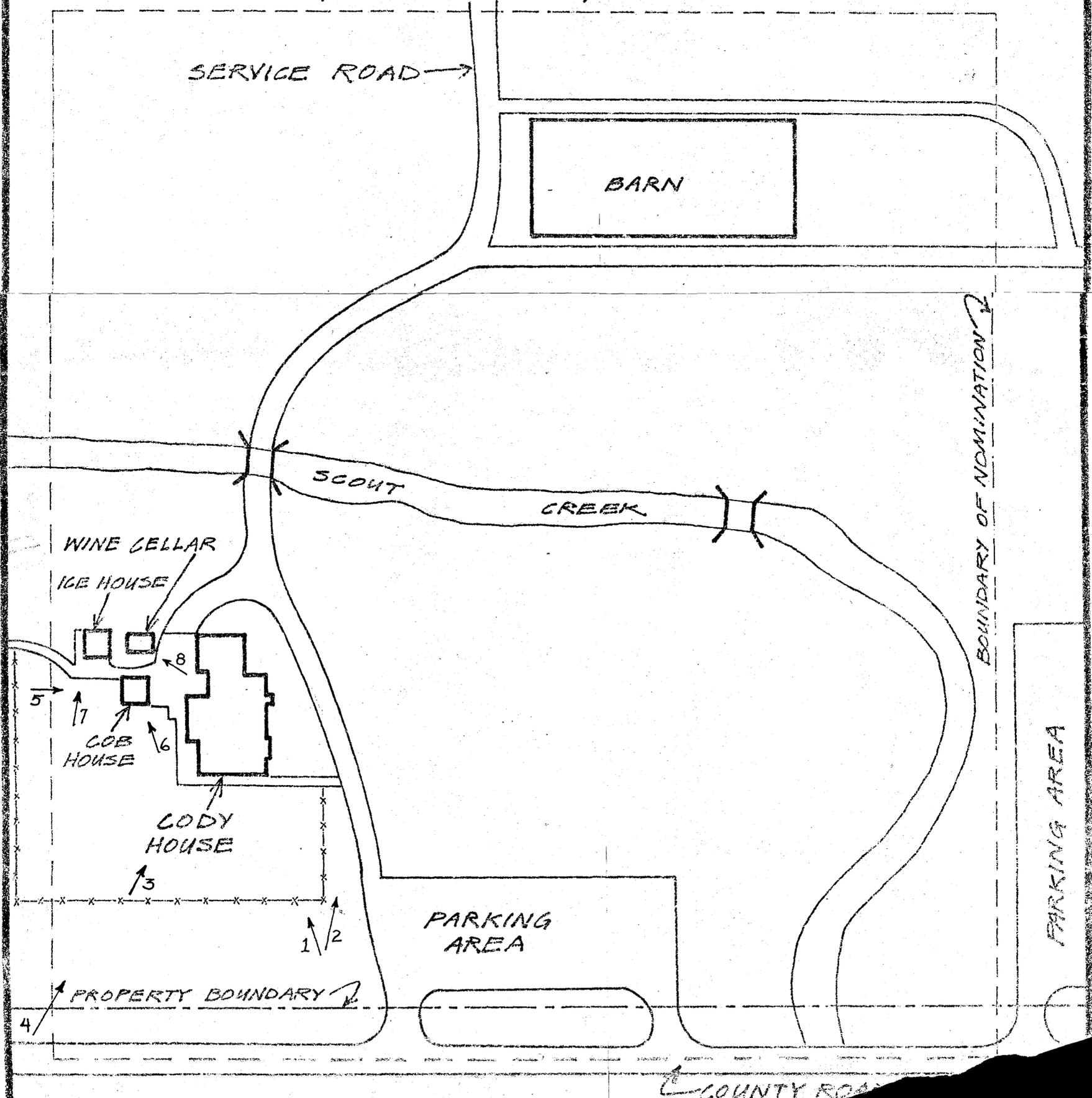
LINCOLN COUNTY, NEBRASKA

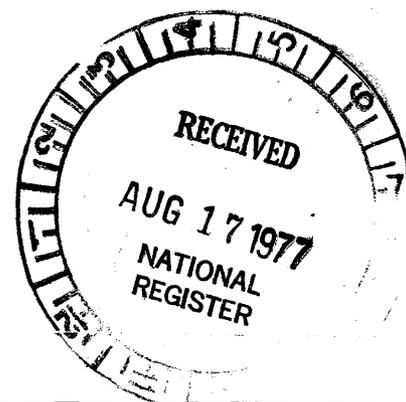
SCALE: 0 50 100 150 FEET

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL, 1977

DRAWN BY STEVE RYAN FROM SKETCH MAP BY SUPT. GEORGE LERDY, SCOUT'S REST RANCH, NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL PARK.





JAN 30 1978