

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

☒ New Submission ☐ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

- I. Depression and Drought: The State of Nebraska, 1929-1943
- II. The New Deal Shapes Nebraska, 1933-1943

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Amanda K. Loughlin with Elizabeth Rosin; 2009 nomination prepared by Jill Dolberg, NESHPO

organization Rosin Preservation date March 2019

street & number 1712 Holmes telephone 816-472-4950

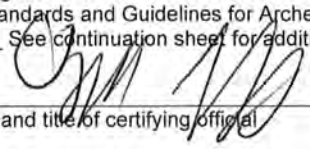
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

e-mail amanda@rosinpreservation.com

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature and title of certifying official

SHPO/Director

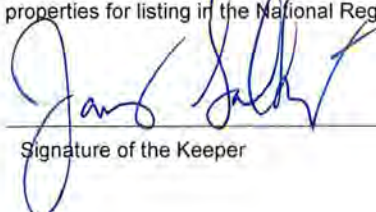
Date

9/20/19

Nebraska State Historical Society

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.


Signature of the Keeper

11.14.2019
Date of Action

New Deal Resources in Nebraska

Name of Multiple Property Listing

Nebraska

State

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. Depression and Drought: The State of Nebraska, 1929-1943

Between 1929 and World War II, the United States suffered from the effects of the worst economic depression in the nation's history. Two presidents and their administrations attempted to combat these effects with opposing philosophies and varying results. President Herbert Hoover (1929-1933) believed private business and charities were best equipped to spur the economy and help the needy. President Franklin Roosevelt (1933-1945), who was elected by an overwhelming majority in 1932, believed the federal government was in the best position to aid the victims of the depression. The Great Depression and the subsequent environmental drought hit Nebraska particularly hard, as the economy of the state was, and remains, primarily driven by agriculture. At the beginning of the 1930s, Nebraskans employed in the agricultural sector made up 39 percent of the state's population with 42.3 percent of the state living on farms and 22.4 percent living in towns smaller than twenty-five hundred persons.¹ The context "Depression and Drought: The State of Nebraska, 1929-1943" gives an overview of the impact of the Great Depression, the drought of the 1930s, and the New Deal on the state of Nebraska. The discussion of Nebraska during this time period will further explain why certain types of projects were particularly important. The end date, 1943, represents when the last New Deal programs ended both in the nation and in the state.

Nebraska under President Hoover (1929 to 1933)

Elected in the fall of 1928, President Herbert Hoover took office the following March as the economy headed toward collapse in October 1929. While the stock market crash created a crisis in America's business and industry, agricultural areas throughout the United States had been depressed for most of the 1920s. Farm prices that spiked during and after World War I fell as drastically as they had risen. In Nebraska where most farmers grew a single crop, farm incomes dropped 61 percent between 1918 and 1920. By 1929 Nebraska's wheat prices were at \$0.90 a bushel down from \$2.01 in 1918, and hogs brought in only \$15 a head down from \$47.40 in 1920. Corn prices fell from \$1.45 a bushel in 1918 to \$0.38 in 1920 to \$0.15 in 1926, and while cattle prices increased nationally, Nebraska cattle prices fell from \$54 a head in 1918 to \$47.40 in 1920. As prices declined in the mid-1920s, farmers faced debts they were unable to repay. Farm incomes did not keep pace with inflation, and a devaluation in land prices exacerbated financial problems. Because agriculture was the prime economic driver in Nebraska, suffering in the agricultural economy caused economic problems for the rest of the state. Black Tuesday (October 29, 1929), the day the New York Stock Exchange share prices crashed, was simply another devastating blow to the state's already depressed economy.²

Nebraskans began to feel the effects of the 1929 crash as farm prices continued their drop into 1930; although, economic depression did not really hit the state's agricultural sector until 1931.³ The end of 1930 saw just under 100,000 indebted Nebraska farms, up from 35,191 in 1920, and many of these mortgaged farms ended up in foreclosure.⁴ By December 1932

¹ Of the total of 342,999 Nebraskan families, 131,780 lived on farms in 1930. Leland H. Stott, "A Study of Relief Activities in Seven Nebraska Counties, 1927-1934," *Historical Research Bulletin of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station* 89 (February 1937): 1. The remaining 35.3 per cent lived in towns of larger than twenty-five hundred.

² Ronald C. Naugle, with John J. Montag & James C. Olson, "Chapter 21: Depression, Relief, and Recovery," *History of Nebraska*, 4th Edition e-book (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014), n.p.; Jill E. Dolberg, "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," Draft National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (March 2010): E-1. On file with the Nebraska SHPO; Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State (WPA Guide)* (New York: The Viking Press, 1939), 66. Citation covers paragraph.

³ Jerold Simmons, "Dawson County Responds to the New Deal, 1933-1940," *Nebraska History* 62, no.1 (1981): 49; Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

⁴ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 66.

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farm prices were the lowest in Nebraska history. By 1933 corn sold for \$0.41 a bushel; wheat was down to \$0.36 a bushel; cattle fetched only \$18.80 per head, while hogs sold for \$4.30.⁵ These conditions led the state's agricultural sector to openly protest reduced prices and rising farm foreclosures between 1929 and 1933.⁶ The Farmers' Holiday Association, organized in Iowa during the summer of 1932, encouraged mass picketing of markets and staged demonstrations meant to curb foreclosures (*Figure 1*); often the protestors clashed with opposing forces. One particular event in August 1932 involved dairy farmers in the Sioux City, Iowa area, as well as farmers from northeastern Nebraska. Protesting dairy prices, farmers dumped milk intended for the Sioux City market on the roads leading into the city. The farmers sought immediate relief of their plight, but they ended up only publicizing the conditions.⁷

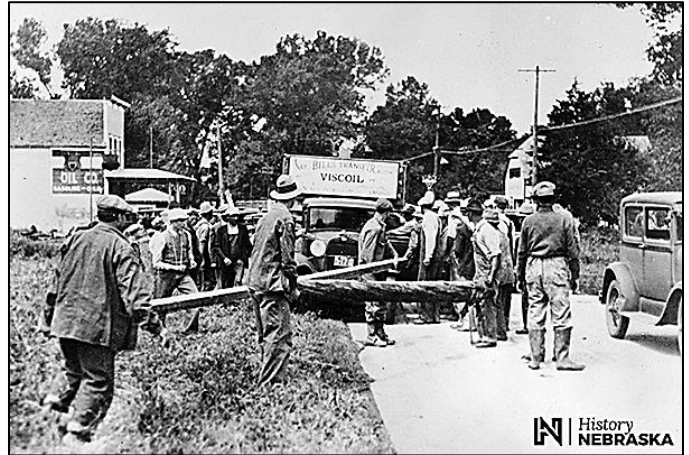


Figure 1: Members of the Farmers' Holiday Association block a truck bound for Omaha in 1932 [History Nebraska].

As a predominantly agricultural state, the declining agricultural sector affected every area of Nebraska's economy.⁸ Price slumps not only doubled farm foreclosures, they increased business failures and unemployment. Between 1929 and 1933 there was a 30 percent decrease in the manufacturing workforce and a 50 percent reduction of wages; nationwide twelve million people—25 percent of the labor force—were unemployed.⁹ Following the national trend, Nebraska banks failed; although, the number of failures varied by county. Of the twenty active banks in Custer County in 1930, fifteen had closed by the end of 1932; neighboring Dawson County, however, had no bank failures during the same time period.¹⁰ Describing the early years of the Great Depression, the authors of the 1939 *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State* wrote:

The condition of the farmers affected Nebraska merchants, lumber dealers, realtors, school teachers, laborers, and artisans. Housewives stocked their pantry shelves with the simplest essentials; construction lagged; school administrators curtailed their programs as tax receipts went down; day laborers, formerly sure of a place on Nebraska farms and in Nebraska industries, began the long trek of the unemployed.¹¹

This "long trek" took two forms. Displaced farmers and rural workers migrated to towns and cities across Nebraska, but the unemployed also headed West, joining other itinerant and transient workers in search of relief.

Drought exacerbated the already dire financial situation caused by the weak agricultural economy in the state. Rainfall began to decrease in Nebraska in 1931. Historian Maurice Latta described the situation in Nebraska, saying that "no single

⁵ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

⁶ Bernard Sternsher, ed., *Hope Restored: How the New Deal Worked in Town and Country* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 1999), 1.

⁷ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 67; Sternsher, *Hope Restored*, 1. For more information on the August strike, see John Shover, "The Farmers' Holiday Association Strike, August 1932," 148-162, originally published in *Agricultural History* 39 (October 1965): 196-203. Sioux City, Iowa, borders the state of Nebraska; the city of South Sioux City, across the Missouri River from Sioux City, is located in Dakota County, Nebraska. The Loup City Riot of 1934 (Sherman Co.) also involved the Farmers' Holiday Association.

⁸ Simmons, "Dawson County," 49; Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

⁹ Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985), 5; Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

¹⁰ Maurice C. Latta, "The Economic Effects of Drouth and Depression upon Custer County, 1929-1942," in *Hitting Home: The Great Depression in Town and Country*, ed. Bernard Sternsher (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1970), 166. Latta's article was originally published in *Nebraska History* 33 (December 1952): 220-236; Simmons, "Dawson County," 50.

¹¹ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 67.

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measure of a drouth [sic] is wholly satisfactory.”¹² Latta illustrates the drought using rainfall records from Broken Bow (Custer County) as an example:

These show that for the ten years from 1931 to 1940 there was no single year in which the normal rainfall was received, only two years in which the deficiency was less than one inch, and one year (1934) in which it was almost eleven inches. The accumulated deficit in ten years was almost forty-five inches, very nearly two years' normal rainfall.¹³

The worst year of drought in Nebraska was 1934, yet by the end of 1932, many farm families were living in extreme poverty. Without rain, crops failed, livestock died, business and industry connected to the agricultural industry suffered, and people went hungry.¹⁴

At the height of the Great Depression in 1933, the country's gross national product was half of what it had been in 1920, down from \$103.1 billion to \$55 billion.¹⁵ Efforts by President Hoover's administration to combat the depression were modest, as Hoover fundamentally believed relief aid was not the purview of the federal government. As the economy failed to improve, however, Hoover begrudgingly accepted the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the passage of the Emergency Relief and Construction Act in 1932. The Act provided up to \$1.5 billion in direct relief to states that could prove they had exhausted all other financial options.¹⁶

Despite the economic hardship in the early 1930s, Nebraska was one of only six states that did not apply for or accept federal funds through the 1932 Emergency Relief and Construction Act.¹⁷ Many Nebraskans proudly agreed with their governor, Charles Bryan (1931-1935), in 1931 that “Nebraska would be able to take care of its own” and did not need aid from any government entity.¹⁸ Like President Hoover, Governor Bryan believed that state and “federal aid would undermine public morale” and that private charitable organizations—not the government—were the best entities to provide assistance to those harmed by the economic crisis.¹⁹ The “rugged individual” was capable of helping himself.²⁰

Prior to August 1933, Nebraska counties handled their own relief programs.²¹ The University of Nebraska-Lincoln produced a study in 1937 of the state's relief activities between 1927 and 1934. Seven unnamed counties were selected as representative of the state's various agricultural industries and population densities. The study found that most commonly prior to 1933 “the administration of public relief funds was almost entirely in the hands of the county commissioners” with each county handling relief efforts differently. County aid consisted largely of food and medical attention most commonly provided to those who did not own any property. As the study explains, “This, of course, automatically ruled out farmers and

¹² Latta, “The Economic Effects...,” 166. Broken Bow is Custer County's county seat and is located in the center of the state.

¹³ Latta, “The Economic Effects...,” 166.

¹⁴ Mary Cochran Grimes, “From Emergency Relief to Social Security in Nebraska,” *Nebraska History* 71 (1990): 126.

¹⁵ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

¹⁶ Michael Parrish, *Anxious Decades: America in Prosperity and Depression, 1920-1941* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992), 255-256.

¹⁷ “Federal Relief,” *Social Service Review* 7 (March 1933): 133-141. Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Dakota, and Vermont were the other states; Alaska and Hawai'i were not admitted as states until 1959.

¹⁸ “Nebraska Needs No Outside Aid,” *The Lincoln Star* (10 September 1931): 1.

¹⁹ James F. Pederson & Kenneth D. Wald, *Shall the People Rule? A History of the Democratic Party in Nebraska Politics, 1854-1972* (Lincoln, NE: Jacob North, Inc., 1972), 268; Page Smith, *Redeeming the Time: A People's History of the 1920s and The New Deal*, vol. 8, *A People's History of the United States* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1987), 304; Grimes, “From Emergency Relief...,” 126. Governor Bryan had even protested the Red Cross's assistance to drought victims in 1931-32.

²⁰ Pederson & Wald, *Shall the People Rule*, 269.

²¹ Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *Final Report of the Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, June 1, 1933-January 1, 1938, to R.L. Cochran, governor* (Aurora-Lincoln: Burr Publishing Company, 1938), 1.

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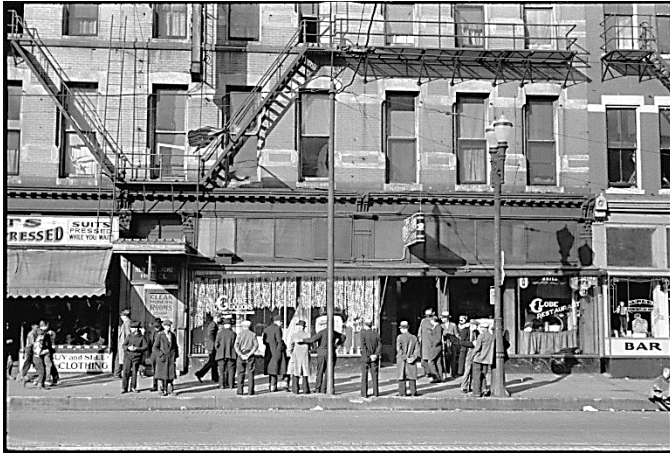


Figure 2: Lower Douglas Street, where unemployed hangout, Omaha, Nebraska, November 1938, John Vachon [Library of Congress].

tenant farmers and farm laborers who had any livestock or chickens or other types of property.” Some counties provided occasional monetary gifts to individuals or contributed to volunteer relief organizations in lieu of providing direct aid. Some larger counties hired a trained social worker to coordinate with the volunteer organizations. The Red Cross was the leader in relief efforts. Other volunteer organizations active in Nebraska included the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, the Business and Professional Women’s Club, the Chambers of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Elks Club, and various churches, among others. Some counties had “Self-Help Units” under the guidance of a local preacher that paid unemployed men to cut wood for sale and distribution.²²

The 1937 study found that prior to 1933 relief loads were heavier in counties where a greater proportion of urban dwellers resided. Farmer-owners in the state’s rural areas rarely applied for food and clothing aid likely because counties generally did not allow property-owners to receive assistance provided by the county commission. Likewise, laws passed by the Hoover Administration prevented aid to property owners.²³ However, these families needed aid especially during drought conditions. Hoover’s 1929 Agricultural Marketing Act created the Federal Farm Board to provide loans to farming co-ops to buy feed and seed for farmers and to attempt to stabilize crop prices by allowing the co-ops to fix prices above the market value. In reality, markets were flooded with crops, and prices dropped.²⁴ After the drought began in 1930, Congress wanted to provide additional money for loans to farmers to buy “fuel, feed, fertilizers, and food,” but Hoover strongly objected to providing direct relief to farmers. Congress provided the additional funds anyway, but they proved inadequate to the need, as only farmers with some resources qualified for loans.²⁵

As the depression deepened, Nebraskan newspapers, formerly skeptical of federal aid, showed more interest. The Hoover Administration’s response to the economic crisis was viewed by a majority of Nebraskans as wholly inadequate. It did not relieve unemployment (*Figure 2*), and a return to prosperity was not in sight. The state that gave President Hoover 63 percent of the popular vote in 1928, gave Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) the same percentage in 1932. Ninety-one of the state’s ninety-three counties voted for Roosevelt out of desperation, hoping his promises of a new deal would bring relief. Historian Jerold Simmons calls the 1932 election of Roosevelt the most substantial protest vote in the state’s history.²⁶

²² Stott, “A Study of Relief Activities...,” 1, 5, 9; Simmons, “Dawson County,” 50; although unnamed, Stott describes these wood pile situations in counties D, E, & G in “A Study of Relief Activities...,” 12, 14, 19.

²³ Stott, “A Study of Relief Activities...,” 22.

²⁴ Parrish, *Anxious Decades*, 246-247.

²⁵ Parrish, *Anxious Decades*, 252.

²⁶ Simmons, “Dawson County,” 50; Bernard Sternsher, ed., *Hitting Home: The Great Depression in Town and Country* (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1970), 39. Only Keya Paha and Lancaster counties voted for Hoover.

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Nebraska under Roosevelt's New Deal (1933-1943)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's election in 1932 ushered in an era of aggressive relief programs that attempted to stem further economic decline, provide jobs for millions of workers, and offer direct relief to those affected by the dire economic situation. Roosevelt's New Deal policies came in many manifestations, from the Social Security Act that provided monthly pensions to the elderly to direct relief payments from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) to work relief projects that provided jobs to unemployed Americans.

A 1941 study of work relief projects completed at the close of the Great Depression concluded that these projects were provided "not primarily as a test of willingness to labor but rather as a means of conserving the skills, work habits, and morale of the able-bodied unemployed."²⁷ Roosevelt believed work projects were far better for Americans' morale than public relief, or "the dole," because such projects were not simply handouts to the needy. They were a means of providing unemployed people with a way to help themselves—sentiment reminiscent of his predecessor. Projects created and funded under the New Deal not only provided a public benefit but required local labor, thus employing people from the immediate vicinity.²⁸ Most of the New Deal work projects involved manual labor (e.g., construction, sewer repair, ditch digging, forestation projects); however, white-collar workers (e.g., architects, writers, artists, musicians) affected by the economic downturn also participated in work programs. Other projects targeted education efforts to help citizens help themselves. These ranged from new farming techniques that conserved soil to job-training for young women. Adult education programs supplemented schooling cut short by the Depression, provided citizenship classes for immigrants, and increased literacy (*Figure 3*).



Figure 3: One of FERA's adult education classes, Omaha, 1935 [History Nebraska].

One of the big issues affecting rural Nebraska throughout the New Deal era was the increasing rate of farm tenancy. As the Federal Writers' Project described, a majority of the nearly 100,000 debt-ridden farms in 1930 "ultimately fell into the hands of banks that held paper against them; in 1936 they were owned by absentee landlords, operated by tenants often accustomed to the condition of landowners" who were then "reduced to the precarious station of sharecroppers—when there were crops to share."²⁹ The industry and livelihood of those involved in the agricultural sector remained uncertain and unstable. Many farmsteads at the time still had no indoor plumbing or electricity because tenants and owners did not feel secure enough financially to make the improvements. Farmers in the mid-1930s had a decent standard of living; as reported by the Federal Writers' Project, an "average farm income (in cash and commodities) was about one thousand dollars, somewhat lower than it had been ten years before."³⁰ The farms also produced a significant portion of the families' food.

From 1933 to 1940 when public assistance was most required, the federal government, through several newly-created agencies, spent billions of dollars on work-relief projects, subsidy payments, and relocation efforts intended to ease the economic strain of the nation's citizens. Often criticized as inefficient and expensive—criticism that is not without merit—the

²⁷ Arthur E. Burns & Edward A. Williams, *Federal Work, Security, and Relief Programs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1941), 27.

²⁸ Dolberg, Draft "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," E-2.

²⁹ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 66.

³⁰ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 79.

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New Deal's accomplishments, according to historian Page Smith, were "extraordinary, if not heroic."³¹ Nebraskans were cautiously hopeful of the New Deal, especially at the beginning of Roosevelt's first term in office.

Nationally, the Roosevelt Administration's assault on the economic depression and unemployment can be reviewed by the president's terms in office. His first two terms saw the creation and reorganization of New Deal programs; his last term saw the end of the New Deal and the beginning of America's involvement in World War II. During his first term, 1933 to 1937, and especially the first one hundred days, Congress willingly approved the administration's push to create a range of agencies aimed at helping the economy and the people affected by it.

Between March and June of 1933, Congress passed four pieces of legislation that began the New Deal. The first of these was the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which enabled the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In May, Congress passed both the Agricultural Adjustment Act, establishing the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), and the Federal Emergency Relief Act, which allocated funds to states and oversaw certain federal programs such as the Civil Works Administration (CWA). The following month, Congress passed the National Industrial Recovery Act, which among other agencies, created one of the New Deal's most substantial work programs known as the Public Works Administration (PWA). The aggressive tack was viewed almost as an experiment, with even Roosevelt's top aides conceding that due to economic uncertainty, recovery efforts would likely shift to meet new challenges. Some of these shifts occurred in 1935 when the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act became law, reorganizing existing agencies, terminating others, and lessening state control in favor of the federal government. The 1935 Act created the Resettlement Administration (RA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which oversaw the National Youth Administration (NYA) and the Federal art and writers projects. The greatest number of New Deal-era projects in Nebraska were funded by programs created during FDR's first term.

The popularity of the new administration in the state peaked between 1933 and 1934 when new programs like the AAA's cattle-buying program and the CWA's work relief projects were first implemented. However, by March 1934, there was still an economic depression, and central Nebraskans, at least, started to become more skeptical of the New Deal, choosing to judge each program by how well it met the needs of the people.³² By the 1936 presidential election, national unemployment had shrunk by four million from the high in 1933, and the economy appeared poised to continue its recovery. Roosevelt won Nebraska in the election that year but by a smaller margin than in 1932. Instead of the ninety-one counties in 1932, seventy-eight of the state's ninety-three counties voted in favor of Roosevelt and continuing the New Deal in 1936. The shift away from Roosevelt was more pronounced in rural areas than in towns.³³ Despite their skepticism, both urban and rural Nebraskans continued to utilize New Deal programs during Roosevelt's second term in office, 1937 to 1941.

While Roosevelt's reelection came as the economy began to improve, at the end of 1937 the economy relapsed to near 1933 levels. Reasons for the "Roosevelt Recession," as critics called it, varied. Optimists believed it was simply the market correcting itself after four years of growth; historian David Kennedy explains that critics blamed a lack of confidence in the markets due to "repeated budget deficits, escalating regulatory burdens, threats of higher taxes, mounting labor costs, and, most important, persistent anxiety about what further provocations to business the New Deal had in store...."³⁴ Whatever the cause, stocks lost a third of their value; corporate profits diminished by 80 percent; industrial output in the nation dropped

³¹ Smith, *Redeeming the Time*, 463; Dolberg, Draft "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," E-1.

³² Simmons, "Dawson County," 51, 53.

³³ Simmons, "Dawson County," 58-60.

³⁴ David M. Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 351.

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Figure 4: The 24-hour Canning Center, Norfolk, ca. 1935 [History Nebraska]

40 percent; and two million people were returned to unemployment by the end of the 1937-1938 winter. Lawsuits also plagued the beginning of FDR's second term. These suits, many of which ended in the Supreme Court, challenged the constitutionality of several of the programs put in place during the president's first term in office, leading to the reorganization of programs and agencies. A larger voice within Congress spoke out against the perceived over-reach of the federal government and the total amount of money spent on the programs.³⁵ As Smith notes, "By the end of 1938 the New Deal was not so much 'over' as 'complete.' What could be done to change the basic character of American life, to create a more just and equitable society, had been done. It had been a long and bitter fight."³⁶ Many New Deal programs, however, remained in full swing, if less aggressively so than during their first years.

Following this more-contentious period of the New Deal era, Congress passed Reorganization Plan No. 1 in April 1939. The plan created no new programs, but how they were administered and what types of projects were accomplished changed. Agencies created between 1933 and 1938 were consolidated primarily into two new agencies. The Federal Security Agency oversaw the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration, among other programs. The Federal Works Agency (FWA) consolidated and renamed a number of New Deal programs: The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works formally became the Public Works Administration; the Department of the Interior's United States Housing Authority moved to the FWA, and the Works Progress Administration moved to the FWA and was renamed the Works Projects Administration. Towards the end of the president's second term, national focus began to shift toward the turmoil in Europe leading up to World War II. In the 1940 election, Roosevelt lost Nebraska to the Republican candidate, Wendell Willkie; only eight counties went for FDR, and all were within the eastern half of the state. To Nebraskans, the New Deal had outlived its usefulness, and many were ready for a change.

Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration (1933-1935)³⁷

Two distinct eras define the New Deal in Nebraska: the Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration (NERA) years (1933 to 1935) and the years after NERA was abolished (1936-1943). The Federal Emergency Relief Act was one of the major pieces of legislation passed in the spring of 1933. This act, which was a restructuring and expansion of Hoover's 1932 Federal Emergency Relief & Construction Act, established the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), led by Harry L. Hopkins, a New York social worker who was one of Roosevelt's most influential advisers. The act appropriated \$500 million to be divided among each state's Emergency Relief Administration (SERA). Half of the funds went directly to each SERA, while the other \$250 million was disbursed through matching funds to each state, who were expected to

³⁵ Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, 117, 289, 323, 350-351.

³⁶ Smith, *Redeeming the Time*, 840.

³⁷ The following information specific to Nebraska is primarily from two state government reports: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration (NERA), *Final Report of the Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, June 1, 1933-January 1, 1938, to R.L. Cochran, governor* (Aurora-Lincoln: Burr Publishing Company, 1938) & Malcolm Holcomb, *A Study of the 1936 Relief Need in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), as well as Grimes' 1990 article "From Emergency Relief...."

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contribute three dollars for every dollar provided by FERA. All the funds were to go to citizens enrolled on county relief rolls, either as direct relief such as feed-and-seed loans or as work relief for public works projects. From its inception in May 1933 until it closed its operations in December 1935, FERA provided over \$3 billion to the states.³⁸

FERA was divided into four divisions intended to handle the different aspects of the relief work. Two of these were the works division, which oversaw the Civil Works Administration (CWA), and the division of rural rehabilitation, which removed eligible families from unproductive land and placed them on land that was more fertile. FERA tried to attract unemployed white-collar workers onto the relief rolls with jobs such as clerical work for government agencies, work in libraries and museums, work in healthcare, research of population and economic data, and surveys of historic buildings. The survey program, known as the Historic American Buildings Survey, was administered by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service and sought to provide work for architects. FERA also funded "production-for-use" projects such as subsistence gardens, canning projects (*Figure 4*), fuel procurement, sewing rooms, and transient camps (*Figure 5*), self-help cooperatives, and a surplus commodities program. In reality the majority of the funding primarily went toward construction projects.³⁹



Figure 5: Chadron Transient Camp, 1935 [History Nebraska].

FERA based assistance on a demonstrated need for relief. The local relief agency applied a "means test" to applicants to determine their needs and their ability to meet those needs. Monthly, applicants had to demonstrate that their need continued. Minimum wages under FERA were set at \$0.30 per hour with maximum workweeks of thirty-five hours for manual laborers and forty hours for office workers. In some cases, however, individuals required additional direct relief to supplement these wages. When FERA came to an end in December 1935, one historian described the agency's "greatest and most tangible contribution" as its work program, which employed nearly 2.5 million workers on over 235,000 projects and provided additional aid to millions of farmers.⁴⁰

A 1933 FERA assessment determined Nebraska to be at least "eighteen months behind other states in its relief organization."⁴¹ Much of this was due to Nebraska's refusal to accept federal funds from the 1932 Emergency Relief and Construction Act, but by the time FERA was ready to allocate funds, there was no question that Nebraska needed the assistance. The Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration (NERA) oversaw relief work throughout the state, but its administration and its reception within the state were under constant scrutiny. Counties receiving funding were required to spend half of their revenues on relief and to have a director of relief approved by the state committee. As a result, county participation in the program was varied with at least two counties, Arthur and Grant, refusing to accept any support from NERA due to perceived overreach by the state and federal governments.⁴²

³⁸ Smith, *Redeeming the Time*, 442; Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-8; Dolberg, Draft "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," E-2.

³⁹ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21; Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-8; Dolberg, Draft "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," E-2.

⁴⁰ Dolberg, Draft "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," E-2; Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, 177; Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-8.

⁴¹ Grimes, "From Emergency Relief..." 128.

⁴² Grimes, "From Emergency Relief..." 128-131.

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Figure 6: Gustav Rohrich Sod House, Bellwood, Nebraska, Walter C. Yanike, delineator, 1934 [Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress].

The state itself wrestled with its financial obligations to provide relief. FERA's enabling legislation required states to match grant monies provided by the federal government; NERA disbursed only federal funds without match. Nebraska used the federal funds to supplement available county and state funds, refusing to allocate additional money. The legislature and Governor Bryan were reluctant to allocate funding in part because the state constitution did not allow for bonded indebtedness, and there seemed no other way to raise the matching funds.⁴³ In January 1935, Robert Cochran (1935-1941), former state engineer, assumed the governorship; a few weeks later FERA issued an ultimatum that no federal grants were to be given to Nebraska after March 1 unless the state

paid "its fair share of the cost of unemployment relief."⁴⁴ Since the start of FERA, the federal government had provided \$5.5 million to NERA with counties supplying \$2.7 million as match, but the state had not contributed any funds to relief. State administrator Rowland Haynes and Governor Cochran negotiated with FERA.⁴⁵ The severe decline in agricultural prices led Haynes to propose a reduction in the amount of funding the state was required by law to contribute toward relief, while the governor proposed an increase in the gasoline tax.⁴⁶ FERA approved, and the state continued to receive money.

The Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration's four divisions administered and funded various activities ranging from medical care to meat processing to soil erosion control and water conservation to construction.⁴⁷ The Relief Division oversaw the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1934 and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1933 to 1938. The Rural Rehabilitation Division administered the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (RRC) and Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) programs. NERA's Work Division administered Civil Works Administration (CWA) projects and was placed under the Nebraska Department of Roads and Irrigation. State engineer Robert L. Cochran, who became governor in 1935, oversaw CWA projects between 1933-1934. The fourth NERA division oversaw the finances and administration of the agency.

Despite some reluctance, NERA's diverse programs focused on emergency relief both in terms of providing employment and providing temporary economic help. Most work relief programs targeted manual labor due to the sheer number of unemployed laborers, as the depression affected them more acutely than professional workers. Often professional workers had resources to draw upon before reaching a destitute state. White-collar workers also were more reluctant to apply to government agencies for relief, choosing instead to use private organizations and friends. Eventually, white-collar workers could not avoid work relief. FERA attempted to develop a program for two thousand unemployed professionals. The number

⁴³ NERA, *Final Report*, 7-8, 18.

⁴⁴ Grimes, "From Emergency Relief...", 131.

⁴⁵ Between 1933 and 1938, three state directors oversaw the Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration. Governor Bryan appointed Sarpy County welfare worker, Randall C. Biart to head the newly established NERA in 1933; however, federal relief officials did not consider Biart qualified. A few months after Biart's appointment, FERA's Nebraska field representative Rowland Haynes replaced him. Haynes remained director until 1938 when the state legislature named a Nebraskan to the directorship. Ernest Witte led the agency until it was officially dissolved in 1938 (Grimes, "From Emergency Relief...", 126).

⁴⁶ Grimes, "From Emergency Relief...", 128. Twenty-three counties sued the state over this tax because they did not want to support relief in other counties; the Nebraska Supreme Court sided with the counties, stating that the legislature could not delegate authority to the NERA; in the fall of 1935, a new gasoline tax bill passed the legislature that solved the constitutional problems. This meant that not until January 1936 were state funds available for relief.

⁴⁷ NERA, *Final Report*, vii.

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of workers the program classified as “professional” never exceeded twelve hundred because, as historian William McDonald observed, “the standard by which selection was made was set so high that relatively few could qualify as professional.”⁴⁸ The professional work program was short-lived, but it did produce results. During the first months of 1934, William Steele led a small group of architects to photograph, measure, draw, and research sixteen historic places primarily in eastern Nebraska (*Figure 6*) (*Appendix J*). Cultural groups like orchestras received funding to employ professional musicians.⁴⁹ Work relief programs targeting manual labor produced over one-third of Nebraska’s known New Deal-era resources from new water mains in Kearney to a sod schoolhouse in rural Brown County to the Knox County Courthouse; a more thorough explanation of the programs used to construct these resources is in the historic context that follows.



Figure 7: Knox County cattle for purchase through FERA’s buy-back program in the early 1930s [History Nebraska].

NERA also administered relief to the agricultural sector through the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA). Nebraska farmers were especially optimistic at the start of Roosevelt’s presidency. While they did not know exactly how the new administration would meet the challenges of the agricultural sector, they understood what the previous administration was not willing to do; the sentiment was to wait and see. In May 1933 Congress passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which established the AAA within the Department of Agriculture. Working on a county level, the AAA attempted to control agricultural production, raising commodity prices and restoring farmers’ purchasing power. To do this, the AAA purchased commodities directly from producers and paid farmers to reduce the number of acres under production. In its first year, the AAA paid ranchers \$6 million for nearly forty-seven thousand head of cattle in Nebraska alone (*Figure 7*). The commodity purchasing program was a life-line during the heaviest drought years of the depression; the drought cut crop yields 50 to 75 percent. Hog and cattle numbers were high in 1934, the peak of the drought in Nebraska, but there was less food and water available for the stock. The AAA purchased stock to be butchered for food instead of letting them die from the effects of the drought; the subsidy program ensured the rancher would be compensated for at least a portion of his stock. The impact of the program is seen in Custer County where in 1934 cattle numbered 146,000 and hogs numbered 156,000; the AAA purchased over forty-five thousand cattle from the county that year. Crop farmers also benefitted from this New Deal program. Between 1934 and 1935, the AAA paid thirty-five thousand wheat growers to reduce the number of acres in production, and forty-one thousand corn growers sold fifty-three million bushels for \$23 million, which equaled about \$0.43 a bushel up from the \$0.15 a bushel in 1926. In Sherman County alone, AAA payments by the end of 1935 totaled over \$500,000. This program aided agriculture producers’ incomes, which also impacted local businesses in the farming communities. Although some of the successes of the AAA crop control program were obscured by drought, it remained one of the most popular New Deal programs in the state.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ William F. McDonald, *Federal Relief Administration and the Arts* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1969), 76. These workers also received higher salaries and local administrations were reluctant to approve higher budgets for professionals than for other clients.

⁴⁹ McDonald, *Federal Relief Administration*, 73.

⁵⁰ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21; Latta, “The Economic Effects...,” 167-168; Simmons, “Dawson County,” 51; Federal Writers’ Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 68. Latta makes a connection between the AAA payments in Custer County and the local economy by showing that bookkeeping records of a county clothing store indicated sales were steady in 1934.

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Figure 8: Wind erosion in Holt County, 1936, Richard W. Hufnagle, photographer [History Nebraska].

FERA as a federal administration ended in 1935 when the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act became law. The NERA continued to oversee relief through January 1, 1938. Ernest Witte, then state administrator explained that gaps in relief administration occurred when FERA was dissolved and the WPA and RA were established. No other agency in Nebraska was prepared to certify workers to the WPA, select youth for the NYA, refer eligible families to the RA, or select junior enrollees to the CCC until early 1938.⁵¹

Nebraska after NERA (1935-1943)

When Congress dissolved the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, it did not dissolve many of the programs active throughout the country. Rather, the 1935 Emergency Relief Appropriations Act reorganized programs into different

agencies. The reorganization also granted the federal government, through its agencies, a greater level of control over the programs than it felt it had through the state relief administrations.⁵² Many of Nebraska's large-scale projects—substantial natural resource conservation projects, public power districts, large irrigation projects—were completed during this time period when multiple New Deal agencies worked together.

Pine Ridge Land-Utilization Program

The Pine Ridge Land-Utilization Program was located in the Nebraska panhandle and was one of nineteen such programs in the country during the 1930s. The rehabilitation program purchased former farmsteads and agricultural land considered submarginal and unable to provide a living to its owner (*Figure 8*). Four agencies ultimately influenced or administered the project: The Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), the Resettlement Administration (RA), the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the United States Forest Service (USFS). The program began in 1933 under the AAA before being transferred to the RA in 1935. The SCS oversaw the actual restoration/rehabilitation projects, and the program was transferred to the SCS under the USFS in 1938. Although unconfirmed at this point, the CCC likely provided labor to help with the grassland restoration.⁵³ By October 1938 the land utilization program included over seven million acres nationwide, and at the end of the New Deal era in 1943 the program encompassed over eleven million acres.⁵⁴ The land-utilization program locations became the nation's first nineteen national grasslands in 1960. The Pine Ridge Land-Utilization Program area in Nebraska became the Oglala National Grassland, which continues to be managed by the USFS.

In Nebraska, the RA proposed the purchase of 155,000 acres in Sioux and Dawes counties. At the end of 1935, the *Harrison Sun*, Sioux County's sole newspaper, announced that the RA intended to buy "dry land farms, drought damaged ranges,

⁵¹ NERA, *Final Report*, vii-viii.

⁵² Records of the post-NERA era are more difficult to find. NERA kept thorough records, which are now housed at the Nebraska Historical Society (History Nebraska), but records after 1938 are not readily available due to the shift of control.

⁵³ Several CCC units in Nebraska were assigned to the SCS; one camp was located at Chadron State Park in Dawes County, which is attached to what is now the Oglala National Grasslands.

⁵⁴ Francis Moul, "Biggest Partner: The Federal Government and Sioux County, Nebraska," *Nebraska History* 80 (1999): 161.

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abandoned crop land, cut-over woodlands and young timber on the Pine Ridge Escarpment."⁵⁵ The purchased cropland was intended to be redeveloped for grazing, recreation, and conservation purposes and added to a state park for future management. At the time of purchase, abandoned farmsteads were common within the landscape due to the ongoing drought. Forty-one per cent of the land purchased in Sioux and Dawes counties belonged to non-resident owners. Some of the owners had already abandoned the land and moved elsewhere. Owners in Sioux and Dawes counties sold due to heavy debt, no farm income, and overgrazed land.⁵⁶ According to an RA press release from 1937, "The development of large, well managed grazing areas should enable the farmers and ranchers to obtain a more stable income than is possible under present conditions and the grass cover will protect the soil from further erosion." The land targeted for purchase by the RA had been overworked during World War I's period of overproduction. The aim of the land utilization program was to stabilize the soil by reestablishing grasses removed for crops and to prevent future overuse.⁵⁷



Figure 9: Shelterbelt on the Dorothy A. Jones Farm, Seward County, 1940 [History Nebraska].

Forestation Efforts

In 1935 trees were estimated to only cover about 3 percent of Nebraska's land area; although, the state had a confirmed reputation for its love of the plant. Tree-planting efforts in the state extend as far back as April 10, 1872 when Arbor Day originated in Nebraska and one million trees were planted.⁵⁸ Since at least the mid-1920s, Nebraska's national forest at Halsey had provided trees to farmers (for a fee) specifically for planting windbreaks and wood lots. In 1934, during the heaviest drought, the forest supplied over 1.2 million trees to Nebraskans.⁵⁹ When the WPA published its *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State* in 1938, the authors noted that forestation efforts were on-going throughout the state. Existing forests were expected to be enlarged by discovering suitable tree species and through systematic planting. The Federal Writers' Project noted that two national forest reserves in Nebraska, Bessey and Halsey, had "already demonstrated that certain types of pines will thrive even in the sandhill areas."⁶⁰ The two national forests produced millions of trees for distribution throughout the state. The USFS planted trees—with CCC and WPA labor—all over the state, on "rough lands for timber, for demonstration purposes, and possible climatic effect" in the form of shelterbelts (*Figure 9*).⁶¹

One of the largest forestation efforts in Nebraska was part of the Great Plains Shelterbelt, also known as the Prairie States Forestry Project (*Figure 10*). Eventually managed by the SCS, this was a pet project of Roosevelt's. In 1934, he wanted a

⁵⁵ Moul, "Biggest Partner," 158. The Harrison Sun is quoted in Moul's article.

⁵⁶ Moul, "Biggest Partner," 158-159. There were some instances where owners sold their property because appraisers told them they could continue living there by leasing the property from the federal government, but they were eventually forced to move; some owners who did not want to sell were forced to do so after their land was condemned.

⁵⁷ Moul, "Biggest Partner," 158.

⁵⁸ Lakes States Forest Experiment Station, USFS, *Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting in the Plains Region* (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1935), 50[?], 54.

⁵⁹ USFS, *Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting*, 54.

⁶⁰ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 21, 23.

⁶¹ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 23-24.

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Figure 10: Snippet of the Prairie States Forestry Project map, showing shelterbelt zone within the state of Nebraska [*Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting*].

transcontinental windbreak in the form of a shelterbelt (*Figure 8*). These rows of trees break up sweeping winds that scour the earth, removing important top soil and creating barren agricultural fields. Used effectively in Europe during periods of drought, Roosevelt felt they would work well in the United States. The Prairie States Forestry Project was initially managed by USFS and headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Forest Service managed the planting of many demonstration sites throughout the Dust Bowl area to test their feasibility. The first windbreaks were planted in Oklahoma; although, a line had been drawn on a map of the Plains from Canada to northern Texas, along the eastern edge of the short grass prairie. Along the line were to be row after row of trees planted around arid farm fields. Such windbreaks or shelterbelts were somewhat effective at breaking the wind

especially close to the trees, but the short life of trees and the extensive scope of the project limited the results. Viewed as a folly by most westerners, the Forest Service was amazingly successful in the eight years they ran the program, planting 18,600 miles of shelterbelts with over 217 million trees.⁶² Nationally, men and boys in the CCC did some work, such as collecting trees and cuttings.⁶³ In 1942, the program was turned over to the SCS, which effectively folded it into its everyday activities. In Nebraska, nearly every county participated to some extent in the shelterbelt program, with over ten thousand sites throughout the state. Species recommended for planting in Nebraska had been developed by the Nebraska College of Agriculture (now the University of Nebraska) through a long series of experimentation and observation. The college divided the state into five districts, each with their own set of requirements needed for the trees to survive. District 5 covered that portion of Nebraska where the Great Plains Shelterbelt was to be planted, and the species recommended included: honey locust, American elm, green ash, black walnut, boxelder, cottonwood, Norway poplar, Black Hills spruce, Koster's blue spruce, blue spruce, jack pine, ponderosa pine, and Austrian pine.⁶⁴ The trees were then to be planted systematically, with no one species making up more than 30 to 50 percent of the belt, in rows three to thirty trees wide. The rows were arranged according to the height of the trees with the tallest species (e.g., cottonwood) in the center.⁶⁵

Public Power and Irrigation Projects

One of the New Deal's largest legacies in the state centers around the large-scale public works projects that brought electricity to and upgraded irrigation efforts in Nebraska. Often both efforts were incorporated into the same project. Nebraska's many rivers and its ground water supply were harnessed to create public power districts and irrigation districts that spanned several counties. Rainfall deficits throughout the state produced in Nebraskans a greater interest in irrigation. This interest was "stimulated by successful crop production in irrigated districts and the availability of Federal funds for irrigation projects."⁶⁶ Ground water supplied the Loup, Niobrara, Blue, Platte, and North Platte rivers, and the amount of

⁶² R. Douglas Hurt, *The Dust Bowl: An Agricultural and Social History* (Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1981), 135.

⁶³ Hurt, *The Dust Bowl*, 135.

⁶⁴ USFS, *Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting*, 54. Scientific names are provided on page 20.

⁶⁵ USFS, *Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting*, 20, 23.

⁶⁶ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 22.

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available well water was found to be enough to sustain crop irrigation.⁶⁷ The ample supply of ground water became the inspiration for Nebraska's three hydropower districts.

Numerous federal agencies worked together to plan and construct these public utilities, with the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) being the most prominent agencies involved. Electricity had been available to most urban areas in the United States since the early 1900s. The impetus to create a national program of rural electrification began in the 1920s when successful economic development was linked to the spread of electricity. The density of population and demand from industrial and commercial customers in urban locations meant that utility companies could operate profitably. Conversely, the lack of user density discouraged most utility companies from building power lines to reach farms and small towns. By 1930, the 85 percent of urban residents who had electricity nationally contrasted sharply to the 10 percent of rural residents (5.8 percent in Nebraska) with access to electrical service. When Roosevelt became president, he issued an executive order in 1935 to establish the Rural Electrification Administration, and the REA Act shortly followed.⁶⁸ The Act, introduced to the Senate by Nebraska Senator George Norris, made the REA a permanent agency; it was signed into law in May 1936.

Borrowing the approach to funding used by electrical cooperatives, such as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), REA supplied legal, engineering, and managerial expertise to local cooperatives and extended low-cost loans to locals to buy the equipment needed to build rural lines.⁶⁹ The first REA line in the United States was energized in Tecumseh, Nebraska at ten in the morning on September 26, 1936 when Senator Norris, the "father of the REA," threw the switch at the Tecumseh Municipal Plant. His remarks were broadcast across the National Radio Network.⁷⁰ When electrification arrived, it improved almost every aspect of rural lives including schools, churches, hospitals, and town life. By the time World War II began, only 22 percent of all farms in the United States were electrified. By 1951, 87 percent of Nebraska's farms were electrified thanks in large part to the public power districts brought online in the 1930s.⁷¹

The Loup Public Power District continues to cover Nance and Platte counties in the east-central part of the state, as it did historically. Excavation for the project began in 1934, and the Monroe Power Plant began generating electricity in March 1937. The Genoa Diversion Dam impounded water from the Loup River, diverting it to the Monroe and Columbus hydropower plants via the Loup Canal. These power plants supplied electricity to Columbus (Platte County), Norfolk (Madison County), Fremont (Dodge County), Sioux City (Dakota County) and as far away as Lincoln (Lancaster County) and Omaha (Douglas County). The entire project cost over \$12.6 million.⁷²

Similar to the Loup Public Power District, the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District was an enormous project in Keith and Lincoln counties. Beginning as early as 1934, water from the South Platte River was diverted by a canal east of Paxton (Keith County) to a newly-created reservoir just south of the town of Sutherland. Water from the Sutherland Reservoir was used for irrigation and was also further diverted through a canal to what became known as Lake Maloney to the south

⁶⁷ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 22.

⁶⁸ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21; Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-18.

⁶⁹ James Ciment, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Great Depression and the New Deal*, (Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2001), 377-378. The TVA's take-over of land and its removal of the people from the land was a major issue during the depression. In Nebraska, sources indicate the overwhelming support for these projects; however, the impact on residents of towns like Lemoyne, now under Lake McConaughy, should be evaluated.

⁷⁰ Johnson County Centennial Committee, *Johnson County Centennial, 1856-1956* (Tecumseh, Nebr.: Centennial Committee, 1956), 44.

⁷¹ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

⁷² Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 503; Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 22; Loup Power District, "Development Timeline," (2003) available from loup.com; for more information about the District, see Phil Hockenberger, *History of Loup River Public Power District* (Self-published: Hockenberger, 1979); Hockenberger was one of the original board members for the district.

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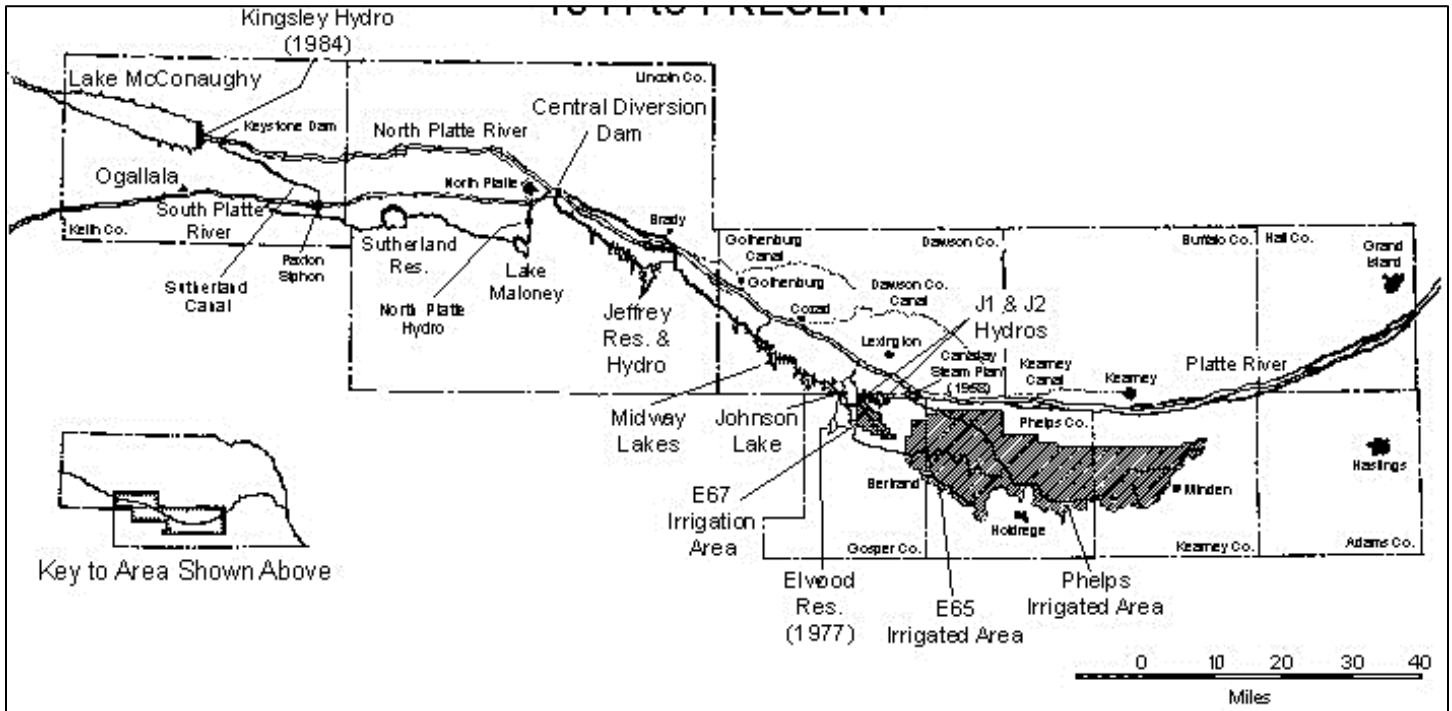


Figure 11: The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (aka Tri-County Project) as completed in 1941 with later additions, including the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District [CNPPID].

of North Platte and then to the North Platte Powerhouse where it was converted to electricity. Begun in 1935, the North Platte Powerhouse and trailrace bridge were completed in April 1939. The total project cost for the district was over \$10.8 million.⁷³

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation Project was the largest power and irrigation project in Nebraska (Figure 11). Although it became known as the Tri-County Project, the project served more than three counties. A series of dams, reservoirs, and diversionary canals used water from the North Platte River to irrigate over a half million acres in Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, and Adams counties. Further, the Kingsley Dam, which created both Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala, was located just west of Keystone in Keith County. This dam remains the second largest hydraulic fill dam in the world, according to the Keith County Tourism Center. Other resources associated with the Tri-County project include the Central Diversion Dam, east of North Platte (Lincoln County) and the Johnson Canyon Power Plants south of Lexington (between Dawson and Gosper counties). The entire project began in 1935; the Kingsley dam was completed in 1941; and the project officially completed in 1943 for a total cost of \$43 million. The project employed nearly fifteen hundred men.⁷⁴

By 1938 the number of irrigated acres in the state had significantly increased, even while the Tri-County Project was still under construction. Estimates given by the writers of *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State* included 570,000 acres

⁷³ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 504; Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 22.

⁷⁴ Dorothy Weyer Creigh, *Nebraska: A Bicentennial History* (New York: WW Norton & Co., 1977), 185; Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 22; and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, "A Brief History of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District," (2003).

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irrigated by canals that diverted water from streams and rivers; 1.3 million acres subirrigated from ground water; and 40,000 acres irrigated by spraying from municipal and rural water supplies.⁷⁵

Nebraska at the End of the New Deal

By the end of the 1930s and despite the physical improvements, there was, as Simmons noted, a growing "sense that the New Deal had lost touch with the Midwest, that it had become an essentially urban and eastern political phenomenon with little concern for rural families."⁷⁶ Unemployment was still relatively high in Nebraska. For example, Dawson County's unemployment remained at 8 percent despite work relief programs in the county.⁷⁷ Nebraskans tended to view the New Deal in terms of how well each program directly benefitted them. In rural counties, the Civil Works Administration and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration were popular, as was the Rural Electrification Administration. Western counties also benefitted from the Resettlement Administration's programs and feed and seed loans. The Works Progress/Projects Administration (WPA) was less popular than the CWA among rural Nebraskans concerned with big government, unbalanced budgets, and regulations.⁷⁸ However the WPA benefitted both small and large towns throughout the state, providing work for both manual and professional laborers, as well as resources towns could be proud of. The Public Works Administration was applauded throughout the state for its commitment to and development of irrigation and public works.

Building construction, which had been at a standstill after 1929, became the state's largest employer during the New Deal years. The Federal Writers' Project noted that in 1937 the New Deal "gave employment to about 16,000 professionals, skilled, and unskilled workers, and renewed the demand for native brick. Ferrous metal plants, automobile repair shops, and a variety of factories employ about 12,000 workers." The printing and publishing industry employed around four thousand people, as did the manual trades.⁷⁹

Nebraskan agriculture changed during the 1930s. Wheat became the largest cash crop in the state in the mid-1930s. In 1936, Nebraska produced 47.4 million bushels, valued at \$1.03 a bushel, up sharply from its 1926 price (\$0.15).⁸⁰ The decade saw no good corn or small grain crops. Corn was raised primarily for feed and was less of a cash crop than wheat. When rainfall was normal, the state averaged over 100 million bushels a harvest; in 1936, one of the worst years of drought, the yield was 26.9 million bushels, valued at \$1.13 a bushel.⁸¹ Many alfalfa stands were lost and not reestablished. Oats were replaced with barley, specifically with a new, early-maturing and drought-resistant variety called Spartan, and there was an increase in permanent pastures of sorghum, which grows well under adverse conditions. Livestock supplied two-thirds of the state's farm income.⁸² While cattle populations eventually recovered, swine populations did not.⁸³ As a whole, the state's agricultural sector did not fully recover until World War II.

The rural landscape also changed. Between 1935 and 1940, many small farms disappeared while surviving farms increased in size; Custer County alone lost four hundred farms during these years.⁸⁴ Wheat fields grew larger by the end of the decade

⁷⁵ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 22.

⁷⁶ Simmons, "Dawson County," 65.

⁷⁷ Simmons, "Dawson County," 61.

⁷⁸ Simmons, "Dawson County," 51-52, 56-57.

⁷⁹ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 84-85.

⁸⁰ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 79.

⁸¹ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 80.

⁸² Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 79.

⁸³ Latta, "The Economic Effects...", 168.

⁸⁴ Latta, "The Economic Effects...", 168.

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as those who were able purchased adjoining farmlands that had been foreclosed upon during the depression.⁸⁵ On the other hand, soil conservation techniques, such as contouring and shelterbelt planting, contributed to the conservation of farmland and production of crops. Historian Michael Grant concludes, "The New Deal agricultural programs offered critical assistance to farmers, but they worked best with those farmers hurt mainly by the Great Depression." For the state's farmers who were unstable before 1929, the programs did not offer as easy a path to recovery.⁸⁶

The commercial value of the state's manufactured goods (including processed agricultural goods) exceeded the value of its raw agricultural products during this period. In 1935, for instance, \$192.2 million worth of raw goods created \$225.5 million in finished manufactured goods. Meatpacking was by far the leading industry in manufactured goods. Most livestock ended up in the Omaha stockyards, but smaller packing plants were established in Hastings, Grand Island, McCook, Scottsbluff, Falls City, and Lincoln. In Omaha, in the mid-1930s, the four largest packers employed a total of seven thousand men and generated nearly \$1.5 million a year in product (*Figure 12*). Another large industry in the state was grist-milling; large-scale commercial millers operated in Lincoln, Crete, Omaha, Grand Island, Lexington, Scottsbluff, Hastings, and Ravenna.⁸⁷



Figure 12: Stockyards, Omaha, Nebraska, 1938, John Vachon (FSA) [Library of Congress].

Economically, at the end of the New Deal non-farm sectors such as merchants and service agencies fared better than the farm sector because of their ability to adjust to fluctuations.⁸⁸ Even still, the legacy of the New Deal in Nebraska is not wholly unappreciated in the state. Families were helped, and physical improvements from public works projects to beautification efforts would not have occurred without the efforts of the New Deal. At the end of the depression era, Nebraska had the highest life expectancy in the nation.⁸⁹

⁸⁵ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 79.

⁸⁶ Michael Johnston Grant, *Down and Out on the Family Farm: Rural Rehabilitation in the Great Plains, 1929-1945* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002), 200.

⁸⁷ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 83.

⁸⁸ Latta, "The Economic Effects...", 177.

⁸⁹ Latta, "The Economic Effects...", 172.

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II. The New Deal Shapes Nebraska, 1933-1943

Most of the New Deal's programs and agencies were created during Roosevelt's first term in office, including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), Public Works Administration (PWA), Civil Works Administration (CWA), Federal Housing Administration (FHA), National Youth Administration (NYA), Resettlement Administration (RA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), Soil Conservation Service (SCS), United States Housing Authority (USHA), Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), and the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). These aggressive New Deal programs ranged from short-term emergency aid to long-range security. City, county, state, and federal governments entered into unprecedented and, at least in Nebraska, often skeptical cooperative relationships to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis.⁹⁰ The New Deal was a grand-scale experiment funded largely by the federal government, and the success and popularity of each program varied by state and even by county. Several relief programs in Nebraska produced physical results, such as the construction of schools and shelterbelts, and sustained the state's residents by providing jobs, training, and direct relief. The Nebraska landscape contains extant, physical reminders of the New Deal era.⁹¹ The purpose of the context "The New Deal Shapes Nebraska, 1933-1943" is to discuss which relief agencies active in Nebraska produced the state's unique New Deal-era resources. The programs are arranged in order of implementation.

Emergency Conservation Work (1933-1937)/Civilian Conservation Corps (1937-1943)⁹²

Enabling Legislation(s):	Emergency Conservation Work Act of March 31, 1933; Congressional Act 50 Stat. 31, June 28, 1937; Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1939
Federal Agencies:	FERA (1933-1937); CCC (1937-1939); Federal Security Agency (1939-1943)
Federal Directors:	Robert Fechner (1933-1939); James McEntee (1940-1943)
State Agencies:	NERA (1933-1937)
State Directors:	Roland Haynes (1933-1935); Maj. Gen. Frank C. Bolles (1935-1943)

Even prior to election, Roosevelt wanted to create what he called a civilian conservation corps to give unemployed young men work on simple projects related to forestry, erosion, flood control, and related conservation work.⁹³ Unofficially known as the CCC since its inception in 1933, the Emergency Conservation Work Agency (ECW) was the first of Roosevelt's job creation programs.⁹⁴ In 1937 the ECW became its own independent agency and was renamed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The 1939 Reorganization Plan No. 1 moved the CCC into the newly-created Federal Security Agency, where it remained until the program was liquidated in June 1943. Throughout its duration, four federal agencies participated in overseeing different aspects of the CCC. The Department of Labor selected candidates; the Department of War provided medical exams, assigned participants to companies, and clothed and equipped them. Various bureaus within both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior selected projects, supervised the work, and administered the camps where the men lived.⁹⁵ The bureaus included the National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service, among others. Work projects took place on federal and state lands, including forests, and on private land.

⁹⁰ Grimes, "From Emergency Relief..." 126.

⁹¹ Based on years of known projects in Appendices A through I.

⁹² Much of this overview is from John A. Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1967) and Federal Security Agency, *The CCC at Work: A Story of 2,500,000 Young Men* (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1941).

⁹³ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 12.

⁹⁴ James S. Olson, ed., *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985), 81-82.

⁹⁵ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 30.

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The CCC was organized into companies which were assigned to specific camps. The companies worked on specific projects associated with various federal agencies. Most CCC projects involved the conservation of natural resources. In fact, 75 percent of all enrollees participated in projects supervised by the Department of Agriculture with more than half of these men working under the direction of the Forest Service.⁹⁶ The CCC assigned the second largest number of camps to the Soil Conservation Service beginning in 1935 when it was established by the Department of Agriculture.⁹⁷ Enrollees built dams and drainage projects, while others planted trees, fought forest fires, or constructed park lakes, ponds, trails, roads, and bridges. Companies also helped with agricultural field contouring, erosion control projects, planting cover crops, and caring for nursery stock.⁹⁸ "Side camps" often splintered from the main camp to accomplish projects that were short in duration or task specific and that were located some distance from the main camp.⁹⁹

When first created, the CCC employed only unmarried American males between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three. As the program continued, enrollment expanded to include "local experienced men" or LEMs to act as supervisors for the Forest Service, and World War I veterans.¹⁰⁰ Congress established a separate, but similar program, for Native Americans known as the Indian Emergency Conservation Work (IECW) program (discussed below). Enrollees committed to no less than six months and no more than two years, working forty hours per week and earning \$30 per month; a significant portion of their pay was sent home to their families.¹⁰¹

The CCC established over 1,500 camps across the United States, including camps in Alaska, Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, all of which were territories at the time.¹⁰² One hundred fifty camps were specifically for African Americans.¹⁰³ The George Washington National Forest in Luray, Virginia hosted the first camp, established in April 1933 less than two weeks after the CCC was established.¹⁰⁴ By July 1, 1933, the CCC ranks included 270,000 enrollees in 1,330 camps. When Congress increased the CCC's allotment in 1934, the number of enrollees reached 350,000. When the program ended in 1943, more than three million men had been employed by the CCC.

Camp life in the CCC was not unlike being in the military. Approximately two hundred men per camp lived in barracks. They rose at 6:00 a.m., and at 10:15 p.m. taps signaled that all enlistees were to be in bed.¹⁰⁵ The original idea was to house CCC members in canvas tents. The affordability and durability of lumber changed that policy by the end of 1933. In November of that year, thousands of carpenters were building wood frame structures in forty-six camps nationwide. The Army oversaw camp construction and developed detailed instructions and standardized plans for the layout of the camps as well as the individual buildings. By 1935, portable structures, such as train cars, were also common features at many camps.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁶ Christine E. Pfaff, *The Bureau of Reclamation's Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy: 1933-1942* (Washington, D.C.: US Government Printing Office, 2010), 1.

⁹⁷ Pfaff, *The Bureau of Reclamation*, 1.

⁹⁸ Pfaff, *The Bureau of Reclamation*, 1.

⁹⁹ Elizabeth Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (June 12, 2002): E-6.

¹⁰⁰ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 36.

¹⁰¹ Federal Security Agency, *The CCC at Work*, 49.

¹⁰² Federal Security Agency, *The CCC at Work*, 8.

¹⁰³ Federal Security Agency, *The CCC at Work*, 85.

¹⁰⁴ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 31. The camp was named Camp Roosevelt.

¹⁰⁵ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 137, 141, Chapter 8 is "A Day in the CCC;" Cutler, *The Public Landscape*, 7.

¹⁰⁶ Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-6.

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Figure 13: CCC members planting trees and shrubs on the Oscar Anderson farm in Nance County, circa 1936 [History Nebraska].

As with the New Deal more generally, World War II ultimately ended the CCC. The Department of War's attention shifted to the war effort and reserve military officers that had been assigned to the CCC camps were recalled to active duty. Military training in the camps became a higher priority, reducing the amount of time the companies devoted to conservation projects. In early 1942 James McEntee, national director of the CCC, ordered that camps be immediately reorganized. Those involved in "war-related construction activities or in the protection of war-related natural resources" were to remain active; all other camps were closed, and enrollees released. Closed camps were often used by various branches of the military for training or housing purposes. Congress authorized the CCC's termination in June 1942, and the program was ended by the following June.¹⁰⁷

CCC in Nebraska (Figure 13)

The Nebraska CCC District was established in April 1933 and initially headquartered at Fort Robinson in Dawes County. Rowland Haynes served as the state CCC director until 1935 when Major General Frank C. Bolles succeeded him. The CCC divided the Nebraska CCC District into two subdistricts that covered the southeastern and northwestern portions of Nebraska. The Southeastern Subdistrict was headquartered at Fort Crook in Omaha, while Fort Robinson was the Northwestern Subdistrict headquarters. In April 1934, the Nebraska CCC District Headquarters relocated to Fort Crook, which continued to house the District's headquarters even after the Nebraska and South Dakota districts consolidated in February 1936. Headquarters relocated to Omaha's Quartermaster Depot in April 1937, specifically to Building 1, where it remained until the end of the program.¹⁰⁸ The CCC company stationed at the Depot built a new garage, repaired pavement, and improved the landscaping of the complex.¹⁰⁹

The state's first enrollees mustered at Fort Crook on April 26, 1933, and within a month, thirteen companies were formed. According to the company rosters in the 1937 *Official Annual*, most recruits were from Nebraska with some from neighboring states and some from as far away as California and Texas. All but seven of these first companies were sent to the West Coast before returning to Nebraska in the fall of 1934.¹¹⁰ Why the companies were initially sent outside of Nebraska is currently unknown, but it likely had to do with project need. Between 1933 and 1941 thirty-four CCC companies formed in Nebraska, and at least two, Company V-2745 and V-1782, were veteran groups.¹¹¹ In Nebraska when camps were first established, the enrollees lived in tents while they constructed their barracks.¹¹² The companies moved around, often occupying camps formerly vacated by another company. In all, the CCC established fifty-eight camps in Nebraska, although

¹⁰⁷ Pfaff, *The Bureau of Reclamation*, 14-15.

¹⁰⁸ Civilian Conservation Corps, *Official Annual: Civilian Conservation Corps, Nebraska-South Dakota District, CCC Fourth Corps Area* (Baton Rouge, LA: Direct Advertising Co., 1937), 21. The Quartermaster's Depot is a contributing resource to the Omaha Quartermaster Depot Historic District. Building 21 at the Depot served as transient shelter. The *Official Annual* does not explain how the two subdistricts were formed.

¹⁰⁹ Gary Bowen & William P. Ryan, "Omaha Quartermaster Depot Historic District," National Register nomination form (1978): 8-2. Depot Building 18 had been remodeled by the Works Progress Administration after a 1937 fire.

¹¹⁰ Civilian Conservation Corps, *Official Annual*, 22.

¹¹¹ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

¹¹² As described in several company histories in Civilian Conservation Corps, *Official Annual*.

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some were temporary.¹¹³ Companies performed work on federal lands like the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge and the Bessey National Forest, in state parks such as Chadron and Ponca, and also on private farms.

A snapshot of the work being done in Nebraska is found in the Nebraska-South Dakota District's 1937 *Official Annual*. Eighteen camps were active in the state at the time. The majority, twelve, of these camps were assigned to the Soil Conservation Service; these were located in Weeping Water, Hebron, Fairbury, Humboldt, Pawnee City, Mitchell, Beatrice, David City, Tecumseh, Columbus, Ravenna, Hartington, Denton, Blair, and Madison. Two were associated with the Bureau of Reclamation (Lake Minatare and Mitchell); two were in Nebraska parks (Gering and Omaha's Carter Lake), and there was one forestry company (Halsey) and one assigned to the biological survey (Valentine).¹¹⁴ Work performed by these companies included constructing irrigation ditches, drains, spillways, small dams, buildings, and streets; grading, contouring, and terracing; brush clearing; shelterbelt planting; nursery cultivation; harvesting assistance; forest clearing, among other projects.

In 1942, when the order came to begin terminating existing CCC camps, most in Nebraska were already closed. At least two CCC camps were transferred to the US Army Corps of Engineers. When the Lake Minatare camp closed, the Corps took possession in August 1942. The Commanding Officer of Scotts Bluff Air Force Base had jurisdictional authority, and the Air Force occasionally used the camp for training and recreation purposes until 1944. Bayard CCC Camp closed in May 1942 and was planned to be transferred to the US Army Corps of Engineers; the buildings were intended to be used at an ammunition storage plant near Sidney, but it is unknown if this occurred.¹¹⁵

Indian Emergency Conservation Work (1933-1937)/Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division (1937-1943)¹¹⁶

Enabling Legislation(s): Emergency Conservation Work Act of March 31, 1933; Congressional Act 50 Stat. 31, June 28, 1937

Federal Agency: Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Indian Emergency Conservation Work (IECW) agency was established in April 1933 as an expansion of the Emergency Conservation Work Act provisions. This agency employed 88,849 men from federally-recognized tribes throughout the nation. When the Emergency Conservation Work agency was officially renamed the Civilian Conservation Corps, the IECW also renamed itself, becoming the Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division (CCC-ID). While similar to the CCC, the Indian Division was administered separately, and the program rules and objectives were tailored to meet the needs of the Native Americans employed. The Bureau of Indian Affairs within the Department of the Interior selected the enrollees and administered the work in tandem with tribal councils.¹¹⁷

Unlike the CCC, no permanent camps were established under the Indian Division. Enrollees were allowed to be married, and projects occurred on the reservations where they lived. The men, whose ages ranged from seventeen to thirty-five, received \$30 a month and were eligible to receive education and health training. Much of the work done by the CCC-ID

¹¹³ Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 21.

¹¹⁴ Civilian Conservation Corps, *Official Annual*, 22.

¹¹⁵ Pfaff, *The Bureau of Reclamation*, A-1, A-267.

¹¹⁶ Information provided in this section is based on: Calvin W. Gower, "The CCC Indian Division: Aid for depressed Americans, 1933-1942," *Minnesota History* (Spring 1972): 3-13 and Roger Bromert, "The Sioux and the Indian-CCC," *South Dakota History* 8 (1978, no. 4): 340-356; and Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 33-34.

¹¹⁷ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 33.

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consisted of erosion control to counter the effects of the severe drought affecting much of the Plains states; however, the CCC-ID also constructed bridges, shelters, and community buildings through this program.¹¹⁸

Historian Calvin Gower notes that the CCC-ID "was perhaps the first measure to bring material aid to reservations, to encourage self-administration by Indians."¹¹⁹ The participating tribes considered CCC-ID a successful program due to the involvement of tribal members, the work accomplished, and the projects completed.¹²⁰

CCC-ID in Nebraska

Four federally-recognized tribes have headquarters in Nebraska: Santee Sioux Nation, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The Oglala Sioux Tribe owns land in northwest Nebraska, but their headquarters are in South Dakota; likewise, land belonging to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska extends into southeastern Nebraska while the tribe is headquartered in Kansas.

Similar to the CCC, the CCC-ID was organized into districts. Nebraska fell within the Billings District, which included North and South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Projects within this district focused on water development and irrigation to counteract the ongoing regional drought. Unlike other districts, after 1935 the Billings District CCC-ID projects included elaborate dams for flood control and irrigation.¹²¹ Both the Ponca Tribe and Santee Sioux Nation constructed community buildings through the CCC-ID.¹²²

Civil Works Administration (1933-1934)¹²³

Enabling Legislation(s):	Executive Order 6420-B, November 9, 1933 under authority of the NIRA
Federal Agency:	FERA
Federal Directors:	Harry L. Hopkins
State Agencies:	NERA
State Directors:	Robert Cochran, state engineer

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) was created as a temporary work-relief program by executive order on November 9, 1933 under Title II of NIRA and was placed under the management of FERA. One historian described the agency as "a bold experiment--it was the first attempt by the federal government to give work to the unemployed instead of aiding the states in the problem of relief."¹²⁴ Harry Hopkins, who administered the CWA, decided there was no time to recruit administrators from each individual state so he federalized the existing state emergency relief programs and their workers. Hoping to employ four million workers, Hopkins gave these state and local officials the authority to "use their imagination and suggested [projects such as] park and playground construction, feeder roads, water mains and sewer extensions...", threatening the states that they would lose funding not allocated by December 15. The CWA required that the work be completed on public property, be constructive in nature, and have a cost ratio of 70 percent labor to 30 percent materials.¹²⁵ Local businesses were encouraged to furnish building supplies so that most of the project funds would support wages.

¹¹⁸ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 33.

¹¹⁹ Gower, "The CCC Indian Division," 4.

¹²⁰ Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, 34.

¹²¹ Stacy Stupka-Burda, "Ponca Tribal Self-Help Community Building Historic District," National Register nomination form (2002): 8:3.

¹²² Stupka-Burda, "Ponca Tribal Self-Help Community Building," 8:3.

¹²³ Program overview information from Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-11, 12.

¹²⁴ Walker, *The Civil Works Administration*, ii.

¹²⁵ Bonnie Fox Schwartz, *The Civil Works Administration, 1933-1934: The Business of Emergency Employment in the New Deal* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984), 41, 46.

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The program worked. By Thanksgiving, 180,000 CWA projects employed 800,000 people nationwide. By the following January the CWA employed 4.3 million, exceeding Hopkins' goal. Pay exceeded that under FERA. For a thirty-hour workweek hourly wages started at \$0.40 for unskilled laborers and ranged up to \$1.20 per hour for skilled workers. The rapid growth of the CWA raised concerns that the agency would not be able to meet future payrolls, and Hopkins reluctantly reduced the hourly workweek beginning in January 1934. Workers in rural areas and small towns were limited to 15 hours per week, while urban workers could not exceed 24 hours per week.

Because the PWA was slow to produce results, over \$400 million from the PWA budget was funneled to the CWA to finance short-term, light construction projects.¹²⁶ The CWA was successful in providing employment for many Americans. Before the temporary program expired on March 31, 1934, the agency had spent \$62 million nationwide and had built or improved four thousand schools, one thousand airports, and 255,000 miles of roads. More importantly, the agency pumped a billion dollars into the sluggish and depressed economy.¹²⁷

CWA in Nebraska

The Civil Works Administration was well-received in Nebraska. In Dawson County, for instance, within days of the CWA's creation, the "county welfare committee reconstituted itself as a local CWA committee and began hiring workers."¹²⁸ Three hundred fifty men improved streets and removed weeds and debris from county roadways throughout the winter of 1933 and 1934. The NERA administered the program. The *NERA's* 1938 report noted the following:

A tentative employment quota for the state was set at 33,290. By the early part of November over 4,000 persons were at work, the majority of them being taken from the relief rolls. The full quota was reached by January 1, and by January 18, at the peak of the program, approximately 38,000 persons were working for the Civil Works [Administration], nearly 5,000 more than the quota originally set for the state.¹²⁹

Because many of the projects started under the CWA in Nebraska were unfinished when the program ended in March 1934, NERA continued to hire able-bodied relief recipients after March to complete the projects. Projects under the CWA included civic buildings like the Knox County Courthouse, educational buildings such as Nehawka's Public Library, recreation venues like the Ravenna Auditorium, and several airport improvements across the state. The CWA also laid or improved roads such as reconstructing US-20 Hwy in Rock County.¹³⁰ Work relief projects done by the CWA were eventually assigned to the WPA and the PWA.

¹²⁶ Schwartz, *The Civil Works Administration*, 38.

¹²⁷ Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, 84.

¹²⁸ Simmons, "Dawson County," 52.

¹²⁹ NERA, *Final Report*, 66.

¹³⁰ Centennial Book Committee, eds., *Rock County Centennial: 1888-1988* (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 1987), 27. In 1936 a bituminous surface was applied to US-20 at this location, the first highway to receive this treatment

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Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (1933-1939)/Public Works Administration, 1939-1943¹³¹

Enabling Legislation(s): National Industrial Recovery Act (1933); Reorganization Plan No. 1 (1939)
Federal Agencies: Own agency (1933-1939); Federal Works Administration (1939-1943)
Federal Director: Harold Ickes
State Agency: None; administered by a field office Public Works Administration for Nebraska
State Directors: John Latenser, Jr., state engineer, (1933-1937); Robert A. Radford (1938-1943)

Prior to 1939, the agency unofficially known as the PWA was named the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. In June 1933, Congress passed the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA). Title I of NIRA addressed labor issues, creating the National Recovery Administration with the goal of stabilizing prices and wages, and the National Labor Board, to negotiate labor disputes. NIRA also guaranteed labor's rights to organize and to bargain collectively. Title II of NIRA created the Public Works Administration (PWA), directed by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The PWA had three objectives: 1) preparing a public works program to be undertaken in the event of future necessity; 2) providing employment for workers in the building trades and in the industries supplying construction materials; and 3) priming the pump of industry by placing large sums of money in circulation and by creating a demand for construction materials.¹³²

Focused on creating jobs in the building trades and construction, the PWA received an initial allocation of \$3.3 billion. In contrast to the smaller projects of the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the PWA attempted to revive the economy by promoting large construction projects that employed skilled labor.¹³³ The categories of projects included:

1. The construction repair, and improvement of public highways, parkways and public buildings, and any publicly owned instrumentalities and facilities.
2. The conservation and development of natural resources, including the control, utilization and purification of waters, the prevention of soil and coastal erosion, the development of waterpower, the transmission of electrical energy, flood control, the construction of river and harbor improvements, and certain river and drainage improvements.
3. The construction, reconstruction, alteration, or repair, under public regulation or control, of low-cost housing and slum clearance projects, and assistance in the purchase of subsistence homesteads.
4. The financing of self-liquidating projects formerly eligible for assistance by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, to which are now added the construction or completion of hospitals, financed in part from public funds, reservoirs, pumping plants, and dry docks.
5. The construction of naval vessels and aircraft, technical works for the army air corps, army housing projects, and original equipment for the mechanization or motorization of army tactical units.
6. The financing of such railroad maintenance and equipment as might be approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission as desirable for the improvement of transportation facilities.¹³⁴

The PWA paid for 100 percent of federal construction projects, while projects at the state and local level received a grant for 30 percent of the project costs and a loan for any portion of the balance. Grants were increased to 45 percent of project costs in 1935. Private entities could also receive PWA loans for construction projects but were ineligible for grants.

¹³¹ Most program overview information from Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-9 to 11.

¹³² Jack F. Isakoff, *The Public Works Administration* (Urban, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1938), 137.

¹³³ Forest A. Walker, *The Civil Works Administration: An Experiment in Federal Work Relief, 1933-1934* (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1979), 22.

¹³⁴ Isakoff, *The Public Works Administration*, 17.

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The 34,500 PWA-funded projects included one-half of all New Deal constructed schools and most municipal water and sewage systems. Other typical projects included courthouses, post offices, hospitals, housing, and roads. In 1933, PWA projects represented 33 percent of all the construction in the United States. Nationwide, approximately 140,000 workers were employed by the PWA every year of its existence and as many as 600,000 additional jobs were created annually because of PWA projects. Congress continually shifted money to other programs like the CWA and the Works Projects Administration (WPA), which employed greater numbers of people.¹³⁵

The PWA was extended with a \$4.8 billion appropriation under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, and again in 1937 with \$59 million from the Public Works Administration Extension Act because many of the projects started by the agency were not finished and the funds allocated for these projects had not been exhausted. In 1938, the agency received a \$1.6 billion appropriation, which allowed it to finish many of its ongoing projects before the agency ceased operation on June 30, 1943.¹³⁶ The 1939 Reorganization Plan No. 1 relocated the PWA to the newly-formed Federal Works Agency (FWA), officially renaming it the Public Works Administration. Under the Public Works Administration, building programs led to the construction of 11,000 public buildings, including courthouses, firehouses, hospitals, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and schools, as well as over one hundred airfields and eight hundred parks. The PWA repaired and improved more than 30,000 pre-existing buildings, laid 40,000 miles of public roads, and repaired 150,000 miles of roads. PWA workers constructed 1,400 athletic fields and 1,800 swimming pools and reforested 20,000 acres.¹³⁷

In 1938, the PWA administered a survey to judge how owners of non-federal projects (excluding schools) felt about the process. Of the 773 respondents, nearly three-quarters believed that PWA's requirements and supervision led to higher standards of project planning, design, and construction. Opinion was split about whether costs were higher under the PWA, which surprised the surveyors, "as one would expect that a great proportion of the owners would have thought the costs were more under the PWA, due to the fact that it insists on a high standard of wages being paid labor and upon less working hours than are generally required."¹³⁸ The 1931 Davis-Bacon Act stipulated that local prevailing wages must be paid to labors working on federal construction projects. In 1935 this act was amended to reduce the applicable threshold from \$5,000 to \$2,000 for "construction, alteration, and/or repair, including painting and decorating, of public buildings or public works" in the United States.¹³⁹ The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 set minimum wage and maximum work hours. Among respondents, fire insurance and maintenance ended up costing less for completed PWA projects, even if the initial cost of the project was higher than one produced without PWA supervision.¹⁴⁰

PWA in Nebraska

Nebraska was part of the PWA's Region 4, along with Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. In this region, modern design predominated among the PWA buildings and structures; although, C.W. Short of the PWA and R. Stanley Brown of the Public Buildings Administration wrote in 1939 that the standards of design and

¹³⁵ Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, 398-399.

¹³⁶ Isakoff, *The Public Works Administration*, 139, 150.

¹³⁷ Smith, *Redeeming the Time*, 841.

¹³⁸ C.W. Short & R. Stanley Brown, *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and other Governmental Bodies between the Years 1933 and 1939* (Washington D.C.: US Government Printing Office, 1939).

¹³⁹ Seventeenth-fourth Congress, first session, Chapter 825: *An Act to Amend the Act Approved March 3, 1931, Relating to the Rate of Wages for Laborers and Mechanics Employed by Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Buildings* (Washington, D.C.: US Government Printing Office, August 30, 1935), 1011-1013).

¹⁴⁰ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 670.

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planning showed little advance in the region. In their assessment, “the best work has been done in courthouses, penal buildings, recreational projects, and municipal auditoriums.” Structural frames mostly consisted of steel and concrete; although, some wooden internal structural systems were used. Granite, marble, limestone, concrete, and brick were the most common materials in Region 4.¹⁴¹

Between 1933 and 1938, the PWA erected fourteen new school buildings in Nebraska, each of which replaced an existing building.¹⁴² The agency also financed the construction of at least twenty-one new non-school buildings at a cost of \$897,125 and seven additions to existing buildings, costing an estimated \$521,768.¹⁴³ The 1939 *Public Buildings Survey* highlighted numerous PWA projects from around the country.

Five Nebraska projects were selected for the publication: Lincoln’s 1937 Colonial Revival-style Holmes Elementary (*Figure 14*);¹⁴⁴ the 1938 University of Nebraska, Lincoln Student Activities Building;¹⁴⁵ Kearney’s 1938 Harmon Park Sonatorium;¹⁴⁶ the 1938 Columbus Powerhouse for the Loup River Public Power District;¹⁴⁷ and the 1939 North Platte Powerhouse and trailrace bridge for the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District.¹⁴⁸ The PWA was one of the most popular and well-received programs in the state.



Figure 14: Lincoln’s Holmes Elementary School, built by the PWA, 1937 [Short & Brown].

United States Housing Authority (1933-1942)¹⁴⁹

Enabling Legislation(s):	1933 National Industrial Recovery Act; 1937 Housing Act; 1939 Reorganization Plan No. 1
Federal Agencies:	PWA (1933-1937); Department of Interior (1937-1939); FWA (1939-1942)
State Agency:	None; administered by the Housing Authority of Omaha beginning in 1937
State Directors:	Sam Howell

Prior to 1937, public housing construction was a program of the PWA, focused on providing housing for low-income families. The Housing Act of 1937 created “the federally funded, locally operated public housing program” that is the basis for today’s public housing program. The Act established the United States Housing Authority (USHA) within the Department of the Interior. The USHA supplied funds to local public housing authorities (PHA), who were tasked with constructing and managing the housing developments within their jurisdiction. The USHA provided the local PHAs up to 90 percent of the cost of construction with the local government supplying the remaining 10 percent necessary to complete the work. Appropriations in 1937 were \$5 million and \$7.5 million in both 1938 and 1939; after 1939, Congress authorized additional

¹⁴¹ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, XII.

¹⁴² Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 683.

¹⁴³ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 685.

¹⁴⁴ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 173. Built on a ten-acre plot with a large playground and accommodating 160 students. The Colonial Revival school is a one-story brick building with a T-shaped plan. The three-classroom building was finished in August 1937 at an project overall cost of \$61,030 (\$1,064,384.24 in 2018).

¹⁴⁵ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 301. Total project cost was \$417,908 (\$7,495,224.44 in 2018).

¹⁴⁶ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 332. Total project cost was \$12,081 (\$216,674.02). The Sonatorium is included within the nomination for Harmon Park.

¹⁴⁷ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 503.

¹⁴⁸ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 504.

¹⁴⁹ Information in this section is based on Paul Lusignan, et al., “Public Housing in the United States, 1933-1949,” National Register of Historic Places, Historic Context (Washington, D.C. National Park Service, 2004): E-41 to E-53.

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Figure 15: Playground at Logan Fontenelle, Omaha, 1938 [LOC].

funds due to the popularity of the program. Between 1937 and 1942 over 370 housing projects were constructed across the country equaling over 100,000 living units.

USHA in Nebraska

Only two New Deal-era housing projects were constructed in Nebraska, and both were in Omaha, Douglas County, the state's largest city. The largest was Logan Fontenelle constructed by the PWA between 1936 and 1938 and enlarged between 1940 and 1941 (*Figure 15*). The Southside Terrace Homes development was constructed between 1939 and 1940.¹⁵⁰

The first phase of Omaha's Logan Fontenelle Homes opened in 1938. The development covered 15.5 acres in what was considered Omaha's slum district. The project was intentionally racially segregated. The twenty-nine mottled brick structures consisted of a series of one- and two-story row houses and two-story flat-roof buildings planned for maximum light, air, sunshine, and recreational areas. In total there were 284 units of two-, three-, four-, and five-room apartments; almost half of the apartments were three-room units, a quarter were four-room. Monthly rent averaged \$6.78 per room when the first occupants moved into the apartments in May 1938. The construction cost reached \$1,455,759 at \$1,286 per room. When land acquisition and clearing were factored in, the total project cost was \$1,785,300.¹⁵¹ The Logan Fontenelle Homes were demolished in the 1990s.

Soil Erosion Service/Soil Conservation Service, 1933-1943¹⁵²

Enabling Legislation(s): National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933; Soil Conservation Act of 1935
Federal Agencies: Department of the Interior (1933-1935); Department of Agriculture (1935-today)
Federal Directors: Hugh Bennett

Dust storms throughout the 1930s were a constant reminder that something was very wrong with the land-management techniques of previous decades. Begun as the Soil Erosion Service within the Department of the Interior, the Soil Conservation Service was reorganized under the Department of Agriculture in 1935. The original goal of the Soil Conservation Service was to help farmers turn the dust bowl back into grasslands by managing the soil to minimize water and wind erosion. SCS efforts, however, soon shifted to increasing land productivity through erosion control instead. Top soil was the fertile layer that supported farming, and erosion of top soil decimated of future productivity. One dust storm

¹⁵⁰ Southside Terrace is slated for demolition, according to a May 2016 *Omaha World-Herald* article (Christopher Burbach, "Plan in the Works to Tear Down Southside Terrace Public Housing Apartments, Redevelop Site," *Omaha World-Herald* (29 May 2016): online); the property is still listed on the Omaha Housing Authority's inventory.

¹⁵¹ Short & Brown, *Public Buildings*, 656; Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 132.

¹⁵² Program overview information from Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-16,17.

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alone could suck as much as 350 million tons of top soil from the surface of the ground.¹⁵³ To counteract the loss of top soil, the SCS bought thousands of acres of land, requiring some farmers to relocate so their cropland could be returned to grass. The SCS then helped farmers learn new methods such as terracing, contour plowing, and emergency listing (a means of plowing), which slowed soil erosion on susceptible lands.¹⁵⁴ By the end of 1935, SCS projects covered forty million acres with another eight million acres and ninety-four projects under their supervision. The SCS was so successful in helping farmers learn better farming techniques (*Figure 16*) that by 1937 farmers had reduced the amount of seriously eroded land by about 65 percent over the previous year.¹⁵⁵



Figure 16: A field with irrigated corn on the right and dry on the left. 1939 [History Nebraska].

SCS in Nebraska

The Soil Conservation Service was one of the principle agencies associated with conservation efforts in Nebraska. The SCS worked with the WPA and the CCC to promote soil-erosion control through gully control, contour farming, strip cropping, terracing, construction of water retainers like ponds and reservoirs, winter cover-crop planting, systematic crop rotation, pasture-land management, and the prevention of wildfires.¹⁵⁶

The work done by the SCS in Nebraska ranged from educational efforts to the physical alteration of the landscape. Several farms around the state today contain small dams and reservoirs built by the CCC in conjunction with the SCS. Shelterbelts—both those associated with the Prairie States Forestry Project and smaller ones—were created under the guidance of the SCS.

Rural Rehabilitation Division (1934-1935)/Resettlement Administration (1935-1937)¹⁵⁷

Enabling Legislation(s):	Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933; Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935
Federal Agency:	FERA (1934-1935); Resettlement Administration (1935-1937); Dept. of Agriculture/Farm Security Administration (1937-1946)
Federal Director:	Harry Hopkins (1933-1935)
State Agency:	NERA (1933-1935)
State Director:	L.A. White

In April 1934 a new department was created under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) known as the Rural Rehabilitation Division. This division was in large part a response to requests from rural dwellers for more rehabilitation programs in their areas. At first FERA, through the state emergency relief administrations, established relief camps in rural

¹⁵³ Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl, The Southern Plains in the 1930s* (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1979), 13.

¹⁵⁴ Richard Lowitt, *The New Deal and the West* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984), 59.

¹⁵⁵ *Depression America: Countryside and City*, Vol. 3 (Danbury, CN: Grolier Educational, 2001), 60.

¹⁵⁶ Federal Writers' Project, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*, 22-23.

¹⁵⁷ Program overview information from Leland Beatty, "A Brief History of America's Rural Rehabilitation Corporations" 1997, 2010 and Barbara M. Kooiman, Elizabeth A. Butterfield, Christina Slattery, & Anthony Godfrey, "Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska" (1995): 60-68.

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areas that were meant to provide temporary housing to rural families made homeless by the depression. Soon however there was a larger push for more permanent solutions in the form of resettlement communities.

Rather than states directly purchasing property for these communities, FERA authorized the establishment of legal not-for-profit entities within each state, known as Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, that would handle the leasing, loaning, and purchasing of land and “a myriad of additional functions involved in the operation of a diversified rural rehabilitation effort.”¹⁵⁸ By 1935 forty-five RRCs had formed across the country. They quickly began purchasing large tracts of farmland that were then subdivided into smaller plots and mortgaged to displaced farm families.

When Congress passed the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935, rehabilitation efforts like the resettlement communities were reassigned to the federal government under a new agency, the Resettlement Administration (RA). None of the \$525 million authorized in the act was appropriated to the established RRCs, who held mortgages, land, and other assets. In order to continue the program, the nation’s RRCs transferred their management to the RA. By the end of 1936, the RA also controlled all assets previously controlled by the state RRCs. The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 transferred the responsibilities of the RA to the Farm Security Administration (FSA) within the Department of Agriculture. The FSA continued to manage the communities through the mid-1940s.¹⁵⁹

Management level aside, the purpose of the Rural Rehabilitation Division and Resettlement Administration programs was to remove farmers from unproductive and worn out land. To Rexford Tugwell, head of the Resettlement Administration until 1937, “The RA assignment was twofold: to help farmers and ranchers with federal professional supervision and extension education programs. But where submarginal land offered no security for farmers, the land would be converted to new uses, restored to grassland or forests, and the inhabitants resettled.”¹⁶⁰ Resettlement communities offered residents the opportunity to live in “new, modern” homes “where they could raise a garden, chickens, and have a cow and a sow’ and join a cooperative farming enterprise with financial and technical help from the” Farm Security Administration.¹⁶¹

The program came under heavy criticism nationally. Poor leadership, high costs, demoralized families, and unmet goals coupled with cries that the program was communistic all led to the program’s demise. The RA planned to resettle five hundred thousand families on new farmsteads at a cost of \$2,500 - \$2,800 each. In reality, four thousand families were relocated at a cost of \$10,000 per farmstead. In September 1937, the Farm Security Administration absorbed the RA, ending the program. However, existing resettlement communities continued to operate under the FSA.¹⁶²

With the passage of the Farmers Home Administration Act of 1946, all property under the former FSA’s control was to be liquidated. The rush to sell off these assets caused the government to lose 50 percent of the invested value of properties like the resettlement farmsteads. These units were sold “whenever possible at fair market value to low-income families who met certain governmental standards.” Because none were sold to people with higher debt-to-asset ratios, resettlement

¹⁵⁸ Beatty, “A Brief History of America’s Rural Rehabilitation Corporations” 2.

¹⁵⁹ During the FSA’s management of the resettlement program, the agency extensively documented the communities throughout the country. Photographers recorded the effects of the drought, dust storms, and economic depression on urban and rural life and documented the rural resettlement program. These photographs are available online at the Library of Congress’s Prints and Photographs Online Database (Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Photograph Collection).

¹⁶⁰ Moul, “Biggest Partner,” 158.

¹⁶¹ Moul, “Biggest Partner,” 159.

¹⁶² Smith, *Redeeming the Time*, 637.

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Figure 17: Working a garden at the Falls City Farmsteads. May 1936. Arthur Rothstein, photographer [Library of Congress].

homesteaders who were working toward the purchase of their property did not qualify and the farmsteads were sold to other families.¹⁶³

Rural Resettlement in Nebraska

Under FERA, the Nebraska RRC established eight resettlement communities between 1934 and 1935. No resettlement communities were established under the RA, but the existing communities were managed by the agency. These resettlement communities varied in size, but they were dispersed throughout the state: Loup City, Sherman County; Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County; Fairbury, Jefferson County; Kearny, Buffalo County; Falls City (*Figure 17*), Richardson County; Grand Island, Hall County; South Sioux City, Dakota County; and Waterloo, Douglas County (*Appendix D & K*). In total, the eight resettlement communities comprised almost

sixteen hundred acres for which Nebraska's Rural Rehabilitation Corporation paid \$149,764.80.¹⁶⁴

The Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration's Rural Rehabilitation Division managed the resettlement program while the Nebraska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation handled the financial aspects. Choosing where to create new settlements within the state included four major determinants. First, the potential of soil productivity had to be high. NERA and the RRC partnered with the University of Nebraska's Extension Service, College of Agriculture, and the departments of Agronomy, Soils Survey, and Water Conservation to collect and analyze soil samples from around the state. These analyses helped narrow down the most suitable locations for new farmsteads. These areas also had to be historically agricultural, have access to an adequate water supply, and be near available markets in which to sell produce. Finally, the areas needed to contain a high concentration of families eligible for resettlement.¹⁶⁵

Families had to apply to be part of one of the communities. Each application was reviewed by NERA and a local selection board. Selected families had to be on the relief rolls of the county in which they applied; the head of the household had to be between the ages of thirty-five and fifty, and the family size had to be between four and six people total. Resettled families leased a farmstead for one year for a nominal fee; this year was a probationary period to make sure the families abided by the farming plan established for each community. After the year, the families were allowed to purchase the farmstead on a long-term payment plan. The one hundred twenty-nine Nebraska families selected for the eight communities were a fraction

¹⁶³ Kooiman, et al., "Scotts Bluff County Survey Report," 68.

¹⁶⁴ Kooiman, et al., "Scotts Bluff County Survey Report," 61-62; Historic Resources Group, Inc., "Historic Resources of Sherman County," Survey Report (May 2018): 8; United States Department of Agriculture, *Farm Security Administration* (Washington D.C.: US Government Printing Office, 1941), 6; Barbara M. Kooiman and Elizabeth A. Butterfield, "Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Jefferson County, Nebraska," (1997): 35-37; Barbara M. Kooiman, Elizabeth A. Butterfield, & Anthony Godfrey, "Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Hall County, Nebraska," (1995): 54-66, 81; Alley-Poyner-Macchietto Architecture, "Reconnaissance Level Survey for Douglas County," Survey Report (2011): 25-27.

¹⁶⁵ Kooiman, et al., "Scotts Bluff County Survey Report," 62; Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 7-8.

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of the 8 to 12 percent of those eligible for resettlement; however, vacancies still existed in these settlements in September 1938.¹⁶⁶

The resettlement communities varied in size but each contained standardized amenities. Each individual farmstead, which ranged in size from seven to sixteen acres, contained a house, a barn, and a chicken coop. The houses themselves were built according to three different standardized plans common throughout the country; the coops were designed by the University of Nebraska's Department of Agriculture, and the buildings were erected using labor hired through the NERA.¹⁶⁷ Although wired for electricity, the houses were intentionally designed without other amenities such as indoor plumbing so as not to cause resentment among non-resettlement families. Along with the farmstead buildings, each family received a four- to seven-acre plot for its own use. They farmed the rest of the land cooperatively with other community members, sharing costs, labor, and profits.¹⁶⁸

The extent to which the eight resettlement communities in the state still exist is currently unknown; although, a few of the communities (Scottsbluff, Loup City, Fairbury, Two Rivers, and Grand Island) have been surveyed. Although not fully intact, houses, barns, and general farmstead layouts have been observed in some places.¹⁶⁹

Works Progress Administration (1935-1939)/Works Projects Administration (1939-1943)¹⁷⁰

Enabling Legislation(s):	Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935; Reorganization Plan No. 1
Federal Agencies:	WPA (1935-1939); FWA (1939-1943)
Federal Directors:	Harry Hopkins (1935-1939); Thomas McDonald (1939-1943)
State Agency:	Nebraska Works Progress Administration
State Directors:	Dwight Felton (1935-1943)

While Roosevelt's initial round of programs provided the nation with some relief, the effects of the depression were not fully erased. In a speech to Congress early in 1935, Roosevelt established as a priority the creation of a new works program. The Works Progress Administration was created by executive order on May 6, 1935 using \$1.4 billion in funding from the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, which had been approved on April 8, 1935.¹⁷¹ Initially, the agency was designed as a temporary measure and funding was renewed annually.

Like its predecessors, the WPA focused on employing large numbers of people through locally sponsored projects as well as through projects for state and federal agencies. Chief Administrator Harry Hopkins established a series of regional offices to coordinate efforts between the federal administration and the administrator for each state. The WPA was divided into two divisions. The first division, the Division of Engineering and Construction, oversaw manually constructed projects. These fell into several categories: 1) Municipal Engineering Projects; 2) Airport and Airway Projects; 3) Public Building Projects; 4) Highway and Road Projects; 5) Conservation Projects; 6) Engineering Survey Projects; and 7) Disaster Emergency Activities. Under the WPA more than 650,000 miles of roads were constructed or improved and over 125,000 buildings were erected or repaired, almost one-third of which were schools. Other types of buildings impacted by the program included libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums, offices, hospitals, penal institutions, dormitories, firehouses, garages, storage facilities,

¹⁶⁶ Kooiman, et al., "Scotts Bluff County Survey Report," 65; NERA, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs*, 11-12; Dorothy Weyer Creigh, *Nebraska, Where Dreams Grow* (Lincoln, Nebraska: Miller and Paine, Inc, 1980), 133; Moul, "Biggest Partner," 159.

¹⁶⁷ Designs, dimensions, elevations, and plans are detailed in NERA's 1935 *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska*.

¹⁶⁸ Kooiman, et al., "Scotts Bluff County Survey Report," 62-65; Dolberg, Draft "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," E-5.

¹⁶⁹ Both the Library of Congress (Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Photograph Collection) and History Nebraska (in RG4290 Federal Emergency Relief Administration) have extensive photographic collections of Nebraska's resettlement communities.

¹⁷⁰ Program overview information from Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-19,20.

¹⁷¹ Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, 548.

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armories, barns and stables.¹⁷² The WPA also constructed many outdoor recreational facilities, including swimming pools, stadiums, playgrounds, fairgrounds and athletic fields, as well as conservation structures, such as dams. The second division, known as the Women's and Professional Division, oversaw manual labor carried out by women in sewing rooms and by men and women in non-construction projects, such as historical inventories of courthouse records and writing, music, and art projects.

In 1936, the WPA employed over three million people. That number dropped slightly when funding was trimmed during the recession of 1937 and 1938. The program limited an individual's participation to eighteen months, after which they had to be removed from the rolls for thirty days before being assigned to a new project. Because there was typically a waiting list for employment, the thirty-day waiting period often lasted several months. In the final years of the decade, as the economy slowly rebounded and as the United States prepared for and later went to war, the number of individuals on relief declined. When the agency closed on June 30, 1943, only 42,000 enrollees remained in the program.¹⁷³ Throughout its lifetime, the WPA put 8.5 million Americans to work at a total cost of nearly \$11 billion.¹⁷⁴

Eligible employees needed to demonstrate both their need for work and their "employability." Employability essentially equated to their physical ability to complete required tasks. A means test, similar to that used by FERA, established an individual or family's need. Workers were salaried, receiving a fixed allotment per month, even if inclement weather reduced work hours below the normal 120 to 140 per month. Over the course of the program, wages switched from a monthly salary to an hourly prevailing wage and a set number of hours per month (130) to a series of wage levels based on class of employment classification (unskilled, intermediate, skilled, and professional). At the end of the WPA, defense and war projects were exempted from fixed maximums on both hours and wages.

Despite the fact that the WPA hired only one-quarter of the nation's unemployed during the Great Depression, it was extremely popular with voters. Some historians have argued that the popularity of this government program contributed to Roosevelt's defeat of Alf Landon in the 1936 presidential election.¹⁷⁵ Under the Reorganization Act of 1939, the agency was renamed the Works Projects Administration and was placed under the control of another new body, the Federal Works Agency.¹⁷⁶ As the war effort mitigated the depression and removed the need for federal employment, the agency was liquidated in July 1943.

WPA in Nebraska

The WPA was one of the most prolific and versatile programs operating in the state with nearly every county participating in some capacity. The first WPA project in the Nebraska was started October 14, 1935, and according to one newspaper article, by August 1936, 383 projects had been completed statewide. During the drought of 1936, the WPA added over six thousand farmers to its work relief loads, and several field dams were constructed for irrigation purposes.¹⁷⁷

Most of the work done by the WPA was in the form of construction projects. In Dawson County alone between 1938 and 1940, the WPA built or improved forty-two miles of county roads, two miles of city streets, 2,940 feet of sidewalks, eighteen

¹⁷² Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, 104-105.

¹⁷³ Nancy E. Rose, *Put to Work: Relief Programs of the Great Depression* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1994), 26, 46.

¹⁷⁴ Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, 253.

¹⁷⁵ Eric Foner & John A. Garraty, eds. *Reader's Companion to American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991), 1168.

¹⁷⁶ Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, 550.

¹⁷⁷ Bill Powell, "WPA Takes Helm In Getting Jobs For Nebraska Farmers Blasted By Drouth," *The Nebraska State Journal* (30 Aug 1936): 59.

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culverts, five new buildings, eight existing building, one new park, three new wells, one water pumping station, 27,339 feet of new water mains, and 10,924 feet of new and improved sewer lines.¹⁷⁸ By the end of the New Deal, most Nebraska counties could boast of a completed WPA project, especially in the eastern third of the state. Work tended to be concentrated in towns, but projects also occurred in rural areas.

Along with constructing public buildings (*Figure 18*) and improving local parks, the WPA also supported locally-initiated projects and cultural programs in Nebraska. The WPA paid to have the Rock County Fairground grandstand, horse barn, and exhibit hall moved in 1938, and paid the salary of the county librarian.¹⁷⁹ The local Urban League affiliates in Omaha and Lincoln used WPA funds for adult education and health education classes.¹⁸⁰ In 1936 the Federal Writers' Project employed seventy workers on a variety of projects, the most well-known of which is the 1938 *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*.¹⁸¹



Figure 18: Tekamah Auditorium, constructed by the WPA 1937-1938 [Living New Deal].

National Youth Administration, (1935-1943)¹⁸²

Enabling Legislation(s):	Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935; Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1939
Federal Agencies:	WPA (1935-1939); FWA (1939-1943)
Federal Directors:	Aubrey Williams
State Agency:	Nebraska Youth Administration
State Directors:	Gladys J. Shamp

Concerned that the nation's young people were being overlooked by other New Deal programs, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt urged the creation of the National Youth Administration (NYA). Created on June 26, 1935 by executive order, the NYA employed youth, primarily between the ages of 16 and 24, developed vocational programs, and provided student aid for those attending high school and college. The WPA managed the NYA's \$50 million budget, which was later trimmed back to \$30 million.¹⁸³

Although the policies and programs of the NYA were developed in Washington, like the WPA, the NYA required that each state have its own Youth Administration with a state director and advisory committee. Corresponding to the WPA districts, the NYA assigned a district administrator to oversee the agency's program for that district.

¹⁷⁸ Simmons, "Dawson County," 62.

¹⁷⁹ Centennial Book Committee, *Rock County Centennial*, 26.

¹⁸⁰ Bertha W. Calloway & Alonzo N. Smith, *Visions of Freedom on the Plains: An Illustrated History of African Americans in Nebraska* (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 1998), 86, 110. The Lincoln Urban League sponsored a ten-man orchestra and a Federal Sewing Project for women

¹⁸¹ McDonald, *Federal Relief Administration*, 564, 614, 640, 736. For a brief period in 1936 a Federal Theater Project was active in Omaha, consisting of a twenty-person community theater company. The Federal Music Project employed 2,533 musicians belonging to thirty-four orchestras nationwide, including the Omaha Symphony. The Project also helped to organize an African American chorus in Omaha.

¹⁸² Program overview information from Rosin, "New Deal Era Resources of Kansas," E-18.

¹⁸³ Betty & Ernest K. Lindley, *A New Deal for Youth: The Story of the National Youth Administration*, (New York: Viking Press, 1938): 3, 22.

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The NYA enabled approximately 620,000 college students to continue their education and funded part-time jobs for 1,514,000 high school students and 2,677,000 out-of-school youths.¹⁸⁴ Jobs for students included working in libraries, museums, research labs, and on playgrounds. Out-of-work students were employed in the construction of buildings, roads, recreation and conservation facilities, as well as in projects including research, secretarial, sewing, and youth activities. Wages were based on age and level of education. At the low end, high school students could earn a maximum of six dollars per month. Salaries for college students ranged from \$25 per month for undergraduates and first year graduate students to \$40 per month for advanced graduate students.

Like the other New Deal programs, the NYA impacted the built environment of America. Through its efforts, 1,500 miles of roads were paved, 6,000 public buildings were erected, 1,429 schools and libraries were constructed, and 2,000 bridges were built. Under the leadership of Aubrey Williams, the agency strove to provide relief to youth. In 1943, Congress voted to terminate funding for the NYA against the efforts of Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson and Senator Harry S. Truman.¹⁸⁵

NYA in Nebraska

Examples of NYA projects in Nebraska included landscaping a forty-acre park in Lincoln and the construction of a park in Alliance. In Central City, youth attended a weekly class to learn how to use slide rules and other tools of the surveying trade while working for the county surveyor's office. Statistics for Nebraska during the years 1935-1938 indicate that 6,201 young people enrolled in either the student aid or work project programs of the NYA.¹⁸⁶

The New Deal programs active in the state of Nebraska shaped the landscape by providing work for the state's able-bodied unemployed young people. While NYA projects completed in Nebraska were similar to those throughout the United States, the programs produced resources that are unique to the state and often involved working in tandem with other agencies. For instance, the NYA worked under the supervision of the WPA. By the end of the New Deal, over six hundred known projects were completed in Nebraska, from small dams on farms to athletic facilities to reservoirs for public utilities.

¹⁸⁴ Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, 367.

¹⁸⁵ Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal*, 368-369.

¹⁸⁶ Dolberg, Draft "New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska," E-4.

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New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska Associated Property Types

ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Between 1933 and 1943, federal New Deal programs supported people and communities throughout the state of Nebraska. This federal support produced both tangible resources and intangible results. For instance, in Rock County, the New Deal provided funds for the reconstruction of US-20 Highway in 1934, and in 1935 the WPA paid the salary of the county librarian.¹⁸⁷ As an agricultural state, Nebraskans benefitted most from assistance like the cattle buying program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the “feed-and-seed” loans offered through the Farm Security Administration.¹⁸⁸ Although significant to the state’s New Deal-era history, these popular programs did not (and were not intended to) produce tangible, physical resources (*Figure 19*). The focus of this document is on the tangible resources, from fire stations to rural resettlement developments to shelterbelts, created by various New Deal programs active in Nebraska.

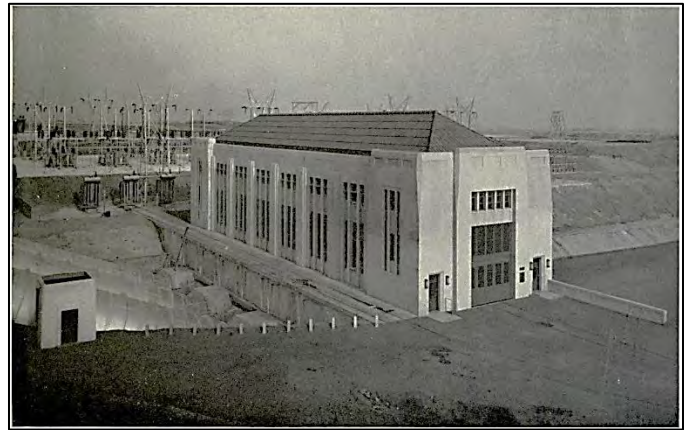


Figure 19: Powerhouse, Loup River Public Power District, Columbus, 1938 [Short & Brown].

General Significance

Resources eligible under this multiple property submission derive primary significance from their association with the New Deal. This document excludes resources that may have been affected by New Deal programs (e.g., farms that utilized loans from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration; buildings documented for the Historic American Buildings Survey) but derive their primary significance from other associations; their connection to the relief programs of the 1930s is simply another layer of their histories.

New Deal-era Resources of Nebraska will be significant under Criterion A in the area of *Social History*, as each resource is the direct result of the federal government’s efforts to promote the welfare of society.¹⁸⁹ Most resources will be locally significant for their association with a specific town or municipality. For instance, the 1940 Springfield Community Hall in Sarpy County, is listed in the National Register as “an excellent example of a small town, multiple use public building constructed by the WPA.”¹⁹⁰ Resources spanning multiple counties or affecting multiple municipalities likely will be eligible on a statewide level. Most commonly these are large public works projects with extant remnants such as the Loup Hydroelectric Plant in Columbus, Platte County built by the PWA and completed in 1938.

The New Deal created projects specifically related to Nebraska. As such, few resources are expected to be nationally significant. Exceptions to this may be highly intact resources related to multi-state projects or exceptionally significant properties representing the best national example of a type. A potential example of a nationally significant resource would

¹⁸⁷ Centennial Book Committee, eds., *Rock County Centennial: 1888-1988* (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 1987), 27.

¹⁸⁸ Simmons, “Dawson County,” 56-57.

¹⁸⁹ National Park Service, “How to Complete the National Register Registration Form,” Bulletin 16A (1997): 41.

¹⁹⁰ Carol Ahlgren, “Springfield Community Hall,” National Register of Historic Places nomination form (March 1998): Section 8, page 1. The building was listed in June 1998.

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be a highly intact remnant of the Prairie States Forestry Project, which planted over 220 million trees in shelterbelts from North Dakota south to Texas; within this area, Nebraska planted more trees than any other state.¹⁹¹

The periods of significance will vary by individual resource but will include years between 1933, when the first New Deal programs began, and 1943 when the last federal dollars were allocated by the New Deal agencies.¹⁹²

General Registration Requirements

A property nominated under this multiple property submission must meet two specific significance requirements. First a property must be documented to have been funded and/or constructed by a New Deal-era program. The Riverside Park Dance Pavilion in Central City (Merrick County) was constructed in 1940 but was financed by private donations and constructed with non-New Deal labor; therefore, it is not eligible under this context.¹⁹³ Secondly, the resource must be a physical remnant of the New Deal-era. Although documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, the 1865 Otoe County Courthouse would not be eligible under this multiple property submission because it was built prior to the New Deal and with no direct funding from a New Deal agency.¹⁹⁴ Similarly, Lincoln's Union Terminal Warehouse would also not fall under this submission even though the Nebraska offices of the Works Progress and Nebraska Youth administrations had offices in this building.¹⁹⁵ Resources that existed prior to 1933 may also be nominated under this submission if a majority or a significant portion of the resource is associated with a New Deal-era program. Kearney's (Buffalo County) Harmon Park is a good example of this. Established in 1876, the park was significantly improved between 1936 and 1940 through PWA, WPA, and NYA projects.¹⁹⁶ Although the park's period of significance ranges from 1876 to 1940, it derives primary significance from its association with the New Deal. Similarly, buildings like the Fremont (Dodge County) Municipal Power Plant may be eligible under this multiple property submission if a majority of the structure is associated with a New Deal-era program. Fremont's power plant was substantially reconstructed in 1907 and a major addition was built between 1939 and 1940 utilizing PWA funds. The building "owes its architectural character to the 1939 addition."¹⁹⁷

Properties nominated under this multiple property submission must meet the overall requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The property must have documented New Deal-era significance, but it must also retain sufficient historic integrity from its New Deal-era period of significance to convey its significant associations. Of primary importance are design, materials, workmanship, and in some cases, setting; these work together to uphold the integrity of feeling and association. Eligible resources are not expected to have been relocated; however, if they have, the regular standards for Criteria Consideration B would apply. A resource that lacks historic integrity is not eligible under this context, even if it is documented to have significant associations with the New Deal. The Hayes Center Grade School (Hayes County), built by the PWA in 1939, has extensive alterations and additions; it no longer retains sufficient integrity to be listed in the National Register.

¹⁹¹ Worster, *Dust Bowl*, 220, 222.

¹⁹² Although rare, there may be projects that were financed by a New Deal agency before 1943 but not completed until after the end of the New Deal Era.

¹⁹³ The pavilion was listed in the National Register in 1998.

¹⁹⁴ The Otoe County Courthouse in Nebraska City was listed in the National Register in 1976.

¹⁹⁵ *Nebraska Blue Book 1936* (Lincoln: Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau, 1936), 288. The building is located at 900 N. Sixteenth Street and has multiple additions.

¹⁹⁶ June Flesner-Becker, Steele Becker, Anne Bauer, & Jill Dolberg, "Harmon Park," National Register nomination form (June 2010): 8. The park was listed in the National Register in December 2010.

¹⁹⁷ Clayton B. Fraser, "Fremont Municipal Power Plant and Pumping Station," National Register nomination form (March 2002): Section 8, page 7. The station was listed in May 2002.

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New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska Associated Property Types

Property Types

Multiple New Deal agencies created the following property types, and often multiple agencies collaborated on individual resources. For this reason, the following discussion groups resources according to general themes rather than by program. Many of the property types will be listed as individual resources, but districts are expected to be present both within a single property type (a public park or rural resettlement community) or as a grouping of multiple property types (a state park with recreation and conservation property types).

While each property type below is associated with the social history aspects of the New Deal, each is also important under additional areas of significance. Individual examples of these property types may have been listed or also may be eligible under other multiple property submissions, including (but not limited to) "County Courthouses of Nebraska," "Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870-1942," "Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska," and "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks," each of which contains discussion about the New Deal era and its effects on the resource types.

Civic



Figure 20: Seward Post Office [Living New Deal].

Civic properties are those resources used for local, state, or federal government administration. Examples include city/municipal halls, fire stations, post offices, courthouses, jails, and federal office buildings.¹⁹⁸ Most often these resources were constructed under the Civil Works Administration, Public Works Administration, and/or Works Progress/Projects Administration. At least one, the Ponca Agency Building in rural Knox County, was a CCC-ID project. Sixty known civic properties were constructed in Nebraska between 1933 and 1943; fifty-three have been surveyed; twenty-seven are listed in the National Register (Appendix A).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the area of *Government* for their association with the administration of government activities. Significance under Criterion A in the area of *Ethnic Heritage—Native American* may also apply to civic buildings associated with the state's federally-recognized tribes. These properties may also be eligible under Criterion C in the area of *Architecture* if they are good examples of their style or construction type. Public buildings of this era in Nebraska are typically of masonry (brick and/or limestone) construction and exhibit restrained Classical Revival and Streamlined design. Criterion B may apply if their design or construction is associated with a significant person associated with the project. Criterion D is not expected to apply to this property type. Eligible properties most likely will be listed as individual resources (e.g. a single building). Nebraska examples of this property type include: Seward Post Office (Criterion A for government and Criterion C for architecture) (*Figure 20*), Holt County Courthouse (Criterion A for

¹⁹⁸ All six eligible New Deal-era courthouses already have been listed under the 1989 "County Courthouses of Nebraska" multiple property submission. Likewise, all twelve eligible post offices with WPA Section artwork have been listed under the 1991 "Nebraska Post Offices which Contain Section Artwork" multiple property submission. Both documents discuss the New Deal as related to each resource type.

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New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska Associated Property Types

government and Criterion C for architecture), and the Ponca Agency Building (Criterion A for ethnic heritage and social history). All three are listed in the National Register.

Conservation

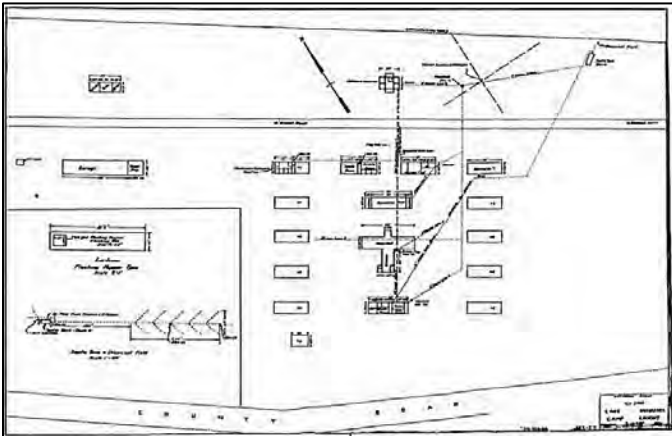


Figure 21: Layout of Camp Minatare, July 1937, Bureau of Reclamation [Pfaff].

Conservation properties were created for or directly associated with the conservation of natural resources. Examples of these resources include CCC camps, dam projects (for non-public utilities), irrigation canals, and shelterbelts.¹⁹⁹ Many resources were constructed on federal and state lands, but some were constructed on private property. The CCC and CCC-ID constructed a majority of these resources in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Service, United States Forest Service, and Bureau of Reclamation, among others. Both the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration also participated in projects. There are approximately twenty known conservation projects constructed in Nebraska between 1933 and 1937; none are listed in the National Register. Only four have been surveyed, but the extent to which their New Deal-era resources are present is currently unknown. Nebraska

also had at least fifty CCC camps established between 1933 and 1941; none are listed in the National Register, and few are surveyed (Appendix B).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for significance in the area of *Conservation* for their direct relation to the conservation of water or soil; under Criterion C for significance in the area of *Engineering* if a resource exhibits a specific design aimed at maximizing the conservation of natural resources; and/or under Criterion D in the area of *Archeology—Historic (Non-Aboriginal)*. Archeological significance under Criterion D is expected to apply especially to the CCC camps. Constructed to be temporary, many of the physical resources at these camps no longer exist, exist in ruined form, or exist sub-surface. These properties have the potential to yield information about how camps were arranged, what types of buildings were constructed and their materials, among other things. Criterion B is not expected to apply to this property type.

Eligible properties may be listed as districts due to their size and the number of concentrated resources. Camps may be located within parks (Recreation Property Type) that were improved by the CCC; similarly, remnants of CCC camps may retain a concentration of smaller resources that individually would not be eligible. Other eligible resources also may be listed individually primarily as sites or structures.

The National Agroforestry Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, estimates that more than 40 percent of the ten thousand shelterbelt planting sites associated with the Prairie States Forestry Project still exist in Nebraska. University of Nebraska-Lincoln landscape architecture professor Sarah Thomas Karle notes that the shelterbelts, where extant, are often narrower than

¹⁹⁹ Projects occurring at or within state and national parks could also be eligible under the "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks" multiple property submission, which discusses the impact of the New Deal on parks.

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when originally planted.²⁰⁰ Tree species expected to be present include pines, honey locust, green ash, black walnut, boxelder, cottonwood, Norway poplar, and spruce.²⁰¹

The extent to which CCC camp remnants may be found in the state is currently unknown. At least one camp location was surveyed in 2009 by the Bureau of Reclamation. Camp Minatare in Scotts Bluff County is associated with Lake Minatare and the Bureau's North Platte [River] Project. CCC company V-2745 encamped at the lake and from 1934 to 1942 worked on recreational and conservation projects (*Figure 21*). Little remains of the camp itself except foundations and a fireplace.²⁰² This camp's remnants should be considered significant to the overall story of Lake Minatare, determined eligible by SHPO in 2004 for its CCC resources and associations.

Defense

This property type is associated with the defense of the United States. Examples of these resources include armories, fort buildings, or other resources associated with one of the national military branches. Most often these resources were constructed through the Works Progress Administration. Eighteen National Guard armories and one army fort building are known to have been constructed in Nebraska in 1936 and 1938. The Kearney National Guard Armory (1936, 1938) and Fort Crook's Building 88 (1938) are listed in the National Register. No other defense properties with known New Deal associations have been surveyed (Appendix C).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the area of *Military* for their association with the defense of the United States and/or under Criterion C in the area of *Architecture* if they are good examples of their style or construction type. Armories are expected to be mostly brick construction with Streamlined/Moderne detailing. Neither Criteria B or D are expected to apply to this property type. Eligible properties most likely will be listed as individual buildings. A Nebraska example of the property type is the Moderne Kearney National Guard Armory (Criterion A for military).

²⁰⁰ Ariana Brocious, "FDR's Great Wall of Trees: The Prairie States Forestry Project," NET News (24 May 2017): n.p.

²⁰¹ USFS, *Possibilities of Shelterbelt Planting*, 54. Scientific names are provided on page 20. Although American elms were also planted, these trees likely no longer exist due to Dutch elm disease.

²⁰² Pfaff, *The Bureau of Reclamation*, A-1 to A-3.

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New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska Associated Property Types

Domestic

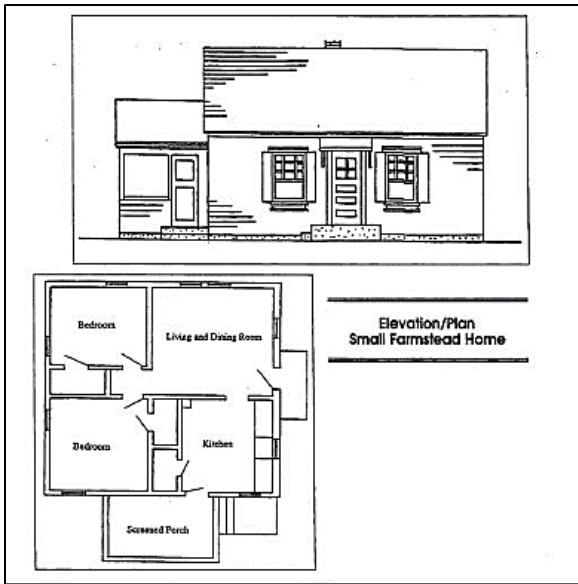


Figure 22: Standardized plan and elevation of a small farmstead home [NERA].

Domestic properties are those resources directly associated with providing shelter. Examples include transient camps/facilities, rural resettlement developments, and college dormitories. Several agencies created these property types, including the United States Housing Authority, the Public Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, and/or the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.²⁰³ At least seventeen known domestic projects occurred in Nebraska, between 1934 and 1941; five have been surveyed. Only one, the Carrie Belle Raymond Hall at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, is listed in the National Register (Appendix D).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion C for their significance in the areas of *Community Planning* for their significance as a developed community (e.g., rural resettlements) and/or *Architecture* if they are good examples of their style or construction type. Design features and styles will vary across the property types. Institutional housing likely will be restrained Classical Revival or Streamlined/Moderne of masonry (brick or stone) construction. Buildings associated with the resettlement camps will be of wood and of

a prescribed vernacular design (*Figure 22*). Transient camps were composed of simple wooden structures. This property type may also be eligible under Criterion D in the area of *Archeology—Historic (Non- Aboriginal)* for those resources such as transient camps and resettlement developments where significant concentrations of ruins or other intact archeological features exist. Archeological sites are expected to yield information about the layout of the settlements and types and numbers of structures associated with them. Criterion B is not expected to apply. Eligible properties most likely will be listed as individual resources (single residences, residence halls) or districts (housing developments, transient camps, resettlement farmsteads).

Educational

Educational properties are those resources used for the dissemination of information or related activities. Examples include public schools, libraries, school gymnasiums/auditoria, and non-dormitory college buildings.²⁰⁴ Most often these resources were constructed under the Civil Works Administration, Public Works Administration, Works Progress/Projects Administration, and/or the National Youth Administration. Over one hundred known Nebraska educational properties were constructed under New Deal-era programs between 1934 and 1940; sixty-five have been surveyed; three have been listed in the National Register (one library, one public school, one college hall) (Appendix E).

²⁰³ Public housing built during the New Deal era (by the PWA and/or the USHA) is covered under the historic context "Public Housing in the United States, 1933-1949." Nebraska had two public housing developments, both in Omaha; one has been demolished.

²⁰⁴ A majority of the public schools could also be eligible under the "Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska" multiple property submission; the document discusses the New Deal era as related to school buildings.

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These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the area of *Education* for their association with the process of conveying information and/or *Entertainment/Recreation* for their association with leisure activities. They also may be eligible under Criterion C for their significance in the area of *Architecture* if they are good examples of their style or construction type. The architecture and materials of these buildings will vary. Most are masonry construction (either brick or stone), but other materials (log or sod) may have been used. Public school design tended to be restrained Classical Revival or Streamlined/Moderne. Neither Criteria B or D is expected to apply to this property type. Eligible properties most likely will be listed as individual resources (e.g. a single building). Listed Nebraska examples of this property type include the log Nehawka Public Library (Criterion A for government and social history) and the Mason City School (Criteria A and C for education and architecture).



Figure 23: Lakeland Sod High School, built by FERA in 1934; no longer extant [History Nebraska].

Institutional & Social Welfare

Properties falling under the Institutional & Social Welfare property type are associated with providing food, health care, or non-construction jobs. Examples include hospitals, canneries, and community kitchens. Most often these resources were constructed under Public Works Administration, but the Resettlement Administration as well as the Works Progress/Projects Administration also produced these properties. Nine known institutional resources were constructed in Nebraska between 1934 and 1939. Seven have been surveyed. None is listed (Appendix F).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the areas of *Health* for their association with the care of the sick or promotion of health and/or *Industry* for their association with the manufacture of goods as part of a New Deal program. If they are good examples of their style or construction type, they may also be eligible under Criterion C in the area of *Architecture*. Neither Criteria B nor D is expected to apply. Eligible properties most likely will be listed as individual resources.

Public Utilities

Public Utility resources are those created for or associated with public water, sanitary sewers, or electricity (*Figure 24*). These are large-scale projects that often crossed municipal boundaries. Most often these resources were constructed under the Civil Works Administration, Public Works Administration, and/or Works Progress/Projects Administration; the Rural Electrification Administration also contributed to some projects. Fifty-eight known public utility resources were built in Nebraska between 1934 and 1943. Only nine have been surveyed. One, the Fremont Municipal Power Plant, is listed (Appendix G).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the area *Industry* for an association with the production of electricity and/or *Community Planning/Development* for an association with the development of a community.

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New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska Associated Property Types

These properties also could be eligible under Criterion C in the area of *Architecture* if they are good examples of their style or construction type and/or *Engineering* if the resource exhibits a specific design necessary for ensuring a project's success. Concrete and brick are common materials associated with this property type. The most common architectural style associated with these large-scale properties is Streamlined/Moderne. Neither Criteria B nor D is expected to apply. Eligible properties will be listed as individual resources (e.g. a power plant) or as a historic district (e.g. a dam, powerhouse, and associated canals).

The Fremont Municipal Power Plant is an individual example of this property type; it was nominated under Criteria A and C for its significance in the areas of industry and architecture.



Figure 24: Hastings Municipal Light Plant, 1934 [History Nebraska].

Recreation & Culture

Recreation & Culture properties are those resources created for or associated with entertainment. Examples include civic auditoria, public parks, monuments, pools and bathhouses, fairgrounds, and museums.²⁰⁵ This is the largest group of properties found in Nebraska, created primarily by the Civil Works Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, National Youth Administration, Public Works Administration, and/or Works Progress/Projects Administration. Several resources, especially those related to parks and fairgrounds, were created through the cooperation of several New Deal agencies. One hundred seventy-five known projects were completed in Nebraska between 1933 and 1943. Approximately half of the known projects have been surveyed. Twenty-three are listed. (Appendix H).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the areas of *Entertainment/Recreation* for their association with the leisure activities of a community and/or *Education* for their association with the dissemination of knowledge. Eligibility under Criterion C is also possible in the areas of *Landscape Architecture*, if the landscape was intentionally designed and arranged for enjoyment, or *Architecture* if the building is a good example of its style or type. Neither Criteria B nor D is expected to apply. Eligible properties will be listed as individual resources (e.g. an auditorium) or as a historic district (e.g. a public park with multiple features). Architectural styles expected to be common among this property type include restrained Art Deco, Classical Revival, Streamlined/Moderne, and Rustic. The latter is commonly found in park settings.²⁰⁶

Nebraska examples of this property type include the Rustic-style Oak Ballroom in Schuyler (Criterion A social history and entertainment and Criterion C for architecture), Beatrice Auditorium (Criteria A and C for government and architecture), and the Grant City Park (Criterion A for social history).

²⁰⁵ Local and state parks also could be eligible under the "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks" multiple property submission.

²⁰⁶ See Albert H. Good, *Patterns from the Golden Age of Rustic Design: Park and Recreation Structures from the 1930s* (Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 2003).

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Transportation

Transportation properties are those resources created for or associated with pedestrian, vehicular, or air travel. Examples include airports, bridges, and road projects.²⁰⁷ Most of these resources were created by the Civil Works Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, Public Works Administration, and/or Works Progress/Projects Administration. Sixty-two known transportation resources were built between 1933 and 1942. Thirty-six have been surveyed. Twelve are listed in the National Register (Appendix I).

These properties also may be eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the area of *Transportation* for their association with the conveyance of people and/or Criterion C for their significance in the areas of *Engineering* for their structural design. To a lesser degree, a property may also be eligible under Criterion C in the area of *Architecture* if it is a good example of an artistically designed structure. Bridges built in this era were of metal, concrete, and in some cases, stone construction. Neither Criteria B nor D is expected to apply. Eligible properties most likely will be listed as individual resources.

Nebraska examples of this property type include the steel Roscoe State Aid Bridge in Keith County (Criteria C for engineering) and the concrete Saddle Creek Underpass in Omaha (Criteria C for engineering).

²⁰⁷ Eligible New Deal-era airports or air-related facilities also could be eligible under the 2002 "General Aviation Facilities in Nebraska" multiple property submission. New Deal-era bridges also could be eligible under the 1991 "Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870-1942" multiple property submission. It is also possible that some road-related resources built by a New Deal program are associated with Detroit-Lincoln-Denver, Lincoln, Meridian, Potash, and US-20 highways. All of these documents discuss the New Deal as related to each resource type.

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New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska
Geographical Data

Section number G Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The economic turmoil of the 1930s adversely affected the entire state of Nebraska; however, the degree to which each of the state's ninety-three counties took advantage of New Deal programs varied drastically. Reasons for this range from demographics (urban versus rural) to politics. Therefore, while each Nebraska county participated to some degree in relief programs during the New Deal era, the distribution of associated property types will be more concentrated in counties that utilized the federal programs more heavily. Furthermore, since each program during the New Deal era produced different results, distribution of property types will also vary by county, depending on which programs were active in the county and where within each county the types of properties are found. Although the exact number of New Deal-era resources in the state is unknown, government records, county histories, and newspapers indicate locations throughout state where projects took place.

Civic properties are most commonly found in towns and cities across the state. Conservation projects were undertaken in rural parts of the state, including on state and federal lands and private farms. Other property types such as bridges and schools were constructed in both urban and rural areas.

The PWA, WPA, CWA, NYA, and CCC produced resources throughout the state of Nebraska. Other programs were site-specific. CCC-ID projects were only carried out on lands belonging to the state's federally recognized tribes; only eight Rural Resettlement Farmsteads were established in Nebraska, so the locations of these are limited to Buffalo, Sherman, Scotts Bluff, Richardson, Hall, Dakota, and Douglas counties.

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Methodology

Section number H Page 1

METHODOLOGY

In 2010 the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prepared the first iteration of “New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska.” The Nebraska SHPO contracted Rosin Preservation in 2018 to update the 2010 document according to comments previously received from the National Register reviewer at the National Park Service.

The historic contexts (Section E) were developed by perusing sources used in the 2010 document, as well as sources used in the preparation of the two most recent New Deal-era cover documents listed in the National Register: “Florida’s New Deal Resources” (2004) and “New Deal-era Resources of Kansas” (2002). Sources from History Nebraska’s State Archives proved invaluable in determining the extent to which the state participated in relief aid, especially during the Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration. Where appropriate, text from the 2010 draft document, prepared by Jill Dolberg of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), was used and expanded upon.

Associated property types (Section F) likely to fall under this thematic nomination were identified in 2010 by SHPO. Properties were identified largely by reviewing the cultural resource surveys completed for every Nebraska county. Since the inception of the survey program in 1974, the Nebraska SHPO or contracted partners systematically drove every public road in each of the state’s ninety-three counties, photographing, mapping, and recording information on every property that was fifty years old or older that retained much of its historic appearance. In the course of the surveys, potential extant New Deal-era resources were identified and recorded. These surveyed resources were then compared with primary and secondary resources such as the National Archives WPA card system, Short & Brown’s 1939 book *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and other Governmental Bodies between the Years 1933 and 1939*, newspaper records, county histories, and State Archives sources to determine if they were built by a New Deal program, and if possible, which one. Newspapers and county histories often state only that a resource was built by the New Deal or with federal funds during the 1930s. A sampling of identified and confirmed New Deal-era resources was selected for further study to develop a system for categorizing resources and to determine how a property might be eligible for listing under this cover document.

Several existing multiple property documentation forms cover New Deal-era property types. These include the following specific to Nebraska: “County Courthouses of Nebraska” (1989), “General Aviation Resources in Nebraska” (2002), “Highway Bridges in Nebraska 1870-1942” (1992), “Nebraska Post Offices which Contain Section Artwork (1938-1942)” (1991), “Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska” (2000). Also included are contexts for major historic highways throughout the state: “Historic and Architectural Resources of the Detroit-Lincoln-Denver Highway in Nebraska” (2014), “Historic and Architectural Resources of the Lincoln Highway in Nebraska” (2007), “Historic and Architectural Resources of the Meridian Highway in Nebraska” (2006), “Historic and Architectural Resources of the Potash Highway in Nebraska” (2014), and “Historic and Architectural Resources of US Highway 20 in Nebraska” (2014). Similarly, two nationwide documents cover other resources built by New Deal programs. “Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks” (1995) can apply to state and local parks in Nebraska where natural resources and features are dominating elements; “Public Housing in the United States, 1933-1949” (2004) covers public housing produced by the USHA. A third nationwide context, “Historic Residential Suburbs in the United States, 1830-1960” (2002) covers developments constructed during the New Deal that utilized federal funding sources like the Federal Housing Administration. While several Nebraska resources can be—and are—listed under these other contexts, they all share a historic association with the context for the New Deal in Nebraska. To streamline the process of updating this multiple property documentation form, contexts developed in and properties covered by the previously mentioned covered documents were not reiterated in this document.

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New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska
Methodology

Section number H Page 2

Future Research

Spanning ten years, the New Deal era has a complex history. This document does not attempt to give an in-depth analysis of the era in Nebraska; it is necessarily an overview, focused on what programs directly created resources in the state. As such, future research should be anticipated to understand more fully the impact of specific programs on locations within the state, and it is anticipated that National Register nominations prepared under this context will further inform the narrative of the New Deal.

In the course of research for this context, several questions remain unanswered that will allow future researchers to expand on the information provided in this document. These questions focus on the extent to which certain property types are extant and their anticipated levels of integrity. Thematic intensive-level surveys on a number of New Deal resources will help understand the actual inventory of resources versus what is known to have been constructed, as seen in the appendices. For instance, while a number of Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the state are known, no comprehensive analyses have been conducted to help understand the extent to which camps exist, what resources may be extant in camp locations, and levels of integrity.²⁰⁸ Similarly the full extent of remaining shelterbelts is also needed; the National Agroforestry Center in Lincoln holds the Prairie States Forestry Project archives, complete with maps, to help identify remaining belts. Another example are the resettlement communities. Five of the eight have been identified and well documented in recent county surveys; the remaining three have not. Thematic surveys also could help to identify resources constructed under the different New Deal programs that are known to have been active in Nebraska. One program in particular that needs further study is the Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division. The number of federally-recognized tribes in the state is known, but the extent to which each participated in the New Deal is not.

Because this document intentionally focuses on the resources directly created by federal agencies, agencies which indirectly created resources were not discussed in depth. These programs merit additional study to understand the impact on Nebraskans at the time and on the built environment. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration often provided loans for repairing farm buildings or constructing small farm structures, which inevitably affected the landscape of rural farmsteads, whose primary significance is often derived from its association with the state's agriculture. Similarly, the Federal Housing Administration provided loans to private owners for home repair and later expanded into providing federally-backed mortgage insurance to promote private-owner construction of houses and rental developments. The number of FHA mortgages approved in Nebraska is known, but the locations and existence of the houses is not known at this point.²⁰⁹

Finally, a county-by-county survey of the New Deal would also be an interesting future study. General conclusions can be drawn of the extent to which each county participated, based on known project locations. A closer study of counties like Grant and Arthur, where no known New Deal resources exist, could help inform what the New Deal did look like in these rural areas, especially after NERA was dissolved.

²⁰⁸ A similar survey was recently conducted of CCC camps in Kansas. C. Tod & Wendi M. Bevitt, "Kansas Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Surveys," Intensive Level Survey Report (KSHS 2018).

²⁰⁹ Under the FHA, new mortgages were accepted in Nebraska on fifty-one new homes in 1935; 158 new homes in 1936; 167 in 1937; 422 in 1938 (184 in Omaha alone); 600 in 1939; 1 in 1940. See: *Second through Seventh Annual Reports from the United States Federal Housing Administration* for years 1935 (p 49), 1936 (p 29), 1937 (p 39), 1938 (p 68-69), 1939 (p 130-131), and 1940 (p 30).

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- Figure 22. Standardized plan and elevation of a small rural resettlement farmstead home. Image from Kooiman, et al., (F-6) "Scotts Bluff County Survey Report," 63, adapted from *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs*, 14, 16.

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APPENDIX A. Civic Property Types

Civic Buildings	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Other MPS (if applicable) / Notes
Fire Station	Adams	Hastings	1934	Unk.	AD04-068	
*Albion US Post Office	Boone	Albion	1937	WPA	BO02-004	Post Offices with Artwork
Alliance Municipal Building	Box Butte	Alliance	1937	PWA	BX01-041	
Ainsworth City Hall	Brown	Ainsworth	1936	PWA	BW01-173	
Kearney City Hall	Buffalo	Kearney	1938	PWA	BF05-008	
Kearney Highway Shed	Buffalo	Kearney	1938	WPA	--	Not extant.
Kearney Machine Shop	Buffalo	Kearney	1935	Unk.	BF05-198	
Decatur Village Hall	Burt	Decatur	1939-1940	WPA	BT03-015	Orig. built 1927; rebuilt by WPA
David City Post Office	Butler	David City	1935	PWA	BU05-066	
Highway Patrol Shed	Cedar	Hartington	1938	WPA	--	
Merriman City Hall/ Fire Station	Cherry	Merriman	1937	WPA	CE10-005	
*Valentine US Post Office	Cherry	Valentine	1937	WPA	CE14-090	Post Offices with Artwork
Valentine City Hall/Fire Hall	Cherry	Valentine	1938	PWA	CE14-091	
Sidney Post Office	Cheyenne	Sidney	1934	Unk.	CN09-058	
Pump House and Fire Station	Colfax	Clarkson	1936	WPA	--	
*Schuyler US Post Office	Colfax	Schuyler	1940	WPA	CX06-076	Post Offices with Artwork
Callaway Community Building	Custer	Callaway	1938	Unk.	CU06-015	
Oconto Village Hall	Custer	Oconto	1940	WPA	--	
*Dawes County Courthouse	Dawes	Chadron	1937	PWA	DW03-081	Courthouses
*Crawford US Post Office	Dawes	Crawford	1938	WPA	DW04-007	Post Offices with Artwork
Lexington US Post Office	Dawson	Lexington	1935	WPA	DS07-052	
Martinsburg Township Hall	Dixon	Martinsburg	Unk.	Unk.	--	
Ponca Fire Hall/City Hall	Dixon	Ponca	1934	CWA	DX08-005	
*Dixon County Courthouse Addition	Dixon	Ponca	1940	WPA	DX-08-040	Courthouses
Allen City Garage	Dixon	Allen	Unk.	Unk.	DX01-024	
*Federal Office Building	Douglas	Omaha	1933	PWA	DD09:0123-002	
*Geneva US Post Office	Fillmore	Geneva	1939, 1941	WPA	FM05-126	Post Offices with Artwork
*Gosper County Courthouse	Gosper	Elwood	1939	PWA	GO01-001	Courthouses
Scotia Community Building	Greeley	Scotia	1936	WPA	GY05-037	
*Post Office Addition to Federal Building	Hall	Grand Island	1933-35	Unk.	HL06-018	
*Holt County Courthouse	Holt	O'Neill	1936	PWA	HT13-053	Courthouses
*O'Neill Post Office	Holt	O'Neill	1936	WPA	HT13-131	Post Offices with Artwork
Tecumseh Community Building	Johnson	Tecumseh	Unk.	Unk.	JO07-045	
Tecumseh US Post Office	Johnson	Tecumseh	1937-38	WPA	JO07-060	
*Minden US Post Office	Kearney	Minden	1936	WPA	KN04-007	Post Offices with Artwork
*Ogallala US Post Office	Keith	Ogallala	1938	WPA	KH04-080	Post Offices with Artwork

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Civic Buildings (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Other MPS (if applicable) / Notes
*Ponca Agency Building	Knox	Rural	1936	IECW	KX00-171	
*Knox County Courthouse	Knox	Center	1934	CWA	KX03-010	Courthouses
Wausa Community Building	Knox	Wausa	Unk.	Unk.	KX16-038	
County Jail	Lincoln	North Platte	1933	Unk.	LN06-539	
North Platte Muni Petrol Shed	Lincoln	North Platte	1936	WPA	--	
*Madison County Courthouse Vaults	Madison	Madison	1936	WPA	MD03-002	
Town Hall	McPherson	Rural	1941	Unk.	MP00-024	
Broadwater Community Hall	Morrill	Bridgeport	1935	Unk.	MO05-014	
*Auburn US Post Office	Nemaha	Auburn	1937	WPA	NH01-056	Post Offices with Artwork
*Superior US Post Office	Nuckolls	Superior	1934-35	WPA	NU13-003	
*Superior City Hall/Auditorium	Nuckolls	Superior	1937	PWA	NU13-734	
*Pawnee City US Post Office	Pawnee	Pawnee City	1941	WPA	PW06-117	Post Offices with Artwork
Holdrege City Hall/Fire Station	Phelps	Holdrege	1939-1940	Unk.	PP04-012	
Duncan Fire Station	Platte	Duncan	1936	WPA	--	
*Rock County Courthouse	Rock	Bassett	1939-40	WPA	RO01-003	Courthouses
Crete City Hall	Saline	Crete	1939	PWA	SA01-146	
Gretna City Hall	Sarpy	Gretna	1934	Unk.	SY05-022	
*Springfield Community Building	Sarpy	Springfield	1938-1940	WPA	SY10-027	
*Seward Post Office	Seward	Seward	1936	WPA	SW09-166	
Gordon Community Building	Sheridan	Gordon	1943	PWA	SH05-034	
*Hebron US Post Office	Thayer	Hebron	1939	WPA	TY10-008	Post Offices with Artwork
Ord US Post Office	Valley	Ord	1939	WPA	VY04-004	
*Wayne Post Office	Wayne	Wayne	1935	WPA	WY05-053	
*Red Cloud US Post Office	Webster	Red Cloud	1939	WPA	WT07-195	Post Offices with Artwork

***Bolded and asterisked** entries are listed in the National Register as of this writing; **grayed out** entries are no longer extant. This list is not exhaustive. "Unk." indicates more research is needed but source is attributed to New Deal. [Sources: SHPO survey files; newspaper records; county histories; Living New Deal website]

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Section number Appendix B Page 1**APPENDIX B. Conservation Property Types**

Conservation Projects	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS #	Other MPS (if applicable) / Notes
Nebraska's First Shelterbelt	Antelope	Orchard	1935	Multiple	AP00-083	Torn out in spring 2017.
Dam on Elkhorn River near Neligh	Antelope	Neligh vic.	1935	PWA	--	
Water Conservation Dams	Brown	Rural	1934	FERA	--	
Elm Creek Drainage Ditch	Buffalo	Rural	1935	PWA	--	
Imperial Valley Power & Irrigation Project	Chase	Imperial	1934	PWA	--	
Niobrara Ranger Station	Cherry	Rural	1937	CCC	CE00-242	National & State Parks
Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge	Cherry	Rural	1933-1936	PWA	--	National & State Parks
Valentine National Wildlife Refuge	Cherry	Rural	1933-1937	CCC	--	National & State Parks
Dam on Miller Farm	Custer	Rural	1934	FERA	--	
Shelterbelt	Custer	Rural	1935	USFS	--	
Chadron State Park	Dawes	Rural	1933	CCC (Unit 762)	--	National & State Parks
Ponca State Park	Dixon	Rural	1936	CCC	--	National & State Parks
Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge	Garden	Rural	Sp. 1934	CCC (Unit 762)	GD00-007	National & State Parks
Keystone Dam	Keith	Keystone	1936	PWA	--	Part of Sutherland Project
Dams on Farmsteads	Knox	Rural	1935	FERA	--	
Norfolk Tree Project	Madison	Norfolk	1936-1937	WPA	--	
DeGroot Shelterbelt	Madison	Rural	1939	USFS	--	
Water Conservation Dams	Madison	Rural	1934-1935	FERA	--	
North Fork Channel Change & Spillway	Madison		1936	PWA	--	
Krebsbach Farm dam pond	Nuckolls	Rural	1935	FERA/CCC	--	
Creek Straightening near Creston	Platte	Creston	1935	WPA	--	
Flood Control Dams	Red Willow	Rural	1939	WPA	--	
Henry Earthen Dam	Scotts Bluff	Henry	1934	FERA	--	
Bessey National Forest	Thomas	Rural	1933	CCC	TM00-026	National & State Parks

CCC Camps	County	Co. No.	Dates	Assoc. Agency	NENBS#	Notes
Albion CCC Camp	Boone	755	1933-1935	SCS	--	
Ravenna CCC Camp	Buffalo	2732	1934	SCS	--	
Tekamah CCC Camp	Burt	751	1934	SCS	--	
David City CCC Camp	Butler	761	1935	SCS	--	
Louisville CCC Camp	Cass	761	1933	SCS	--	
Weeping Water CCC Camp	Cass	751	1936	SCS	--	
Hartington CCC Camp	Cedar	4721,2737	1935-1937	SCS	--	
Valentine CCC Camp	Cherry	753,4722	1933-1935	SCS, BR	--	Niobrara Game Preserve
Broken Bow CCC Camp	Custer	Unk.	1939	Unk.	--	
Chadron CCC Camp	Dawes	762	1933	NPS	--	
Fort Robinson CCC Camp	Dawes	798	1934-1935	USFS	--	
Fremont CCC Camp	Dodge	763	1933	SCS	--	
Ponca CCC Camp	Dixon	4721	1934	SCS	--	
Omaha CCC Camp	Douglas	2740	1935	State Parks	--	Carter Lake
Parks CCC Camp	Dundy	Unk.	1933	Unk.	--	
Franklin CCC Camp	Franklin	Unk.	1938	Unk.	--	

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CCC Camps cont'd	County	Co. No.	Dates	Assc. Agency	NENBS#	Notes
Arapahoe CCC Side Camp	Furnas	752	June 1935	SCS	--	Small 86-man contingent
Beaver City CCC Camp	Furnas	Unk.	1939	Unk.	--	
Beatrice CCC Camp	Gage	760	1934	SCS	--	In Beatrice's Dempster Park
Blue Springs Side Camp	Gage	760	1935-1936	SCS	--	
Mumper CCC Side Camp	Garden	762	1934-1935	NPS	--	
Oshkosh CCC Camp	Garden	Unk.	1934	Unk.	--	
Spalding CCC Camp	Greeley	Unk.	1936	Unk.	--	
Hayes Center CCC Camp	Hayes	Unk.	1934	Unk.	--	
Fairbury CCC Camp	Jefferson	753	1934-1936	SCS	--	In County Fairgrounds
Tecumseh CCC Camp	Johnson	763	1934	SCS	--	
Niobrara CCC Camp	Knox	753	1934-1935	SCS	--	At Niobrara State Park
Denton CCC Camp	Lancaster	2738	1934	SCS	--	
Madison CCC Camp	Madison	4720	1936 & 1941	SCS	--	
Bayard CCC Camp	Morrill	Unk.	1939	Unk.	--	
Bridgeport CCC Camp	Morrill	Unk.	1939	Unk.	--	
Fullerton CCC Camp	Nance	Unk.	1935	Unk.	--	
Nelson CCC Camp	Nuckolls	756, 752	1934, 1937	SCS	--	
Nebraska City CCC Camp	Otoe	761	1934	SCS	--	
Pawnee City CCC Camp	Pawnee	755, 2740	1934	SCS	--	
Columbus CCC Camp	Platte	V-1782	1934	SCS	--	Veterans Company
Camp Richardson (Humboldt)	Richardson	754	1934	SCS	--	
McCook CCC Camp	Red Willow	752	June 1935	SCS	--	Small 86-man contingent
Fort Crook CCC Camp	Sarpy	Unk.	1934	Unk.	--	
Mitchell CCC Camp	Scotts Bluff	759	1935-1937	BR	--	
Lake Minatare CCC Camp	Scotts Bluff	V-2745	1934	BR	--	Veterans Company
Gering CCC Camp	Scotts Bluff	762	1935-1938	NPS	--	
Minatare CCC Camp	Scotts Bluff	Unk.	1934	Unk.	--	
Hay Springs CCC Camp	Sheridan	Unk.	1941	Unk.	--	
Hebron CCC Camp (Camp Thayer)	Thayer	752	1934	SCS	--	
Halsey CCC Camp	Thomas	798	1934-1936	USFS	--	
Blair CCC Camp	Washington	4710	1934-1935	SCS	--	
Winside CCC Camp	Wayne	Unk.	1939	Unk.	--	
Red Cloud CCC Camp	Webster	761, 762	1933-1934, 1934-1935	SCS, NPS	--	
York CCC Side Camp	York	752	July 1935	SCS	--	Planted a nursery plot to grow trees for shelterbelt

*This list is not exhaustive, and more research is needed to determine whether the extent to which these camps exist. "Unk." indicates more research is needed but source is attributed to New Deal. [Sources include: *Wayne County, Nebraska, History* (Omaha: Bob Johnson Publications, 1981), 37; *Official Annual*; newspapers]

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APPENDIX C. Defense Property Types

Defense Buildings	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#
*Kearney National Guard Armory	Buffalo	Kearney	1936, 1938	WPA	BF05-177
Hartington National Guard Armory	Cedar	Hartington	1936	WPA	CD07-
Lexington National Guard Armory	Dawson	Lexington	1936	WPA	DS07-
Fremont National Guard Armory	Dodge	Fremont	1936	WPA	DD05-
Omaha National Guard Armory	Douglas	Omaha	1936	WPA	DO09:
Waterloo National Guard Armory	Douglas	Waterloo	1936	WPA	DO12-
Grand Island National Guard Armory	Hall	Grand Island	1936	WPA	HL06-
Lincoln National Guard Armory	Lancaster	Lincoln	1936	WPA	LC13:
North Platte National Guard Armory	Lincoln	North Platte	1936	WPA	LN06-
National Guard Armory	Otoe	Nebraska City	1936	WPA	OT06:
Holdrege National Guard Armory	Phelps	Holdrege	1936	WPA	PP04-
Columbus National Guard Armory	Platte	Columbus	1936	WPA	PT01-
McCook National Guard Armory	Red Willow	McCook	1936	WPA	RW05-
Falls City National Guard Armory	Richardson	Falls City	1936	WPA	RH03-
*Fort Crook Army Post (Building 88)	Sarpy	Fort Crook	1938	WPA	SY04-
Ashland National Guard Armory	Saunders	Ashland	1936	WPA	SD01-
Gering National Guard Armory	Scotts Bluff	Gering	1936	WPA	SF01-
Seward National Guard Armory	Seward	Seward	1936	WPA	SW09-
York National Guard Armory	York	York	1936	WPA	YK11-

***Bolded and asterisked** entries are listed in the National Register as of this writing; ~~grayed out~~ entries are no longer extant. This list is not exhaustive. "Unk." indicates more research is needed but source is attributed to New Deal. [Sources: SHPO survey files; newspaper records; county histories; Living New Deal website]

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APPENDIX D. Domestic Property Types

Domestic Buildings	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Notes
Hastings College Girls' Dormitory	Adams	Hastings	1936	PWA	--	
Men's Hall, UNK	Buffalo	Kearney	1939	PWA	BF05-158	
Logan Fontenelle Homes	Douglas	Omaha	1936-1938	USHA	--	Demo'd in the 1990s
Logan Fontenelle Homes, Addition	Douglas	Omaha	1940-1941	USHA	--	Demo'd in the 1990s
Southside Terrace Homes	Douglas	Omaha	1939-1940	USHA	--	To be demo'd
Grand Island Shelter Houses	Hall	Grand Island	1934	Unk.	--	
*Carrie Belle Raymond Hall	Lancaster	Lincoln	1940	WPA	LC13:D09-530	Originally built in 1932; wings added in 1940 that were part of original design; contributor to the Greek Row Historic District
Peru State Teachers' College Men's Dorm (Delzell Hall)	Nemaha	Peru	1939	WPA	NH09-093	
Chadron Transient Camp	Dawes	Rural	1934	FERA	--	
Resettlement Farmsteads						
Kearney Farmsteads (10)	Buffalo	Kearney	1934	RRC	--	432 acres
Loup City Farmsteads (11)	Sherman	Loup City	1935	RRC	--	792 acres
Scottsbluff Farmsteads (23)	Scotts Bluff	Scotts Bluff	1935	RRC	SF00-049	643 acres
Falls City Farmsteads (10)	Richardson	Falls City	1934	RRC	--	515 acres
Fairbury Farmsteads (11)	Jefferson	Fairbury	1934	RRC	JF00-260	163 acres
Grand Island Farmsteads (10)	Hall	Grand Island	1935	RRC	--	159 acres
South Sioux City Farmsteads (22)	Dakota	S. Sioux City	1934	RRC	--	299 acres
Two Rivers Farmsteads (41)	Douglas	Waterloo	1935	RRC	--	1570 acres

Through Dec 31, 1935, Nebraska had 51 new FHA developments, totaling \$214,200 (*Second Annual Report of the FHA*)

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APPENDIX E. Educational Property Types

Educational Buildings	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Other MPS (if applicable) / Notes
Alcott Elementary School	Adams	Hastings	1936	PWA	AD04-051	Schools
School Gym/Auditorium	Antelope	Clearwater	1936	PWA	--	Schools
Primrose School	Boone	Primrose	1936	WPA	BO08-015	Schools
High School Gym/Aud.	Boone	Saint Edward	1935	PWA	BO10-077	Schools
Lakeland Sod High School	Brown	Lakeland	1934	FERA	--	Not extant.
Long Pine School	Brown	Long Pine	1936	WPA	BW04-068	Schools
Gibbon Public School	Buffalo	Gibbon	1936	PWA	--	Schools
Kearney Library Addition	Buffalo	Kearney	1936	WPA	BF05-167	Not extant
Kenwood Elementary School	Buffalo	Kearney	1935	PWA	--	Schools
Kearney High School	Buffalo	Kearney	1934	PWA	--	Not extant
Pleasanton Public School	Buffalo	Pleasanton	1936	PWA	--	Schools
Riverdale School	Buffalo	Riverdale	1938	PWA	BF12-011	Schools
Shelton School Auditorium-Gym	Buffalo	Shelton	1938	PWA	--	Schools
Miller High School Athletic Field	Buffalo	Miller	1939	WPA	BF06-009	
Decatur School	Burt	Decatur	1937	PWA	BT03-031	Schools
Brainard School	Butler	Brainard	1935	PWA	--	Schools; altered with additions
Ulysses Township Library	Butler	Ulysses	1934	CWA	BU15-007	
Ulysses Auditorium/School Gym	Butler	Ulysses	Unk.	Unk.	BU15-014	Schools
*Nehawka Public Library	Cass	Nehawka	1934	CWA	CC12-015	
Weeping Water School	Cass	Weeping Water	1937	PWA	--	Schools
Obert District 50 School	Cedar	Obert	1936	WPA	--	Schools
Cody Library	Cherry	Cody	1937	WPA	CE03-006	
Nenzel School	Cherry	Nenzel	1936	PWA	--	Schools
Lodgepole School	Cheyenne	Lodgepole	1935	Unk.	CN05-024	Schools
Fairfield School Improvements	Clay	Fairfield	1938	WPA	CY05-002	Schools; demolished 1997
District Number 7 School	Cuming	Rural	1935	Unk.	--	Schools
District Number 43 School	Cuming	Rural	1935	Unk.	--	Schools
Ansley Public School	Custer	Ansley	1935	PWA	CU02-060	Schools
North Ward School, High School	Custer	Broken Bow	1938	WPA	CU05-017	Schools
Broken Bow Post Office	Custer	Broken Bow	1937	Unk.	CU05-063	
South Ward School	Custer	Broken Bow	1938	Unk.	CU05-087	Schools
Sunshine Public Library	Custer	Mason City	1934	Unk.	CU11-018	
*Mason City Public School	Custer	Mason City	1935	PWA	CU11-029	Schools
Oconto Public School	Custer	Oconto	1938	PWA	CU14-030	Schools
South Sioux City Library	Dakota	South Sioux City	1934	CWA	DK05-042	
*Chadron Normal School (Crites Hall)	Dawes	Chadron	1937-1938	PWA	DW03-094	
Eddyville Grade & High School	Dawson	Eddyville	1934-1935	PWA	--	Schools

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Educational (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Other MPS (if applicable)
School District 13	Dixon	Rural	Unk.	Unk.	--	Schools
School District 16	Dixon	Rural	Unk.	Unk.	--	Schools
Concord Public School Gym.	Dixon	Concord	1937	Unk.	DX02-016	Schools
Linden Elementary School	Dodge	Fremont	1937	PWA	DD05:A-110	Schools
UNO Administration Building	Douglas	Omaha	1937	Unk.	DO09:0543-004	
UNO Arts and Sciences Building	Douglas	Omaha	1937	Unk.	--	
Riverton School Gym	Franklin	Riverton	1936	WPA	FR07-033	Schools
Franklin High Auditorium	Franklin	Franklin	Unk.	Unk.	FR03-058	Schools
Oshkosh High School	Garden	Oshkosh	1937	PWA	--	Schools
Burwell Elementary School	Garfield	Burwell	1936	PWA	GF01-008	Schools
G.I. Sr. High School Auditorium / Collins Memorial Auditorium	Hall	Grand Island	Unk.	Unk.	HL06-601	Demolished 2004
West Lawn School Auditorium	Hall	Grand Island	1934	CWA	HL06-630	Schools
Mascot Schools	Harlan	Mascot	1938	WPA	HN03-004	Schools
Hayes Center Grade School	Hayes	Hayes Center	1939	PWA	--	Not eligible; altered
Inman Public School	Holt	Inman	1936	PWA	HT10-009	Schools
Elba High School	Howard	Elba	1935	PWA	HW06-011	Schools
District 78 School	Jefferson	Rural	1936	WPA	JF00-005	Schools
Daykin High School, District 90	Jefferson	Daykin	1935	PWA	--	Schools
Axtell Public School	Kearney	Axtell	1939	PWA	--	Schools
Minden High School	Kearney	Minden	1936		--	Schools
Creighton School	Knox	Creighton	1936	PWA	KX04-107	Schools; altered
Lincoln Township Library	Knox	Wausa	1935	FERA/WPA	KX16-080	
Love Library	Lancaster	Lincoln	1943	WPA	LC13:C09-051	
Roca School	Lancaster	Roca	1935	PWA	-	Schools
UNL Student Union	Lancaster	Lincoln	1938	PWA	LC13:D10-568	
UNL Field House/Athletic Bldg	Lancaster	Lincoln	1939	Unk.	--	
Holmes Elementary School	Lancaster	Lincoln	1937	PWA	LC13:F06-004	Schools
North Platte High School	Lincoln	North Platte	1937	PWA	LN06-027	Schools
Baker Rural High School	Logan	Rural	1936	Unk.	--	Schools
Stapleton Public School	Logan	Stapleton	1936	PWA	--	Schools
Chloe School 55	Madison	Rural	1934	CWA	--	Schools
District Number 10 School	Madison	Rural	1937	WPA	MD00-010	Schools
District Number 29 School	Madison	Rural	1937	WPA	MD00-075	Schools
Battle Creek High School	Madison	Battle Creek	1935	PWA	--	Schools
Pleasant Valley School District 11 School Improvements	Nance	Rural	1936	WPA	NC00-047	Schools
Brownville School District #34	Nemaha	Brownville	1936	WPA	NH03-036	Schools
Auburn High School	Nemaha	Auburn	1937	PWA	--	Schools

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Educational (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Other MPS (if applicable)
Johnson School	Nemaha	Johnson	1936	PWA	--	Schools
Superior High School Athletic Field	Nuckolls	Superior	1937	WPA	--	The high school is NU13-054
Burr School	Otoe	Burr	1935	Unk.	OT01-004	Schools
Douglas School	Otoe	Douglas	1937	PWA	--	Schools
Palmyra School	Otoe	Palmyra	1935	PWA	--	Schools
Talmage School	Otoe	Talmage	1935	PWA	OT11-001	Schools
Steinauer Public School	Pawnee	Steinauer	1936	Unk.	PW07-019	Schools
District Number 8 School	Pierce	Rural	1935	Unk.	--	Schools
District Number 10 School	Pierce	Rural	1936	WPA	--	Schools
District Number 18 School	Pierce	Rural	1936	WPA	--	Schools
McLean Auditorium-Gymnasium	Pierce	McLean	1938	WPA	--	
District 4 School	Platte	Rural	1936	PWA	--	Schools
District 73 School	Platte	Monroe vic.	1935	Unk.	--	Schools
Falls City Schools	Richardson	Falls City	1938	WPA	RH03-114	Schools; not extant
Jug Brown High School Stadium	Richardson	Falls City	1940	WPA	RH03-410	
Crete Elementary School	Saline	Crete	1939	PWA	SA01-017	Schools
Wahoo School	Saunders	Wahoo	1935	PWA	--	Schools
Haig School	Scotts Bluff	Haig	1935	PWA	SF02-030	Schools
McGrew School	Scotts Bluff	McGrew	1935	PWA	SF05-001	Schools
Morrill Public Library	Scotts Bluff	Morrill	1936	Unk.	SF10-025	Determined elig. In 1994
Scottsbluff Carnegie Library Addition	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1936	Unk.	SF11-010	
Scottsbluff Middle School	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1939	Unk.	SF11-086	Schools
School	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1939	Unk.	SF11-183	Schools
Tamora School	Seward	Tamora	1937	PWA	SW11-004	Schools
District Number 22 School	Sheridan	Rural	1936	PWA	--	Schools
Rushville Library	Sheridan	Rushville	1939-1940	Unk.	SH08-017	
Smith-Hughes School	Sheridan	Rushville	1936	WPA	--	Schools; this is likely referring to the high school
Ashton Public School	Sherman	Ashton	1938	PWA	SM01-001	Schools
High School Gymnasium-Auditorium	Sherman	Litchfield	1938	Unk.	SM03-001	
Public School Gym-Auditorium	Sherman	Loup City	1936	PWA	SM04-006	
Alexandria School Auditorium	Thayer	Alexandria	1936	PWA	TY01-050	Schools
Halsey Public School	Thomas	Halsey	1937	PWA	TM01-018	Schools
Arcadia School	Valley	Arcadia	1935	PWA	--	Schools
Bartlett School District 25	Wheeler	Bartlett	1936	Unk.	WH01-008	Schools

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APPENDIX F. Institutional & Social Welfare Property Types

Institutional Resources	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#
Ingleside State Hospital	Adams	Ingleside	1936-1937	PWA	AD00-115,119-126, 363, 364
Kearney Tuberculosis Hospital	Buffalo	Kearney	1939	PWA	BF05-166
Kearney TB Hospital Heating Plant	Buffalo	Kearney	1939	PWA	BF05-411
Wood Lake Community Kitchen	Cherry	Wood Lake	1935	Unk.	--
Sutton Cemetery	Clay	Sutton	1938	WPA	CY12-164
Milburn Cannery	Custer	Milburn	1937	RA	CU13-000
Dodge County Community Hospital	Dodge	Fremont	1939	PWA	DD05-000
State Hospital	Madison	Rural	1935	PWA	MD00-099
McCook Canning Plant	Red Willow	McCook	1934	FERA	--

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APPENDIX G. Public Utility Property Types

Utility	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Notes
Municipal Light and Power Plant	Adams	Hastings	1936	PWA	--	
Juniata Water Supply System	Adams	Juniata	1938	WPA	--	
Burt Co. Rural Public Power Co.	Burt	Rural	1938	REA	--	
Rural Sanitation Project	Burt	Rural	1936	WPA	--	
Rising City Water Works	Butler	Rising City	1935	PWA	--	
Louisville Water Works	Cass	Louisville	193?	PWA	--	
Hartington Sewage Disposal Plant	Cedar	Hartington	1934	PWA	--	
Merriman Waterworks Project	Cherry	Merriman	1934	PWA	--	
Wood Lake Electric Plant	Cherry	Wood Lake	1935	Unk.	--	
Sutton Power Building	Clay	Sutton	1938	Unk.	CY12-050	
Trumbull Water Works	Clay	Trumbull	1936	PWA	--	
Arnold Light and Water Plant	Custer	Arnold	1937	PWA	CU03-030	
Arnold Sanitary Sewer	Custer	Arnold	1938	Unk.	--	
Callaway Sewer Project	Custer	Callaway	1935	PWA	--	
Oconto Water System	Custer	Oconto	1935	PWA	--	
Sargent Sanitary Sewer	Custer	Sargent	1937	PWA	--	
Jackson Water System	Dakota	Jackson	1935	PWA	--	
Gothenburg Water Power Project	Dawson	Gothenburg	1935	PWA	--	
Lexington Water Works	Dawson	Lexington	1935	PWA	--	
Newcastle Sanitary Sewer	Dixon	Newcastle	1937	WPA	--	
Dodge Water Works	Dodge	Dodge	1934	PWA	--	
*Fremont Municipal Power Plant	Dodge	Fremont	1938	PWA	DD05:D-151	Major addition to earlier building
Omaha Municipal Gas and Water Distribution Systems	Douglas	Omaha	1938	WPA	--	
Valley Water System	Douglas	Valley	1935	PWA	--	
Campbell Waterworks	Franklin	Campbell	1937	PWA	--	
Stockville Municipal Water System	Frontier	Stockville	1938	WPA	--	
Arapahoe Light Plant improvements	Furnas	Arapahoe	1938	WPA	--	
Arapahoe Water System	Furnas	Arapahoe	1938	WPA	--	
Beaver City Water Building and Works	Furnas	Beaver City	1934	PWA	--	
Grand Island Storm Sewer	Hall	Grand Island	1934	CWA	--	
Grand Island City Water Plant	Hall	Grand Island	1938	WPA	--	
Trenton Sewer System	Hitchcock	Trenton	1934	PWA	--	
O'Neill Sewage System	Holt	O'Neill	1938	WPA	--	
Tri-County Project	Kearney	Rural	1933-1943	PWA/REA	--	
Waterworks System extension	Knox	Wausa	1935, 1937	WPA/PWA	--	
Water Works	Lancaster	Lincoln	1934	PWA	--	

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Utility (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Notes
North Platte Waterworks	Lincoln	North Platte	1940	PWA	LN06-631	
Sutherland Project	Lincoln	Rural	1933-1939	PWA	--	
Platte Valley Public Power Plant	Lincoln	Rural	1935-1939	PWA/REA	LN00-117	Started in 1935. The North Platte Powerhouse was completed in 1939.
Madison Municipal Ice Plant	Madison	Madison	1935	WPA	--	
Sanitary Sewer System	Madison	Meadow Grove	1936	Unk.	--	
Municipal Water Dept Building	Morrill	Bridgeport	1937	PWA	MO04-077	
Fullerton Water System	Nance	Fullerton	1938	WPA	--	
Rural Sanitation Project	Nuckolls	Rural	1937	WPA	--	
Central Nebraska Power and Irrigation District	Phelps	Rural	1930s	PWA	--	
Funk Water Supply System	Phelps	Funk	1938	WPA	--	
Plainview Municipal Light Plant	Pierce	Plainview	1937	WPA	--	
Loup Hydroelectric Plant	Platte	Columbus	1934-1938	PWA/REA	PT00-168	The Loup project began in 1934 and was finished in 1938.
Lindsay Sewage Disposal System	Platte	Lindsay	1936	WPA	--	
Indianola Sanitary Sewer	Red Willow	Indianola	1936	Unk.	--	
Stella Municipal Water Works	Richardson	Stella	1935	Unk.	--	
Papillion Public Works Dept	Sarpy	Papillion	1933	Unk.	SY08-019	
Ashland Water Plant	Saunders	Ashland	Unk.	Unk.	--	
Wahoo Water Works	Saunders	Wahoo	1937	PWA	--	
Gordon Municipal Water Works	Sheridan	Gordon	1935	PWA	--	
Bartlett Water System	Wheeler	Bartlett	1936	Unk.	--	
Stanton Municipal Water Works	Stanton	Stanton	1938	PWA	ST02-077	

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APPENDIX H. Recreation & Culture Property Types

Recreation & Culture	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS #	Other MPS (if applicable)/Notes
*Alexander Square	Adams	Hastings	1938	Unk.	AD04-325	
*Heartwell Park	Adams	Hastings	1935	WPA	AD04-560	The park is contributing; the shelter is not.
Adams County Fairgrounds	Adams	Hastings	1936-1937	NYA	--	
Duncan Park Grandstand	Adams	Hastings	1941	Unk.	--	
Harm Park (Athletic Park)	Adams	Hastings	1936	WPA	AD04-0930	
Hastings Museum	Adams	Hastings	1936	WPA	--	
Juniata Park	Adams	Juniata	1938	WPA	--	
Kenesaw Auditorium	Adams	Kenesaw	1936	CWA/WPA	AD09-001	
Pawnee Lake	Adams	Rural	1936	PWA	--	
Neligh Park Pavilion	Antelope	Neligh	Unk.	Unk.	--	
Neligh Swimming Pool	Antelope	Neligh	1937	WPA	--	
Riverside Speedway Grandstand	Antelope	Neligh	1936	WPA	--	
Dunning Auditorium	Blaine	Dunning	1938	WPA	BL02-004	
Municipal Auditorium/Gym	Boone	Primrose	1936	WPA	BO08-016	
Alliance City Park [*Fountain]	Box Butte	Alliance	1935	WPA	BX01-067	The fountain is listed; the park is not eligible due to alterations
Spencer Auditorium	Boyd	Spencer	1937	WPA	BD08-057	
Ainsworth Park	Brown	Ainsworth	1938	WPA	--	
*Harmon Park	Buffalo	Kearney	1924, 1936- 1940	WPA/NYA /PWA	BF05-418	
Athletic Facilities, UNK	Buffalo	Kearney	1938	WPA	--	
Buffalo County Fairgrounds	Buffalo	Kearney	1937	WPA	BF05-563	
Cottonmill Lake, west of Kearney	Buffalo	Kearney vic.	1935	Unk.	--	
Ravenna Auditorium	Buffalo	Ravenna	1934	CWA	BF11-022	
Ravenna Lake	Buffalo	Rural	1935	Unk.	--	
Tekamah Auditorium	Burt	Tekamah	1938	WPA	BT06-046	
*David City Park/Auditorium	Butler	David City	1941	WPA	BU05-047, 069	
Surprise Community Building	Butler	Surprise	Unk.	Unk.	--	
*Young Cemetery Cabin	Cass	Rural	1941	NYA	CC00-331	
Agricultural Society Building	Cass	Weeping Water	c1938	WPA	CC19-095	Potentially eligible 2004
Cedar County Fairgrounds	Cedar	Hartington	1938	WPA	--	
Felber Park	Cedar	Hartington	1941	NYA	--	
Hartington Park	Cedar	Hartington	1937	Unk.	--	
Randolph Auditorium	Cedar	Randolph	1939	Unk.	CD12-081	
Wynot Park	Cedar	Wynot	1938	WPA	--	
Wauneta City Park	Chase	Wauneta	1935	FERA	CH06-000	
Bryan Park	Cherry	Rural	1934	CCC	--	

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Recreational (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS #	Other MPS (if applicable)/Notes
Cherry County Fairgrounds	Cherry	Valentine	1935-1937	WPA	CE14-000	
Dad's Lake Resort	Cherry	Rural	1938	CCC	CE00-251	
Gilman Park	Cherry	Valentine	1937	WPA	CE14-080	
Hackberry Lake Lookout Tower	Cherry	Rural	1938	CCC	CE00-245	
Pony Lake Lookout Tower	Cherry	Rural	1938	CCC	CE00-244	
Winter Bird House	Cherry	Rural	1938	CCC	CE00-269	
Lodgepole Gymnasium/Auditorium	Cheyenne	Lodgepole	1935	PWA	--	
Sidney American Legion Park	Cheyenne	Sidney	1936-1943	Unk.	CN09-039	
Edgar Park	Clay	Edgar	1937	Unk.	CY03-077	
Glenville Auditorium	Clay	Glenville	1936	Unk.	CY06-021	
Harvard Park Pavilion	Clay	Harvard	1935	Unk.	CY07-089	
*Oak Ballroom	Colfax	Schuyler	1937	WPA	CX06-003	
Oak Park	Colfax	Schuyler	1936	WPA	CX06-082	
West Point Swimming Pool	Cuming	West Point	1936	WPA	CM05-000	
*Broken Bow Public Square	Custer	Broken Bow	1935	Unk.	CU05-064	Contributor to Broken Bow Historic District
Callaway Fountain	Custer	Callaway	Unk.	Unk.	CU06-017	
Crawford City Park	Dawes	Crawford	1936	WPA	DW04-279	
Wilson Park	Dawes	Chadron	Unk.	Unk.	DW03-092	
Chappell Pool and Bath House	Deuel	Chappell	1939	WPA	DU02-016	
Emerson Auditorium	Dixon	Emerson	1941	WPA	DX04-016	
*Fremont Auditorium	Dodge	Fremont	1937	WPA	DD05:A-077	
Dodge Auditorium	Dodge	Dodge	1937	PWA	DD03-054	
Hormel Park	Dodge	Fremont	1938	WPA	--	
North Bend Auditorium	Dodge	North Bend	1939	PWA	DD09-009	
North Bend Bathing Beach	Dodge	North Bend	1935	Unk.	--	
*Elmwood Park improvements	Douglas	Omaha	1930s	WPA	DO09:0541-001	Part of the Omaha Park & Boulevard System
*Levi Carter Park – fishing pier & restrooms	Douglas	Omaha	Unk.	CCC	DO09:0145-001	
Haigler City Park Improvements	Dundy	Haigler	1935	Unk.	DN03-000	
Geneva Swimming Pool	Fillmore	Geneva	1936	PWA	--	
Ohiowa Auditorium	Fillmore	Ohiowa	1937	Unk.	FM09-014	
Shickley Auditorium	Fillmore	Shickley	Unk.	Unk.	FM10-018	
Campbell Auditorium	Franklin	Campbell	Unk.	Unk.	FR02-014	
Franklin County Fairgrounds	Franklin	Franklin	1934	Unk.	FR03-000	
Franklin County Museum	Franklin	Franklin	1939	WPA	FR03-101	
Naponee Auditorium	Franklin	Naponee	1936	WPA	FR06-025	
Upland Auditorium	Franklin	Upland	1936	WPA	FR08-037	

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Recreational (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS #	Other MPS (if applicable)/Notes
Auditorium & Gymnasium	Frontier	Maywood	1936	WPA	--	
Moorefield Auditorium	Frontier	Moorefield	1937	WPA	FT05-002	
*Beatrice Auditorium	Gage	Beatrice	1940	PWA	GA03-272	
*Freeman Homestead Monument	Gage	Beatrice vicinity	1936	WPA	GA00-004	Listed for its 1863 significance, but nomination mentions WPA; authorized as a national monument in 1936 This may refer to Wymore Arbor State Park (GA15-108)
Wymore Park	Gage	Wymore	1938	WPA	--	
Garden County Fairgrounds	Garden	Lewellen	1936	Unk.	GD01-028	
Lisco Park & Swimming Pool	Garden	Lisco	Unk.	Unk.	--	
Spalding Auditorium	Greeley	Spalding	1939	Unk.	GY06-033	
Wood River Amphitheater	Hall	Wood River	1938	Unk.	HL08-050	
Hampton Auditorium	Hamilton	Hampton	c.1930	Unk.	HM03-019	
Hitchcock County Fairgrounds	Hitchcock	Culbertson	1938	PWA/WPA	HK02-032	Park built in c.1920; 1938 likely improve.
Johnson Lake	Hitchcock	Rural	Unk.	FERA	--	
Trenton City Park	Hitchcock	Trenton	1936	Unk.	HK05-016	
Trenton Park Gate	Hitchcock	Trenton	1938	Unk.	HK05-016	
Holt County Fairgrounds	Holt	Chambers	1937	WPA	HT05-000	
Stuart Auditorium	Holt	Stuart	Unk.	Unk.	HT19-034	Not eligible 1999
Boy Scout Cabin	Jefferson	Fairbury	1935	FERA/WPA	JF04-512	
Fairbury City Park	Jefferson	Fairbury	1933-1937	FERA/NYA	JF04-522	
Fairbury McNish Park	Jefferson	Fairbury	1935	WPA	JF04-377	
Girl Scout Cabin	Jefferson	Fairbury	1936	FERA/WPA	JF04-505	
Jansen Auditorium	Jefferson	Jansen	1940	Unk.	JF07-013	
Jefferson County Fairgrounds	Jefferson	Fairbury	1938	WPA	--	
*Tecumseh Band Shell	Johnson	Tecumseh	c.1945	Unk.	JO07-223	Listed as a NC to the Johnson County Courthouse; eligible for New Deal association
Springview Auditorium	Keya Paha	Springview	1937	WPA	KP09-003	
Creighton Park	Knox	Creighton	1938	WPA	KX04-000	
Niobrara State Park	Knox	Rural	1935	CCC	KX00-004	
Wausa Park	Knox	Wausa	1934	Unk.	KX16-000	
*Pioneers Park	Lancaster	Lincoln vic.	1939	WPA/NYA	LC00-045	
Ager Building	Lancaster	Lincoln	1936	WPA	LC13:E07-602	Eligible; part of Lincoln Children's Zoo
Antelope Park Shelter House	Lancaster	Lincoln	Unk.	NYA	--	
Antelope Park Soldiers' Monument	Lancaster	Lincoln	1936	WPA	LC13-000	
Alura Park	Lincoln	North Platte	1936	WPA/NYA	LN06-564	
Cody Park	Lincoln	North Platte	1935	WPA	LN06-564	
North Platte Auditorium	Lincoln	North Platte	1935	WPA	LN06-067	
Stapleton City Park	Logan	Stapleton	1939	Unk.	LO03-021	
Central Park Bandstand	Madison	Norfolk	1936	WPA	MD06-064	

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Recreational (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS #	Other MPS (if applicable)/Notes
Newman Grove Pool/Bathhouse	Madison	Newman Grove	1936	WPA	MD05-047	
Norfolk Municipal Auditorium	Madison	Norfolk	1940	Unk.	MD06-223	
Park Improvements	Madison	Newman Grove	1936	FERA	--	
Ta-Ha-Zouka Park	Madison	Norfolk	1936	FERA/ WPA	MD06-123	
Tennis Courts	Madison	Norfolk	1936	WPA	MD06-000	
Tilden Swimming Pool/Bathhouse	Madison	Tilden	1937	WPA	MD07-000	
World War Monument, Madison Cemetery	Madison	Madison	1934	WPA	MD03-080	
Chapman Park	Merrick	Chapman	1938	WPA	--	
Bridgeport Bath House	Morrill	Bridgeport	1935	Unk.	MO04-075	
Baseball Grandstand	Nance	Fullerton	1936	WPA	NC02-043	
Genoa Park	Nance	Genoa	1936	WPA	--	
*Auburn Legion Memorial Park	Nemaha	Auburn	1937-1938, 1940	WPA	NH01-069	Historic Landscape Design in National and State Parks
Boy Scout Cabin in Lincoln Park	Nuckolls	Superior	1936	WPA	NU13-068	
Steinhart Lodge	Otoe	Nebraska City	1941-1942	WPA	OT06:C-223	
Pawnee City Bath House/Pool	Pawnee	Pawnee City	1936	WPA	PW06-157	
*Grant City Park	Perkins	Grant	1935-1939	WPA	PR04-023	
Swimming Pool/Bathhouse	Phelps	Holdrege	1938	PWA	PP04-261	
*Plainview Band Shell	Pierce	Plainview	1942	WPA	PC06-010	
Gilman Park	Pierce	Pierce	1938	WPA	PC05-051	
Plainview Athletic Field	Pierce	Plainview	1936	WPA	PC06-010	
Humphrey Park	Platte	Humphrey	1936	WPA	--	
Monroe Auditorium	Platte	Monroe	1940	WPA	PT07-016	
Pawnee Park	Platte	Columbus	1935	WPA	PT01-529	
Polk County Fairgrounds	Polk	Osceola	1938	WPA	--	
DAR Museum	Red Willow	McCook	1939	NYA	RW05-105	
Kelley Park	Red Willow	McCook	1935	CWA/WPA	RW05-274	
McCook Auditorium	Red Willow	McCook	1939	WPA	RW05-070	
Pool and Bath House	Red Willow	McCook	1937	PWA	RW05-107, 276	
True Hall (Gymnasium)	Red Willow	McCook	1939	PWA	RW05-108	
*Humboldt Auditorium	Richardson	Humboldt	1942	WPA	RH04-036	Part of Humboldt Commercial Historic District Part of Humboldt Commercial Historic District; the park was built in the 1910s; WPA connection not mentioned in nomination
*Humboldt City Park	Richardson	Humboldt	1938	WPA	RH04-039	
Falls City (Prichard Memorial) Auditorium	Richardson	Falls City	1938	WPA	RH03-027	
Falls City Bathhouse	Richardson	Falls City	Unk.	Unk.	RH03-159	

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Recreational (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS #	Other MPS (if applicable)/Notes
Falls City Park	Richardson	Falls City	1938	NYA	RH03-	
Rulo Auditorium	Richardson	Rulo	1939	WPA	RH06-005	Potentially eligible for the NR (3/11/19).
Old Settlers' Organization log cabin	Rock	Bassett	1940	WPA	RO01-037	
DeWitt Auditorium	Saline	DeWitt	Unk.	Unk.	--	
Wilber Swimming Pool	Saline	Wilber	1937	WPA	--	
Camp Brewster	Sarpy	Rural	Unk.	Unk.	SY00-238	
Camp Ashland athletic stadium and boxing ring	Saunders	Rural	1936	WPA	SD00-076	
Cedar Bluffs Auditorium	Saunders	Cedar Bluffs	1936	Unk.	SD02-005	
Wahoo Auditorium	Saunders	Wahoo	1935	Unk.	--	
Yutan Auditorium	Saunders	Yutan	1939	Unk.	SD19-014	
Lake Minatare Lighthouse	Scotts Bluff	Rural	1933-1936	CCC	SF00-038	
Lake Minatare Sunrise Beach	Scotts Bluff	Rural	1933-1936	CCC	SF00-252	
Lake Minatare YCC Gate	Scotts Bluff	Rural	1933-1936	CCC	SF00-260	
Museum in Old Settler's Park	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1936	WPA	SF11-142	
North Broadway Park	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1934	CWA	SF11-456	
*Scotts Bluff Monument Museum/Visitors Center	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1935	CCC	SF00-035	Both are within boundaries of monument, but are considered NC
Scouts Rest Cabin	Scotts Bluff	Rural	1933-1936	Unk.	SF00-039	
*States Ballroom	Seward	Bee	1938, 1940	WPA	SW02-008	
Bingham Park	Sheriden	Bingham	1936	WPA	SH02-	
Gordon Park (w/ culvert)	Sheriden	Gordon	Unk.	WPA	SH05-028	
Sherman County Fairgrounds	Sherman	Loup City	1938	Unk.	SM00-071	
Stanton County Fairgrounds	Stanton	Rural	1936	WPA	--	
Chester Auditorium	Thayer	Chester	1939	Unk.	TY06-022	
Hebron Swimming Pool	Thayer	Hebron	c.1935	WPA	TY10-	
Pump house and Bathhouse	Thayer	Alexandria	1936	WPA	TY01-	
Pender Swimming Pool	Thurston	Pender	1938	WPA	TS03-026	Eligible
North Loup Auditorium	Valley	North Loup	1940	Unk.	VY03-036	
Arlington Park Improvements	Washington	Arlington	1938	WPA	--	
Swimming Pool & Bathhouse	Washington	Blair	Unk.	Unk.	WN02-125	
*Wayne Auditorium	Wayne	Wayne	1935	PWA	WY05-056	
Wayne City Park	Wayne	Wayne	1936	WPA	--	
Winside Auditorium	Wayne	Winside	1939	WPA	WY06-008	
Inavale Auditorium and Gym	Webster	Inavale	1942	Unk.	WT06-016	
Harrison Park Bath House	York	Harrison	1939	Unk.	YK11-058	
York Auditorium	York	York	1937	WPA	YK11-004	

***Bolded and asterisked** entries are listed in the National Register as of this writing; **grayed out** entries are no longer extant. This list is not exhaustive. "Unk." indicates more research is needed but source is attributed to New Deal. [Sources: SHPO survey files; newspaper records; county histories; Living New Deal website]

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Section number Appendix I Page 1

APPENDIX I. Transportation Property Types

Transportation	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Other MPS (if applicable)/Notes
Airport Administration Building	Adams	Hastings vic.	1936	WPA	AD00-133	Would also fall under the Aviation MPS but has been determined not eligible.
16 th Street Overpass	Adams	Hastings	1935	WPA	--	
Burlington Avenue Underpass	Adams	Hastings	1935	WPA	--	
Neligh Viaduct	Antelope	Neligh	1937	Unk.	--	
Alliance Railroad Overpass	Box Butte	Alliance	1936	PWA	--	
Ravenna Overpass/Viaduct	Buffalo	Ravenna	1937	Unk.	--	
*Tekamah City Bridge	Burt	Tekamah	1934	Unk.	BT06-049	Highway Bridges
Valentine Airport	Cherry	Valentine	1934	CWA	CE14-160-170	Aviation
Broken Bow Airport Hangar	Custer	Broken Bow	1934	FERA	CU00-092	Aviation
Broken Bow Bridges	Custer	Broken Bow	1938	WPA	--	
Broken Bow Streets and Sidewalks	Custer	Broken Bow	1937, 1938	WPA	CU05-098	
Big Springs Bridge	Deuel	Big Springs	1935-	PWA	--	
Elkhorn River Bridge	Dodge	Rural	1932	Unk.	DD00-080	
Fremont Viaduct	Dodge	Fremont	1936	PWA	DD05:E-018	
Hooper Paving Project	Dodge	Hooper	1935	PWA	--	
Omaha Docks	Douglas	Omaha	1938	PWA	--	
*South Omaha Bridge	Douglas	Omaha	1933-1935	Unk.	DO09:0097-001	
10 th Street Viaduct	Douglas	Omaha	1939-40	Unk.	DO09:0121-087	
13 th Street Widening	Douglas	Omaha	1936	WPA	--	
*Saddle Creek Underpass	Douglas	Omaha	1934	CWA	DO09:0322-014	Highway Bridges MPS
Dodge Street Subway	Douglas	Omaha	1937	Unk.	DO09:1778-001	
Benkelman Park Road	Dundy	Benkelman	1935	PWA	--	
*Franklin Bridge	Franklin	Franklin	1932 & 1935	Unk.	FR00-072	Highway Bridges
Oshkosh Airport	Garden	Oshkosh	1934	Unk.	--	Aviation
*Burwell Bridge	Garfield	Burwell	1940-41	Unk.	GF00-013	Highway Bridges
Tri-County Supply Canal Bridge	Gosper	Rural	1938	PWA	GO00-046	
Grand Island Airport	Hall	Grand Island	1933-1936	CWA	--	Aviation
Eddy Street Underpass	Hall	Grand Island	Unk.	Unk.	HL06-586	
Aurora Viaduct	Hamilton	Aurora	1936	Unk.	HM00-102	
Republican River Bridge	Harlan	Rural	1935	Unk.	HN00-061	
Milrose Creek Bridge	Harlan	Rural	c.1935	Unk.	HN00-062	
Dannebrog Bridge	Howard	Dannebrog vic.	1934	Unk.	--	
Culvert	Jefferson	Rural	1938	Unk.	JF00-082	
14 th Street Viaduct	Jefferson	Fairbury	1936	Unk.	--	

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Transportation (cont'd)	County	City	Date	Program	NEHBS#	Notes
Jansen Viaduct	Jefferson	Jansen	1936	Unk.	--	
Bridge over the Little Blue River	Jefferson	Powell	1936	WPA	--	
Brule State Aid Bridge	Keith	Rural	1934-35	PWA	KH00-093	
*Roscoe State Aid Bridge	Keith	Roscoe vic.	1934-35	PWA	KH00-092	Highway Bridges
Kimball Airport	Kimball	Kimball	1933	CWA	--	Aviation
Ten Bridges near Verdigre	Knox	Verdigre vic.	1935	WPA	--	
Missouri River Bridge	Knox	Niobrara	1936	Unk.	--	
Bridge	Lancaster	Rural	1940	WPA	LC00-107	
Bridge	Lancaster	Rural	1940	WPA	LC00-108	
Norfolk Municipal Airport	Madison	Norfolk vic.	1935-39/42	FERA/WPA	MD00-150-160	WPA did work here in 1942.
Brick Turning on Norfolk Avenue	Madison	Norfolk	1934-1936	WPA	--	
13 th Street/Highway 81 Overpass	Madison	Norfolk	1936	Unk.	--	
*Brownville Bridge	Nemaha	Brownville vic.	1939	PWA	NH00-085	Highway Bridges
Culvert	Nemaha	Rural	1933-1942	Unk.	NH00-093	
Nebraska City Viaduct	Otoe	Nebraska City	1937	Unk.	OT06:D-220	
Republican River Bridge	Red Willow	Rural	1939	WPA	--	
*Rulo Bridge	Richardson	Rulo vic.	1938-39	PWA	RH00-066	Highway Bridges
Rulo Viaduct	Richardson	Rulo vic.	1940	Unk.	RH00-084	
Culvert	Richardson	Rural	1938-40	Unk.	RH00-086	
*Ashland Bridge	Saunders	Ashland	1936	PWA	SD01-079	Highway Bridges
Mitchell Municipal Airport	Scotts Bluff	Mitchell	1934	CWA	--	Aviation
Scottsbluff Municipal Airport	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1934	CWA	--	Aviation
Scotts Bluff Monument road	Scotts Bluff	Scottsbluff	1934	CWA/CCC	SF00-035	Within the boundaries of monument but considered NC
*Colclessner Bridge	Sheridan	Rural	1933-1934	PWA	SH00-042	Highway Bridges
*Loosveldt Bridge	Sheridan	Rural	1933-1934	PWA	SH00-043	Highway Bridges
Gordon Airport	Sheriden	Gordon vic.	1935	CWA	SH00-144-147	Aviation
Bridge Repair and Painting Project	Wayne	Rural	1936	WPA	--	
*York Underpass	York	York	1939	WPA	YK11-051	Highway Bridges; WPA is not mentioned in nomination

***Bolded and asterisked** entries are listed in the National Register as of this writing. This list is not exhaustive. "Unk." indicates more research is needed but source is attributed to New Deal. [Sources: SHPO survey files; newspaper records; county histories; Living New Deal website]

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APPENDIX J. Historic American Buildings Survey Projects

HABS #	NEHBS #	Place	Location	When surveyed	Extant	Listed
NE-35-01	OT06: A-003	Otoe County Courthouse	Tenth & Central Sts. Nebraska City	Jan 1934 (M&D) ²¹⁰	Yes	Yes
NE-35-02	N/A	McKinley High School	1500 M Street, Lincoln, Lancaster County	Jan-Apr 1934 (M&D); May 1934 (P)	No	No
NE-35-03	OT06: C-037	The Gant House	NW corner 14th St & 3rd Ave Nebraska City, Otoe Co.	Jan-Feb 1934 (M&D); Mar 1934 (P)	Yes	Cont. ²¹¹
NE-35-04	LC13: D08-004	T. P. Kennard House	1627 H Street Lincoln, Lancaster County	Jan-Feb 1934 (M&D); Apr 1934 (P)	Yes	Yes
NE-35-05	OT06: F-009	St. Benedict Parish Church & School	Clay & Fifth Sts. Nebraska City, Otoe Co.	Feb-Mar 1934 (M&D); Mar 1934 (P)	Yes	Yes
NE-35-06	N/A	Trinity Episcopal Church	1200 J Street Lincoln, Lancaster County	Feb-Apr 1934 (M&D); May 1934 (P)	No	No
NE-35-07	SY02-022	Presbyterian Church	Franklin & 20th Sts. Bellevue, Sarpy County	Feb 1934 (M&D); Mar (P)	Yes	Yes
NE-35-08	LC13: F06-001	William Jennings Bryan House	1625 D Street Lincoln, Lancaster County	Feb-Apr 1934 (M&D); May 1934 (P)	Yes	NHL
NE-35-09	N/A	Town Hall	Main & 23rd Sts. Bellevue, Sarpy County	Feb 1934 (M&D); Mar (P)	No	No
NE-35-10	N/A	Gustav Rohrich Sod House	SE4, SE4 S16, 16N, R1E (Alexis Twp), Bellwood vic. Butler Co.	Feb-Mar 1934 (M&D); May 1934 (P)	No	No
NE-35-11	OT06: A-028	Wessell House	Nebraska Ave & Eighth St [711 3 rd Corso], Nebraska City, Otoe Co.	Feb 1934 (M&D); Mar (P)	Yes	Cont. ²¹²
NE-35-13	N/A	Mitchell House	31st & State Sts, Florence (Omaha), Douglas County	Feb 1934 (M&D); Mar (P)	No	No
NE-35-15	NH03-037	Methodist Church	Fifth Street Brownville, Nemaha County	Mar 1934 (M,D,P)	Yes	Cont. ²¹³
NE-35-17	NH03-020	Governor Robert W. Furnas House	Sixth St, south of Main, Brownville, Nemaha County	Mar-Apr 1934 (M&D); Apr 1934 (P)	Yes	Cont. ²¹⁴
NE-35-19	DK01-001	Lutheran Church	14th [15 th] & Hickory Sts, Dakota City, Dakota County	Apr 1934 (M,D,P)	Yes	Yes
NE-38	NH03-001	A.P. Cogswell House	1st & Nemaha, Brownville, Nemaha County	April 1934 (P)	Yes	Cont. ²¹⁵

²¹⁰ M=measured; D=delineated; P=photographed

²¹¹ Contributing resources to the Nebraska City Historic District.

²¹² Contributing resource to the South Nebraska City Historic District.

²¹³ Contributing resources to the Brownville Historic District.

²¹⁴ Contributing resources to the Brownville Historic District.

²¹⁵ Contributing resources to the Brownville Historic District.

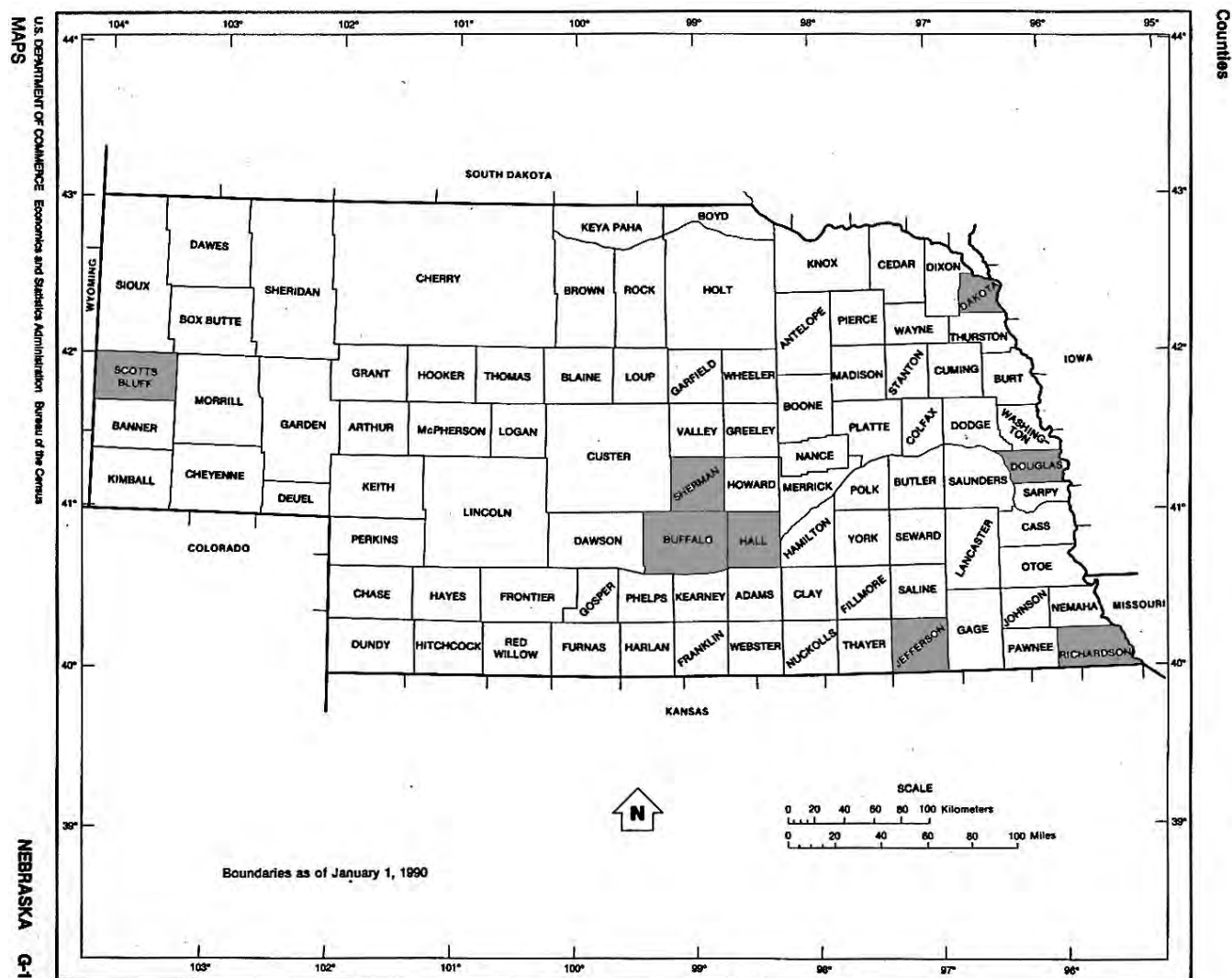
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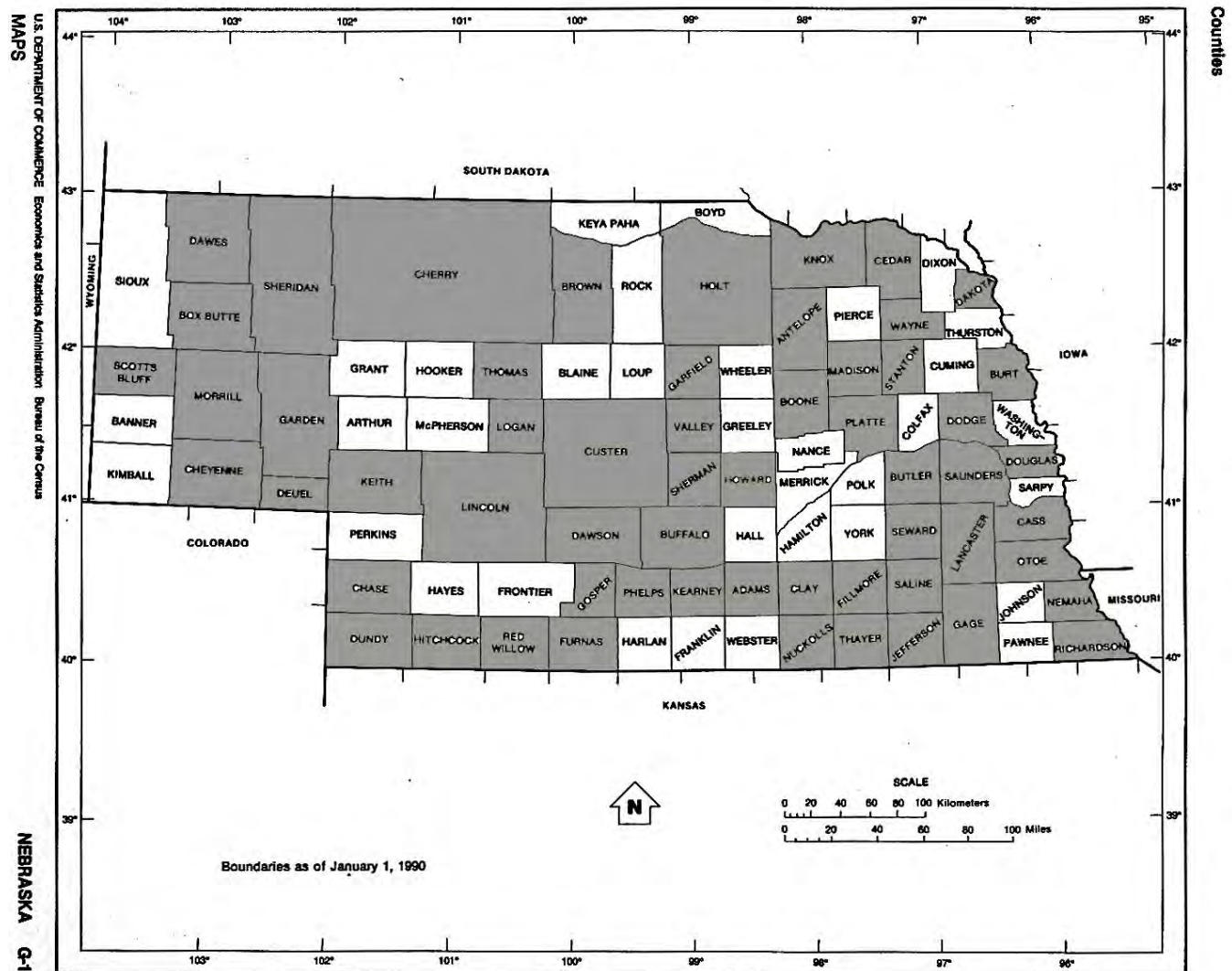
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APPENDIX K. Map of Nebraska showing counties where the Rural Resettlement settlements were located (gray counties).



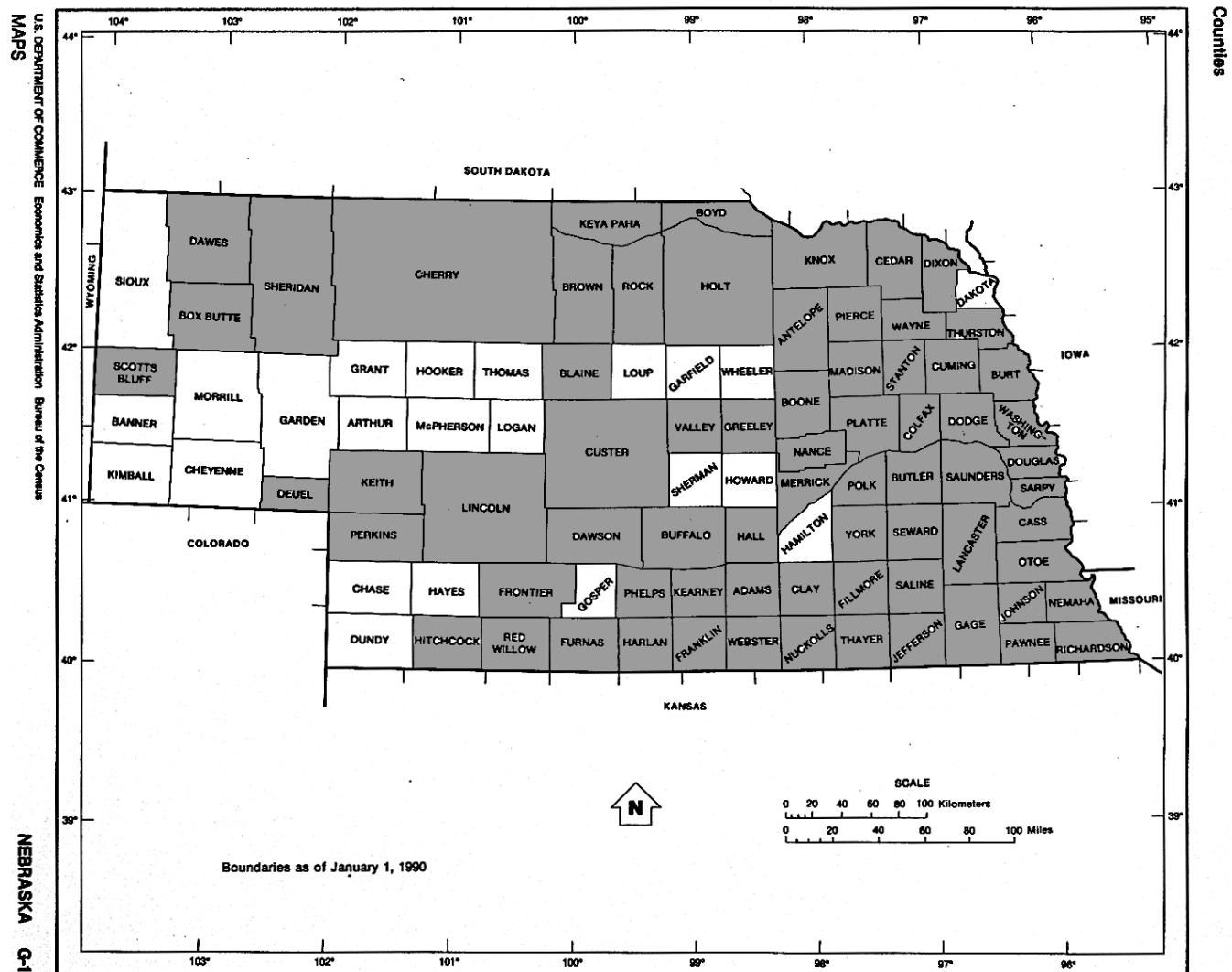
New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska Appendices

APPENDIX L. Map of Nebraska showing location where documented PWA projects occurred (grayed).



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APPENDIX M. Map of Nebraska showing counties where documented WPA projects occurred (grayed).



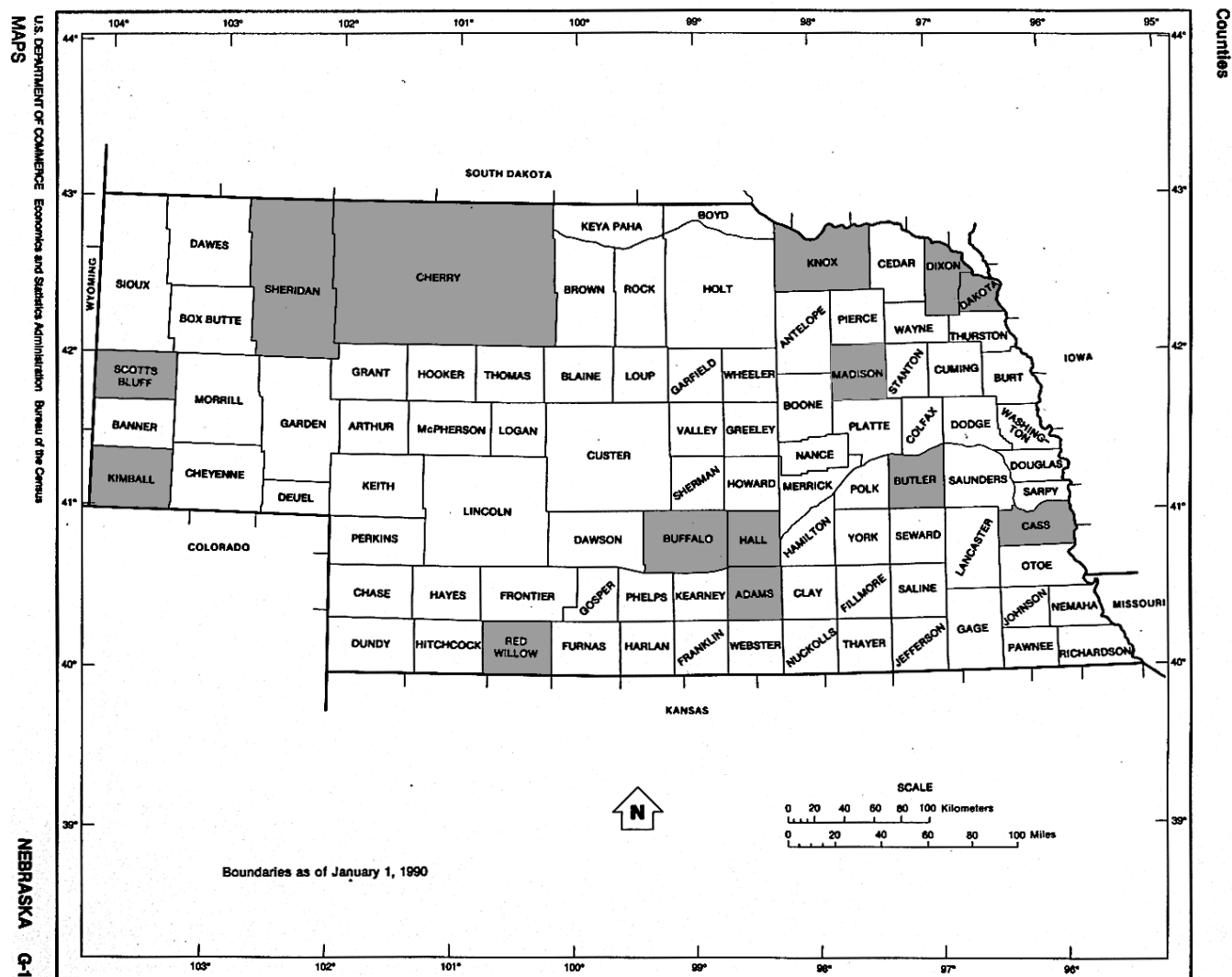
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APPENDIX N. Map of Nebraska showing counties where documented CWA projects occurred (grayed).



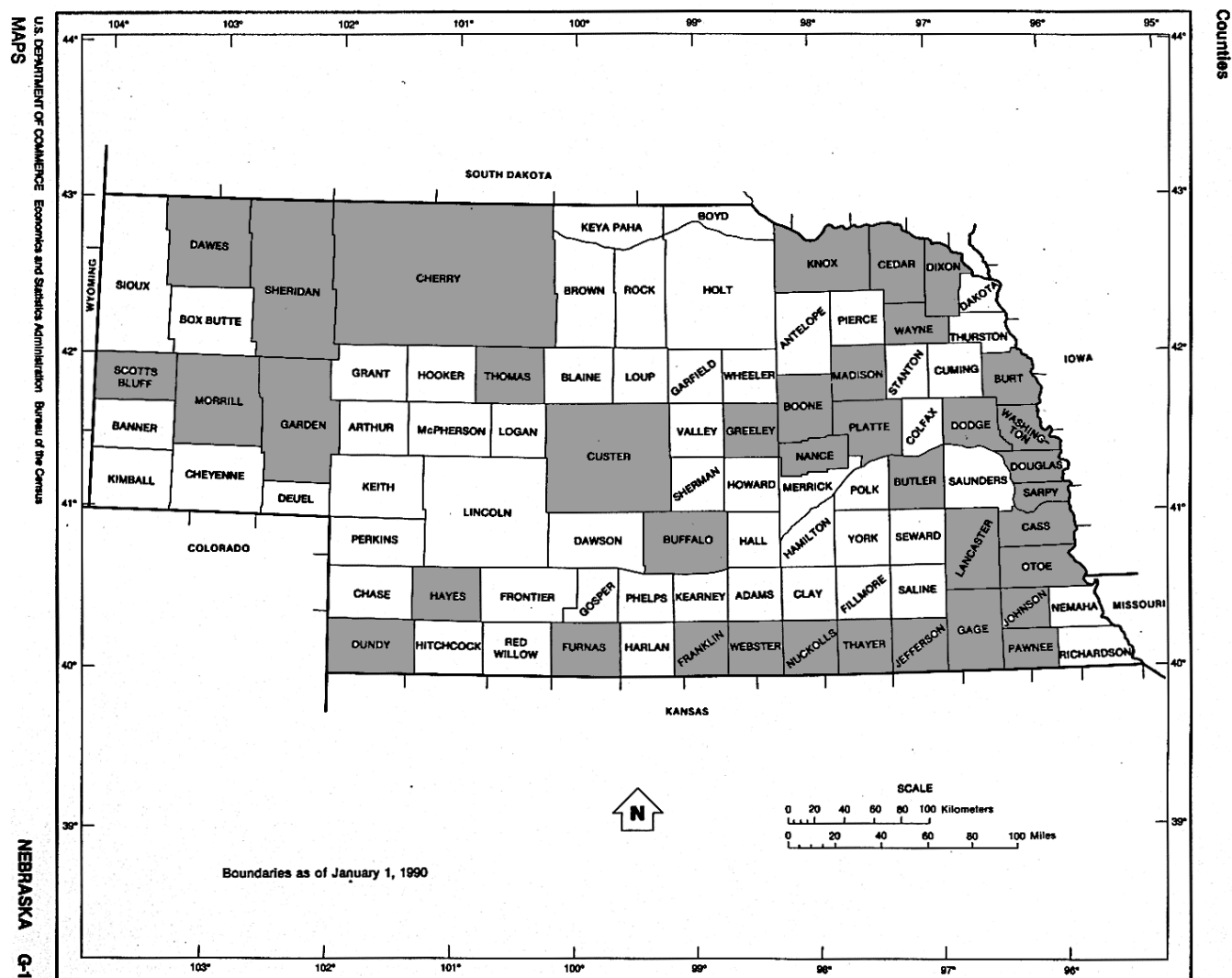
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APPENDIX O. Map of Nebraska showing counties where documented CCC projects occurred and camps were located (grayed).



National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: **COVER DOCUMENTATION**

Multiple Name: **New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska MPS**

State & County: ,

Date Received:
9/30/2019

Date of 45th Day:
11/14/2019

Reference
number:

MC100004611

Reason For Review:

☐ Appeal

☐ PDIL

☐ Text/Data Issue

☐ SHPO Request

☐ Landscape

☐ Photo

☐ Waiver

☐ National

☐ Map/Boundary

☐ Resubmission

☐ Mobile Resource

☐ Period

☐ Other

☐ TCP

☐ Less than 50 years

☐ CLG

☒ **X** Accept

☐ Return

☐ Reject

11/14/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Provides a good context on New Deal activities in the state. Provides property types and registration requirements which, while not ideal, are sufficient for evaluating individual resources within the context

Recommendation/
Criteria

Accept Cover

Reviewer Jim Gabbert

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275

Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments: No see attached SLR: No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

New Deal Work Relief Programs in Nebraska, MPS

Comments

Recommendation: Return for further development of Section F, Property Type Analysis, and Section H, Methods.

This MPS provides a basic context about the resources that resulted from a wide range of New Deal programs in Nebraska. The multiple property document combines a discussion of the various New Deal programs and a general statement of the kinds of resources they created in Nebraska. Other than providing an extensive list of known projects, the submission does not address the rich legacy of resources in Nebraska in any detail. Nor does it add to our understanding of the better known and popular resources that were built in Nebraska at this time or the impact of these programs on local economics, quality of life, recreation, entertainment, and public welfare. On the positive side, the document provides extensive lists of known resources that combine historical data on actual projects and the findings of 35 years of historic resource survey across the state of Nebraska; what is needed, however, is a well-defined strategy that considers the condition/integrity of existing resources and establishes a threshold for National Register eligibility. The documentation is being returned to the state office for additional documentation, analysis, and, in some instances, clarification. Section E, Statement of Context; Section F, the property type analysis; and Section H, survey and evaluation methodology—all need to be expanded. If you wish to discuss the following comments or have any questions, please contact Linda McClelland at linda_mcclelland@nps.gov or by telephone at 202-354-2258.

General

Several broad issues are reflected in the way the document is currently structured. First, there seems to be a limited perspective about how the multiple property approach might be useful in evaluating a wide range of resources and resource types that are currently undocumented. There is little analysis linking survey findings with registration requirements; nor is there an explanation of how survey findings were used to inform the registration requirements. And finally little or no attention is given resources that may exist in the form of historic districts or historic landscapes.

Technical issues: Pages that mix embedded images in the body of the text are no longer being accepted due to the difficulty in digitizing these pages. Instead, the embedded images on pages F.1, 5, 8, 12, & 17 should be moved to the end of the MPDF and placed on numbered continuation sheets that are not part of the text.

Section E

Given the increasing wealth of literature available on the New Deal legacy, the length of time the national preservation program has recognized significant resources associated

with the U.S. Government's relief measures, as well as the variety of Nebraska properties already listed (from courthouses with murals to state and local parks and swimming pools), we recommend the context be expanded to reflect current scholarship and include additional information about the effects these programs had on shaping the Nebraska landscape, enhancing community life and character, and fostering economic stability.

We recommend that several sentences be added to the discussion of each New Deal program to highlight one or more of the surviving Nebraska resources/projects completed under the programs listed; this may include resources already listed as well as those identified in surveys but not actually listed. It would also be useful to incorporate a note on the known or likely survival of resources associated with certain programs and identify the types of resources that may exist in the form of historic districts (for example, recreation areas) or only as archeological resources (for example CCC camps). Perhaps resources such as entire rural resettlement communities or clusters are unlikely to be remain intact and be recognizable today, but their historic associations may still be recalled through surviving community resources (recreation buildings, workshops, etc.) or a relatively unaltered homestead or small house. Similarly, there may archeological values attached to the places where CCC camps were once located or trees were cultivated and grown for shelterbelts and reforestation projects.

In addition, we suggest that the following corrections or additions be made to the narrative of the Statement of Context.

ECW/CCC: Please expand the discussion of the role of the ECW/CCC, WPA, and CWA projects in landscape conservation and recreational development. The list of CCC projects that fell under the subject of landscape conservation is quite impressive and goes far beyond the few things mentioned here. Note (p. E.3, par. 1) the CCC did more than build buildings and structures in state and national parks – they helped plan and develop entire parks: with impounded lakes for swimming and boating, campgrounds, group camps, road systems, and networks of hiking and bridle trails.

The discussion (p. E.3, par. 2) seems to overlook an essential and highly relevant feature of the CCC program – that it was an interagency effort and that camps were sponsored by various agencies, including the USFS, NPS, Bureau of Reclamation, Soil Conservation Service, and Department of Defense. In many states, the NPS, through the CCC organization, developed state and local parks and, in some cases, entire state park systems. Similarly the Forest Service sponsored camps in national forests and grasslands. Did the CCC work on the Prairie States Forestry Project (under the U.S. Forest Service)? Were any ECW companies consisting of WWI veterans assigned to projects in Nebraska? Were CCC camps assigned to military installations as the nation began to prepare for war in 1940? Of the approximately 45 camps locations in Nebraska, what federal agencies were represented and what kinds of projects were these camps involved in? Is any information available about the major CCC-supply depot that was located in Nebraska (it served many states in the region I believe)? What state and local (metropolitan) parks hosted CCC camps in Nebraska? What are the camp numbers and locations in Nebraska?

To what extent was CCC work coordinated with work done under WPA, PWA, or other Federal New Deal relief or construction programs.

Certainly more important things can be said for the CCC legacy in Nebraska than its effect on the prison population (p. 3, par. 3). I recommend you drop the reference to the reformatory since it only reinforces the myth that the CCC youth tended to be delinquents—a misconception that the national CCC alumni organization and others are trying hard to dispel.

With so many CCC camps listed in the inventory, what is the likelihood today of finding the sites of these camps intact and undisturbed? What kinds of research questions are the undisturbed sites likely to address? Is it known where the CCC enrollees of Nebraska's camps came from, or whether young men from Lincoln, Omaha, or other large cities in Nebraska worked on instate CCC project?

There is substantial documentation available on the work and workmanship of the CCC in local and state parks, much of it in easily accessible sources (some online at the NPS website). These resources are most often distinguished by their landscape character and likely form historic districts or park landscapes. In addition a nation-wide MPS, "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks, 1916 to 1942," provides a framework for identifying and evaluating development areas within parks as well as entire parks. This was prepared by the NPS's National Register program for use throughout the nation; despite its title it also includes FERA, WPA, CWA, and CCC work in local parks as well as national and state ones. In addition to the national park camp at Scotts Bluff National Monument, John Paige's administrative history of the NPS's CCC program lists state park camps at Niobrara Island State Park (SP-4) in Knox County, Ponca State Park (SP-5) in Dixon County, Wildcat Hills Rec. Grounds (SP-6) in Scotts Bluff and Banner Counties, and Levi Carter Metro. Park (SP-7) in Douglas County. There were also camps for the first enrollment period only at Louisville Recreational Grounds (SP-1), Fremont Recreational Grounds (SP-2), and Camp Morton (SP-3), in Benkelman.

Indian ECW/CCC: What specific projects did the Indian ECW companies work on in Nebraska? What tribes did the enrollees represent? Apart from local proximity, what distinguished the Indian camps from the ordinary ones? Where were the Indian camps located in Nebraska? What kinds of improvements did they make? How much of the CCC activity took place on reservation land or was intended to benefit the local tribes? In what ways is this legacy visible on the land today?

PWA: This was a massive construction-oriented program not a conservation program (page E.4, par. 1) as noted (damming rivers for hydroelectricity was energy development not an effort to conserve natural resources). PWA projects, in my understanding, were large-scale, complex projects requiring substantial planning and construction by skilled labor (such as housing projects, hydroelectric dams, park highways); many projects were regional in scope and impact. Although projects such as schools and hospitals were constructed through both the PWA and the WPA projects, the WPA projects were more

likely to be local projects hiring local men. You might mention the New Deal emphasis on national resource planning. What were the principal dam or irrigation projects in Nebraska? Did these provide hydroelectricity, recreation, irrigation, flood control, or water supply? Did any of these projects require the resettlement of displaced farmers and families? PWA had a short-lived housing program (1933-35) directed at housing the urban poor—Logan Fontenelle (1936) in Omaha was constructed under this program.

WPA: Please expand (page E. 4, par. 2) the discussion of the WPA in Nebraska—the lists in Section F indicate that this was likely the most extensive of the New Deal programs in Nebraska and the most tangible of the properties associated with the New Deal era. The PWA and WPA programs were administered in very different ways, with the WPA funding being funneled and administered through a State-run organization. Please clarify how this program worked (you may have to consult sources other than Phoebe Cutler). WPA often focused on improving and enhancing local and regional facilities – for recreation, health, education, military training, culture, civic improvements, etc. What is meant by the WPA being in charge of hiring and supervision? Wasn't this done by the state-run organization? How were projects distributed across the state? Were they focused on areas hardest hit by the Great Depression-- small towns, large cities, rural redevelopment, etc.? The introduction of modern facilities and utilities in communities across the state was one of the lasting contributions—utilitarian in character, they represent the state-of-the-art infrastructure of the times and contributed greatly to sanitation, communication, transportation, and civic improvement. How was WPA labor used in other programs, for example, the Prairie States Forestry Project?

Please describe (page E.4, par. 3) the architectural character of WPA-era construction, citing any Nebraska examples. Were certain techniques associated with particular types of construction (public buildings versus rustic park shelters)?

National Youth Administration. Please explain (page E.4, par. 4) what kind of resources were affiliated with this program, and are likely to convey associative values today?

Prairie States Forestry Project. Please expand the discussion of the Prairie States Forestry Project (page E.4, par. 5). Identify how this program operated in Nebraska, where ranger/field stations and work camps were set up, and what areas were identified for planting. Did the CCC carry out most of the planting? To what extent was the shelter belt completed in Nebraska, and where was it located? The context should provide some idea as to whether segments or other associated facilities (nurseries, experiment stations, etc.) are likely to be visible on the landscape, how they can be identified, and to what extent they constitute character-defining features of larger rural landscapes.

Resettlement Administration/Farm Security Administration. This seems to have been an important program for a rural state seriously affected by the drought and dust storms of the 1930s. Please note (page E.5, par. 2) that the farmstead program continued to be operated under the FSA; it was not disbanded at that time. Drop the statement about the land being sold and people scattered—this suggests the homes were abandoned, which

doesn't fit the usual pattern of how the RA/FSA ownership of these communities changed. James Gabbert of our office, who has done research on the rural settlement programs, tells me the cooperatives were generally successful and continued into the 1940s, with most of the property not being sold until the mid-1940s. It is my understanding that the program was absorbed into the Federal housing agency in the 1940s and the communities subdivided and homes eventually sold. Is anything known about the original design of these homes and their yards? How would one identify these houses today? Perhaps the 1 to 2 acre lots were subdivided and have since been infilled with later housing. Who designed the houses? Were they standardized from settlement to settlement? Did they meet the standards of other federal housing programs, esp. FHA? You might note that the extensive photographic record that the FSA compiled by sending photographers to Nebraska and other states to record the effects of the drought, dust storms, and economic depression on urban and rural life and to document the rural homestead program is available online at the Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs Online Database. My own browsing in the collection turned up photographs of the Twin Rivers, Douglas County, Kearney, Fairbury, and Scottsbluff projects showing community buildings, farm houses, outbuildings, and unique structures such as underground storage structures and silo trenches. FSA photographer John Vachon spent considerable time in Nebraska in 1938 with RA officials or county agents; he documented the RA communities under construction, families receiving RA loans for farm improvements, the general conditions of area affected by the Dust Bowl, and even conditions in downtown Omaha. This is an invaluable resource for identifying the physical characteristics of the buildings and properties associated with the program. Although it might be feasible to find an intact historic district in one of the RA communities, finding surviving community facilities or a remnant house and yard would be more likely. Archeological remnants of these communities may be particularly important in addressing key social and economic issues related to rural conditions in the 1930s and with the programs aimed at rural uplift and economic relief.

You may want to add the following New Deal programs to the context statement and explain their impact on Nebraska's economy and landscape (page 5 +):

Rural Electrification. How extensive was the Rural Electrification program in Nebraska in the 1930s, and how did it affect rural life, agriculture, and industry in the state? To what extent is the infrastructure and service facilities associated with this program visible on the land today?

Soil Conservation Service: In addition to the forestry project, the soil conservation service introduced other techniques to promote land conservation. These included contour plowing, terracing, planting of windbreaks, building small dams for retention ponds, etc. How did these programs help shape and change the rural landscape of Nebraska? Did they succeed in stabilizing the deleterious affects of drought and dust storms of the 1930s? Did the CCC or WPA provide labor for demonstration projects? Have any of the locations for demonstration projects been identified? What physical features might mark such projects today?

Federal Housing Administration: The earliest program was focused on encouraging home improvements by offering small federally-backed loans. The FHA had two principal programs to promote private housing construction through a program of mortgage insurance—one to stimulate the construction of neighborhoods of small homes, and the other to encourage private investment in large-scale rental housing projects that met federal housing standards. This agency set the terms for private federally-insured mortgages. Housing construction under the Lanham Act in 1940 targeted 37 critical defense areas where housing was needed in preparation for World War II—what areas in Nebraska were affected by this law, and as a result had a concentration of rental housing communities (both apartment-style and single family housing).

United States Housing Authority: This program funded low-income, subsidized urban housing designed as an antidote to urban blight and development of slums. Established by the Wagner Act (1937), this housing program funneled money to urban projects through local housing authorities. The Public Housing in the United States MPS lists two Omaha projects--Southside Terrace (1939) and Logan Fontenelle Addition (1940); the Library of Congress's Office of War Information/Farm Security Administration online collection includes several photographs of an Omaha housing project.

Fine Arts Projects: There were a number of New Deal programs that employed artists, writers, etc. Among these are the Public Works of Art Project, CWA, U.S. Treasury mural program, WPA, and the Federal Arts Project. These projects provided work for writers, artists, performers, and dramatists, and contributed to theatrical events and local literature and history. The tangible results of this program embellish post offices, courthouses, and other public buildings and are, in some cases, visible in outdoor theaters, community buildings, and gymnasiums built by the WPA or CCC. An exhibition of Depression-era art took place at the State Museum of the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1985.

Section F. Property Type Analysis.

The property type analysis and registration requirements need to be expanded to recognize surviving resources that may exist in the form of historic districts, planned communities, and cultural landscapes. It should also consider how resources that are not standing structures or buildings can be eligible for National Register listing, for example, segments of highways or irrigation systems, identifiable portions of the shelter belt, artificially dammed reservoirs and lakes, and the land making up a conservation area or a public park. Many of these will include landscape components.

Infrastructure

This property type focuses on public utilities and transportation infrastructure.

Page F.2 In many places the New Deal programs provided a modern infrastructure of sanitary sewers, paved streets, sidewalks, hydroelectric dams, or power plants that had not previously existed. The significance section needs to explain how these projects 1)

contributed to the local economy, and 2) upgraded the essential public utilities upon which residents, merchants, manufacturers, and farmers relied to make a living, compete in the market place, and achieve a modern standard of living. Please elaborate further on the statement that “when considering irrigation systems and electricity generation for National Register eligibility. These properties should be considered as a whole unit, as no single portion of the system would exist without the others.” Doesn’t this statement suggest that a landscape view should be taken and that the existence of a historic district be considered? Could one go further and state that the small features and fragments mentioned on page F.1 (e.g. bridges and culverts) may not be individually eligible but would be contributing resources in the context of a historic district (e.g. a substantial segment of an important regional highway)? Please describe the general types of property that fall into the category of infrastructure and explain the conditions under which a historic district may be the eligible property. Note that in some cases the historic district may have a longer period of significance than the New Deal resource. Please explain how resources such as the McCook canning plant (cooperative agriculture) or the Sutton Cemetery (village improvement) fit the infrastructure property type. Please select several of the examples or groups of resources from the list on pages F.3 -5 to be highlighted in the discussion of the property type’s significance.

Page F. 3-5. It would be useful to break this long list into various categories based on type of infrastructure (e.g. roads and bridges, power plants, or hydroelectric dams). Shouldn’t airports and airport terminals be included under transportation infrastructure? Aren’t there identifiable portions of national highways, such as the Lincoln, Meridien, and Detroit to Denver highways that were constructed/upgraded with WPA labor? Cemeteries should be moved to the property type for public buildings and facilities. Are power and flood control dams differentiated here from recreational dams or small dams used on farmsteads to control erosion, provide irrigation, or form retention ponds for livestock (these two latter groups should be included in separate property types related to recreation and conservation). Sections of shelterbelt and small dams for agricultural use are better suited to a separate property type devoted to conservation resources.

Parks and Recreational Facilities

This property type covers resources related to recreation. The emphasis here is on structures such as bathhouses and band shells rather than the recreational area or city park they are a part of. The property type analysis needs to be expanded to address how New Deal resources may be eligible in the form of historic districts or historic landscapes.

Page F.5 Generally recreational resources were constructed in the context of a larger public park – either a local, county, state or national one. In some cases, a single resource such as a bandstand or amphitheater might be constructed with WPA funds; in others, the entire park might be under development or improvement. This section gives short-shrift to the widely acknowledged role of the CCC in park development and the construction of park buildings and structures. Generally one or more CCC companies would be assigned to a state or national park (and in some cases a city or local park) for several six-month periods and carried out a multitude of tasks such as erosion control,

building culverts and stone walls, eradication of noxious weeds, clearing picnic grounds, grading trails and fire roads, and building small park buildings and structures. In some cases this work was done in conjunction with CWA or WPA projects of a more substantial nature. What is meant by the statement that “they were intended to reinforce the beauty of the terrain?” Facilities in scenic areas or natural parks were to provide for visitor comfort, use, and pleasure often while protecting the natural scenery and resources—facilities were to harmonize with the natural setting and be as inconspicuous as possible—thus the use of native stone and timber. You might also address the evaluation of parks which existed before the New Deal but had a definite CCC/WPA layer in the 1930s. For more information you might refer to the “Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS,” which provides registration requirements for parks, campgrounds, scenic roads, and day-use areas.

Page F.6 Please provide an example of the use of recycled materials. What was more often the case was the use of locally quarried stone or native timber. Use the term “fireplace” or “camp stove” instead of “oven” when referring to facilities for outdoor cooking. It should be noted that park improvements (including athletic fields and recreation areas) often included the construction or installation of small-scale features, including water fountains, benches, lighting, restrooms, paved walks, graded trails, plantings, arbors and gazebos, sculpture, or memorials. To what extent are these likely to be present and warrant the evaluation of a park as a designed landscape or historic district? Please mention that the so-called “lighthouse” was a lookout tower and a picnic shelter.

Page F.7. Replace the word “compelled” with a more appropriate term to describe the increased and often involuntary leisure time people experienced in the New Deal. You might state how recreational projects went hand-in-hand with conservation measures (for example, manmade lakes or planting of streambeds to curb erosion). Please reword the sentence about WPA- and NYA-constructed recreational resources; it is unclear what program was tapped to build the Scout facilities. This might be a good place to discuss how the work of various programs could be coordinated to develop a critical mass of community resources in a single community. For example, Fairbury, one of the rural resettlements, also had social clubs—were these constructed by the RA as part of the resettlement community plan? Was the labor provided by WPA workers and/or the CCC? Lake Minature was developed as a state recreational area near the Scottsbluff Resettlement community—what other kinds of landscape conservation work did the CCC do at Scottsbluff in addition to constructing the lighthouse? Were the state recreational areas developed in Nebraska part of a state park system?

Page F.8 Please provide a more detailed definition of eligible property types and the conditions under which they may be individually eligible or contribute to a historic district. The property type analysis should explain how the registration requirements have been applied to known existing resources.

Directly address the conditions in which individual remnants (e.g. a pylon to a park, isolated culvert or water fountain) can convey a significant association with the New

Deal programs. Each type should be discussed in terms of the importance of its function/role, the importance of its type of construction, and its ability to evoke historic associations related to the original resource as a whole.

On page F.8 under Registration Requirements, the first sentence of the boilerplate statement needs to be corrected to indicate that it pertains to recreational resources. Differentiate between the requirements for local and state significance. Replace the phrase “additions to the main facade are particularly troubling” with a less colloquial phrase such as “additions that obscure the main façade(s) seriously compromise a building’s historic integrity and are grounds for finding a building ineligible or noncontributing.” Note, park buildings often have more than one primary façade, for example, a bathhouse may have an entrance from the parking lot, another opening onto a beach or pool deck—what happens if one facade is original, the other altered, or if the landscape elements such as flagged entrance or porch, plantings, benches, lighting are intact-- even though a first aid station has been built on the water side? When a landscape approach is taken, other features (the artificial lake or pond) and setting can contribute to the integrity of the park landscape so that the integrity of built resources may not matter as much.

Pages F.9-11. Again it would be useful to break down the list of associated resources into categories by function (e.g. city and town parks, fairgrounds, state parks, athletic fields, swimming pools). Why is the Niobrara Ranger Station listed under parks and recreation? While the forest service did provide for some recreational land uses, it was far more involved in planting activities, production of commercial timber, and, on the Great Plains, planting shelterbelts, and reestablishing grassland. I suggest a separate category be identified for conservation resources, and this type of resource be analyzed in the context of New Deal conservation programs along with sections of the shelterbelt and agricultural improvements. This property type could also include properties associated with the Soil Conservation Service demonstrations, and much of the CCC work that tended to be aimed at controlling erosion and stabilizing the soil.

Public Buildings & Facilities

This property type focuses on public buildings serving governmental and educational functions. It also includes hospitals, armories, courthouses, and post offices. I recommend it add “facilities” so that it more broadly treats buildings set on public grounds, civic centers, as well as landscape resources such as cemeteries.

Page F.11. Please address the presence of murals, tile-work, sculpture, and other artwork that may have been produced by New Deal artists and installed in New Deal-era schools, post offices, courthouses, etc. Name and describe the subjects of notable works of art in Nebraska’s public buildings. Identify some of the artists hired by the Fine Arts Project and other New Deal programs to do work in Nebraska. In what ways did this artwork reflect regionalism and themes in Nebraska’s history?

Page F.12. Please expand the statement of significance to explain the value that this legacy had on providing employment, upgrading cultural and educational resources in towns and cities across the state, and in providing much-needed modern civic facilities.

Pages F.12-17. It would be better if this extensive list was broken down into various categories by function (e.g. school buildings, auditoriums, and gymnasiums; post offices, police and fire stations; county courthouses; libraries and museums). I recommend moving cemeteries listed elsewhere to this list. You might want to move airports and air-related resources to the infrastructure property type.

Camps and Cooperative Residences

This property type is intended as a catch-all for CCC, WPA, and transient camps and resources related to Resettlement Farmsteads and Communities. The Agricultural improvements and stabilization efforts in the Great Plains States were extremely important as were the shelterbelts in the Prairie States Forestry Project. These programs should be given substantial emphasis in the multiple property documentation form and make up a separate property type focused on land conservation measures—in agriculture and forestry. Like the temporary camps that housed CCC enrollees, WPA laborers, and transient workers, these resources may be difficult to find in the landscape and may exist in the form of undisturbed archeological sites. Despite these similarities, the kinds of information the two different types would provide are markedly unlike. For this reason I suggest this property type be divided into two separate property types, one for the temporary work-related camps and the other for farmsteads, resettlement communities, and rural conservation measures.”

More information is needed about the so-called transient camps—these are not CCC/ECW camps or WPA camps; how did they operate, who did they house, and what kinds of work did they do? The majority of CCC camps in Nebraska were likely SCS or USFS camps, there may also be some Bureau of Reclamation camps. Please identify the agency affiliated with the various camps that are listed. Have any remnant camps survived? Perhaps adapted for new uses? What kinds of research questions are the sites of abandoned camps likely to answer and how is this information important?

Page F.18 The description of resources related to the resettlement program needs to be expanded and the discussion of its significance revised. This program was intended to move people off sub-marginal agricultural lands and resettle them in cooperatively owned and operated rural communities where they had access to improved housing, community facilities, schools, and cooperative industrial facilities. In addition to the rural settlement communities at Falls City, Fairbury, Kearney, Grand Island, Two Cities, Scottsbluff, and Loup City, the Resettlement Administration provided loans to farmers elsewhere for repairs and improvements. It is likely that many of the farm improvements demonstrated in Soil Conservation Service projects elsewhere on the Great Plains were carried out in the resettlement communities as well often with CCC or WPA labor. This work likely included irrigation measures, construction of check dams, construction of food storage facilities, retention ponds, and windbreaks. This New Deal MPS provides

an opportunity to examine the extent to which programs were coordinated in the resettlement communities. Even if the communities no longer retain standing structures, surface and subsurface evidence may make the sites of the former resettlement farmsteads rich archeological sites. Please expand the discussion of the kinds of information these sites may provide and what factors should be considered in treating these sites as eligible National Register properties.

Page F. 17 When the cooperatives were dismantled what happened to the farms and community buildings. What kinds of resources were held by cooperatives, dairies, canning operations, gas stations, etc.? Do any of the buildings or structures designed for these purposes survive in the associated rural communities?

As for the Shelterbelt project, it would be useful to know how this work was organized and which ranger stations listed were part of the Prairie States Forestry Project. What CCC camps were involved in cultivating the trees and planting the trees for the Nebraska sections of the shelterbelt. Please describe the character-defining features of the planted areas, noting the typical species, likely condition, any topographical features, relationship to water, and possible uses as nurseries.

Additional New Deal Programs

You might also consider adding a section on housing that would include PWA housing projects; federally-subsidized public housing and privately-developed, federally-insured (FHA) apartment communities and neighborhoods of small houses and

Section H: Please expand the discussion of the research, survey, and evaluation methods used in developing this MPS. When an MPS is developed in conjunction with a field survey, the context and the survey should inform the discussion of eligibility and registration requirements. If an inventory of eligible properties has resulted, the registration requirements will be drawn from the decisions on what has been determined eligible. This process is also useful for discussing the specific problems that those making evaluations are likely to face and for explaining a rational justification for decisions.

What does the inventory of properties listed represent? Are these properties that were identified through research using historical records of New Deal agencies? To what extent have they been identified in field survey? Please explain how the list was compiled and how it will be used to identify surviving resources. Also, explain how this information was used to determine registration requirements. While it is useful to have a master list of known projects, this list needs to be in part analyzed and field tested to determine a strategy for field verification and to define appropriate thresholds for integrity as a basis for registration requirements. It is unclear how existing information about known examples has been used to establish registration requirements. You might also mention that a number of New Deal resources are linked with other Nebraska MPSs—for example, highway bridges, courthouses, and highway development.

Section I. Major Bibliographical References

Please expand and update the Bibliography, adding the following and including related Nebraska MPSs. One requirement of a MPS is that it is based on up-to-date scholarship and research. Below are listed some additional sources and studies.

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September 26, 2019

Jim Gabbert
NPS-National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240



Re: New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska, Multiple Property Documentation Form, Statewide, NE

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

Enclosed is the resubmission packet for the New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska, Multiple Property Documentation Form, for the state Nebraska. Your office returned the original nomination to the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office for revision in 2010. Our office believes that the request revisions have been made and are resubmitting the document for your review. The enclosed contents are as follows:

- The signed first page of the New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska, Multiple Property Documentation Form; and
- One (1) archival disc with the true and correct copy of the nomination for the New Deal-era Resources in Nebraska, Multiple Property Documentation Form in PDF format and a copy of the National Park Service's comments from 2010 in PDF format.

If you have any questions regarding the submitted materials, feel free to contact me at the phone number or email address below.

Sincerely,

David L. Calease
National Register Coordinator
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office
Phone: 402-471-4775
david.calease@nebraska.gov

Enclosures (2): Signed National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form cover sheet
1 disc with Multiple Property Documentation Form

1500 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1651
P: 402.471.3270
P: 800.833.6747
F: 402.471.3100
history.nebraska.gov