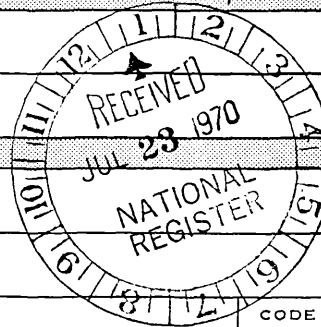


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Cuming	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.7.26.0004	DATE 7/29/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
Neihardt (John G.) Study

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Northwest corner, Washington & Grove Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Bancroft

STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **68004** COUNTY: **Cuming** CODE: **26** COUNTY: **Cuming** CODE: **039**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
John G. Neihardt Foundation (Dr. Lyle Egerman, President)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Bancroft** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **26**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **West Point** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **26**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Nebraska**

COUNTY: **Cuming**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Few alterations and additions have evidently been made to the Neihardt Study since its construction. This unpretentious structure appears today as it probably appeared originally: a one story, one room, frame dwelling with a gable roof and a veranda extending outward from the east (or facade) elevation. The building is believed to have been erected in the early 1890's for August Hartman as a residence for his daughter and her husband, Joseph Schwedhelm. It was acquired ca. 1900 by the Canarsky family, who owned and intermittently occupied it as a residence until 1964.

About 1909 John G. Neihardt purchased a dwelling just south of his mother's house in Bancroft. Both houses were located in the west half of Block 11 of Park's Addition to Bancroft and were situated just across an alley from the Neihardt Study, which is still located on its original site near the center of the east half of Block 11. From about 1911-1921, Neihardt rented the Study from the Canarsky family for use as an office and library. In subsequent years, Neihardt's Bancroft residence (still extant) was moved to a farm about eight miles east of Bancroft.

In 1964 the Bancroft Commercial Club purchased the Neihardt Study from William Canarsky for \$750. In 1967 the structure, which was in poor condition, was restored by the John G. Neihardt Foundation. Deteriorated flooring and siding were replaced with new lumber; the old veranda, which had been enclosed in recent years, was restored; and the whole building received its first coat of paint in many years. The restored interior includes a pot-bellied stove, a kerosene lamp, an old typewriter, and other items which duplicate the furnishings of the 1911-1921 period. The building is open to the public on Sunday afternoons from May 1 to September 30.

Neihardt has been a gardening enthusiast all his life, and some years ago he planted his Sioux Prayer Garden adjoining his home near Columbia, Mo. During the restoration of the Neihardt Study, a duplicate of this garden was laid out immediately south of the Study. This symbolic garden consists of a circular row of shrubbery, fifty feet in diameter, and is focused on the "Tree of Life" at the center. The circle represents the "Hoop of the World," which is viewed as divine, having neither a beginning nor an end. The circle has four divisions, each with a special color and power. The religion of the Oglala Sioux was Neihardt's source of inspiration for the garden.

Both the Prayer Garden and the Neihardt Study occupy lots 4, 5, and 6 in Block 11 of Park's Addition to Bancroft. This 140 by 150 foot property was purchased in 1968 from the Bancroft Commercial Club by the John G. Neihardt Foundation, the present owner. These three lots define the boundaries of the property now being nominated for inclusion in the National Register.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

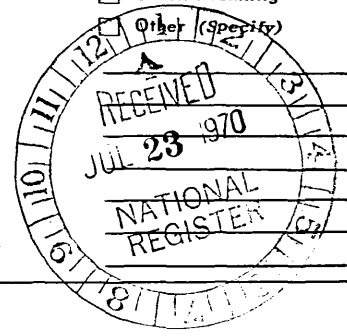
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1911-1921

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Neihardt Study at Bancroft is viewed as the most important building associated with the distinguished literary career of John Gneisenau Neihardt, author of some twenty-five volumes of poetry, fiction, and philosophy. Today, at age 89, Neihardt stands as perhaps the foremost poet of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain states. The poet lived at Bancroft from 1900 to 1921, and it was his literary production during this period that brought him national and international attention, beginning about 1907. "This is where I had the big dreams and where they began to come true," Neihardt recently stated.

Much of the poet's best known writings were penned at the Neihardt Study, which he occupied from about 1911 to 1921. The study is especially important because it was here that he began and completed most of his best known and most ambitious work, A Cycle of the West, a collection of five long epic poems celebrating the exploration and settlement of the trans-Missouri West (1822-1890). Begun in 1912, these five narrative poems were separately published in 1915, 1919, 1925, 1935, and 1941, and were not finally brought together into a single volume until 1949. This series of five heroic poems constitutes a unique contribution to American literature. Few serious American poets have attempted to write epic poetry, and none has received the widespread acclaim that Neihardt has received in this area. Neihardt, whom the Christian Science Monitor once referred to as the "American Homer," is recognized today as one of the foremost epic poets of the twentieth century.

John G. Neihardt was born near Sharpsburg, Illinois, on January 8, 1881. His family moved to western Kansas in 1886 and Kansas City, Mo., in 1888 before settling at Wayne in northeastern Nebraska in 1891. Neihardt worked his way through Nebraska Normal College at Wayne, taught at a nearby country school for two terms, and in 1900 moved with his family to Bancroft, located at the edge of the Omaha Indian Reservation. At Bancroft, Neihardt worked from about 1902-1905 as an assistant to an Indian trader, and here he developed a lifelong interest in and a deepening understanding of the American Indian. Meanwhile, he was writing lyrics and short stories, an increasing number of which were published in various magazines. Briefly he served as editor of the Bancroft Blade. Finally, with the publication in early 1907 of The Lonesome Trail, a collection of Omaha Indian stories, Neihardt's writings first achieved widespread national attention.

(CONTINUED)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives, Nebraska State Historical Society.
 House, Julius T., John G. Neihardt: Man and Poet, 1920.
 Personal interviews with John G. Neihardt, January and July, 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

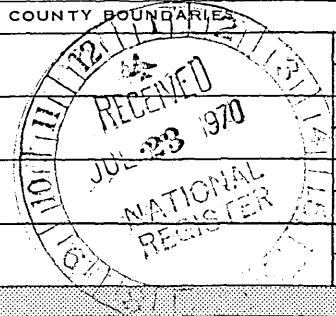
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	42°	00'	41"	96°	34'	38"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

NO
UTM
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John Q. Magie, Historic Sites Curator

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: July 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska 68508 CODE: 26

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name Martin D. Knott

Title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

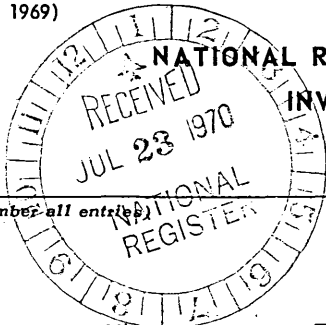
JUL 28 1970

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date Annott Allen Conroy

ATTEST: William J. Conroy
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JUL 27 1970



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Cuming	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.7.26.0004	DATE 7/28/70

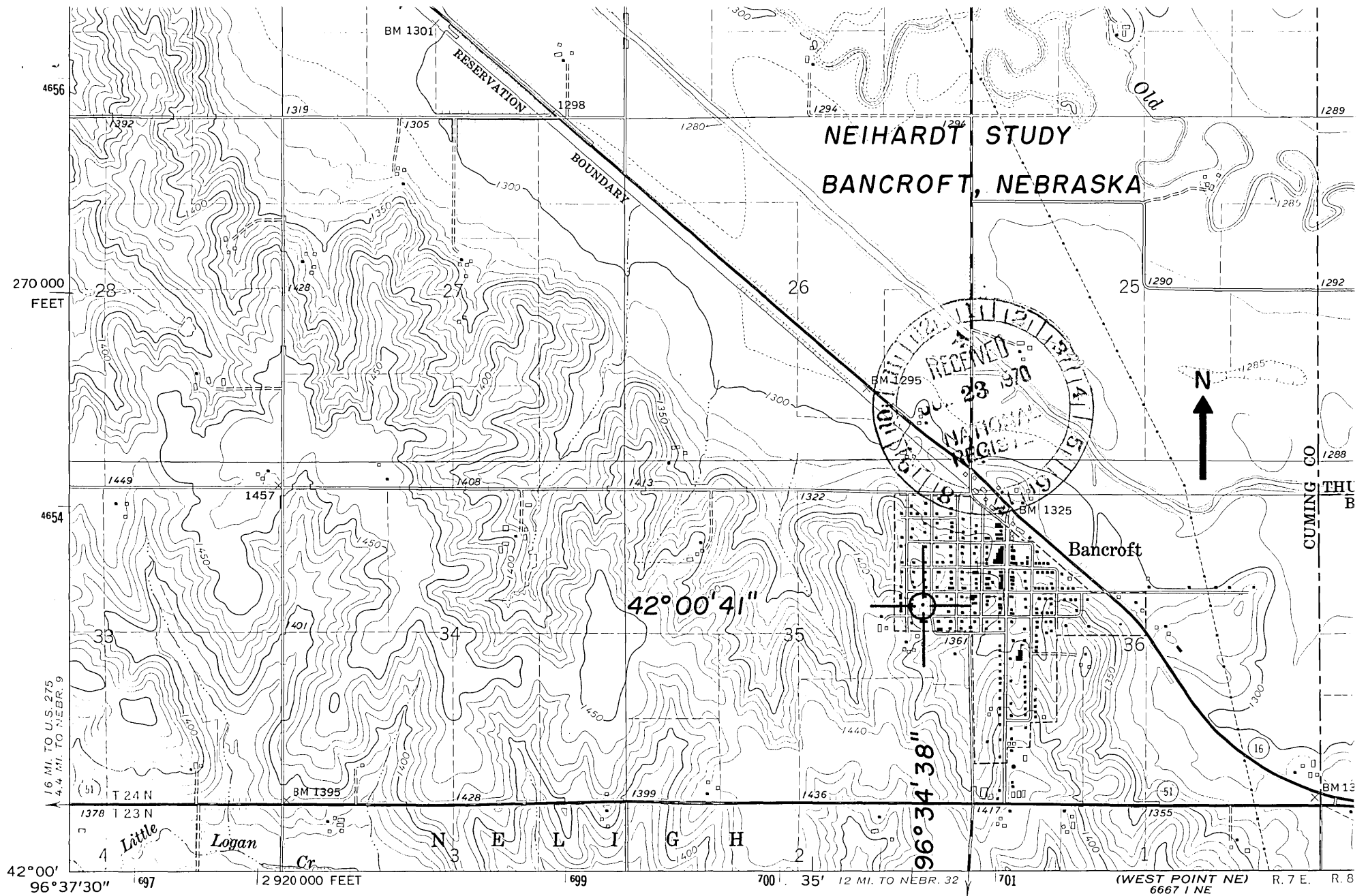
(Number all entries)

NEIHARDT (JOHN G.) STUDY

8. In The Lonesome Trail, as in his later works, Neihardt demonstrated a closer rapport with the Indian mind than perhaps any other white author. Among those who helped him develop this understanding was Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte, a highly educated Omaha Indian and a daughter of Iron Eye, the last recognized chief of the Omaha. Soon after The Lonesome Trail was published, she stated that everything written about the Indian by white authors from Cooper to Remington had angered her, and she praised Neihardt's success in entering the Indian consciousness and making it comprehensible to the white man. This success was repeated in Neihardt's later writings, including Black Elk Speaks (1932), a study of mysticism among the Oglala Sioux, and A Cycle of the West.

The publication in late 1907 of A Bundle of Myrrh, a collection of love poems, further enhanced Neihardt's reputation, and in 1908 his name first appeared in Who's Who in America. A few years after his marriage in 1908, children began to arrive, and Neihardt saw the need for an office away from home. The years during which he used the Neihardt Study, ca. 1911-1921, were among the most productive years of his career. Among the better known literary products of this decade were The Stranger at the Gate (1912), "The Death of Agrippina" (1913), The Quest (1916), and The Splendid Wayfaring (1920). Additional time during this period was devoted to work on the first two installments of A Cycle of the West: The Song of Hugh Glass (1915) and The Song of Three Friends (1919). Both were widely acclaimed, and the latter was chosen as the Best Volume of Verse for 1919 by the Poetry Society of America.

Since 1921 Neihardt has resided in Missouri--first at Branson and later at Columbia. Although he has been living with friends in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 1967, his Skyrim Farm near Columbia, Missouri, continues to be his official residence. Nevertheless, Neihardt has always regarded Nebraska as his "spiritual" home and has served as Poet Laureate of Nebraska since 1921, when he was given this title by act of the State Legislature. While he continued to publish poetry during his residence in Missouri, Neihardt also served as literary editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (1926-38) and lecturer at the University of Missouri (1949-66). He has received honorary doctorates at the University of Nebraska (1917), Creighton University (1928), and the University of Missouri (1947). In 1943 he was elected a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and in 1953 A Cycle of the West was honored as one of the 3000 World's Best Books from Homer to Hemingway (a span of 3000 years) by a panel of critics.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue

(WEST POINT NW)
6667 1 NW

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Cuming	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.7.26.0004	DATE 7/28/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: AND/OR HISTORIC:		Neihardt (John G.) Study	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northwest corner, Washington & Grove Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Bancroft			
STATE: Nebraska	CODE 68004	COUNTY: Cuming	CODE 039
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½', Bancroft Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1966			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

