

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska
COUNTY: Keith
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 15 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
California Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
About 4 miles ^W west of Brule

CITY OR TOWN:
Vicinity of Brule vic

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
3rd Congressional District

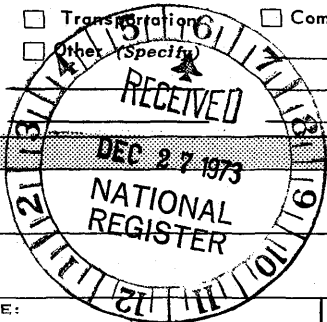
STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31** COUNTY: **Keith** CODE: **101**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dick Harms

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Gothenburg

STATE:
Nebraska

CODE:
31

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lysle A. Barnt, County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Keith County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Ogallala

STATE:
Nebraska

CODE:
31

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Resource Study, Historic Sites Along the Oregon Trail

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Denver Service Center National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

STATE:
Colorado

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Nebraska
COUNTY: Keith
ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 15 1974
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7. DESCRIPTION

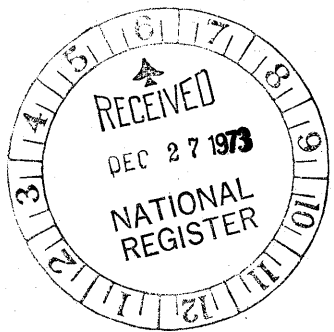
CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

California Hill is located on the north side of U.S. Highway 30 about four miles west of Brule, Keith County, Nebraska.

California Hill is today recognizable by the deep ruts caused by the thousands of wagons which made their way to Oregon and California in the 1840's and 50's.

From the Lower California Crossing, one mile south of the Platte River, a climb of two hundred and forty feet in one and one half miles was necessary to reach the plateau between the forks of the Platte. This was the first major grade that the immigrants were forced to climb. The name California Hill was probably due to the proximity to one of the two popular crossings of the immigrants.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1847-67**

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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

California Hill is perhaps one of the more important Oregon-California Trail landmarks in Nebraska. Large numbers of immigrants crossed the Platte River at the Lower California Crossing and made their way up California Hill on their trek to Ash Hollow and the North Platte Valley.

At California Hill is perhaps one of the better examples of physical Oregon Trail traffic. Large deep ruts are still extant at this location. The area has never been cultivated so they have never been damaged nor destroyed as many of the Oregon Trail segments have been.

California Hill is unique from the standpoint of being the first steep grade encountered by the westward immigrants.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haines, Aubrey. Historic Resource Study Historic Sites Along the Oregon Trail. Historic Preservation Team, National Park Service, Denver, Colorado, 1973.

NW1/4/249820/4554280
 SE1/4/251000/4552880
 SW1/4/250420/4552900
 4550660
 CD

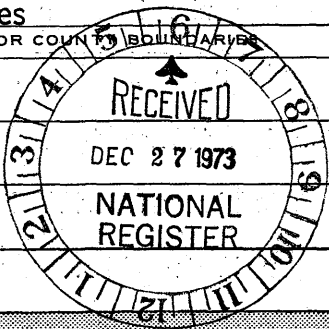
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	4° 06' 12"	101° 58' 43"			
NE	4° 06' 12"	101° 57' 53"			
SE	4° 05' 28"	101° 57' 53"			
SW	4° 05' 28"	101° 58' 43"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **about 140 acres**

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: **Ronald L. Kivett, Archeologist**

ORGANIZATION: **Nebraska State Historical Society** DATE: **Dec. 12, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1500 "R" Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lincoln** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>Morrison Kivett</i></u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Nebraska State Historical Society</u></p> <p>Date <u>December 13, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>A. R. Montrose</i></u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>7/15/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>Ronald M. Greenberg</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>7/12/74</u></p>
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NOTE: Legal Description may be used for publication.

California Hill

About 4 miles west of Brule

Vicinity of Brule

Nebraska (31) Keith (101)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13 T13N R41W



California Hill

About 4 miles west of Brule

Vicinity of Brule

Nebraska (31) Keith (101)

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

An area large enough to provide adequate protection to the surviving Oregon Trail ruts was chosen for this nomination.

