Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** 

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

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **JUN** 1 0 1975

DATE ENTERED AUG 6 1975

SEE I	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO TYPE ALL ENTRIES (			RMS
NAME				
HISTORIC				
	Historic District			
AND/OR COMMON	MIOCOLIO DIOCIZO			
LOCATION	<b>T</b>			
STREET & NUMBER		,1	S 26	
Three mile	es southwest of Lewel	1en along U	NOT FOR PUBLICA	TION
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL	DISTRICT
Lewellen	<u>X</u>	VICINITY OF		
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>Nebraska</u>		31	Garden	069
CLASSIFIC	ATION			en e
CATEGORY	OWNERGUID	CTATUO	en e	DECENT HOS
	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRESENT USE
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STRUCTURE	PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCI	7
SITE	X_BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATION	
OBJECT		ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAIN	
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNME	
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRI≜ —MILITARY	L ATRANSPORTATION  OTHER:
NAME  Multiple ( STREET & NUMBER	PROPERTY  Dwnership			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
_		VICINITY OF		
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC.			•
STREET & NUMBER	County Clerk			
SIKEEL & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN	Garden County Co	urthouse	STATE	
Oshkosh				
	TO A DIONI IN DIVIOR	INC CLIDATENC	·	aska
KEPKESEN	ITATION IN EXIST	ING SURVE 15		
TITLE			•	
Historic ]	Preservation in Nebra	ska		
DATE				
1971		FEDERAL	_3STATECOUNTY	LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Nebraska State Histo	rical Society		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	<del></del>
1500 R St	reet Lincoln		Nebra	iska



#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

CHECK ONE

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_XDETERIORATED

Register of the Carrier Carrier

\_\_UNALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

≚GOOD \_\_RUINS \_\_FAIR \_\_UNEXPOSED \_\_MOVED

DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ash Hollow Historic District is located three miles southeast of Lewellen, Garden County, Nebraska. Ash Hollow District measures roughly four miles in length, 1,000 feet wide between its gateway cliffs at the North Platte River up to 2,000 feet rim to rim with an average depth of about 250 feet (Mattes 1969: 281).

Ash Hollow was one of the more notable landmarks along the Oregon-California Overland Trail. Here was located fresh water flowing from springs, a fairly constant source of firewood (it must be remembered that this is quite remarkable for the tree-less plains), and grasses for grazing for pioneer livestock.

The spectacular entrance to Ash Hollow was a steep perpendicular hill referred to as "Windlass; Hill", although there are no contemporary accounts to verify the Windlass system. Along the face of the rough terrain of Windlass Hill are the deep trough-like remains of the transcontinental migration. These ruts are some of the 1 most spectacular evidence of heavy wagon traffic along the trail's 2,000 mile length. (Mattes 1969: 283).

Little alterations have been attempted at Ash Hollow except the district is now transversed by U.S. Highway 26, which follows very closely the route used by the Oregon Trail.

The terrain is extremely rough due to the depth of the draws and canyons converging on the Platte. In an area without notable landmarks, Ash Hollow with its high white cliffs, wild flowers, fresh water springs, trees, and shrubs was surely an oasis on the long trek across the plains.

## PERIOD X PREHISTORIC

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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•		_INVENTION .		Western settlement
<u>1900-</u>	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY)
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_XTRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC _	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	X.MILITARY '	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
ZZI NEMSTORIC	- TENISTONIC	COMMONT	LANDSCAFE ANCHITECTORE	RELIGION

COMMUNITY PLANNING

SPECIFIC DATES

1847-1860

XARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ash Hollow Historic District includes some very moteworthy sites of history.

One can safely state that man has occupied the area of Ash Hollow for many thousands of years. Perhaps the most notable is Ash Hollow Cave, a registered National Historic Landmark investigated by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1939.

In 1855 General Harney's troops attacked Little Thunder's Ogallala's and Brules near here. This conflict has been referred to as the Battle of Ash Hollow or Blue Water. After the Indians were defeated, a small sod fortification was constructed at the mouth of Ash Hollow. This fortification was roughly 20 x 40 feet enclosed by a sod wall of undetermined dimensions. It was designated "Fort Grattan". This fortification was used primarily as a supply depot and a place for the wounded. Fort Grattan also served as a government mail station to replace the one which had been destroyed the year before. It was apparently abandoned by the spring of 1856, and a new mail station was built near the mouth of the canyon.

During the period of 1850-53 the area of Ash Hollow was the site of a fur trading post. The site of this fur trading post has been excavated by an archeologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. This structure was apparently of log construction containing a stone chimney and artifacts which can be attributed to the period 1840-1860, which generally confirm the historic dates of 1850-53. The archeological investigation did not reveal the size or the exact placement of structural remains, and the written history is very vague and sketchy. This site, like so many others, was partly destroyed by relic collectors and vandals, making interpretation difficult.

Near the mouth of Ash Hollow is located the graves of numerous unknown pioneers, a few of which are marked. Perhaps the most notable is that of Rachel Pattison, who died June 19, 1945. Rachel's grave was the beginning of the Ash Hollow Cemetery.

Ash Hollow Historic District is located on the south side of the North Platte River three miles southeast of Lewellen, Garden County, Nebraska.

Included within the limits of this Historic District are: (1) Ash Hollow Cave (25 GD 2), National Historic Landmark; (2) "Windlass Hill"; (3) the location of Fort Grattan; (4) the location of an 1850's fur trading post; (5) Ash Hollow Cemetery; plus numerous extant trail ruts directly or indirectly associated with the Oregon-California Trail.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Mattes, Merrill J. The Great Platte River Road: The Covered Wagon Mainline via Fort Kearney to Fort Laramie. Nebraska State Historical Society <u>Publications</u> Vol. 25 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAI	L DATA		U	7m ok
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hern line of sections	$22$ , $23$ , and $\mathbb{W}_{2}$	section 24, a	nd on the west	by sections 22,
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	CODE
11 FORM PREPARE  NAME/TITLE  Ronald L. Kivett,				
NAME/TITLE Ronald L. Kivett, ORGANIZATION	Archeologist		DATE	
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 2 6 1975
DATE ENTERED AUG 6 1975

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

**ITEM NUMBER** 

**PAGE** 

LIST OF LANDOWNERS

Mr. Fred Grapes Big Springs, NE 69122

Mr. Roland Orr Lewellen, NE 69147

Mr. Melvin Keckley Chappell, NE 69129

Mr. Vern Callsen Mr. Irvin Callsen RR #1 Big Springs, NE 69122

Mr. Oren Clary Lewellen, NE 69147

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Lincoln, Nebraska

Ash Hollow State Park

