

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000488


Date Listed: 7/27/2015

Property Name: Johnson Cabin Museum

County: Colfax

State: NE

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

7-27-2015

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Criteria Considerations

Criteria Consideration "b" is hereby added. The cabin was moved from its original location in 1949. Its primary significance begins with that move and its subsequent "restoration" as a museum reflecting pioneer life in the area.

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

JUN 19 2015

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being nominated, enter "N/A" if not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Johnson Cabin Museum

Other names/site number Rev. James H. & Martha Johnson Cabin; GA04-004

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number Blue Springs Park

City or town Blue Springs State Nebraska County Gage

Not for publication Vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D



SHPO/Director

06-12-15

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Nebraska State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

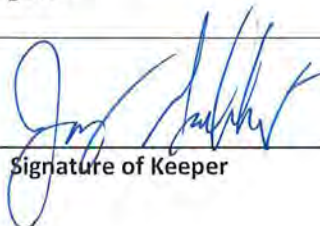
Title

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____



Signature of Keeper

7-27-2015

Date of Action

Johnson Cabin Museum
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

	Contributing	Noncontributing	
	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Split-log cabin

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete
Walls: Log
Roof: Wood

Johnson Cabin Museum

Gage County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Johnson Cabin Museum is a local history museum established within a single pen log cabin moved to Blue Springs City Park in 1949. The cabin originally dates to 1855 and is constructed of split logs set on a modern concrete foundation with a replacement roof, replacement hearth and chimney, and replacement windows. The replacements all date to the 1949 relocation and rehabilitation. While the cabin retains next to no integrity vis-à-vis its history as a pioneer home, the cabin retains excellent integrity as a mid-20th century interpretation of the pioneer experience.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

Located at Blue Springs City Park, the Johnson Cabin Museum consists of an 1855 log cabin moved to the site as part of an early preservation and local history museum effort. The cabin is located on the east side of the park near a small creek and the park's tennis courts. The front gable faces A Street. Two contributing objects, a stone hitching post and an old iron plow are located in front of the cabin.

The museum is a single pen, front gabled, split log cabin with v-notch and half-dovetail corner timbering. The cabin has one story, with a loft space, and measures 14 ½ by 16 feet. The cabin is positioned on a poured concrete foundation dating to its final relocation in 1949. The gabled roof is wood shingle and dates the same period. The current roof has a shallower angle than the original roof, according to historic photographs. The gables are constructed of modern machined round timbers designed to look like log construction. A small, four-light window is located in both gables. A brick chimney is located on the southern façade. The chimney dates to 1949, is constructed of bricks salvaged from the former Blue Springs Methodist Church, and replaced a opening that historically held a 4/4 double hung sash window. The original cabin does not appear to have had a hearth or chimney based upon historic photos. The northern elevation preserves an original window opening; however, the 4/4 double hung window dates to the 1949 restoration.

Only the split log walls are original to the building. While there is no surviving information on the tree species used to construct the cabin, it is most likely that the Johnson cabin is similar to the Palmer-Epard Cabin located at Homestead National Monument in nearby Beatrice. The Palmer-Epard cabin was constructed primarily of hardwoods found along creeks in Gage County, including "white and red oak, hackberry, ash, locust, walnut, and elm."¹ The cabin was originally chinked in local clay, but is currently chinked in cement, which was applied at an unknown date. This was done in an attempt to reduce the maintenance needed for the property and to better preserve the artifacts inside.

The interior consists of a diverse collection of local history artifacts arranged around the walls. Most of the artifacts were donated within a few years of the museum's opening. The fireplace is constructed of the same recycled bricks as the chimney, and the reconstructed loft is accessed via a steep stair that was sourced from the Blue Springs opera house. A small bed is located in the loft space.

The cabin lacks integrity as an 1850's pioneer home, but it has high integrity as an early local history museum. The preservation efforts of the 1940s saved the original walls of the cabin, but speak more to the perception of history in the post-war period. The building preserves many of its 1949 and 1950 design elements, which incorporated reused materials from other prominent local buildings. The cabin thus preserves the materials, workmanship, design, location, setting, association, and feeling of an early local history museum and a community's vision of itself and its history.

¹ Palmer-Epard Cabin Homestead National Monument Historic Structures Report, December 1969.

Johnson Cabin Museum
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- F** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Conservation

Education

Period of Significance

1949-1965

Significant Dates

1949

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Johnson Cabin Museum

Gage County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Johnson Cabin Museum is locally significant under Criterion A: Conservation. The museum is a very good example of early preservation and local history efforts in Nebraska. The cabin, originally constructed in the 1850s, was donated by the property owner to the city of Blue Springs to serve as a local history museum. The cabin was moved to its current location in 1949 and restored by a local volunteer organization that utilized elements from other historic Blue Springs buildings. The conservation of the cabin and establishment of the museum is part of a larger pattern of early preservation in Nebraska, and is contemporaneous with the relocation and preservation of the Palmer-Ephard Cabin located at the Homestead National Monument in nearby Beatrice. The cabin is also locally significant under Criterion A: Education for its function as a local history museum. The cabin has served as a local history museum and center for community commemorations of local history since its opening in 1950. It has served as a backdrop for pageants and as an important resource for local schools. The period of significance begins in 1949 and extends to 1965, fifty years before the present, reflecting the museum's continued use and importance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Blue Springs

The city of Blue Springs, Gage County, was established in 1857, three years after the county itself was established by the Nebraska Territorial Legislature in 1854.² The town is located on the west bank of the Big Blue River south of Beatrice, the county seat, and along an old trail that connected Beatrice to Marysville, Kansas, and adjacent to the Otoe and Missouri Reservation. The initial 1857 town was quickly eclipsed by Beatrice, which was founded the same year and designated the county seat. In 1859, the town site was sold to two former Colorado gold miners who opened a toll bridge across the river in order to create a new crossing of the Big Blue River and tap into the emigrant traffic travelling westwards, but this was a failure as well.³ The town was not platted until 1862, but thereafter the town grew as a result of the construction of a new bridge over the Big Blue River, the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1879, and the construction of a dam and mill in 1886.⁴ However, the town was constantly overshadowed, both by Beatrice to the north, and the new town of Wymore to the south, which was established by the Burlington and Missouri Railroad in 1889 as a major division point on its Kansas City-Denver line.⁵

The Johnson Cabin, 1855-1948

The Johnson Cabin is among the earliest surviving buildings in Gage County. Constructed by Rev. James H. Johnson, the cabin dates to circa 1855. Among the earliest pioneers in Gage County, Rev. Johnson arrived in the vicinity of Blue Springs in the summer of 1855 from Mount Pleasant, Iowa as a missionary to the nearby Otoe and Missouri Reservation.⁶ He established himself along the east bank of the Big Blue River approximately two miles north of the current location of Blue Springs, where he constructed the cabin that year.⁷ Rev. Johnson then returned to Iowa to collect his wife and children, and by 1857 the family was managing a modest farm while Rev. Johnson ministered to the local population. The same year, Rev. Johnson, along with Jacob Poff, and the Martin Elliot proceeded formed a town corporation to plat a settlement along the west bank of the Big Blue River—Blue Springs.⁸

Reverend Johnson preached to local residents for five years, until 1862 when a typhoid epidemic swept through both the nearby reservation and the settlers in Blue Springs, and Johnson himself perished after ministering to the sick.⁹ Soon

² History of Gage County, 1983, 6.

³ History of Gage County, 1983, 26.

⁴ History of Gage County, 1983, 26.

⁵ History of Gage County, 1983, 92

⁶ "The Log Cabin" *Blue Springs Centennial Plus 25 years, 1857-1982* (Blue Springs, NE: City of Blue Springs, 1982) 1.

⁷ Notarized letter regarding cabin found in the *Blue Springs Centennial Plus 25 years, 1857-1982*, 94.

⁸ Andreas History of the State of Nebraska, Gage Co, Part 8. www.kancoll.org/books/andreas_ne/gage/gage-p8.html (accessed April 10, 2015)

⁹ "The Log Cabin" *Blue Springs Centennial Plus 25 years, 1857-1982*, 1.

Johnson Cabin MuseumGage County, Nebraska**Name of Property****County and State**

thereafter, his widow and six children moved to a new, wood-framed home on the property. The Johnson Cabin was then rented to the Hollingworth family, which had emigrated from Wisconsin to Gage County. The Johnsons and their descendants rent the cabin to new arrivals to Blue Springs through the 1920s, when the last documented residents are the Tays Family, as documented in historic photographs (figure 1). The front gabled cabin had a slightly sagging wood shingled roof, 4/4 sash windows, and gables clad in wood siding. A small shed was located to the rear, with the space fenced in by chicken wire (figure 2). A single story wood frame house was located nearby.

By 1946, the cabin was in a ruinous state, as the roof had collapsed and the windows were missing (figure 3). However, the walls were still standing. The property was sold by Rev. Johnson's granddaughter, C. B. Cross, to Ray Marten in 1946. In 1948, having no use for the cabin, Martin donated it to the city of Blue Springs in order to clear the land for cultivation.¹⁰

Criterion A: Conservation**Early Preservation in Nebraska**

Historic Preservation in Nebraska started at the state level, but was quickly embraced at the local level by small communities seeking to connect with their pioneering roots. In 1923, the state took the first steps in preservation by acquiring J. Sterling Morton's Arbor Lodge (NRHP 1969, NHL 1975). The lodge was donated to the state by Morton's son, Joy Morton, and converted into a state park.¹¹ This established a pattern followed at the local level, where property owners would donate historic buildings to municipalities or local historical societies. In many of these cases, the property would be relocated to a public park within a town, restored, and converted into a local history museum. These efforts were motivated by an earnest interest in local stories, but often led to the loss of historic integrity as properties were restored to how communities perceived their past or how to best tap into tourist traffic. As a report on Historic Preservation in Nebraska noted,

"...some preservation projects in Nebraska (as elsewhere) have insufficiently emphasized the importance of authenticity in historical restoration and reconstruction work. In some instances, tourism promotion has been emphasized at the expense of historical accuracy...in other instances, irreparable damage has been done to Nebraska's historic resources through inappropriate restoration..."¹²

The Johnson Cabin is a well preserved example of early preservation, where a community's vision of the past manifested itself in the preservation of a locally significant property. Specifically, it is directly associated with a movement to identify, relocate, preserve, and interpret pioneer residences, primarily log cabins, starting in the 1930s. Of the 221 identified log structures in Nebraska, 34 have been moved, and at least 13 have been converted into local history museums or incorporated into collections of historic buildings maintained by county historical societies. Four of these properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Log Cabin in Bellevue, Cass County (NRHP 1970), the John Hopwood Mickey House in Osceola, Polk County (NRHP 1977), the Frederick L Gottschalk House in Columbus, Platte County (NRHP 1982), and the Mayhew Cabin in Nebraska City, Otoe County (NRHP 2010). Among the first local history museums centered on moved log cabins is the Sellors Barton Museum in Ainsworth, Brown County, which was centered on a relocated 1885 log cabin donated by Elizabeth Sellors Deer in 1936.¹³

The focus on log cabins was popular in southeastern Nebraska. The earliest example of relocating and preserving a historic log cabin in the region is the Mayhew Cabin, which was built in 1855 and moved in 1937 to prevent its demolition due to the construction of Nebraska Hwy 2. The cabin opened in 1938 as a tourist attraction associated with the Underground Railroad, and featured the cabin and a recreated underground space called "John Brown's Cave" that was presented as a hiding place for escaped slaves. As part of the relocation, historic modifications including clapboard siding, additions and porches, and interior plaster were removed to expose the log walls and create an over "old fashioned" appearance.¹⁴

¹⁰ "Blue Springs Park Home for Old Cabin" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, Dec 20, 1948.

¹¹ Arbor Lodge National Register Nomination 1969, section 8, 1.

¹² Historic Preservation in Nebraska (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1971) 101.

¹³ John Kay et al, *Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Brown County, Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1989), 15.

¹⁴ Mayhew Cabin National Register Nomination 2010, section 7, 1-2.

Johnson Cabin MuseumGage County, Nebraska**Name of Property****County and State**

However, interest in log cabins and local history did not become widespread until after WWII. In 1948, the Johnson Cabin was donated to Blue Springs for use as a local history museum. In 1950, the Homestead National Monument acquired the Parker-Ephard Cabin and relocated it to its site to the west of Beatrice. In 1957, the Sarpy County Historical Society acquired the Bellevue log cabin, which dates to 1835.¹⁵ Later additions to the building were removed and the cabin was restored to its pioneer appearance and filled with donated objects. In the 1970s, acquisitions became more common as a result of the state centennial and the nation's bicentennial. Log cabins were relocated to the Lancaster County fairgrounds in Lincoln (1974)¹⁶, Saunders County Historical Society in Wahoo (c. 1976)¹⁷, Cass County Historical Society in Plattsmouth (1978)¹⁸, and the Pawnee County Historical Society in Pawnee City (1979).¹⁹ The most recent example of this trend is the acquisition, move, and reconstruction of the 1854 Didier Log Cabin in Brownville, Richardson County by the Brownville Historical Society in 2010.²⁰

The Johnson Cabin Relocation and Restoration

The Johnson Cabin best exemplifies early preservation efforts. The cabin was donated to the city of Blue Springs in 1948, on the condition that it would be moved off its present site. A group of local women, led by Maude Boston, organized the Blue Springs Pioneers Club with the purpose of raising funds to move the cabin to Blue Springs Park and restore it as a local history museum.²¹ The community quickly responded with donations ranging from \$1-\$10, with the local *Wymore Arbor State* initiating the drive with a donation of \$10 and stating that "It appears to us that such an opportunity to preserve the many historic articles which are to be found in the community should not be passed up. We believe it is one of which the city of Blue Springs and the community as well will be very proud of after it has been completed."²² In February 1949, volunteers braced the cabin and placed the five-ton log walls on a donated trailer and moved it approximately 1 ½ miles to its new location over a period of three days (figure 3).²³ Originally placed on bare ground, in October 1949, volunteers poured a concrete pad to serve as a foundation, as well as a sidewalk to connect to the neighboring street.²⁴ A new wood-shingled gabled roof was completed in November while the Pioneers Club searched for replacement windows.²⁵

The Pioneer club advocated the use of local materials in the restoration. They requested donations of native walnut to recreate the original walnut door to the cabin, and they sought out native lumber for the loft, gables, and roof. Materials were donated and volunteers provided the labor, as noted in the *Beatrice Daily Sun*: "As we want native lumber, it is necessary to cut and trim the trees, and haul the logs to the Dudley Kier farm to have them sawed...Ray Martin gave us the trees and Thomas Costello said he would cut and trim them."²⁶ The club also put a notice in the *Sun* that "They would also like to find the source of the clay which was located near Blue Springs or Wymore and used years ago by blacksmiths. It is though this clay would be suitable for chinking the log cabin."²⁷ Elements from other local landmarks were also incorporated into the cabin, including bricks from the Blue Springs Methodist Church, which burned, and steps from the Blue Springs Opera House for the stair to the loft.²⁸ The interior was furnished with donated materials from various families in Blue Springs and nearby Wymore, including a variety of domestic implements, furniture, textiles, and documents

¹⁵ "Old Log Cabin is Added to the National Register" *Bellevue Press*, Nov 11, 1970.

¹⁶ "Hudson Cabin" Lincoln Parks and Recreation, <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/naturecenter/cabinschool.htm> (accessed April 10, 2015)

¹⁷ "Saunders County Historical Society" *Saunders County Yesterday and Today*, 31.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nesaunde/1983hist/saco83-p30.html> (accessed April 10, 2015)

¹⁸ "Log House To Be Restored" *Plattsmouth Journal*, Aug 7, 1978

¹⁹ "Log Cain moved to Pawnee City," *Lincoln Star*, Sept 10, 1979

²⁰ "1854 Didier Cabin Brochure" Brownville Historical Society, 2010. <http://www.brownvillehistoricalsociety.org/DIDIER-CABIN.pdf> (accessed April 10, 2015)

²¹ "Launches Drive to Preserve Old Log Cabin" *Wymore Weekly Arbor State*, Nov 18, 1948; "Blue Springs Park Home for Old Cabin" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, Dec. 20, 1948.

²² "Project to Preserve Old Log Cabin Gaining Momentum with Offers of Aid" *Wymore Arbor State*, Dec 1948.

²³ "The Log Cabin Comes to Town" *Wymore Weekly Arbor State*, Feb 24, 1949.

²⁴ "Work Begun on Log Cabin" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, Oct 1, 1949.

²⁵ "Log Cabin Notes" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, Nov 9 1949.

²⁶ "Log Cabin Notes" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, March 24, 1949.

²⁷ "Work Begun on Log Cabin" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, Oct 1, 1949.

²⁸ "Log Cabin Notes" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, Nov 9, 1949.

Johnson Cabin MuseumGage County, Nebraska**Name of Property****County and State**

including historic city records such as voter lists, plat maps, and old city council minutes. A stone hitching post and old iron plow were placed in front of the cabin as well. The cabin thus served to preserve not only its own story, but the story of the entire community through its incorporation of salvaged materials and restoration into an idealized log cabin. This corresponds with the greater pattern in early preservation where historic association was the most important characteristic of historic properties and any additions or work to such property should seek to maintain or increase its associations, even if at the expense of material or design authenticity.

Criterion A: Education**Function as a local history museum, 1950-1965.**

The Johnson Cabin museum opened to the public on Decoration Day (now known as Memorial Day), May 29, 1950. A week beforehand, to celebrate the completed restoration of the cabin, the Pioneer's Club met in the cabin, and Mrs. Boston lit the first fire in the new fireplace.²⁹ Local schools in Blue Springs, Wymore and Beatrice organized visits to the cabin, where Pioneer's Club members gave tours and explained the significance of the objects within the cabin. The cabin was popular among students, which signed the guest registers and listed their favorite artifacts housed by the museum (figure 7). Events were periodically organized around the cabin, often in conjunction with the school year or with major anniversaries.

By the late 1950s, the cabin was a regional attraction, and was normally open on Sundays, on Memorial Day, and by appointment.³⁰ Travelers from Lincoln and Omaha to as far as Scottsbluff in the Nebraska Panhandle, and Tulsa, Oklahoma visited the cabin according to surviving visitor logs (figure 8). 1957, the cabin was a centerpiece in the Blue Spring's Centennial celebrations, serving as a backdrop for a large historical pageant (figure 4). By the 1960s, the maintenance of the cabin passed from the Pioneer's Club to the City of Blue Springs. Another volunteer organization, the Friendship Circle, provided docents for school visits and periodically cleaned the cabin.³¹ Public openings remained on Memorial Days, and by appointment for school groups and other organizations.

The Johnson Cabin museum is unique among local history museums in southeastern Nebraska. Unlike museums in neighboring communities and counties, the Cabin is not affiliated with a local history organization such as a county or city historical society. Since its establishment, the Johnson Cabin Museum has been owned by the city of Blue Springs but staffed and maintained by collections of volunteers who provide tours and maintain the cabin's collections. The Cabin is also among the oldest of local history museums. Other than the Mayhew Cabin/John Brown's Cave Museum in Nebraska City, opened in 1938, the Johnson Cabin Museum predates other southeast Nebraska local history museums in Bellevue (1954), Plattsmouth (1960), Brownville (1966) Pawnee City (1968), and Beatrice (1971). The cabins's establishment as a local history museum an early example of the resurgence of interest in local history that becomes widespread following World War II until the mid-1970s. This interest is tied to multiple triggers: planning multiple centennial celebrations in Nebraska of key events or developments associated with state and local history starting in the 1950s and culminating with the state centennial in 1967; increased interest in American and pioneer history as a result of a need to craft a clear ideology to contrast against communism during the Cold War; the desire to tap into increasing automobile tourism along American highways; and increasing concern for the loss of historic places in the face of redevelopment during the postwar economic boom.³² The cabin became a repository for local memory that sought to preserve the history of Blue Springs at the time when many of the town's iconic buildings were being lost. It also sought to present pioneer life on the Nebraska frontier through the collection and preservation of artifacts associated with early settlement. The building's location at the city park, while convenient for travelers and school groups, limited the ability for full interpretation of the agrarian life of early settlers, but this was deemed secondary to the cabin and its collection of artifacts within.

²⁹ "Log Cabin Notes" *Beatrice Daily Sun*, May 29, 1950.

³⁰ "Blue Springs Park Has Reminder of Past" *Lincoln Evening Journal*, August 12, 1956.

³¹ *Blue Springs Centennial Plus 25 Years, 1857-1982*, 94.

³² Sara Lawrence, "History of Historical Societies in the U.S." *Public History Resource Center*, 2003, <http://www.publichistory.org/features/HistoricalSocietyHistory.html#10> (accessed June 10, 2015); Mike Wallace, "Visiting the Past: History Museums in the United States" in *Mickey Mouse History and Other Essays on American Memory* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996) 20-22.

Johnson Cabin Museum
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Newspapers:

Beatrice Daily Sun 1948-1950
Bellevue Press, 1970
Lincoln Evening Journal, 1956
Lincoln Morning Star, 1979
Plattsmouth Journal, 1978
Wymore Weekly Arbor State, 1948-1949

Print sources:

“1854 Didier Cabin Brochure” Brownville Historical Society, 2010. <http://www.brownvillehistoricalsociety.org/DIDIER-CABIN.pdf> (accessed April 10, 2015).

Arbor Lodge National Register Nomination, 1969.

“Blue Springs” *Andreas History of the State of Nebraska*. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1882. www.kancoll.org/books/andreas_ne/gage/gage-p8.html (accessed April 10, 2015).

Blue Springs Centennial. Blue Springs, NE: City of Blue Springs, 1957.

Gage County Nebraska History. Beatrice, NE: Gage County Historical Society, 1983.

Historic Preservation in Nebraska. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1971.

“Hudson Cabin” Lincoln Parks and Recreation. <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/naturecenter/cabinschool.htm> (accessed April 10, 2015)

Kay, John et al. *Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Brown County Nebraska*. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1989.

Lawrence, Sara. “History of Historical Societies in the U.S.” *Public History Resource Center*. 2003. <http://www.publhistory.org/features/HistoricalSocietyHistory.html#10>; (accessed June 10, 2015).

Mayhew Cabin National Register Nomination, 2010.

Palmer-Epard Cabin Homestead National Monument Historic Structures Report, December 1969.

“Saunders County Historical Society” *Saunders County Yesterday and Today*, 31. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nesaunde/1983hist/saco83-p30.html> (accessed April 10, 2015)

Wallace, Mike. “Visiting the Past: History Museums in the United States.” *Mickey Mouse History and Other Essays on American Memory*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996. 4-32.

Johnson Cabin Museum

Gage County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GA04-004

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one USGS Quadrangle Blue Springs

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

- | | | | | |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>40.140661</u> | Longitude | <u>-96.662259</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 3. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 4. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Starting at a point ten feet due north of the northwest corner of the Johnson Cabin, the boundary extends east to the curb line along A St, where it turns south and extends 34 feet along the curb, then turns due west and extends for sixty feet, where it turns due north and extends north 34 feet, where it then turns due east and returns to the starting point. See attached map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the cabin's current location in the Blue Springs City Park and includes the cabin as well as associated sidewalk, hitching post and plow.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruben Acosta, NR and CLG Coordinator

organization NeSHPO date June 10, 2015

street & number 1500 R St. telephone 402-471-4775

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

email ruben.acosta@nebraska.gov

Johnson Cabin Museum

Gage County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)



Figure 1: Johnson Cabin, with tenants Mr. and Mrs Tays, 1921. (Johnson Cabin Museum)

Johnson Cabin Museum
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State



Figure 2: Johnson Cabin, c. 1930. (Johnson Cabin Museum)

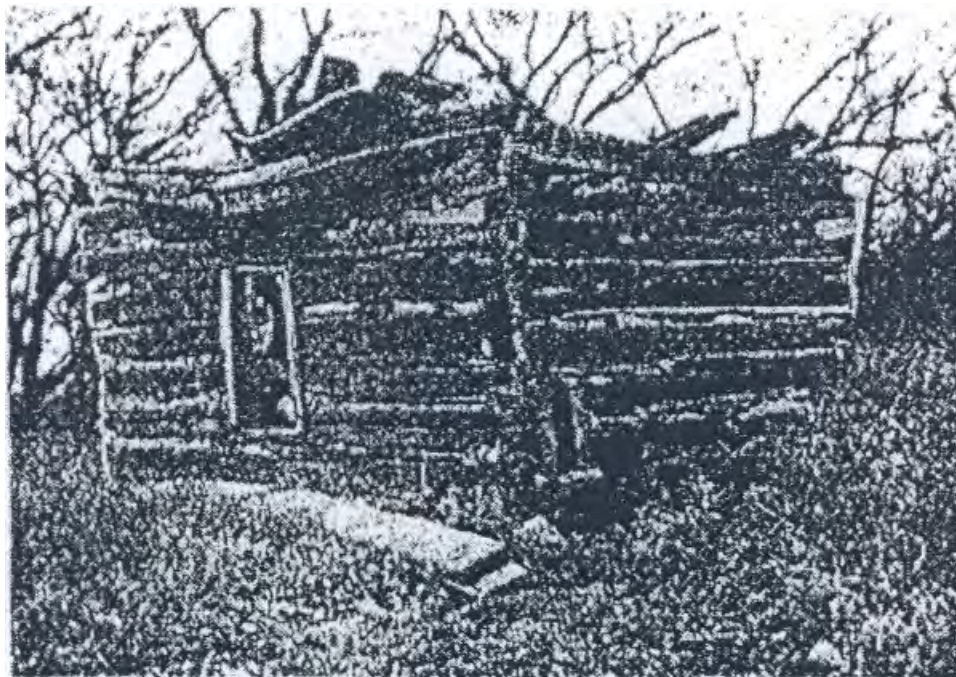


Figure 3: Johnson Cabin ruins, 1948. (Beatrice Daily Sun, Dec 20, 1948)

Johnson Cabin Museum
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State



Figure 4: Moving the Johnson Cabin to Blue Springs, 1948. (Johnson Cabin Museum)



Figure 5: Blue Springs Cabin, 1957 Centennial (*Blue Springs Centennial 1857-1957*)

Johnson Cabin Museum
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State



Figure 6: Blue Springs Centennial Pageant, 1957. (*Blue Springs Centennial*)

Johnson Cabin Museum

Gage County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

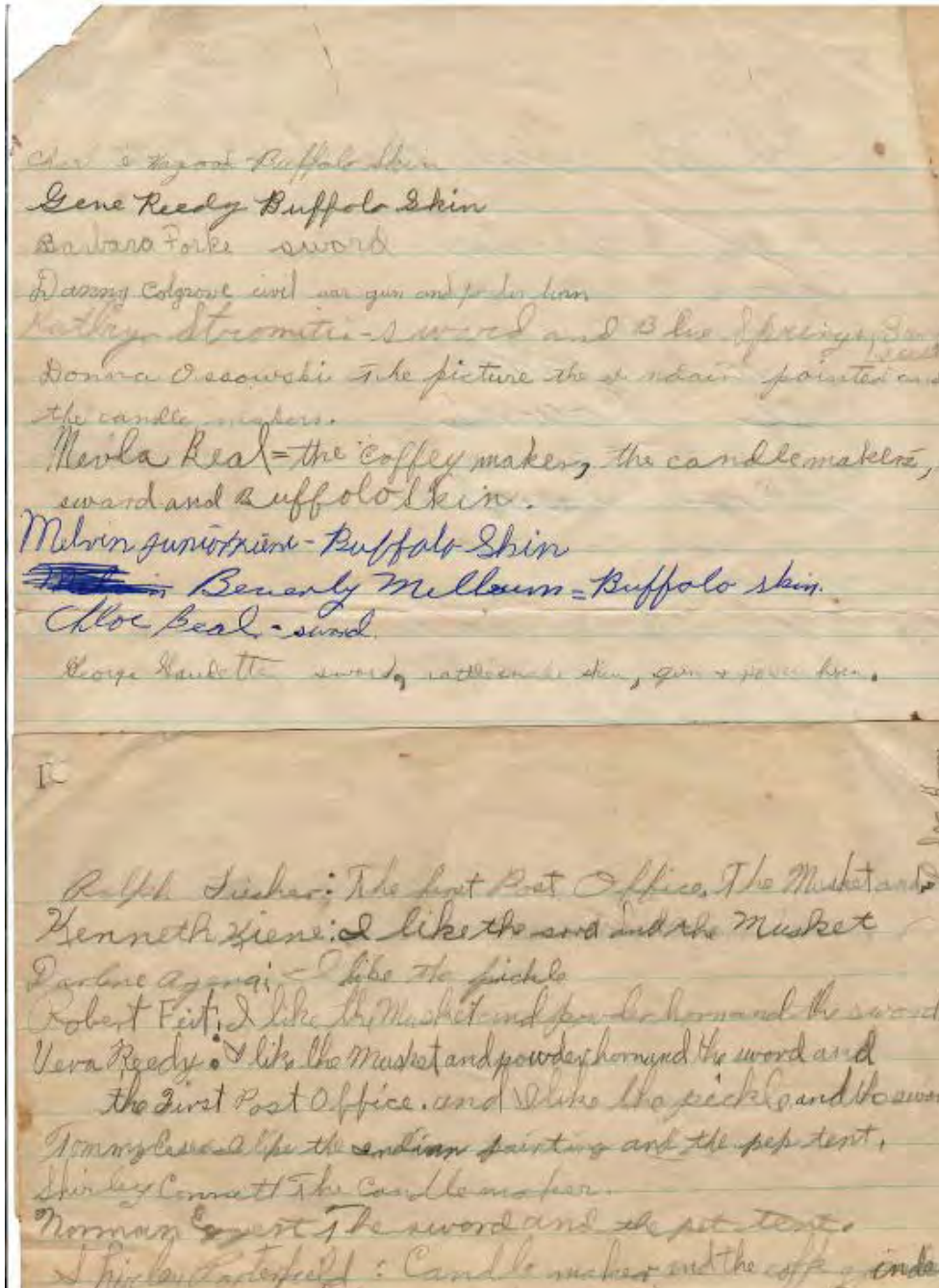


Figure 7: Children's visitor log, date unknown. (Jan Morris, Johnson Cabin Museum)

Johnson Cabin Museum
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State

May 22, 1950
Mrs M. K. Osterburn - Scottsbluff, Neb.
Luc Ann Osterburn -
J. Ann M^c Coffree -
Nellie Harder Martin
Laura Evans Rice
Mrs Mrs. Glen Pyle.
Kathy Myers Tulsa, Okla.
Steve "
Mrs + Mrs E. E. Powell.
Mrs + Mrs Doran Myers, Tulsa, Okla.
Mr and Mrs. G. H. Herbst - Omaha, Nebraska
Mrs. H. Hummer Engle - Omaha, Neb.
Mrs W. C. Coleman - Wymore, Neb.
Mrs Ted Gerdes Wymore
Sharon Kay Gerdes Wymore Neb.
Loray Gerdes
Wayne R. Gerdes Wymore Neb.
Charles Wells Blue Springs Mo.
Clara Wells
Mrs Len Lawler Wymore Neb.
Born in Ky in Log house 1886
O W Cochran. Wymore Neb.
Mrs A W Cochran Wymore Neb. 1885.
E A Lawler Wymore Neb. Born Ill. Aug 10
1870.

Figure 8: Visitor Log, 1950. (Jan Morris, Johnson Cabin Museum)

Johnson Cabin Museum

Gage County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property Johnson Cabin Museum

City or Vicinity Blue Springs County Gage State Nebraska

Photographer Patrick Haynes Date Photographed December 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. Front façade. View to W.
2. ¾ View with hitching post and plow. View to SW.
3. ¾ View of rear and chimney. View to NE.
4. Interior view of fireplace. View to S.
5. Interior, view of loft. View to E.
6. Interior, view of stair. View to W.
7. Interior, view of doorway. View to E.

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 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

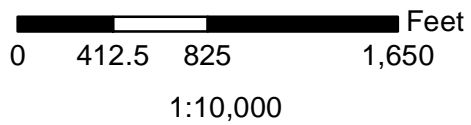
Johnson Cabin Museum

Blue Springs Park
Blue Springs, Gage Co.,
Nebraska

USGS Quadrangle: Blue Springs

Legend

 Property Boundary



Johnson Cabin Museum


Blue Springs Park
Blue Springs, Gage Co.,
Nebraska

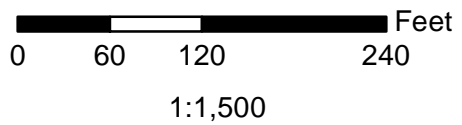
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

40.140661, -96.662259

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Property Boundary



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors

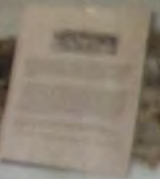








BFBULLER

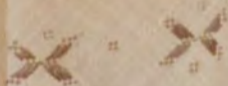
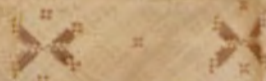






VICTORY

1945



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MADE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Johnson Cabin Museum

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Gage

DATE RECEIVED: 6/19/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/22/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/04/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000488

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.27.2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Interesting example of the once common, early efforts at Preservation.
a "Pioneer" Cabin is moved to an accessible location, "restored" and
stocked with authentic "bric-a-brac" meant to help educate
visitors of Pioneer Life.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gabbart DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

JUN 19 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

June 11, 2015

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Johnson Cabin Museum
Blue Springs, Gage County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben A. Acosta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ruben A. Acosta
National Register and CLG Coordinator
Nebraska State Historical Society

Enclosure

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Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
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(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100
www.nebraskahistory.org