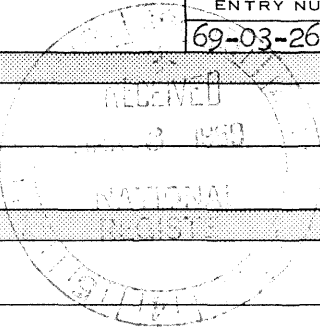


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-03-26-0001	DATE 3/24/69



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
"Bertrand" (a steamboat)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge

STATE Nebraska	CODE 26	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 177
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>unused</u>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
G.S.A. for the Fish and Wildlife Service

STREET AND NUMBER:  
U.S. Department of the Interior

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE 08
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
County Clerk, Washington County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
16th and Colfax Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Blair	STATE Nebraska	CODE 26
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Nebraska  
COUNTY: Washington  
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-03-26-0001  
DATE: 3/24/69  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the early 1860's, the steamboat "Bertrand" plied the waters of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. This boat, a 160 foot by 30 foot stern-wheeler, reportedly hit a snag on the Missouri River north of Omaha and sank in April, 1865. It has been claimed that the most valuable cargo to go down with the boat was some 35,000 pounds of mercury. This mercury was to be used in mining operations in Montana or the Dakotas. Considerable quantities of whiskey and gold may have also gone down with the boat. The total current value of the boat's cargo has been roughly estimated to be about \$250,000.

At least as early as the 1890's, treasure hunters have attempted to locate the "Bertrand." Apparently the boat has now been found. In 1968, (through the use of metal detectors,) Sam Corbino and Jesse Pursell of Omaha located a boat inside the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, some 28 feet below the surface of the land along a former channel of the Missouri River. The boat site is located just inside Nebraska near the Iowa-Nebraska border. Thus far, only the front section of the deck has been uncovered. The original super-structure above the deck was evidently swept away when the boat sank. Excavation stopped during the winter of 1968-69 and will be resumed in the spring of 1969. Among the many artifacts already found with the boat is a soapbox marked "Stores Bertrand." This find strongly suggests that the boat is indeed the "Bertrand." Whether its reported cargo of mercury, gold, and whiskey is intact remains to be determined.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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)      1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape		Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Beginning in the early nineteenth century, an increasing amount of steamboat traffic passed along Nebraska's segment of the Missouri River. This traffic reached its zenith in 1859 during the Colorado Gold Rush and declined in the 1860's due to Civil War disorders and to competition by the railroads. The "Bertrand," owned by the Montana and Idaho Steamship Lines, was one of the largest steamboats to ply the Missouri River north of the Platte River. The apparent discovery of this sunken boat and its contents is a major historical find. This steamboat is Nebraska's only substantial link of a tangible nature with the early steamboating era. This discovery may be unique; no other early steamboats are known to have to have been discovered and excavated along the Missouri River outside of Nebraska. According to terms of the Corbino and Pursell contract with the federal government, the U.S. Department of the Interior will retain possession of the "Bertrand" and most of its contents. If restored or preserved near its present site, the "Bertrand" should become a significant additional tourist attraction to the wildlife and recreational area in which it is located.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information based primarily on archival records

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 41° 31' 24"	W 96° 01' 44"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO  
with  
HF

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
John Q. Magie, Curator of History

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE: 2-21-69

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln

STATE: Nebraska

CODE: 26

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Marvin E. Kuettt

Title Director, nebr. Hist. Soc.

Date Feb 27, 1969

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

Annex Allen Gammalby  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date MAR 24 1969

ATTEST:  
William J. Mustagh  
Keeper of The National Register

Date April 7, 1969

# Bertrand Site DE SOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

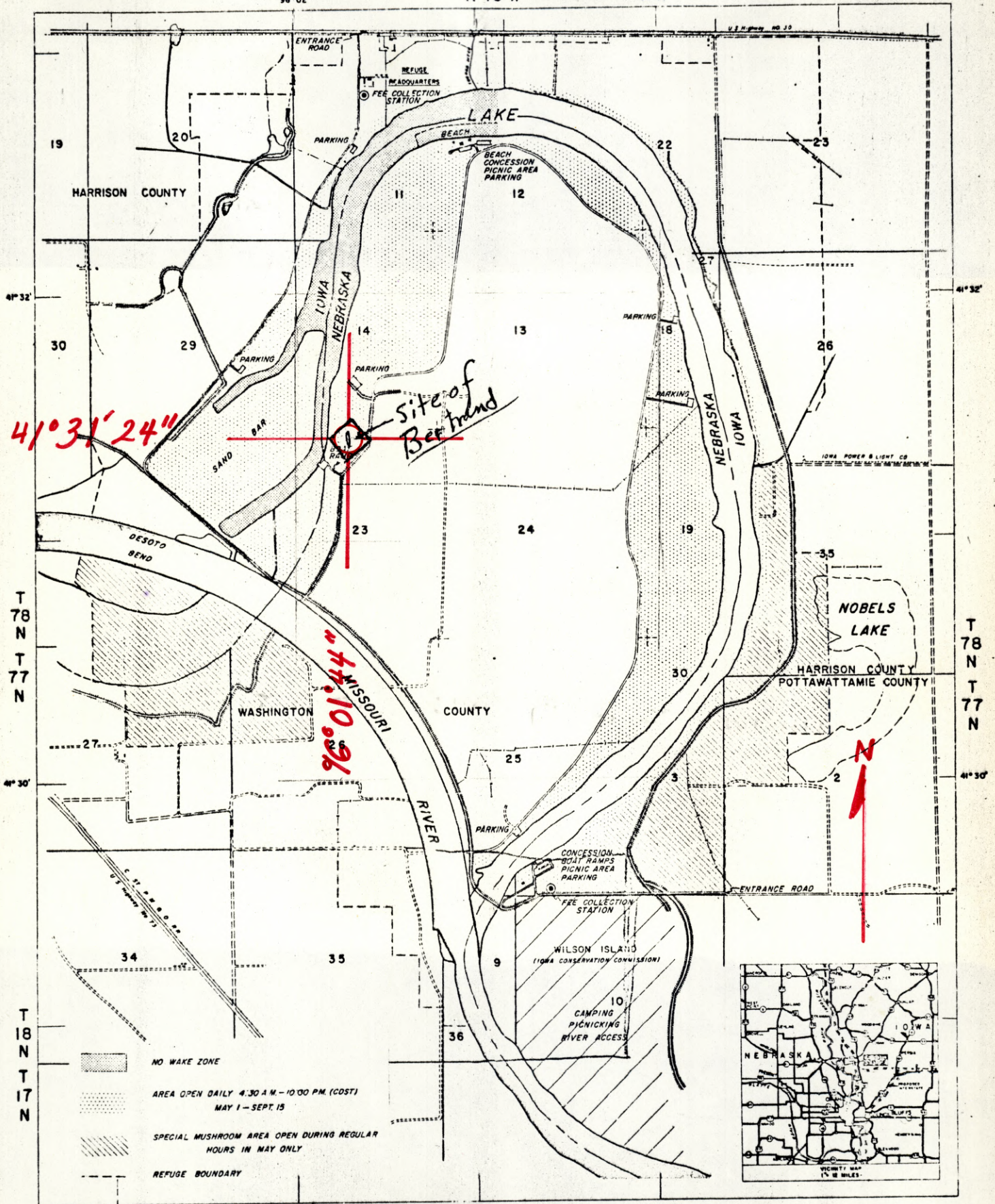
IOWA-NEBRASKA

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

96°02'

R 45 W

96°00'



COMPILED IN THE BRANCH OF ENGINEERING  
FROM SURVEYS BY S.L.M., U.S.G.S., B.S.F.W.  
AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY USDA

R 12 E  
FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN-IOWA  
SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN-NEBRASKA

TOWNSHIP  
DIAGRAM

MEAN  
DECLINATION  
1960

Form 10-301  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-03-26-0001	DATE 3/24/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: "Bertrand" (a steamboat)			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge			
STATE: Nebraska	CODE 26	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 177
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge			
SCALE: 1: 3, 520			
DATE: 1960			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			