

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Deadwood Draw

other names/site number NAS # 25CN68; NeHBS #CN00-050

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication [na]

city or town Sidney vicinity [X]

state Nebraska code NE county Cheyenne code 033 zip code 69162

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [x] statewide [] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lawrence Sommer
Signature of certifying official

10/8/92
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

[] See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Harold M. Rapsley
Signature of Keeper

entered in the
National Register
11/12/92
Date of Action

for Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Deadwood Draw
Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related, pedestrian-related

Agricultural: agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation
Archeology: historic, non-aboriginal

Period of Significance

A.D. 1874 to 1881

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

European/American

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Deadwood Draw
Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 602 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	13	666130	4559620	3.	13	667540	4558860
2.	13	666550	4559440	4.	13	667850	4558450

[x] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry L. Steinacher, Historic Preservation Archaeologist

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date May, 1992

street & number Box 304 telephone (308) 665-2853

city or town Crawford state NE zip code 69339

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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, P.O. 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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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Deadwood Draw

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

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Description

Deadwood Draw is an erosional gully heading approximately 3 miles to the northwest of Sidney, Nebraska in the upland north of the Lodgepole Creek valley. This draw forms a natural avenue for wagons to leave the railhead of the Union Pacific railroad at Sidney Barracks and climb up out of the Lodgepole valley. The draw is some 2,500 feet wide at the point it enters the creek valley. Today a gently meandering gully channel, about 10 to 3 feet deep, is incised along the gully floor. The floor of the gully is flat providing a wide and firm surface for animal, pedestrian, and wagon traffic out of the Lodgepole valley.

The draw is flanked by steep eroded uplands, capped by limestone that outcrops along the edge and fragments of which line the sides of the draw. The draw is vegetated with native pasture grasses consisting principally of Buffalograss (*Buchloe dactylodes*) and Blue gramma (*Bouteloua gracilis*). The draw remains essentially as it was during the operation of the Sidney-Black Hills Trail. The area of the draw is currently utilized as a cattle pasture. Some modern visual intrusion is caused by a modern windmill and stock tank, oil well pump station, and 4 concrete foot pads from an abandoned powerline tower, and along the northern and southern ends several steel-tower powerlines cross the draw.

Wagon trail ruts are well defined along the bottom of the draw. In the lower reaches of the draw near Sidney the trail ruts are present in three parallel groups, with each group consisting of two ruts (see sketch map #2). Each rut consists of two parallel depressions representing erosion caused by horse and oxen teams, and the wheels of freight wagons and stagecoaches. The width of each group of ruts ranges from 4.1 to 5 meters. Individual ruts measure from 2.8 to 5 meters in width. These three groups of ruts converge as they progress northwest up the draw, until they converge into a single track rut. Preservation of the trail ruts is generally excellent. Some minor disturbance has occurred in one spot where gully erosion has cut the trail and in several spots where modern cattle and field vehicle access trails have crossed the trail ruts.

In addition to the trail ruts, two other features that appear to date to the same time period of use are present (see sketch map #s 1, 2). Near the south end of the draw is a depression measuring 5.5 by 4 meters and 1 meter deep. This depression appears to be the remains of a dugout. Artifactual material in the immediate vicinity suggests a late 19th-century occupation. Near the head of the draw is a small abandoned rock quarry. A line of drill holes is present where a section of the limestone ledge was detached. In addition, a row of wedges, some made from old railroad spikes, is still present in holes in the rock. Many structures in Sidney were constructed with the use of locally quarried limestone.

Statement of Significance

Historically significant under the areas of transportation and archeology, Deadwood Draw contains the intact ruts and pattern of a trailhead for a major overland freight and passenger route of the late 19th century. Deadwood Draw was the forming up location for the freight wagons that utilized the Sidney to Black Hills Trail during the period from 1874 to 1881. The draw allowed ascent from the Lodgepole Creek valley onto the adjacent uplands by the heavily loaded wagon trains. This trail was used to supply U. S. Army installations and Indian Agencies in the northern Nebraska panhandle, and the mining operations in the Black Hills. The draw contains well preserved trail ruts, a dugout depression, and an abandoned stone quarry. The property relates to the statewide context Sidney-Black Hills Trails (13.02.01.03).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Deadwood Draw

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Statement of Significance (continued)

Historical Background and Significance

The Sidney to Black Hills Trail was a late 19th-century wagon trail that supplied U. S. Army installations and Indian Agencies in Nebraska, and the gold mining operations of the Black Hills in the Dakota Territory. The trail began at the Union Pacific railhead located at Fort Sidney in the southern panhandle of Nebraska. Although communication with and transportation of supplies to the Black Hills gives the trail its name, the origins can be traced to earlier uses. It has been claimed that this route followed an old Indian trail. The trail ran almost due north crossing upland plains, sandhills, rivers, and the Pine Ridge escarpment before entering the southern Black Hills. Spotted along the trail were stage stations, road ranches, and rest stops for freight wagons.

In 1873 the original Red Cloud Indian Agency located on the Platte River near present-day Henry, Nebraska was removed to a new location. The location chosen was some 50 miles to the northeast at a spot on the White River near present-day Crawford, Nebraska. Within a year of the move, social disturbances at the Agency brought military units up from Fort Laramie and a permanent camp, later named Camp Robinson, was established. This Post and the Agency required a constant stream of supplies. In addition, supplies were also needed for a second Agency, Spotted Tail, and its military guard, Camp Sheridan, established about 40 miles east of the Red Cloud Agency.

The nearest line of heavy transport was the Union Pacific Railroad line running east and west across central Nebraska. Although a supply trail ran from Fort Laramie to Camp Robinson a shorter route was noted in 1874 by Lt. Col. James W. Forsyth. This route was suggested and had been used by the Agency's beef contractor, Mr. Bosler. A reconnaissance of the route was conducted in the summer of 1874 by 1st Lieutenant Lawson of the Third Cavalry assisted by two Sioux guides, Two Lance and Fire Lightning. The route, beginning at the railroad stop of Sidney Barracks, would cut some 55 to 60 miles off of the route from Fort Laramie.

In the fall of 1874 the Custer expedition into the Black Hills confirmed the presence of placer gold in the hills. Before winter set in miners had entered the hills. At this time the Black Hills were part of the Sioux reservation lands and by treaty right no whites had a right to enter the area. The army was now placed in the position of enforcing the treaty and expelling gold seekers. The U. S. Government attempted to buy the Black Hills during the summer of 1875, however, the Sioux were unwilling to part with an area they considered to be sacred. Continued intrusions by gold seekers, impatience by the U. S. Government, and defensive reactions by the Sioux culminated in the Sioux War of 1876. With the defeat of the Sioux, the Black Hills were ceded to the United States. This opened the flood gate to miners and those who supplied them with necessities and comforts.

The Black Hills had two natural directions from which supplies could be obtained. To the east lay the steamboat landings along the Missouri River, to the south the transcontinental railway line of the Union Pacific in central Nebraska. Both sources had advantages and disadvantages. The advantage of the southern route lay in its distance, all weather capability, and travel over non-reservation area. The only major disadvantage was the North Platte River.

The North Platte River was not significantly deep except in periods of spring run-off or localized rain events, however, it had a wide, sandy bottom. This made it difficult to ford heavy wagons. Reports of wagons that normally used seven yoke of oxen to pull required up to twenty-one yoke to get across the

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Deadwood Draw

Name of Property

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Platte. This impediment to the route was removed in 1876 when Henry T. Clarke constructed a substantial bridge.

With the opening of the Camp Clarke bridge in May of 1876, the trail began to carry an increasingly heavy share of the traffic to and from the Black Hills. By the summer of 1876 a pony express service and a stage line were operating. A number of freight firms such as Pratt and Ferris, D. T. McCann, A. S. Van Tassel and others began using Sidney as their supply point. Besides the larger firms, many independents operating one or two wagons utilized the trail.

For the next five years, the trail would service the travelers and supply needs of the mines in the Black Hills. The greatest traffic was carried in 1877 when 50 to 75 freight wagons would often leave from Sidney in a single day. An estimated 35,000,000 pounds of freight was transported over the Sidney to Black Hills Trail during its period of use. Several stagecoach lines operated; and for a short time, a pony express operation served the Black Hills along this trail. The trail was especially important during the winter months when the more northern supply routes would often be closed due to weather.

By 1879 the gold rush was over and company mining began to dominate. The amount of people passing over the trail diminished, however, the freight demand remained high. With the completion of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad line to Pierre, South Dakota, use of the trail began to dramatically fall off. By the following year, most of the traffic had shifted to the shorter route from Pierre. The trail appears to have been completely shut down by the winter of 1882.

Deadwood Draw provided the first open area that allowed wagon trains to be formed up prior to their departure for the forts and Indian agencies of northern Nebraska and eventually the Black Hills gold fields. Deadwood Draw retains some of the best preserved trail ruts remaining along the length of the original trail route. Integrity of archaeological artifacts and features relating to trailhead patterning remains excellent for the length of the Deadwood Draw trail segment.

Bibliography

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Curley, Edwin A.

1877 Guide to the Black Hills Comprising The Travels of the Author and His Special Artist. Published by the Author, Chicago.

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Deadwood Draw

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

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1949 The Sidney-Black Hills Trail. Nebraska History 30(3):203-225.

Stanton, W. S., Capt.

1878 Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1878: Appendix RR, Annual Report Upon Explorations and Surveys In the Department of the Platte for 1878. Copy of Camp Robinson to Sidney Barracks route and distances report in research collections of Fort Robinson Museum, Nebraska.

UTM References (continued)

- 5. 13 668120 4557380
- 6. 13 668100 4557000
- 7. 13 667200 4556990
- 8. 13 666240 4558570

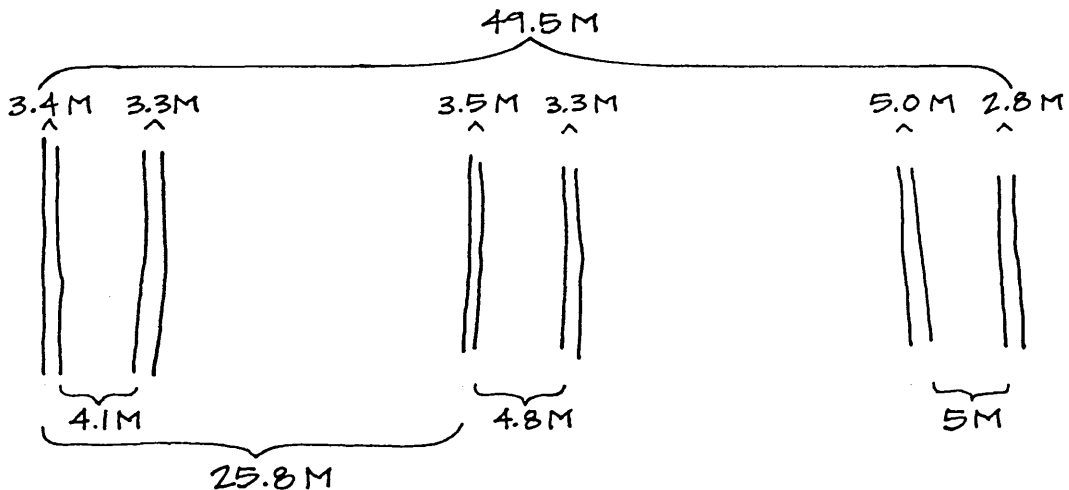
Verbal Boundary Description

Point #1 is located at the northern end of the Deadwood Draw trail segment on the 4300 feet contour where the uplands begin. Point #2 is located some 1,475 feet to the southeast on a small upland knob at the 4300 feet contour. From this point the boundary continues southeast for some 3,800 feet across the junction of two southern trending lateral washes of the draw and meets point #3 at the head of the uplands on the 4300 feet contour. Point #4 is located some 1,750 feet southeast of #3 on the edge of the uplands at the 4280 feet contour. Point #5 is located 3,600 feet south of #4 on the neck of land connecting an isolated segment of the upland at the 4200 feet contour. Point #6 is some 1,250 feet south of #5 on the Section line at about the 4130 feet contour line. Point #7 is some 2,850 feet west of #6 along the Section line at about the 4200 feet contour line. Approximately 6,200 feet northwest of #7 is Point #8 located on the Section line and at the 4275 feet contour line. Point #8 is approximately 3,500 feet south-southeast of Point #1.

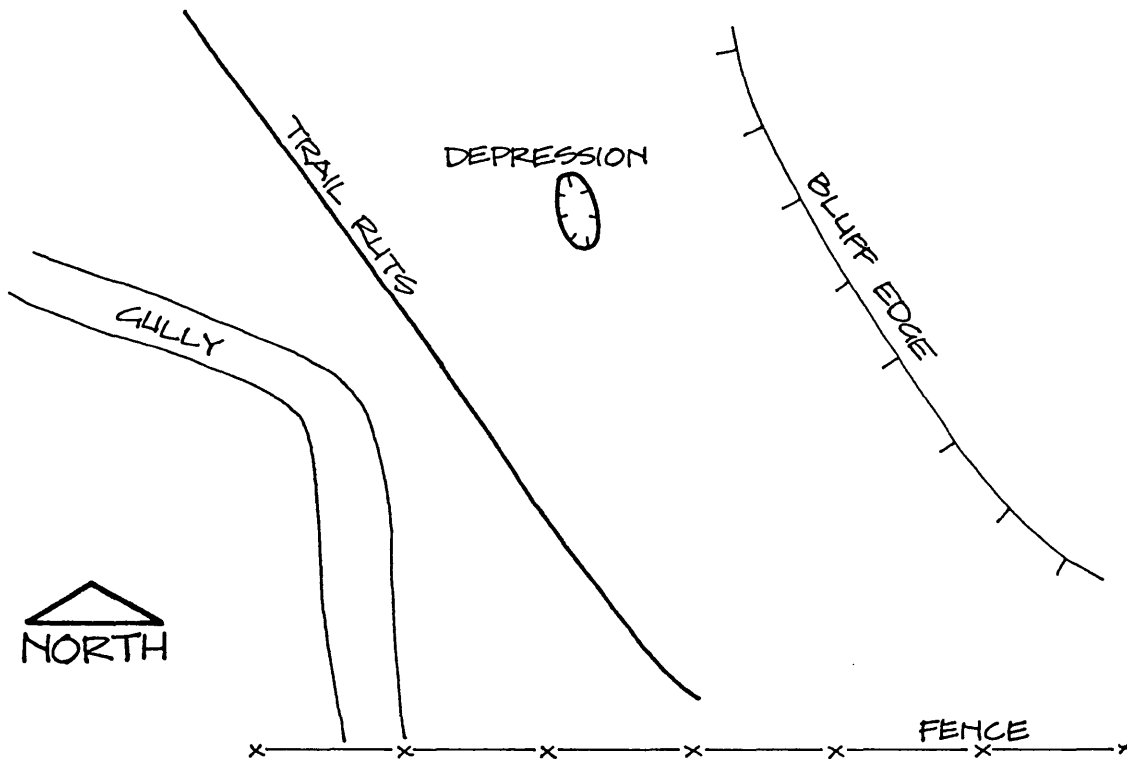
Boundary Justification

The boundary area encompasses the extant trail ruts and maintains sight vista integrity of the Deadwood Draw area.

APPROX. 200 FEET SSW OF PRESENT DAY WINDMILL



AT LEAST 6 RUTS IN 3 GROUPS OF 2 RUTS EACH. THERE MAY BE SOME ADDITIONAL LESS WELL DEFINED RUTS BETWEEN THE 3 GROUPS.



DEADWOOD DRAW (NAS #25CN(68; CNOO-050)
NEAR SIDNEY, CHEYENNE
COUNTY, NEBRASKA

SITE PLAN - NO SCALE (SKETCH MAP #2 OF 2)
DRAWN BY DELL DARLING FROM FIELD NOTES
BY TERRY STEINACHER
APRIL 1991