

**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey  
Reconnaissance Survey Final Report  
of  
Cedar County, Nebraska  
prepared for  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office**

by

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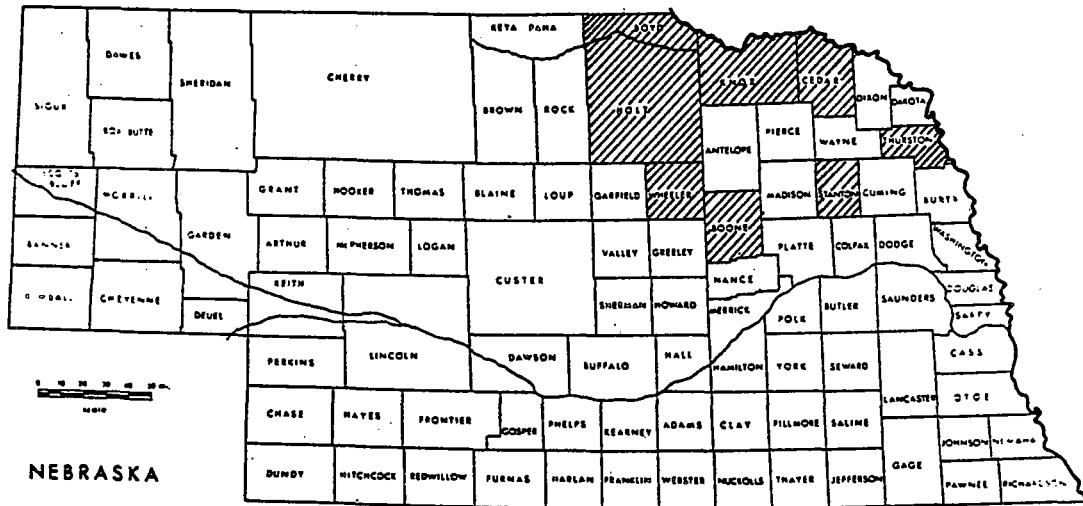
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## INTRODUCTION

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act was passed by the 89th United States Congress and subsequently signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. With this Act, the Secretary of the Interior was called upon to expand and maintain a national register of historic places and give maximum encouragement to state governments to develop statewide historic preservation programs of their own. The Act recognized that one of the prerequisites for an effective national preservation program was the identification of historic resources across the country through comprehensive statewide surveys. Thus, state historic preservation offices were made responsible under the National Historic Preservation Act for decisions concerning the preservation of historic properties in their states.

The manifestation of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act for Nebraska came in 1967 when state legislation directed the Nebraska State Historical Society to oversee the preservation of historical properties and conduct a comprehensive statewide historic survey. For this, the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) was formed and is conducted by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) as a part of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The Nebraska Historic Building Survey is an ongoing statewide study designed to identify and evaluate properties within a selected area to determine whether they may be of historic, architectural, archeological, or cultural significance. The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office serves as the central repository for the collected information and becomes the focal point for preservation planning decisions.

Starting with a limited survey of 125 sites, the NeHBS has now documented approximately 32,000 properties and completed preliminary fieldwork in over half of Nebraska's 93 counties. The latest effort of the NeSHPO to document historic resources is the completion of the Northeast Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey.



**Northeast Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Area**

Save America's Heritage was selected by the NeSHPO and engaged in a contractual agreement to conduct the Northeast Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. This survey consists of the completion of preliminary fieldwork in eight northeast Nebraska counties. These counties are Boyd, Holt, Wheeler, Boone, Knox, Cedar, Thurston, and Stanton. The survey of these counties was initiated in September of 1987 and was completed in June of 1988. With the completion of the eight-county project, northeast Nebraska is the first region of the state to be completed under the NeSHPO's recently stated five-year plan targeting preliminary statewide coverage for 1991-92.

The primary objective of the survey was to provide a preliminary characterization of the historic resources extant in the northeast Nebraska region. The effort to document properties contributing to the context of Nebraska's historic architecture produces information which not only serves as a resource in preservation management, but also expresses a genuine concern for the history of the Great Plains built environment.

In addition to this, there are several other objectives which enhance both the importance of information generated by the survey and the importance of the survey itself. First among these is the concept of establishing the setting of Nebraska's multi-contextual historic architecture. Each historic building survey performed by the NeSHPO generates information which contributes to a statewide knowledge and builds a background which future survey information can be evaluated with. Secondly, it was the objective of the historic building survey to identify specific properties or geographic areas which, in the event of an intensive survey, would contribute useful information to the multi-context setting. Further objectives of the northeast Nebraska survey included the identification of specific building types, the identification of construction methods which related to or were unique to Nebraska's historic built environment, the identification of sites worthy of National Register listing, and the expansion of knowledge regarding ethnic settlement, building technologies, and architectural images.

### Preservation Biases

It is Save America's Heritage belief that people, and the places in which they live, are the raw materials of history. A community, its inhabitants and its development over an extended period of time are proper subjects for our contemplation, for it is through such studies that we gain a more sympathetic comprehension of the present.

The public mention of a "historic building survey" often fails to produce a collective image or understanding. A strong social awareness towards preserving our built environment does exist in the rehabilitation of aged urban districts, but the notion of recording historical structures as a preservation activity remains a publicly obscure concept. Fortunately, this obscurity is due to a lack of awareness rather than a lack of genuine concern. Communicating the importance of this activity as a documentation of our Great Plains history cannot be stressed enough.

Furthermore, it is also the opinion of Save America's Heritage that such surveys are a necessary tool in the recording of Great Plains settlement. The demise of Nebraska's rural architecture is directly

linked to the decline of the rural-based population. In the year 1900, 76.3% of Nebraska's population was found in rural towns or on the farms.<sup>1</sup> However, by 1980 the rural-based population has dropped nearly 40 percentage points to the current figure of 37.1% (see Table 1).

Table 1. Total Population.

Nebraska		Selected Years	
Year	Population	Percent of Total	
		Urban	Rural
1900	1,066,300	23.7	76.3
1910	1,192,214	26.1	73.9
1920	1,296,372	31.3	68.7
1930	1,377,963	35.3	64.7
1940	1,315,834	39.1	60.9
1950	1,325,510	46.9	53.1
1960	1,411,921	54.3	45.7
1970	1,485,333	61.5	38.5
1980	1,569,825	62.9	37.1

<sup>1</sup>Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1980.

The affect on the historic built environment has been devastating. The number of houses now exceeds the demand and the older perhaps less appealing buildings are not re-inhabited. The buildings then deteriorate and are either dismantled or collapse. Consequently, there exists an increasing decline in the "pool" of historic building resources. Compounding the demise of these rural resources is the current decline of the agricultural economy. The prospect of farming as a profitable future for the next generations is now less desirable. This, in turn, contributes to the decreasing rural population and re-inhabitation of existing historic buildings. This is exemplified by the fact that 32% (65 of 205) of all farmsteads documented by the survey in Cedar County consisted of either abandoned farms or farmhouses.

The enumeration of social changes affecting historic resources is endless. It is clear, however, that the result of these changes coupled with the diminishing affects of time substantiate the need for historic

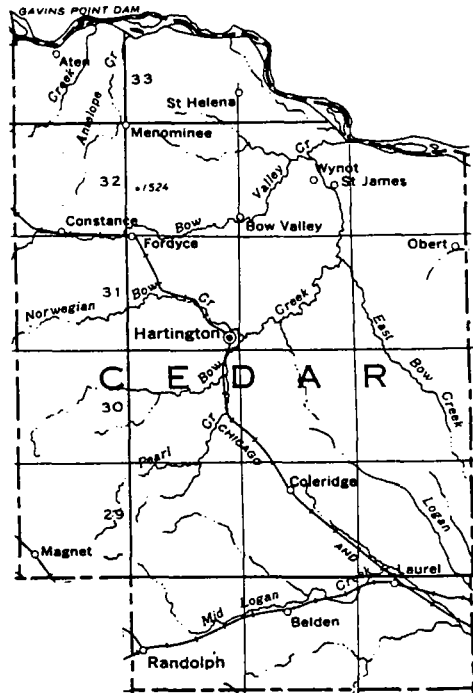


building surveys. It is through such surveys that we not only record the built settlement of Nebraska, but reach a fuller understanding of our present world.

Numerical Summary of Cedar County Reconnaissance Survey

<u>Cedar County</u>	<u>Total properties</u>	<u>Contributing buildings</u>	<u>Contributing structures</u>	<u>Contributing objects</u>	<u>Contributing sites</u>
CD00: Rural	254 (19)	1061 (19)	117	40	4
CD01: Aten	0	0	0	0	0
CD02: Belden	25	32	0	0	0
CD03: Bow Valley	4	19	0	2	1
CD04: Coleridge	36	59	1	0	0
CD05: Constance	4	6	0	0	1
CD06: Fordyce	16	25	0	1	1
CD07: Hartington	109 (12)	167 (12)	2	0	0
CD08: Laurel	65 (2)	94 (2)	0	3	0
CD09: Magnet	5	7	0	0	0
CD10: Menominee	(1)	(4)	0	0	(1)
CD11: Obert	22 (10)	29 (10)	2	1	0
CD12: Randolph	76 (1)	129 (1)	0	0	0
CD13: St. Helena	7	30	0	1	0
CD14: St. James	6	12	0	0	0
CD15: Wynot	<u>28</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	658 (44)	1,620 (48)	127	48	8

## HISTORIC OVERVIEW



### Physical Description

Cedar County is located in northeast Nebraska. It is bounded by the Missouri River on the north, Dixon County on the east, Wayne and Pierce Counties to the south, and Knox County to the west. The county is roughly rectangular in shape and contains a land area of about 740 square miles.

Over 80% of Cedar County is upland, the rest is terraces and bottom lands. The predominant soil type is loessial which is a very good agricultural soil type. It is composed of a mixture of silt and clay and is well able to retain moisture and plant nutrients. This soil type is well adapted to the production of cereal crops, as well as hay, fruit trees, and garden crops.

The entire county is drained by the Missouri River. About three-fourths of the county drains northerly into the Missouri River. Bow Creek and its tributaries provide the main drainage system. In the southern

part of the county, Logan Creek and its tributaries provide drainage to the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers which in turn drain into the Missouri River.

The climate is typical of northeast Nebraska and well-suited to grain and livestock production. The area receives approximately 27 inches of precipitation annually, 80% of which falls from April through October. This rainfall distribution pattern is very favorable for crop production. The average frost-free season is 152 days.

### Original Inhabitants

The Omahas were the major tribe living in the area that is now Cedar County when the first whites came through the area. They had moved into Nebraska about 1650 and settled in the Bow Creek area. By the 19th century they had moved east and south, living mainly along the banks of the Missouri River from the mouth of the Platte River to Sioux City (J. Olson, p. 24).

Two archaeological sites are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Wiseman Archaeological Site near Wynot is the largest known village in Nebraska of its time period, 1200-1400 (Kivett). The Schulte Archaeological Site near St. Helena belongs to the St. Helena Focus, a late manifestation of the Prehistoric Farmer period AD 1100-1450. It is a true village rather than a hamlet pattern (Kivett).

### County History

Trappers and traders explored the territory of what is now Cedar County as early as 1739. Ponca, Sioux, and Omaha Indians were living in the vicinity at this time. The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804 passed through the area as they explored land acquired by the Louisiana Purchase.

### Settlement Incentives

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 opened the territory of what is now Nebraska to settlement by whites. Nebraska was organized as a state in 1867. The general directions of settlement proceeded from the southeast corner to the north along the Missouri River and westward along the Platte

Valley. There was early interest in Cedar County due to its location on the Missouri River.

The government did much to encourage settlement of new lands. The preemption law of 1841 was in effect at the time the Nebraska Territory was organized. It permitted qualified persons to obtain government land for only \$1.25 per acre up to a maximum of 160 acres. The settler had to make improvements on the land and live there about 14 months before gaining final title to the land.

The Homestead Act of 1862 provided for up to a quarter section of "free" land to heads of families who had paid the \$10 filing fee and resided on or cultivated land for five consecutive years. As with the preemption law, the settler was required to swear the land was for his own use and not for sale or speculation. This made it possible to acquire 320 acres from the government (Fite, p. 17).

The Timber Culture Act, approved in 1873, was supplemental to the Homestead Act. It provided that a homesteader could acquire an additional quarter section by planting 40 acres to trees and caring for them for 10 (later eight) years.

### County History

Cedar County was organized in February 1857 by an act of the Nebraska Territorial Legislature. Settlement of the county began that same year with the arrival of nine families.

The railroad first came to Cedar County in 1883. During the next 25 years, a railroad boom swept Nebraska and Cedar County as well. Trading opportunities expanded enormously as the railroad offered quick, reliable transportation of farm products to distant markets.

The first town established in Cedar County was Old St. James. Fort Jackson was built nearby. The Pacific Wagon Road followed Bow Creek and East Bow Creek through the county. It was used for army transport as well as by the traders and settlers. St. James and later St. Helena were the first county seats. Hartington was declared the county seat in 1885 and remains so today.

## Towns

St. James was the first county seat in Cedar County. It was established by a special act of the Territorial Legislature in 1857 (Andreas, p. 531). A frame Court House was constructed measuring 30' x 45' and was two stories in height (McCoy, p. 118). The first businesses, a store and a blacksmith shop, were opened in 1859. In the early 1880s, the town boasted two general stores, one drug store, a blacksmith, a schoolhouse, two doctors, two hotels, a Methodist Church, a mill and about 100 residents (Andreas, p. 531).

St. Helena's first residents arrived by steamboat in 1858. The first store was constructed in 1861, the same year the town was incorporated. In 1869 an election was held to relocate the county seat. As a result of this election, the county seat was moved from St. James to St. Helena where it remained until 1885. The Felber Tavern was erected by two settlers in 1861 and was the local "hang out" and news center for the county (St. Helena Centennial, p. 35). St. Helena had about 75 residents in its centennial year of 1958.

Hartington's first town lots were sold in 1883. The following year the railroad came through the new town. One year after that, Hartington was declared the county seat as the result of an election in that year. A major factor in the decision to move the county seat was the town's central location in the county. In 1885 revenue bonds were issued for construction of the new courthouse. Many businesses which had been established in the early years of the town had to be rebuilt as a result of fire which destroyed two blocks of the business district in 1888. The Hartington City Hall and Auditorium are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Use of Prairie Style architecture in the building can be seen as a progressive step for the community and a departure from the influence of the classically oriented City Beautiful movement (Fagler and Gilkerson, n.p.). Hartington has survived the cycles of prosperity and decline through the years. In recent years, new employment opportunities have greeted residents due to the location of the largest cheese factory in Nebraska.

The railroad was viewed as imperative to the development of an area. Both businessmen and farmers were anxious to have the railroad come through their area. This allowed the importation of goods from a wider market and the exportation of livestock and grain to a larger market. The railroad was very important to the development of Cedar County. It was directly responsible for the founding of such towns as Belden, Laurel, Randolph, Obert, and at least partly responsible for the prosperity of such towns as Hartington and Coleridge.

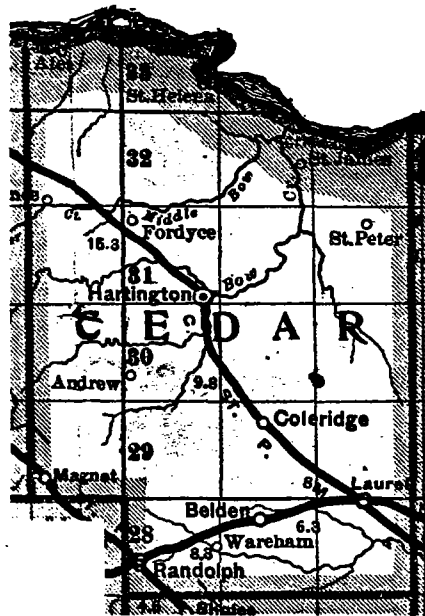


Fig. 1. 1907 Location of railroads in Cedar County after 1907 Official Railway Map of Nebraska.

The towns of Belden, Laurel, and Randolph are linked to the New Pacific Short Line Railroad which ran from Sioux City, Iowa to O'Neill in Holt County. Their survival and growth in the late years of the 19th century and early years of the 20th century were, in large measure, due to the presence of the railroad.

Belden's early activities were said to revolve around the railroad and the bank (Atlas of Cedar County, n.p.). The First National Bank was

founded in 1890 and was one of the few along the rail line that did not fail during the depression.

Laurel was platted in 1891 at the crossroads of the Short Line and Northwestern Railroads. At first, the Northwestern Railroad refused to stop at the new town but soon an agreement was reached and a depot constructed. The farms surrounding Laurel had been settled long before the town was established and farmers welcomed the coming of the railroad. The presence of two railroads gave them competitive freight rates, an advantage many other communities lacked.

By October 1892 there were more than 30 substantial buildings completed with more underway (Atlas of Cedar County, n.p.). The town has continued to thrive and is one of the few communities in the county to show a population increase through the 1970s.

The town of Coleridge was established as a result of the railroad building its track from Wakefield to the center of Cedar County in 1883. The small settlement of Norris to the east of present-day Coleridge was bypassed by the railroad due to right-of-way disputes. This led to the founding of Coleridge. A number of buildings from Norris were moved to the new town. The town drug store is notable in that in the 1970s it still resided in the same building in which it was founded in 1890. The town has continued to thrive and many new buildings have been built in recent years.

Randolph was established in 1886. The large Boughn Hotel was begun a year later with the town's first bank having offices located in the corner of the building. By the turn of the century, Randolph was quite a self-contained little town with a wide variety of shops along main street. The town was served by two railroads which gave local farmers access to both Omaha and Sioux City markets. In the 1920s Randolph had half a dozen grocery stores among the many businesses which served the community (Stageman, p. 2).

Wynot was founded in 1907 as a result of the extension of the Chicago, St. Paul and Minneapolis Railroad. During the Depression, the railroad was discontinued but during its run had served the community with

several trains a day. The town is said to be a continuation of the historic town of St. James (McCoy, p. 83).

Obert was also founded along the same rail line in 1007 and incorporated in 1913. Like Wynot, rail service lasted until 1931 when it was discontinued and the depot sold. The first buildings constructed in the town were the elevator, the lumber yard, Farmers State Bank, and the brick corner building. The corner brick building was built by the Townsite Company and housed the town's first store which was a cooperative. A second brick building, a 10-room hotel, was built soon after. This building was later used by the First Baptist Church for a worship center.

The town of Magnet was founded in 1897. It was a stop on the railroad but had only a boxcar for a depot until 1900. At one time there was an implement shop and livery. The first drug store was established in 1901 and the first bank, a year later (McCoy, p. 91). Magnet suffered a number of fires which destroyed many of the town's businesses, many of which were not rebuilt.

The first settler in the Bow Valley area arrived in 1873. A school was constructed in the village in 1876. Nearby, the Bow Valley Mill was established in 1868. It supplied flour to settlers within a 100-mile radius of the mill. This building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a significant example of early industrial architecture in Nebraska (Jeffries Spencer). By 1904 the town was well established and a Catholic church was built of brick from the local brickyard (McCoy, p. 91).

Aten was a little village on high land near the Missouri River. It was established in 1881 and in that year the first store was built. In the early 1880s the town also had a blacksmith shop and hotel (Andreas, p. 532).

Menominee was a post office in the northern part of Cedar County about six miles west of St. Helena (Andreas, p. 532). The most notable buildings in Menominee belong to the St. Boniface Catholic Church Complex. These vernacular structures contain references to Gothic Revival and Second Renaissance Revival styles and are built of native chalk rock found in the Antelope Creek Valley (Gilkerson).



Constance was established in 1894 on a town site donated by a local land owner. A Catholic church was erected in that same year (McCoy, p. 117). The settlement never grew to a town of much size.

### Ethnic Groups in Cedar County

The ethnic diversity of the people who settled and made their homes and livelihoods there are an important part of the history of Cedar County. People came from many states and over 15 foreign countries came to make their homes there, adding richness to the social fabric of the county.

Information on numbers of foreign born are taken from Wayne Wheeler's compilation of census data. Since no detailed census analysis was performed, the locations of various ethnic settlements within the county must be inferred, primarily from county and ethnic histories and other secondary sources. Evidence of the various groups' presence is indicated by the institutions which they founded. Churches, cemeteries, and fraternal organizations are examples of such institutions. In some cases, secondary sources mention specific ethnic groups as having settled in a particular area. In any event, a precinct-by-precinct census analysis should be performed to obtain a more precise picture of ethnic settlement within the county.

The 1870 census was the first census for which Wheeler lists data for Cedar County. In that year the foreign born comprised 40% of the total population. This was due to the large number of Germans residing in the county. As more and more U.S.-born settlers arrived and children of the foreign born were born in the U.S., the percentages of foreign born declined. By 1880 the percentage of foreign born had decreased to 27% of the total population. The percentages continued to decrease, with 23% of the total population being foreign born in 1890, 18% in 1900, and 14% in 1910. The percentages of foreign born in Cedar County in the early years was greater than that of neighboring counties such as Knox County to the west, in which 13% of the total population was foreign born in 1880.

The Germans were the most numerous foreign-born group in Cedar County, as in Nebraska as a whole. In 1870, 40% of the total population

was foreign born and Germans comprised 78% of this group or 31% of the total population. These percentages declined in succeeding years but still represented a significant proportion of the foreign born. In 1880, 27% of the total population was foreign born. Germans comprised 20% of the total population and 7% were all other ethnic groups combined. German-born persons remained the largest group of foreign born through 1950.

German surnames can still be seen in each precinct in the county atlas. The Immanuel Lutheran Church in Laurel was founded by German immigrants. More importantly, the St. Boniface Catholic Church Complex (NRHP) in Menominee was a spiritual, social, and cultural base for Germans in Cedar County (Gilkerson, n.p.).

Wheeler combines the numbers of Swedish- and Norwegian-born persons in his 1870 and 1880 data. These combined numbers make them the second largest foreign-born group in the county in those years. Although they were the second largest foreign-born group in the county, they comprised only 4% of the total population in 1870 and 1880. Their numbers did represent a larger percentage of foreign born with the figures being 10% and 16% respectively. In 1890 through 1910 Swedes were the second largest foreign-born group; they comprised 2% of the total population in 1890, 3% in 1900, and 2% in 1910.

A large number of Swedes settled in the area near Wausa and extending eastward into Cedar County "in a somewhat irregularly shaped area that extends six miles east north and west of Wausa and 2.5 miles southward over a surface of about 100 square miles" (Nelson, p. 291). In this area four-fifths of the farmers were of Swedish descent in the 1940s.

The clergy and land agents were often engaged in a friendly partnership and this spirit of cooperation was continued in the Wausa area. One of the clergymen promoting Swedish settlement engaged in an agreement by which only Swedes would be allowed to buy land during a certain definite period. The result of this agreement was a concentration of Swedish settlers in this area (Nelson, p. 292; Dowie, p. 60).

The third largest ethnic group in Cedar County in 1890 was the Norwegians which comprised 2% of the total population. In 1900 and 1910

the Danes comprised the third largest ethnic group. Their numbers represented 1% of the total county population in both of those years. Danish settlers established Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Obert.

### Agriculture

Nebraska is a large state with a variety of soil types and differing climatic conditions which make it necessary for the farmer to adapt farming practices to local conditions. It should also be noted there are few distinct areas where abrupt changes in farming practices are evidenced.

Several authors associated with the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture (Hedges and Elliott; Garey; Williams and Murfield) have described systems of farming in Nebraska to refer to areas with a high degree of uniformity in the type of farming practiced and the economic and environmental conditions of the defined area.

Cedar County lies within the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production (NNILP) area. In this area crops are grown more for their value as livestock feed than as a cash crop.

The loess soils of the county are able to retain a large amount of water and plant nutrients as well which make them suitable for growing a number of crop types. The cropping system consists of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, plus some wheat and oats. These are grown due to their adaptability to environmental conditions and their appropriateness as livestock feed.

Cedar County was originally covered with luxuriant prairie grasses. Cattle grazing was the first important industry but, with the arrival of the railroad and more settlers, farming replaced ranching as the predominant agricultural industry.

As settlers came in to northeast Nebraska, they brought with them the same agricultural practices they had known in the Midwest Cornbelt. Corn was the usual first crop put in by settlers (Fite, p. 246). By the end of the 19th century, real advances in scientific farming began to have an impact on production. Crop rotation, seed selection, higher quality

livestock through selective breeding, and research into plant and animal diseases were advances in agricultural practice.

Two advances were very important to intensive livestock production. A serum to prevent hog cholera resulted in an increase in production. The other highly significant advance was in the use of alfalfa in rotation with corn to maintain soil fertility. This allowed livestock production to be practiced on a more intensive level (Sweedlum, p. 207).

By the end of the 1930s, the intensive livestock system of farming was in full flower with northeast Nebraska having more livestock per section than any other area of the state (Hedges and Elliott, pp. 36-38).

Cattle and hog feeding are the main livestock enterprises. The value of livestock has increased through time. By 1969, Williams and Murfield report over 90% of farms reporting some kind of livestock with receipts from livestock and livestock products accounting for over 80% of average farm income (p. 33).

Corn has always been the most important grain produced in the county. It is grown as a feed crop for finishing cattle and hogs and as a cash grain crop. It is chopped and ensiled for feed for dairy and beef cattle. The development of irrigation has helped to guarantee consistently high yields. Oats, rape, barley, alfalfa, and sweetclover are also grown. In recent years soybeans have been grown as a cash grain crop.

Data from the Census of Agriculture for the years 1910 (p. 31), 1935 (p. 327), and 1982 (p. 121) reveal the number of farms in Cedar County has dropped substantially from 2,041 in 1910 to only 1,142 farms in 1982. As the numbers of farms decreased, the average size of individual farms has increased from 217 acres in 1910, to 202 acres in 1935, to a full 369 acres in 1982. These trends hold true for the state as a whole, as well. Eastern Nebraska is farmed more intensively than many areas of the state and this is reflected in the smaller than average (state average 746 acres) farm size.

The drastic decline in the number of Cedar County farms between 1910 and 1982 has important implications for historic building survey. As farms are combined to increase acreage, surplus farmsteads were likely abandoned. Buildings designed to meet the changing economics and farming

practices of today are different than the traditional buildings of 50 or more years ago. It is, therefore, important to record the farm buildings of our past so that we can document the evolution of agriculture in our state.

As part of this effort, two farmsteads have buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of these is the Couser Barn near Laurel. It is one of a small number of centric barns in the state. The Franz Zavadil Farmstead is significant to the early development of agriculture in Cedar County and the state. It is an excellent example of a Nebraska farm with the majority of buildings still extant. The stone dwelling is an excellent example of vernacular architecture and was constructed by Zavadil, a stone mason, who had trained in his native Bohemia (Gilkerson, n.p.).

#### **Final Comments**

The Cedar County economy and life style is, and always has been, based on agriculture. The agricultural base is characterized by intensive livestock production with more grain grown for feed than cash grain. The towns in the county which serve the rural population have remained relatively small. The county was populated by people from many states and foreign countries who came together to establish a rich social fabric which remains today.

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## GENERAL SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

### Introduction

The objectives associated with the Cedar County Historic Buildings Survey were to provide a preliminary characterization of the historic resources within the county and to produce information which will serve as a reference in the preservation management of these resources. A post-survey evaluation of these goals reveals that the Historic Buildings Survey of Cedar County was indeed a highly successful project. This success can be expressed in two quantifiable translations. These are, quite simply, numerically and geographically. Each street of the required 14 Cedar County communities and nearly every rural road was surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods. The numbers produced by the survey are indicative of this. A total of 1,755 contributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites were documented on 614 individual properties. The survey canvassed 282,160 acres (441 square miles) and identified 143 properties potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

For the purpose of organization, a more specific summary of the historic properties in Cedar County has been broken into two main parts. These are:

1. A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of the Cedar County historic properties judged to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and
2. A supratypological summary of the predominant house types recorded in Cedar County.

### General Summary Part 1:

#### **A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of Cedar County Historic Properties**

The following discussion consists of a topical summary and Preliminary Inventory of the historic properties documented during the Cedar County Historic Buildings Survey. This discussion is arranged according to the Topical Listing of Historic Contexts authored by the Nebraska State

Historic Preservation Office. It includes only a discussion of those Historic Contexts which contain properties judged as either potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as contributors to the historic character of Cedar County. Included at the end of each summary is an illustrative inventory of properties which appear potentially significant with respect to the Historic Context being discussed. Each of these inventories has been broken into two parts containing (1) those properties which bear the greatest potential for National Register listing, and (2) those properties contributing to the historic character of the county which are of secondary priority with respect to National Register listing.

### **Historic Context: Religion**

The contextual topic of religion, as one might gather, encompasses any cultural manifestation relative to the faithful devotion of an acknowledged deity. This includes any social entity relating to sacred organizations and rituals or considered a sacred place. In terms of historic buildings and structures, this includes churches, parsonage-rectories, cemeteries, fellowship halls, and schools. The Historic Buildings Survey of Cedar County provided 34 religious-related properties with a corresponding total of 41 contributing buildings, four contributing objects, and seven contributing sites. These 34 documented properties consist of 27 churches or church complexes, four individual rural cemeteries, one rectory, one camp, and one convent. In addition to the 34 properties found during the recent completion of the Cedar County Historic Buildings Survey, two other religious-related properties were previously surveyed at various times by NeSHPO staff members. The results of the survey with respect to religious properties are viewed with somewhat mixed emotions. Certainly the recording of only 27 churches or church complexes in a county of such large geographic area is somewhat disappointing. The main culprit for these lower numbers was, as usual, a lack of historic integrity. In several instances religious-related properties were not documented due to severe alterations of original historic materials or to grossly obtrusive additions constructed at later dates. While the numbers

of total religious properties were lower than anticipated, the quality and integrity of those that were documented was generally quite high. In fact, of the 34 religious properties, 18 were considered potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places with an additional six properties judged as second priority contributors to the historic character of Cedar County. Although few in number, the religious properties recorded in Cedar County represent a variety of artistic, historical, and cultural influences. Artistically, the consciousness of architectural design ranged from simple, unadorned hall-type structures to more elaborate expressions of academic stylistic traditions. Historically, these buildings represent a significant period of historic importance that ranges from the late 19th century churches of the early permanent settlement period (CD00-7, CD13-1), to the churches built in established communities during the 1920s and 1930s (CD07-49, CD08-37). And finally on a cultural level, these buildings are associated with a varied set of cultural groups including Swedes, Danes, Germans, and Norwegians.



**CD00-5,6:** St. Phillips & St. James Catholic Church Complex, ca. 1903. NE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 24, T.32 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Potentially significant for its association with Catholic parish founded by the early permanent settlers of St. James (1873).



**CD00-7:** St. Helena Chapel, ca. 1900. SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 1, T.32 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Potential significance derived through an association with early Missouri River community of St. Helena (1861).



**CD00-190:** Camp Assurance, ca. 1920. SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. , T. N., R. E., Cedar County. Locally rare example of religious revival camp. The grounds include four contributing buildings and represent an advanced post-settlement commitment to religious worship.



**CD00-211:** Logan Center Church, 1917. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 12, T.29 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Well-preserved masonry building potentially significant for association with rural-based enclave formed during early white settlement.

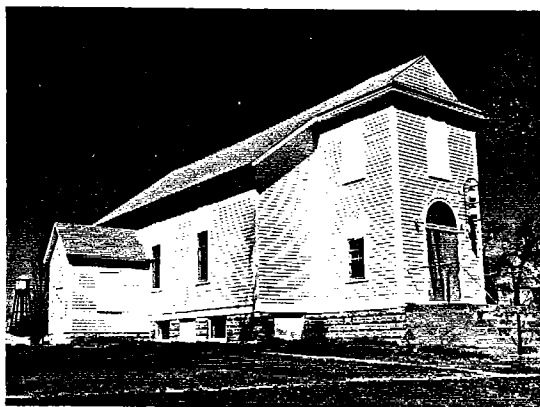
**CD02-2:** Former Methodist Church, 1892, N.W.C. 4th St. & Jackson St., Belden. Significant example of late 20th century commitment to religion as manifested in the well-preserved Belden Methodist Church.



**CD03-4:** S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex, 1903-1926. SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 25, T.32 N., R.1 E., Bow Valley. Significant complex of five religious buildings of German-Catholic parish founded in 1870s. Most noteworthy of these is the Romanesque Revival Church.



**CD04-33:** Methodist Church, ca. 1892. W.S. Elm St. bet. Canfield and Fulton St., Coleridge. A well-preserved frame church building selected for its role in the late 19th century religious development of Coleridge.



**CD05-2:** St. Joseph Catholic School, 1926. SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 33, T.32 N., R.1 W. One of the three religious buildings constructed in rural community of Constance. Selected for an association with large-scale parochial education in northwest Cedar County.





**CD05-3 & 4:** St. Joseph Church & Rectory, ca. 1905. NE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 33, T.32 N., R.1 W. Selected as a physical representative of rural religious expression founded during the post-settlement era of the early 20th century.



**CD06-7:** St. John the Baptist Parsonage, ca. 1928. S.E.C. Third St. & Omaha St., Fordyce. Included in the preliminary Inventory for an association with Craftsman-style design aesthetic and as a contributor to Baptist Church Complex.



**CD06-8:** St. John the Baptist Church Complex, ca. 1911. W.S. Omaha St. bet. 2nd & 4th St., Fordyce. Significant complex of four buildings/objects representing Baptist parish of Fordyce. Most noteworthy buildings include brick school (1919) and frame church (ca. 1905).

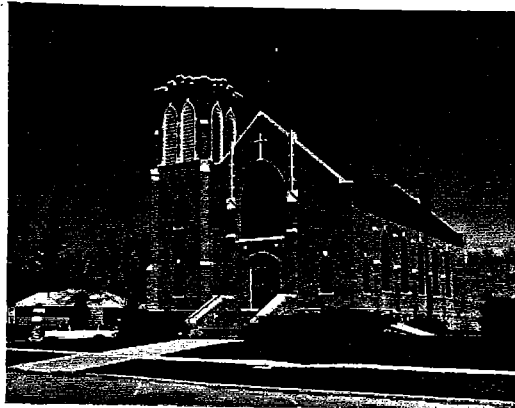


**CD07-38:** Trinity Catholic Rectory, ca. 1903. W.S. Broadway Ave. bet. Bow & Park St., Hartington. Large two-story brick rectory selected as an indication of the growth of religious worship in Hartington during the early 20th century.

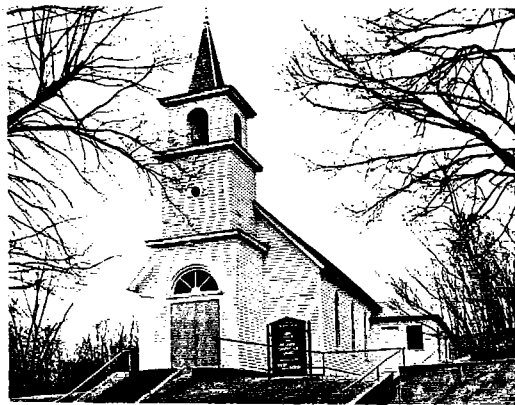
**CD07-37:** Ursuline Convent of Nazareth, ca. 1939. South end of Broadway bet. Summit & Madison St., Hartington. Two-story brick Mission style convent building chosen for its relationship to the Historic Context of Religion.



**CD08-37:** Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1930. S.W.C. Third & Alma St., Laurel. Significant example of early 20th century commitment to religion as manifested in the Gothic Revival style Lutheran Church.



**CD11-1:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1904. N.S. 2nd St. bet. Main St. & Miller St., Obert. Hall-type frame church building constructed in rural Cedar County by Danish Lutheran congregation and relocated to village of Obert in 1921.



**CD11-2:** First Baptist Church, ca. 1905. N.S. 2nd St. bet. Miller St. & Nebraska St., Obert. Originally included in Preliminary Inventory for religious association but later found to be a 1921 remodeling of an abandoned frame hotel building.





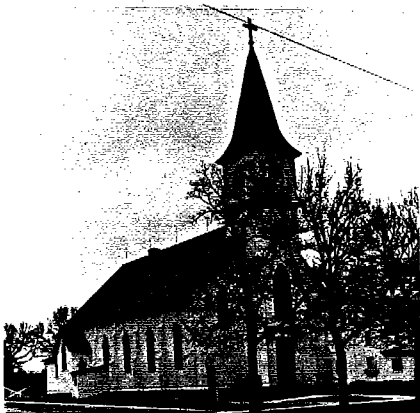
**CD12-7:** Presbyterian Church, 1897. N.E.C. Hughson St. & Cedar St., Randolph. Selected as a physical reminder of the importance of religion in late 19th century community life and for retention of skillfully crafted frame detailing.



**CD12-24:** First Methodist Church, 1912. N.W.C. Nebraska St. & Jackson St., Randolph. Selected as an example of the "modern" masonry church building phase spawned by the peak populations of early 20th century communities in Cedar County.



**CD13-1:** Immaculate Conception Church Complex, 1895-1897. S.S. 9th St. bet. St. Helena St. & Meyer St., St. Helena. Significant collection of three skillfully crafted buildings/objects built by Catholic parish formed during white settlement of Cedar County.



**CD15-10:** Sacred Heart Church, 1913. N.W.C. 8th St. & Emerson Ave., Wynot. Frame church building potentially significant for its role as the focal point of early 20th century religious worship in community of Wynot.

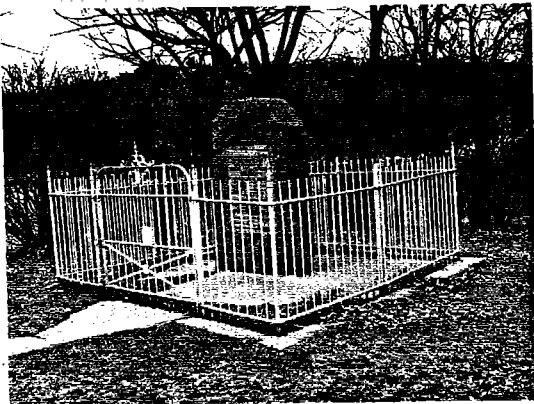


**Second Priority Religion-Related Properties:**

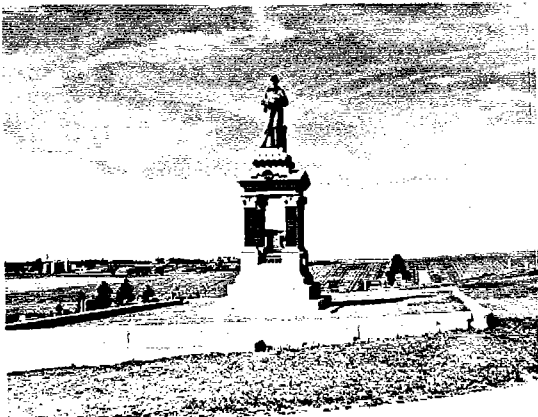
- CD02-1: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Belden
- CD02-16: Presbyterian Church, Belden
- CD07-49: Trinity Lutheran Church, 1928, Hartington
- CD08-28: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Laurel
- CD09-1: United Methodist Church, 1903, Magnet
- CD12-73: St. Frances de Chantal Catholic Church, Randolph

## Historic Context: Aesthetic Systems

The Historic Context entitled Aesthetic Systems involves the application of skill and taste to production according to aesthetic principles. Specific considerations within this context include: the performing arts of music, dance, theater, and oratory; the visual arts of sculpture, painting, and decorative arts; and various forms of literature such as myths, legends, and tales. The physical manifestation of the aforementioned aesthetic components can be quite broad and open-ended. In terms of the Cedar County Historic Buildings Survey, two contributing objects come to mind which contain a potential relation to the Aesthetic Systems context. These are the Civil War Monument located in the Randolph Cemetery (CD00-161, 1905) and the Wiseman Memorial erected in memory of the five Wiseman children killed near the Missouri River in 1863 by Yankton and Santee Sioux Indians (CD00-129, 1926). These two objects are illustrated in further detail below and comprise the only Aesthetic-related properties recommended at this time for potential listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



**CD00-129:** Wiseman Family Memorial, 1926. SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 16, T.32 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Granite monument erected in memory of slain pioneer family. Chosen for relation to aesthetic expression and for association with religious memorials.



**CD00-161:** Civil War Monument, ca. 1905. NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 19, T.28 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Potential significance derived through an association with the visual arts component of the Aesthetic Systems Historic Context.

### Historic Context: Political Systems

The contextual topic of Political Systems encompasses the art or science of established government as well as competition between interest groups for leadership of local, state, or national government. Historic buildings which may relate to this topic include most government-related structures necessary to the operation of communities.

Typically, the recording of buildings fitting this context has been somewhat low due presumably to the fact that it only takes one or two of these buildings to satisfy the functional needs of a community. However, it was with some surprise that the recently completed survey of Cedar County would in fact produce no buildings with potential relation to this context. This is due, in part, to two reasons. The first of these being the ever-present nemesis of altered historic integrity and the second is the fact that some Political-related buildings were previously surveyed by the NeSHPO. Among those buildings surveyed prior to the March 1988 survey of Cedar County is the Cedar County Courthouse in Hartington (CD07-2). This building was constructed in 1891-92 from a design created by architect J. C. Stitt of Norfolk, Nebraska. It is the only Political-related property recommended at this time for potential listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

CD07-2: Cedar County Courthouse, 1891-92. E.S. Broadway bet. Center St. & Franklin St., Hartington. Included in the Preliminary Inventory for its importance as the seat of county-based government and for association with Romanesque Revival stylistic detailing.



### Historic Context: Associations

The contextual theme of Association refers to the institutionally patterned interactions among people. Association covers a large group of these institutionalized affiliations including, among others: fraternal, service, special interest, trade, political, humanitarian, religious, educational, social, and business organizations.

The Cedar County Historic Buildings Survey recorded three properties with relationship to the Association Historic Context. These are: the A.F. & A.M. Building in Laurel (CD08-51, ca. 1910), the I.O.O.F. Hall in Belden (CD02-13, ca. 1913), and an unidentified building in Fordyce believed to be an Association-related property (CD06-14, ca. 1916). Two of the aforementioned Association-related buildings were judged as secondary contributors to the historic character of Cedar County but may be of secondary priority with respect to National Register listing. These are the Laurel A.F. & A.M. Building (CD08-51) and the I.O.O.F. Hall in Belden (CD02-13).

The identification of association buildings was often very difficult. The organizations of the smaller communities did not always build a separate structure used solely for their purposes. Instead, they often rented the upper second floor story of an existing "Main Street" commercial building. The association buildings were often only identifiable in larger communities where greater membership and financial resources allowed the construction of individual meeting halls used specifically by the association group. In addition, the continued existence of organizations has usually dictated the updating or remodeling of historically built association buildings. In other words, the 1980s V.F.W. members were not satisfied with the 1920s V.F.W. building and have either extensively remodeled or built a new facility. Only in the case where the original building was constructed on a more permanent (masonry) and monumental scale with a publicly identifiable image of self-pride has the building survived intact and unaltered.

## Historic Context: Education

The contextual topic of Education encompasses any act or process which imparts or aids in the acquisition of knowledge. This title is quite self-explanatory with primary emphasis focused upon the components of schooling and enrichment. Historic buildings which fit this context are, among others, libraries, museums, and various forms or levels of schools.

The historic buildings survey of Educational-related properties in Cedar County was considered a highly successful endeavor and provides the basis for which further intensive studies may be conducted. Cedar County contains an excellent collection of 26 recorded historic properties relating to the Education Context. The survey was successful not only in terms of the large number of properties recorded, but also in the respective qualities of integrity and design which these properties displayed.

A breakdown of the 26 documented properties reveals that 17 of these were rural-based schools, seven were town-based schools, and two were libraries. While conducting a visual post-survey review of the 24 total school buildings, Save America's Heritage found that two distinct building form types were predominant. The first type is a simple unadorned hall-type building usually constructed of frame materials and containing a rectangular one-room plan. The survivors of this type were found predominantly in the rural environs and appear to have been constructed during a period from 1880 to about 1910. They are usually one story in height with a gable-end entry and were protected by a gable roof placed in either latitudinal or longitudinal orientations. The second predominant form type to emerge were the so-called "modern" school buildings which, in the case of Cedar County, were generally larger scale masonry buildings confined primarily to community-based locations. These building types appear to have been built during the years of 1910 to 1930 and usually consist of a raised basement two-story masonry structure which occupies the grounds of a single town block.

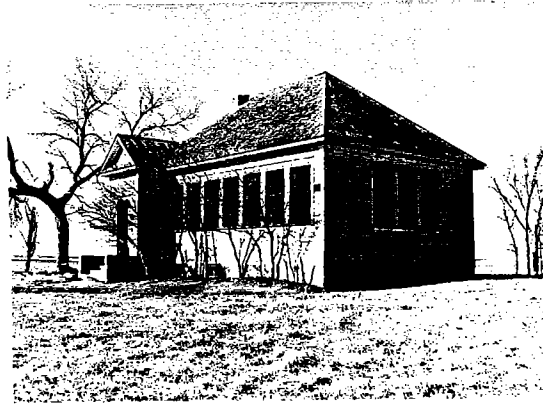
Particular mention must be made at this point concerning the preponderance of the one-room hall type school building. Of the 24 total schools recorded in Cedar County, 13 fit the category of the hall-type building.

Each of these 13 hall-type schools were found in rural locations with no extant examples found in any of the Cedar County communities. Because of the extensive development of the hall-type school and its subsequent survival throughout the county, it is Save America's Heritage recommendation that the NeSHPO pursue the Multiple Property Nomination of one-room hall-type school buildings. These properties are collectively viewed as significant historic resources based on their role in the initial establishment of the rural educational system throughout Cedar County. Due to the large number of potentially eligible properties which contribute to this theme, Save America's Heritage is not able to illustrate each individual property. Instead, five representative examples have been photographically portrayed below with an additional listing of the other eight potentially eligible hall-type schools. Following the presentation of the hall-type school theme, the reader will find eight other Educational-related buildings judged potentially eligible for National Register listing.



**CD00-50:** Abandoned School, ca. 1888. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 15, T.30 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Potentially eligible for NRHP listing based on association with recommended Multiple Property Nomination of hall-type school buildings in Cedar County.

**CD00-54:** Abandoned School, ca. 1890. NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 33, T.30 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Potentially eligible for NRHP listing based on association with recommended Multiple Property Nomination of hall-type school buildings in Cedar County.



**CD00-164:** Abandoned School, ca. 1900. SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 6, T.28 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Potentially eligible for NRHP listing based on association with recommended Multiple Property Nomination of hall-type school buildings in Cedar County.



**CD00-209:** Abandoned School, ca. 1907, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 17, T.29 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Potentially eligible for NRHP listing based on association with recommended Multiple Property Nomination of hall-type school buildings in Cedar County.



**CD00-236:** Abandoned School, ca. 1890, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 35, T.28 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Potentially eligible for NRHP listing based on association with recommended Multiple Property Nomination of hall-type school buildings in Cedar County.



**Additional Listing of Potentially Eligible Hall-Type Schools:**

- CD00-56 Abandoned School, ca. 1885  
CD00-60: Abandoned School, ca. 1919  
CD00-67: North-West Star District #19 Schoolhouse, ca. 1903  
CD00-134: Abandoned School, ca. 1893  
CD00-142: Abandoned School, ca. 1910  
CD00-180: Abandoned School, ca. 1900  
CD00-184: Abandoned School, ca. 1900  
CD00-226: Abandoned School, ca. 1896



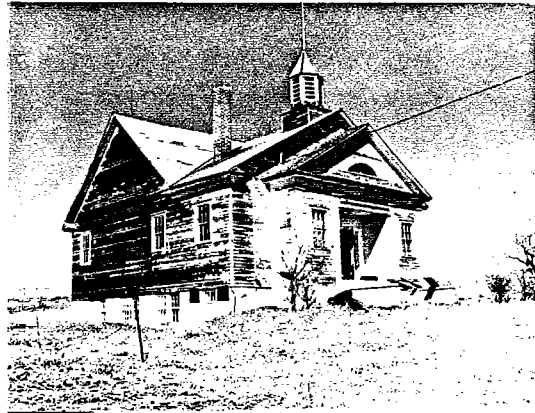
**CD00-96:** District #13 School, 1939. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 7, T.32 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Included in the Preliminary Inventory for use of Art Moderne design motifs indicative of 1930s stylistic architecture.



**CD00-133:** Abandoned School, ca. 1891. NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 24, T.32 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Representative of rural educational system established in the Missouri River Valley by pre-railroad settlers of the late 1870s.



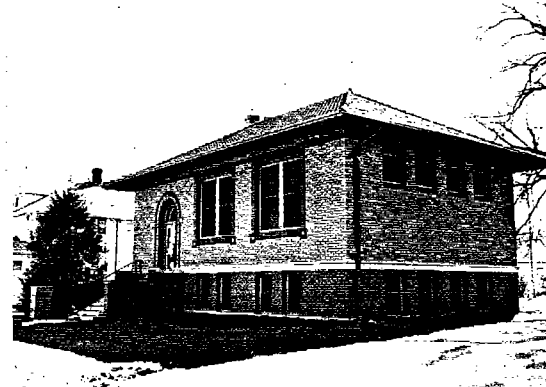
**CD00-177:** Abandoned School, ca. 1918. SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 5, T.29 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Rural-based schoolhouse selected for potential listing based on an association with the post-settlement construction of rural educational facilities.



**CD06-4:** Fordyce Public School, ca. 1896. S.S. 4th St. bet. Main St. & Ford St., Fordyce. Included in the Preliminary Inventory for retention of historic integrity and association with the establishment of public education in Fordyce.



**CD07-4:** Hartington Library, 1915. W.S. Broadway bet. Franklin St. & Center St., Hartington. Significance derived through association with Carnegie-sponsored library system and for use of Prairie Style design motifs.



**CD11-3:** District 21 Public School, 1912. S.E.C. 2nd St. & Miller St., Obert. Selected as an example of the "modern" type school building representative of the early 20th century advancement in educational facilities.





**CD12-3:** Randolph Library, 1918. S.E.C. Hughson St. & Douglas St., Randolph. Included in the Preliminary Inventory based on the Prairie Style design aesthetic and for potential association with the Carnegie-sponsored libraries.



**CD13-2:** St. Helena Public School, ca. 1914. E.S. St. Helena St. bet. 4th St. & 5th St., St. Helena. One-story frame schoolhouse selected for its association with the context of Education and for the retention of historic integrity.

**Second Priority Education-Related Properties:**

CD00-144: Abandoned School, ca. 1910

CD12-26: Randolph Public School, 1911

## Historic Context: Agriculture

The Historic Contexts relating to the theme of Agriculture will obviously be of great variety and importance to Nebraska. As a predominantly agrarian-based society, the economic well-being of the state is, in part, dependent upon the production of crops and livestock. Like other Nebraska counties, the settlement of Cedar County was correspondent to the agricultural success of the early permanent settlers. Consequently, the documentation of historic agricultural properties in Cedar County was an important and numerically significant task. Bearing this out is the fact that a total of 205 individual farm sites were documented by the Historic Buildings Survey of Cedar County. These 205 properties accounted for 1,015 contributing buildings, 116 contributing structures, and 37 contributing objects. These totals appear somewhat consistent on a proportional judgement with those of other northeast NeHBS counties containing a similar geographic area.

The farmsteads documented by the survey are collectively viewed as an important historic resource for the state of Nebraska. They portray the raw materials of a people and an industry responsible for the settlement of a vast portion of our state. The continued existence of some of the farms documented in Cedar County is, however, somewhat in doubt. In fact, 65 or approximately 32% of the 205 farms recorded were either abandoned farmsteads or farmhouses. The majority of these farms range in their era of construction from approximately 1885 to 1930. They contain the basic buildings necessary to crop and animal production such as cattle and hog barns, drive-thru corn cribs, granaries, and implement sheds. Particular emphasis was placed on the observance of farm properties relating to Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production. This farming type was identified in the 1930s by authors associated with the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture (Hedges and Elliott; Garey) as the predominant type of agriculture conducted in Cedar County. This farming type was indeed prevalent throughout the duration of the rural survey with the greater majority of the farms surveyed exhibiting some connection to cattle and/or hog production. In fact, the recording of intensive livestock producing farmsteads in Cedar County must be considered one of

the most successful aspects of the Northeast Nebraska survey project. A highly representative group of 24 early 20th century livestock producing farmsteads were selected from the 205 farm properties documented in Cedar County. These 24 properties were originally earmarked during field survey as exceptional examples of historic livestock-producing farmsteads and were then reviewed again in a post-survey analysis before appearing in the Agriculture Inventory listed below. These properties exhibited not only a high degree of historic integrity among individual structures but have maintained the overall scale and character associated with livestock-producing farmsteads of the early 20th century. Typical livestock-related buildings found on these properties include large-scale cattle barns, hog barns, hay/horse barns, loafing sheds, elevators, granaries, and drive-thru corn cribs. The 24 potential livestock properties have been presented in the Inventory below under the premise that further research will be necessary to determine their individual levels of significance. In addition to these 24 properties, five other general Agriculture-related properties have been photographically portrayed as potentially eligible for National Register listing.



CDOO-36: Farmstead, ca. 1905. SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 26, T.31 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Selected as a potentially significant example of intensive livestock production and as a contributor to the proposed Lammers/Norwegian Bow Creek Multiple Property Nomination.

**CD00-37:** Farmstead, ca. 1905. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 26, T.31 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Potentially significant for association with Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production and for contributions to the proposed Lammers/Norwegian Bow Creek Nomination.



**CD00-38:** Farmstead, ca. 1900. SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 27, T.31 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Large-scale livestock-producing farmstead containing 11 contributing buildings but primarily selected for the two-story brick farm house and large chalk rock barn.



**CD00-39:** Farmhouse, ca. 1905. SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 27, T.31 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Large-scale farmstead selected as a potentially significant representative of intensive livestock production and Lammers/Norwegian Bow Creek Nomination.



**CD00-40:** Farmstead, ca. 1895. NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 30, T.31 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Potentially significant for association with Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production and for contributions to the proposed Lammers/Norwegian Bow Creek Nomination.





**CD00-41:** Farmstead, ca. . NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 24, T.31 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Selected as a potentially significant example of intensive livestock farming and as a contributor to the proposed Lammers/Norwegian Bow Creek Multiple Property Nomination.



**CD00-43:** Farmstead, ca. 1893. NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 11, T.31 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Selected as a potentially significant example of intensive livestock farming and as a contributor to the proposed Lammers/Norwegian Bow Creek Multiple Property Nomination.



**CD00-45:** Farmstead, ca. 1910. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 35, T.32 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Selected as a well preserved and potentially significant contributor to the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**CD00-62:** Farmstead, ca. 1921. NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 32, T.31 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Large-scale farmstead selected as a potentially significant representative of Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production.

**CD00-65:** Abandoned Farmstead, ca. 1924. NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 20, T.31 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Selected as a well preserved and potentially significant contributor to the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**CD00-83:** Farmstead, ca. 1895-1928. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 25, T.33 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Large-scale intensive livestock producing farmstead containing one and one-half story brick house and two clay tile livestock barns.



**CD00-92:** Farmstead, ca. 1895-1925. NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 16, T.32 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Selected as a well preserved and potentially significant contributor to the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**CD00-93:** Farmstead, ca. 1905. SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 10, T.32 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Identified as a potentially significant example of Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production farming.





**CD00-95:** Abandoned Boarding House, ca. 1890. NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 13, T.32 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Large-scale two-story frame house potentially used for the boarding of farm laborers employed on this livestock-producing farmstead.



**CD00-102:** Farmstead, ca. 1907-1930. SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 23, T.32 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Preliminarily identified as a significant example of Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production farming.



**CD00-69:** Farmstead, ca. 1920. SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 4, T.31 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Selected as a well preserved and potentially significant contributor to the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**CD00-193:** Farmstead, ca. 1916. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 32, T.30 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Large-scale livestock producing farmstead included in Inventory primarily for the circa 1910 banked cattle barn.



**CD00-214:** Farmstead, ca. 1910. NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 6, T.29 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Identified as a potentially significant example of Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production farming.



**CD00-219:** Barn, ca. 1910. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 26, T.30 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Potential significance based on presence of large banked cattle/hay barn with board and batten siding.

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obscured  
photograph

**CD00-245:** Farmstead, ca. 1918. SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 32, T.28 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Selected as a potentially significant example of the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**CD00-250:** Farmstead, ca. 1920. SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 25, T.28 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Selected as a well preserved and potentially significant contributor to the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.





**CD00-252:** Farmstead, ca. 1920. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 10, T.28 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Large-scale farmstead selected as a potentially significant representative of the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production farm type.



**CD00-253:** Farmstead, ca. 1913. NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 9, T.28 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Potentially significant for association with the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**CD08-4:** Laurel Stock Pavilion, ca. 1904. E.S. Pine St. bet. 3rd & 4th St., Laurel. Large-scale eight-sided frame sale barn considered potentially significant with respect to the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Context.



**CD00-20:** Chalk Rock Barn, ca. 1885. NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 5, T.32 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Large-scale general agriculture farmstead included in the Preliminary Inventory primarily for the circa 1885 chalk rock barn.

**CDOO-71**: Abandoned farmstead, ca. 1895. NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 25, T.32 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Included in the Inventory for the semi-courtyard building layout and for its representation of late 19th century general agriculture farming.



**CDOO-116**: Abandoned Farmstead, ca. 1891. SW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 24, T.32 N., R.3 E., Cedar County. Despite abandonment, this farmstead is significant for its representation of late 19th century general agriculture farming.



**CDOO-156**: Farmstead, ca. 1910. SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 34, T.32 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Selected as a well preserved and potentially significant example of the early 20th century general agriculture farming system.



**CDOO-181**: Barn, ca. 1911. SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 2, T.29 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Two-story frame barn located on otherwise non-contributing farmstead. Selected for association with agriculture and retention of historic integrity.



**Second Priority Agriculture Properties:**

CD00-27: Abandoned Farmstead  
CD00-28: Farmstead  
CD00-77: Farmstead  
CD00-90: Brick House, ca. 1900  
CD00-105: Heine Farm  
CD00-112: Farmstead, ca. 1885  
CD00-163: Farmstead  
CD00-207: Abandoned Farmstead  
CD00-223: Abandoned Farmstead  
CD00-232: Farmstead  
CD00-240: Farmstead  
CD00-247: Farmstead

## Historic Context: Commerce

Cedar County contains an excellent collection of 49 recorded historic properties relating to the Historic Context of Commerce. The survey was successful not only in terms of the large number of properties recorded, but also in the respective qualities of integrity and design which these properties displayed. Indicative of these exceptional qualities is the fact that 11 Commerce-related properties have been primarily recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Of the 49 commercial properties recorded in Cedar County, 39 were found in the recent northeast NeHBS survey conducted by Save America's Heritage while the remaining 10 were surveyed previously by NeSHPO staff members.

A breakdown of the 49 documented properties reveals that 27 were related to commercial retail activities, eight were related to the banking industry, 13 more sites were associated with transportation-related services, and one was linked with the wholesale agriculture market. While conducting a visual post-survey review of the 49 buildings of available record, Save America's Heritage found that two distinct building types were most evident. The first type is a simple false front building usually constructed of frame materials and containing a longitudinally-oriented rectangular plan. They were typically only one story in height and were entered through a narrow gable-end entry. The two-story examples usually housed the living quarters of the proprietor above an open ground floor retail space. The survivors of this type were predominantly found in town locations and appear to have been constructed during a period from 1885 to 1905. Properties recorded in Cedar County of the false front type are: CD08-33, CD09-2, CD09-10, CD11-6, CD11-7, CD15-12, and CD15-18. Particular mention should be made at this time regarding the false front buildings located in Magnet (CD09-10) and Wynot (CD15-18). These buildings represent the locally rare use of brick masonry construction in a false front building type.

The second and more numerically significant type documented was the masonry commercial block or building which accounted for 38 of the 49 commercial buildings recorded in Cedar County. These buildings were generally large-scale masonry buildings confined primarily to the central

business districts of the Knox County communities. This building type appears to have been built primarily between the years of 1905 and 1930 and usually consist of one- and two-story masonry structures with one- or two-part compositional facades. These buildings were often built on a single 25-foot commercial-sized lots or in double- to triple-wide commercial blocks of 50 to 75 foot widths.



**CD04-15:** Coleridge National Bank, 1902. N.S. Broadway St. bet. Main St. & Chambers St., Coleridge. One-story brick bank building significant for use of Neoclassical style design aesthetic and for association with the early 20th century financial development of south-central Cedar County.

**CD06-10:** Blacksmith Shop, ca. 1893. S.S. 2nd St. bet. Main St. & Ford St., Fordyce. Potential significance derived through the locally rare use of masonry in a false front type building and for a secondary association with the Historic Context of Transportation.



**CD07-7:** Former Bank, ca. 1900. N.W.C. Broadway & Main St., Hartington. Potential significance derived through use of Neoclassical design aesthetic and for association with the early 20th century economic development of Hartington.



**CD07-8:** Former Bank, 1903. S.S. Main St. bet. Broadway St. & Madison St., Hartington. One-story brick bank building potentially significant for its role in the economic development of Cedar County during the early 20th century.



**CD07-43:** Commercial Building, ca. 1900. E.S. Broadway bet. Main & State St., Hartington. Two-story brick commercial building selected for its association with retailing in the early 20th century and as an example of the two-part compositional type.

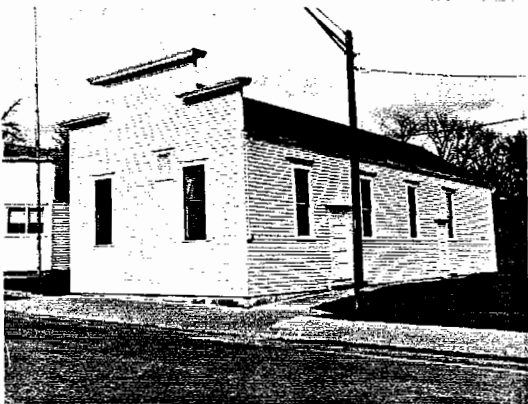




**CD08-50:** Laurel National Bank, ca. 1906. S.W.C. Oak & 2nd St., Laurel. Two-story brick bank building potentially significant for its role in the economic development and financial stability of Laurel during the early 20th century.



**CD11-6:** Commercial Building, ca. 1907. E.S. Main St. bet. 1st & 2nd St., Obert. One-story frame commercial building indicative of the false front compositional type and significant as an example of sole proprietor retail commerce.



**CD11-7:** Commercial Building, ca. 1907. E.S. Main St. bet. 1st & 2nd St., Obert. Selected as an example of a turn-of-the-century false front commercial building type and for association with sole proprietor retail commerce.



**CD12-36:** Commercial Building, ca. 1910. S.W.C. Broadway & Main St., Randolph. Two-story brick commercial building included in the Inventory for its association with early 20th century commerce and/or banking.



**CD12-37:** First State Bank, 1890.  
S.E.C. Broadway & Douglas St.,  
Randolph. Two-story brick bank  
building judged potentially  
significant for its association  
with the late 19th century banking  
industry and for Richardsonian  
Romanesque style motifs.



**CD15-12:** Harness Shop, ca. 1907.  
S.E.C. St. James Ave. & 5th St.,  
Wynot. Significance based on the  
potential association to early 20th  
century retail commerce and for the  
portrayal of the false front  
commercial building type.



**Second Priority Commerce Properties:**

- CD02-12: Former Belden First National Bank
- CD04-16: Commercial Building
- CD09-2: False Front Commercial Building
- CD11-5: Commercial Building
- CD11-12: Commercial Building
- CD11-13: Commercial Building
- CD12-35: Commercial Building
- CD15-14: Farm & Hardware Store, ca. 1910
- CD15-15: Meats Store, ca. 1910

## Historic Context: Transportation

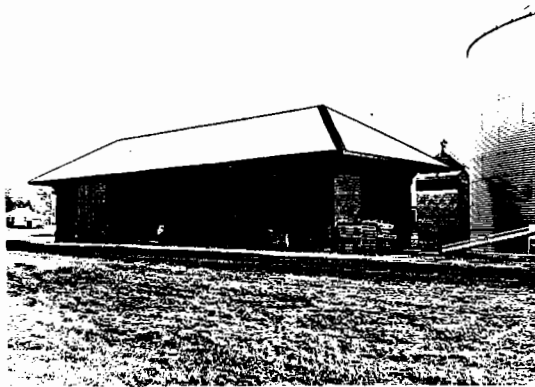
The historic context relating to the theme of Transportation encompasses the conveying of material and people from one place to another. This includes both the corridors (trails, roads, rails, water) and modes (non-motorized, motorized) most commonly used for the transport of goods and people. Specific building types relating to this theme are depots, gas stations, liverys, hotels, motels, auto dealerships, garages, and freight rail structures.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Cedar County recorded a total of 17 individual properties relating to the context of Transportation. A breakdown of specific functional types reveals that these 21 properties represent a broad range of transportation-related services. A large share of these buildings (8) were built as a direct response to the advent of the automobile. These include one automobile dealership/garages (CD07-40), five individual garages (CD02-15, CD12-32, CD12-34, CD12-39, CD15-18), one gas station (CD05-1), and one combination cafe and service station (CD08-49). The remaining nine buildings consisted of two liverys (CD06-10, CD06-11), two passenger rail depots (CD06-1, CD07-10), four hotels (CD04-14, CD07-6, CD07-31, CD08-8), and one harness shop (CD15-12). Of the 17 recorded properties relating to transportation, six were considered potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and are illustrated below.



CD04-14: Coleridge Community Hotel, 1919. S.E.C. Broadway & Main St., Coleridge. Two-story brick hotel building potentially significant for associations with the Historic Contexts of Transportation and Commerce.

**CD06-1:** Fordyce Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Depot, ca. 1884. S.S. Railroad bet. Main St. & Nebraska St., Fordyce. One-story frame passenger depot considered important for its role in the late 19th century settlement of Cedar County.



**CD07-31:** Former Hotel, ca. 1887. S.E.C. State St. & Madison St., Hartington. Two-story frame hotel judged potentially significant as a well preserved example of the late 19th century "railroad-type" hotel.



**CD08-8:** Former Hotel, ca. 1909. E.S. Oak St. bet. 1st & 2nd St., Laurel. Two-story brick hotel selected as a well preserved example of the early 20th century "Main St." hotel building type.



**CD08-49:** Home Cafe & Service Station, ca. 1927. W.S. Highway 12 at 1st St., Laurel. Potentially significant for the locally rare use of Art Deco stylistic motifs and as the only documented example in Cedar County of a combination cafe/service station.





**CD15-18:** Municipal Garage, ca. 1911. S.W.C. Keegan Ave. & 5th St., Wynot. One-story brick false front garage building included in the Preliminary Inventory for its association to early 20th century public transportation services.

### Historic Context: Settlement Systems

Settlement Systems is the broad contextual title encompassing the division, acquisition, and ownership of land. This theme also contains the patterns generated through political, religious, or commercial activities to facilitate the establishment of cultural systems. Not surprisingly, this topic contained the greatest number of documented historic properties within Cedar County. Of the 657 total properties recorded in Cedar County, 521 or 79.3% fall within the theme of Settlement Systems. This total appears to be fairly consistent with that of other northeast NeHBS counties containing a similar geographic size. The retention of historic integrity that these 401 properties displayed was obviously quite varied. In some instances, the integrity had been severely compromised through later alterations or additions, while in other cases buildings were recorded which were extremely similar to their original condition. The era of construction for these properties was quite diverse as well. Construction dates appear to range from the first crude pre-railroad dwellings of the 1870s to the period-revival houses of the 1930s.

The majority of the 506 settlement system properties appeared in two basic forms: (1) the simple, unadorned vernacular house and (2) the Craftsman style house built in abundance from 1915 to 1925. In addition to this, a smaller group of "high-style" houses were also observed. These style-oriented houses, with the exception of the Craftsman, occurred rather infrequently. Despite this infrequent occurrence, however, the "high-style" houses were represented by a broad range of stylistic types. These included Italianate, Stick, Shingle, Folk Victorian, Queen Anne, and a vernacularized version of Prairie Style.

Besides accounting for the largest percentage of recorded buildings, the contextual theme of Settlement Systems also represents the largest number of properties recommended for the National Register of Historic Places. Forty-three of the 143 properties recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP are found in the Preliminary Inventory under the heading of Settlement Systems. The listing of these properties as well as that of 34 second priority properties is included below.



**CD00-48:** Farmhouse, ca. 1905. NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 19, T.33 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. One and one-half story frame house representative of early 20th century farm settlement. Possible associations to ethnic cultures.



**CD00-51:** Farmhouse, ca. 1900. SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 15, T.30 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Included in the Preliminary Inventory as a well preserved example of the gable front saltbox house type with possible association to ethnic cultures.



**CD00-79:** Farmhouse, ca. 1893. SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 10, T.33 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Chosen for its significance as a representative of the Italianate style and for possible association with significant persons.



**CD00-86:** Farmhouse, ca. 1910. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 36, T.33 N., R.1 W., Cedar County. Significant for its contribution to the Prairie Cube or American 4-square style. Additional significance possible through association with significant persons.

**CD00-87:** John Lammers House, ca. 1887. SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 35, T.33 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Potentially significant for association with the proposed Lammers Family Multiple Property Nomination and as an example of the I-house type folk dwelling.



**CD00-155:** House, ca. 1905. NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 15, T.31 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Large, two-story frame house chosen as a symbol of farmstead prosperity during the early 20th century.



**CD00-159:** House, ca. 1895. SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 8, T.31 N., R.2 E., Cedar County. Large, cut stone one-story house with hip roof. Significant for the locally rare use of stone building materials and for possible association with ethnic cultures.



**CD00-167:** Farmhouse, ca. 1895. SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 10, T.30 N., R.1 E., Cedar County. Two-story brick house potentially significant as an example of pre-20th rural settlement in the Bow Creek Valley of west-central Cedar County.



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photograph



**CD00-169:** House, ca. 1910.  
NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 31, T.31 N.,  
R.2 E., Cedar County. Large, two-  
story house representative of the  
numerically significant Supratype  
No. 89 house form.



**CD00-206:** Farmhouse, ca. 1900.  
SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 12, T.29 N.,  
R.2 E., Cedar County. Potentially  
significant as a representative of  
the Free-Classic subtype associated  
with Queen Anne style architecture  
and for possible association with  
significant persons.

**CD00-210:** Farmhouse, ca. 1895.  
SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 15, T.29 N.,  
R.3 E., Cedar County. One-story  
frame house chosen as a unique  
representative of the otherwise  
common Supratype No. 36 house form.



**CD00-218:** Farmhouse, ca. 1910.  
SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 24, T.30 N.,  
R.1 E., Cedar County. Two-story  
brick farmhouse potentially  
significant as an example of large-  
scale post-railroad domestic  
buildings constructed in the early  
20th century.



**CDO2-10:** House, ca. 1906. W.S. Jackson St., bet. 2nd St. & 3rd St., Belden. One and one-half story frame house included in the Preliminary Inventory for retention of historic integrity and for possible association to ethnic culture.



**CDO2-20:** House, ca. 1895. E.S. Cedar St. bet. 2nd St. & 3rd St., Belden. One and one-half frame house chosen as a well preserved pre-20th century example of the numerically significant Supratype No. 36.



**CDO3-1:** House, ca. 1907. SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 36, T.32 N., R.1 E., Bow Valley. Chosen as a significant example of Free Style Queen Anne architecture from the Folk Victorian building period.



**CDO4-4:** House, ca. 1895. N.S. Broadway St., 2 blocks E. of Portland St., Coleridge. Significant as a representative of the Stick Style associated with Victorian architecture and for possible associations with significant persons.





**CD04-26:** House, ca. 1906. S.S. Fulton St. bet. Main St. and Chambers St. This one-story frame house was considered for potential associations to ethnic cultures and for retention of Folk Victorian style detailing.



**CD04-35:** House, 1927. W.S. Madison St. bet. Cedar St. & Broadway St., Coleridge. Significant as a representative of this Craftsman style and the influence of West Coast architecture.



**CD07-15:** House, ca. 1900. S.W.C. Lemon Ave. & Bow St., Hartington. One and one-half story brick house selected as an example of the gable front Folk House type and for possible association to the adjacently located Lammers Brickyard.

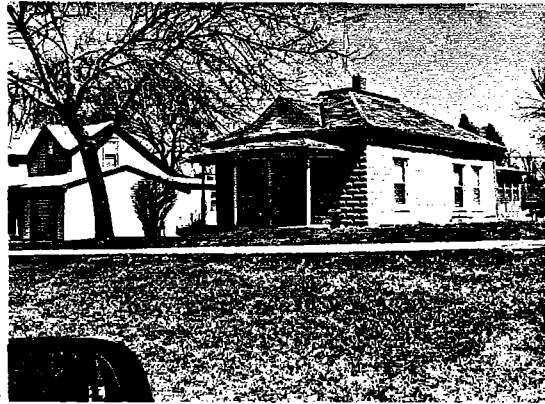


**CD07-17:** E. E. Shaffer House, ca. 1910. S.S. Franklin St. bet. Portland Ave. & County Road, Hartington. Representative of the Free Classic subtype associated with Queen Anne style architecture.

**CD07-19:** House, ca. 1895. 506 E. Felber St., Hartington. This small-scale house is included in the Preliminary Inventory as a well preserved example of a pre-20th century masonry house with possible links to ethnic culture.



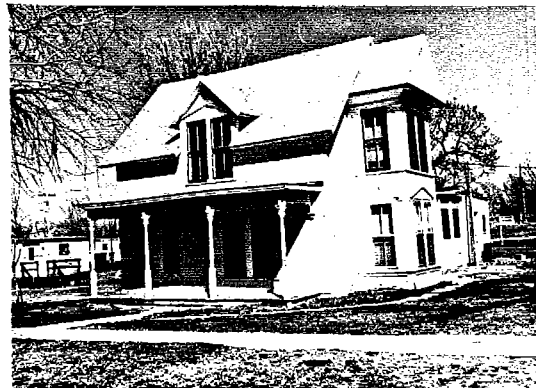
**CD07-22:** House, ca. 1906. 205 S. Lemon Ave., Hartington. One-story concrete block house potentially significant as an example of the numerically significant Supratype 31 and for early local use of cement block masonry construction.

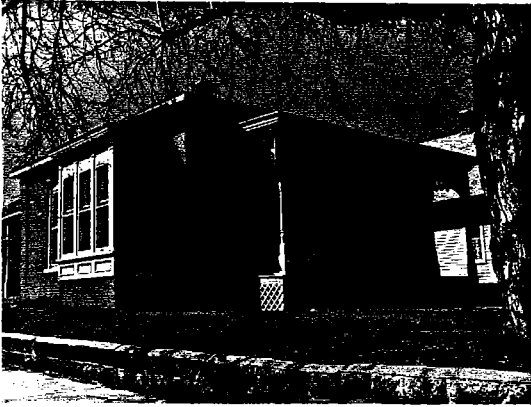


**CD07-25:** House, ca. 1890. 306 N. Oak Ave., Hartington. Chosen for the locally rare use of Second Empire style design aesthetic and for possible associations with pre-20th century ethnic immigrants.

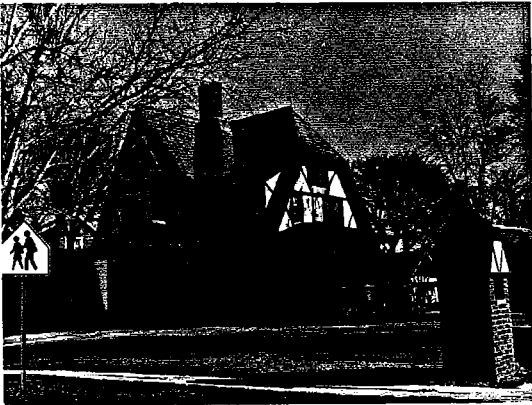


**CD07-30:** House, ca. 1897. 105 S. Capitol Ave., Hartington. A well preserved example of a late 19th century side gable house type with possible associations to ethnic cultures.





**CD07-33:** House, ca. 1895. N.W.C. S. Madison St. & Franklin St., Hartington. Significant as a representative of the Italianate style dwelling. Additional significance derived through an association with the numerically significant Supratype 72.



**CD07-50:** House, ca. 1930. 103 W. Franklin St., Hartington. Selected as a well preserved and potentially significant example of the residential Tudor style design aesthetic. Also noted for possible association with significant persons.



**CD07-51:** House, ca. 1893. W.S. Summit Ave. bet. Court St. & Franklin St., Hartington. Included in the Preliminary Inventory as an example of pre-20th century masonry home building in Hartington.

No photograph  
available

**CD07-55:** House, ca. 1927. S.W.C. Summit St. & Bow St., Hartington. One and one-half story brick house significant as an example of the side gable subtype associated with the Craftsman style house design.

**CD07-59:** House, ca. 1900. 302 S. Cedar Ave., Hartington. Significant as a representative of the numerically significant Supratype No. 89 house form and for possible association with significant persons.



**CD07-68:** House, ca. 1891. N.W.C. N. Robinson Ave. & Goetz St., Hartington. Circa 1891 two-story brick house chosen for retention of historic integrity and as a representative of the early post-railroad use of masonry domestic construction.



**CD07-81:** House, ca. 1935. N.W.C. N. Olive Ave. & W. State St., Hartington. Significant as a representative of Colonial Revival style architecture and for possible association to significant persons.



**CD07-107:** House, ca. 1907. 313 W. Main St., Hartington. This two-story frame house was included in the Preliminary Inventory as a well-preserved example of the numerically significant Supratype 89 with Free Classic Queen Anne stylistic details.

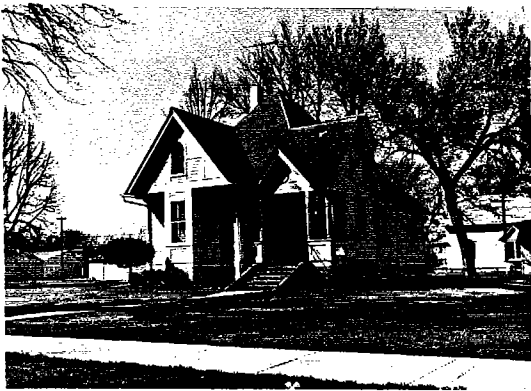




**CD08-3:** House, ca. 1890. N.E.C. 3rd St. & Spruce St., Laurel. Potential significance derived through an association with the numerically significant Supratype 36 house form and for possible association with ethnic immigration.



**CD08-14:** House, ca. 1900. 403 Oak St., Laurel. Potential significance derived through the presence of a locally unique supratype form and for possible late 19th century ethnic associations.



**CD08-55:** House, ca. 1905. 208 Second St., Laurel. Chosen as a well preserved example of the Folk Victorian house style.



**CD09-5:** House, ca. 1885. W.S. Park St. bet. Park St. & Grove St., Magnet. Significant as a representative of the Hall-and-Parlor house type commonly built by the early permanent settlers of the late 19th century.

**CD11-9:** House, ca. 1904. Lot 4, Block 8, Original Town, Obert. One and one-half story brick house selected for Preliminary Inventory due to its supratype association as well as possible relationship to ethnic cultures.



**CD11-11:** House, ca. 1895. S.E.C. 1st St. & County Road, Obert. One and one-half story brick house chosen for retention of masonry construction details and for possible late 19th century ethnic associations.



**CD11-16:** House, ca. 1895. Lot 14, Block 12, Original Town, Obert. One-story brick gable front house considered potentially significant for the use of masonry construction during the pre-railroad development of Obert.



**CD12-19:** House, ca. 1910. S.E.C. E. Jackson St. & Jennie St. Included in the Preliminary Inventory for the individually unique Supratype 1 house form and for possible association with significant persons.





**CD12-75:** House, ca. 1912. E.S. Bridge St., 1/2 block S. of Broadway St., Randolph. One and one-half story Victorian "Bird's Nest Cottage." Potentially significant as a locally unique building style.



**CD15-20:** House, ca. 1896. S.S. 5th St. bet. Keegan St. & E. City Limits, Wynot. Two-story brick house with hip roof. Potentially significant for use of masonry construction during pre-railroad development of Wynot.

**Second Priority Settlement Systems Properties:**

CD00-76:	Farmstead	CD07-75:	Brick House
CD00-158:	Abandoned Farmhouse	CD07-79:	House
CD00-199:	Abandoned Farmhouse	CD07-97:	Italianate House
CD00-225:	Abandoned Farmhouse	CD08-10:	House
CD02-6:	House	CD08-24:	House
CD04-11:	Farmhouse	CD08-32:	House
CD04-25:	House	CD08-35:	House
CD06-16:	House	CD08-45:	House
CD07-3:	Antone Lammers House	CD08-46:	House
CD07-13:	Hugo Hirschmann House	CD08-59:	House
CD07-27:	House	CD12-11:	House
CD07-35:	Brick House	CD12-15:	House
CD07-57:	House	CD12-43:	House
CD07-58:	House	CD12-65:	House
CD07-69:	Brick House	CD12-67:	House
CD07-72:	House	CD12-69:	House
CD07-73:	House	CD15-21:	House
CD07-74:	House		



## **Historic Context: Ethnic Groups**

Due to a change in the survey policy of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO), the development of ethnic-related Historic Context Reports and subsequent intensive study of ethnic buildings has not been included in the Historic Buildings Survey of Cedar County. Instead, the NeSHPO has chosen to complete a 100% reconnaissance survey to first determine the status of extant resources and then follow up with intensive studies of those buildings targeted by the reconnaissance survey as potentially significant for their association with identified ethnic cultures. Consequently, the discussion of potentially significant ethnic cultures and ethnic properties is not included in the Preliminary Inventory under the heading of Ethnic Groups but is found in the Recommendations for Future Work discussed in the following pages.

### **General Summary Part 2:**

#### **A Supratype Summary of Cedar County House Types**

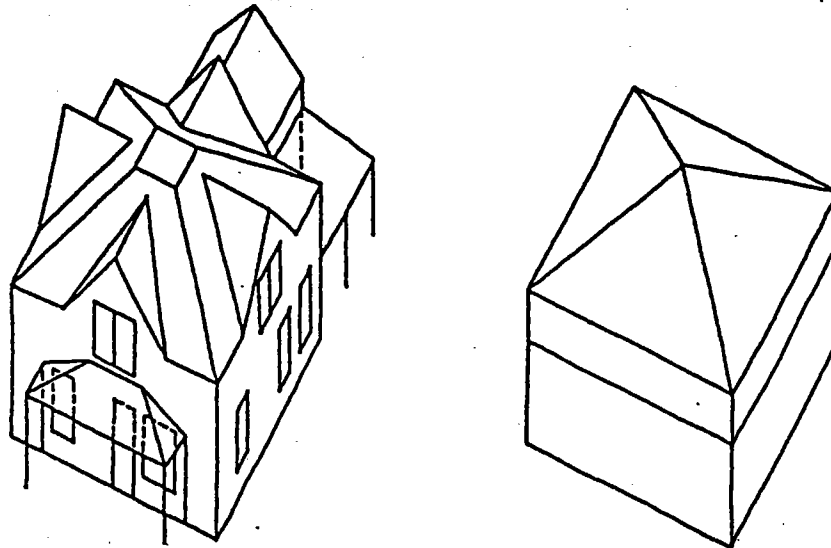
It is no surprise that domestic architecture is the most frequently recorded resource in reconnaissance-level surveys. The Cedar County survey was no exception producing a total of 506 residential resources. This total represents 32% of the 1,572 contributing buildings recorded within the study area. The preservation of this building type can be attributed to the continuing social need for shelter and the predominant location of residences in towns where the opportunity for occupancy is greater. The recording of residential buildings in the Cedar County survey included not only occupied resources, but abandoned as well. In addition, all houses that were surveyed as part of a church site or farmstead were included in the aforementioned totals.

In consideration of the large abundance of these resources and in an attempt to avoid "stylistic" designations, the method of Core Supratype Analysis (as developed by the Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee, D. Murphy: 1985) has been implemented. The supratype analysis eliminates the subjective labeling of domestic buildings according to "style" and imposes instead, an objective description based on the primary external mass of the house. To best define the components of this method, an

excerpt from the South Bottoms Historic District National Register Nomination (D. Murphy: 1987, 1-4) is included below.

The supratype is a categorization based exclusively on the external massing of houses, similar to that first developed by Kniffen (1936) under the ruberick of "type." The term "supra-type" is applied here to distinguish it from the more current methods of type analysis which are based on form, that is, on external massing and internal space, such as that developed by Glassie (1975).

Core supratypes are defined by combinations of five massing elements as applied to the core structure of houses. Core structure is defined as the predominant mass element which cannot be further subdivided (Figure 2). In general, core refers to that portion of a house which is exclusive of wings and porches. The mass elements which compose the core include its shape, relative size, wall height, roof type, and its orientation on the site.



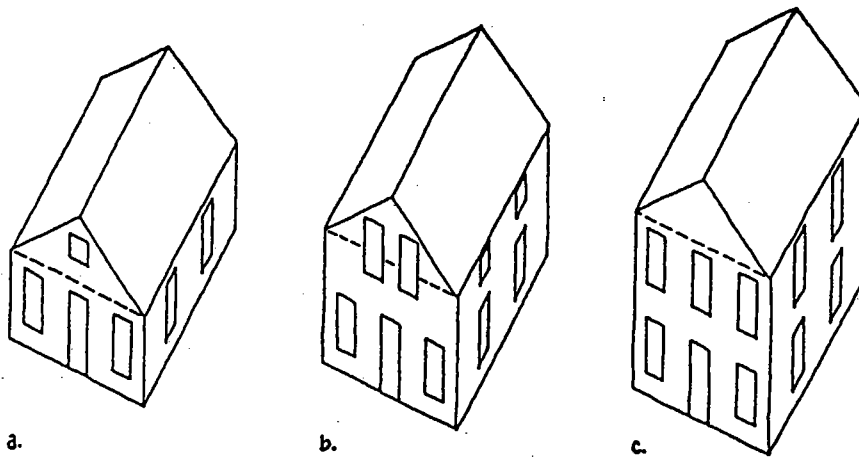
**Fig. 2. The core structure derived from the house (after Murphy).**

Shape designations for core structures are geometric, based on the ground-level outline of the core. Designations include square (S), rectangular (R), tee-shaped (T), ell-shaped (L),

cross-shaped (X), U-shaped (U), polygonal (P), H-shaped (H), courtyard (C), irregular (I), and circular (O).

The horizontal size of the core is related to a need to distinguish large houses from small ones. Size, in the supratypal method, refers to horizontal dimension and is applied only to the narrowest dimension of the core, or to its width. While actual dimensions are recorded, houses are sorted based upon "units" of measurement which approximate the number of rooms a given width normally could contain (e.g., one, one with hall, two rooms, etc.). Units of width in the South Bottoms Historic District are defined as 0.5 (less than 14 ft.), 1.0 (14-19 ft.), 1.5 (20-29 ft.), 2.0 (30-39 ft.), and 2.5 (40 ft. or greater).

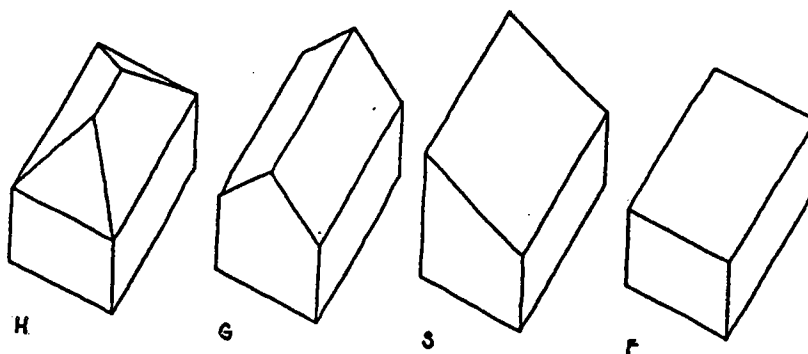
The second measurement of size involves the height of the core. We designate this dimension in terms of stories, even though it is based exclusively on the height of the external wall, not on the amount of usable internal space. The measurement is based on the facade wall, the top of which is expressed by the eave line (Figure 3). Thus attics, the space beneath a sloping roof, are not considered in determinations of height.



**Fig. 3. Wall height guidelines illustrated, note the eave line: a) one story, b) one-and-one-half story, c) two story (after Murphy).**

The fourth massing element is roof type. These are so well known that they need little explanation. The supratypal method utilizes only four generic types for simplicity, subsuming under

these all the variants (Figure 4). The four types include flat (F), shed (S), hipped (H, including pyramidal and mansard), and gabled (G, including gambrel and gerkinhead).



**Fig. 4. Generic roof types: H: hipped; G: gable; S: shed; F: flat (after Murphy).**

The last aspect of mass used in describing core supratypes involves the orientation of the core on the site, relative to its facade. Facade is defined as that wall which is the architectural front of the house, facing the road or the street, which is usually but not always more highly decorated. Facades also usually but not always incorporate the main entrance. Orientation is expressed in latitudinal (La), longitudinal (Lo), and non-applicable (Na) terms. There are several core shapes for which orientation is not applicable. Since only two shapes, the square (S) and the rectangular (R), are statistically significant in South Bottoms, orientation will be discussed only for those two here.

For rectangular shapes, if the narrow (gable) end faces the street, the axis of its roof is perpendicular to the street. Its orientation is then termed longitudinal (Lo). If the eave side faces the street, its roof ridge runs parallel to the street and its orientation is described as latitudinal (La). Orientation is always applicable for rectangular cores.

For square shapes (S), where both the front and side dimensions are equal, we would normally consider orientation to be non-applicable (Na). This is true for squares with hipped or pyramidal roofs. However, if the square core is sheltered by a gable roof, the ridge provides an illusion of orientation as though it were rectangular in shape. Therefore, square shapes with gable roofs have orientation recorded in the same fashion as that for rectangular cores.

In summary, core supratypes are external massing categorizations applied to the core structure of houses. Core structure is the predominant mass element which cannot be further subdivided (that portion of the house exclusive of subordinate wings and porches). Five massing aspects of the core are used to derive the supertype—its shape, relative size, height, roof type, and orientation. Particular combinations of these aspects are designated numerically (S.ç). (D. Murphy: South Bottoms Historic District National Register Nomination, 1987, 1-4).

### **Cedar County House Types**

The use of the Core Supertype analysis in the reconnaissance-level survey proved beneficial in that it created an objective process of interpretation for the recording of historic residences. The residential properties documented in the Cedar County survey are represented by 101 different supratypes. A numerical designation has been assigned to each of these 101 types (e.g., S.1, S.2, S.3, etc.). A master list of the 101 individual types is included in this report as Appendix 2.

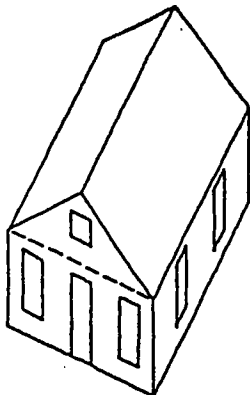
While 101 various supratypes may seem like a varied lot for 506 total resources, a somewhat more narrow group actually represents the majority of the documented properties. In fact, 16 supertype categories account for 63% of all recorded sites. Furthermore, over 47% of all Cedar County houses fit into one of only nine supertype categories. The supertype recording of historic houses has produced a large volume of data which can be analyzed in an infinite number of ways. However, in an attempt to

present a concise and useful summary of the supratype data, Save America's Heritage has focused on the answers to two basic questions. These are:

1. What were the numerically significant supratypes of the entire county?
2. What were the numerically significant supratypes of town locations versus those of rural locations?

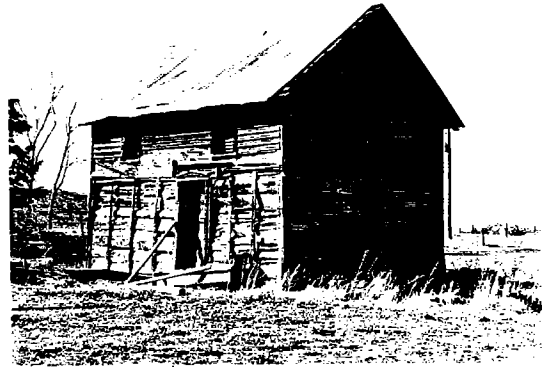
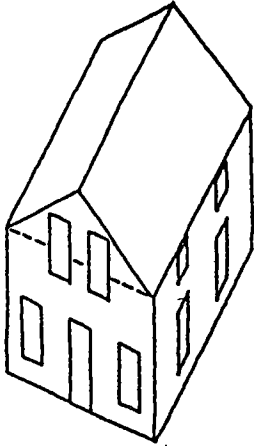
To answer these questions, a numerical analysis of the 101 supratypes was performed to derive a minimum level of significance. With a survey total of 506 houses, this minimum level was established at 4.5% necessitating a representation of 23 or more houses. Of the 101 supratypes generated by the Cedar County survey, five individual types exceed the 4.5% level and are summarized in the following discussion.

## Supertype 23



Supertype No. 23; R, 1.5u, 1.0s, G, Lo. Among the 101 supratypes present in Cedar County, Supertype No. 23 was the most frequently recorded house form representing 7.5% of the 506 surveyed houses. The essential characteristics of this type consist of a rectangular-shaped core with the narrowest dimension ranging from 20 to 29 feet, a height of one story, and a gable roof running in a longitudinal orientation. This house type appears to have been started in the early settlement years of the 1890s and was carried into the 1920s where it was more commonly adorned with "craftsman" decorative motifs. The strong representation of this house type is due mostly to its predominant use in town locations. In fact, this type appeared in 11.1% of the 305 houses recorded in the 15 Cedar County towns and was only documented in 2% of the rural properties.

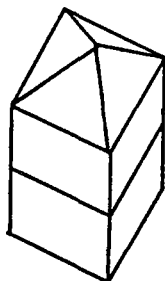
Supratype 38



Supratype No. 38; R, 1.0u, 1.5s, G, Lo. Supratype 38 was the second most frequently recorded house type in Cedar County (6.7%), and differs only slightly from the aforementioned S.23. Both the S.38 and S.23 belong to the R, G, Lo family of house types which, in combination with 12 other supratypes, constitute 25% of the houses recorded in Cedar County. The differences between these two types is simply a matter of width and height. While both consist of a rectangular core, Supratype 38 has a slightly more narrow gable-ended dimension of 14 to 19 feet and a slightly taller height of one and one-half stories. This gives the core of the S.38 a more narrow and vertical proportion than its more frequently recorded cousin. In addition, Supratype 38 differs slightly in that it was found more frequently in rural settings (10.5%) than it was among town locations (4.3%).

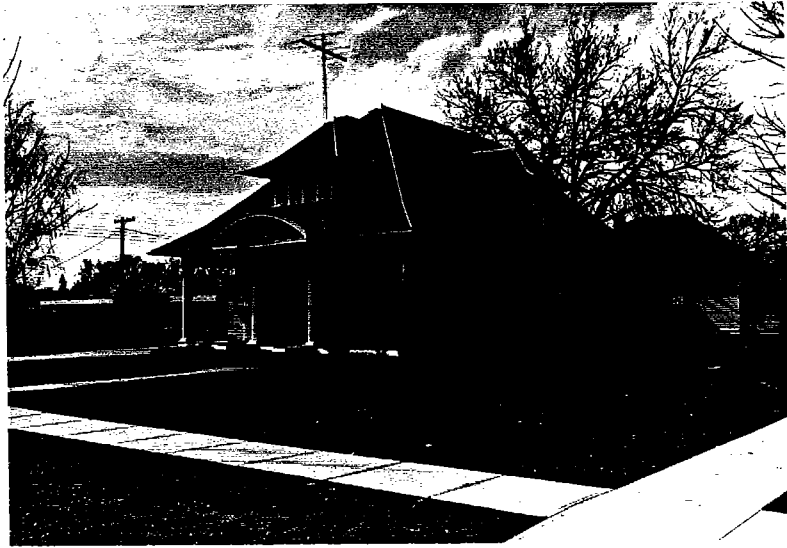
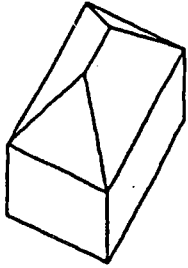


## Supratype 89



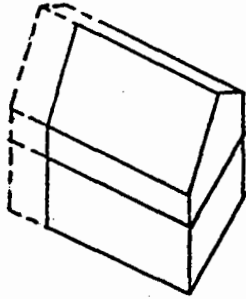
Supratype No. 89; S, 2.Ou, 2.Os, H, n. Also numerically significant among Cedar County house types is Supratype 89, the "popular" two-story square. The two-story square was a popular choice among many Nebraska builders of the early 20th century. Therefore, it is not surprising that S.89 was the third most frequently documented house form in Cedar County representing 6.5% of the 506 recorded houses. The S.89 consists of a two-unit (30 to 39 ft.) square core making it the largest of the numerically significant houses in Cedar County. The essential characteristics defining this type are a wide square-shaped core rising to two stories in height and covered with a pyramidal, truncated, or standard hipped roof. Additive features common to this type are frontal porches, bay windows, and hipped dormers. The predominant location for this house type was in the rural environs of Cedar County where it accounted for 9.0% of the 201 rural houses. Contrasting this is the infrequent documentation of the S.89 in town locations where it represented only 4.9% of the 305 houses.

### Supratype 31



Supratype No. 31; R, 1.5u, 1.0s, H, Lo. Supratype 31 was the fourth most frequently recorded house type in Cedar County (5.1%), and differs only slightly from the aforementioned S.23. Both the S.23 and S.31 have an identical rectangular core mass of one-story height and one and one-half unit gable ends (20 to 29 feet). In addition, both types are placed in a longitudinal relationship to the street. The only difference between these two types is found in the roof form. The more popular S.23 is covered with a gable roof while the S.31 is capped with a hip roof form. Further similarities are found in the distributional locations of these types. Like S.23, this type was predominantly constructed in town locations. Of the 305 houses found in the towns of Cedar County, 7.2% consisted of the S.31 shape. Conversely, this type represented an insignificant 2.0% of the 201 rural-based houses.

Supratype 36



Supratype No. 36; R, 1.0u, 1.5s, G, La. Supratype 36 represents the fifth most numerically significant house type (4.7%) among the 101 types generated by the Cedar County survey. The essential characteristics of the S.36 are a one and one-half story rectangular core placed in latitudinal orientation with a side gable-end ranging in width from 14 to 19 feet. Most often these types contained a perpendicular rear wing of shorter height which was, for the most part, visually obstructed by the latitudinal core. These houses were found mostly in rural locations (8%) rather than town locations (2.6%) and appear to be one of the more popular forms of shelter employed by the first settlers (ca. 1880 to 1890).

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

Throughout the duration of the Cedar County survey, random observations were recorded in an effort to later construct recommendations for future work. The general impressions recorded by the survey team were then combined with a post-survey analysis of documented historic properties. The resulting recommendations were conceptualized by Save America's Heritage to fit the "tools" of preservation and documentation available to the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. These tools consist of Multiple Property, Historic District, and individual nominations to the NRHP as well as intensive survey relating to Historic Context Reports.

The following suggestions are separated into two categories and are presented as follows: 1) NeSHPO National Register Follow-Up, and 2) Potential Thematic Studies.

### National Register Recommendations

The first of the two categories, the NeSHPO National Register Follow-Up, is a basic summary of the potential National Register of Historic Places listing activities associated with the Cedar County survey.

Save America's Heritage strongly suggests the drafting of nominations for all properties judged by NeSHPO staff as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The drafting of these nominations may occur in two basic forms. First, as Multiple Property nominations for all buildings which relate to Historic Contexts developed by the NeSHPO, or as individual nominations of the 143 properties listed in the Recommendations for Future Work and Preliminary Inventory of Cedar County historic buildings. The properties which appear in the Preliminary Inventory are those which appear potentially eligible for the National Register and should be acted upon immediately following the submittal of this report.

### Potential Thematic Studies/Multiple Property Nominations

The following priorities for future work recommended by Save America's Heritage are listed thematically. These themes are presented at this point as those which appear to have the greatest potential for

development into Historic Context Reports. The basis for these suggestions were derived from presurvey research, agricultural analyses, and Reconnaissance Survey observations.

#### 1. Criterion D Research Properties •

The first subject for potential thematic study is centered around a group of 18 historic properties which, for various reasons, are being presented under the title of Criterion D Research Properties. This title implies that these properties have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the history of Cedar County. The inclusion of these properties under the "Research" heading may receive some criticism for it is true that all properties included in the Preliminary Inventory of a Reconnaissance Report are, in a sense, "research properties." However, these 18 properties represent an exceptionally important and rare group of late 19th century buildings significant for their portrayal of the early permanent settlement buildings of Cedar County.

All of these properties appear to have been built between the years of 1870 and 1895 and are characteristic of the folk or vernacular buildings of this early settlement period. They consist of buildings constructed from infrequently documented materials such as log, stone, brick, and cement. Their importance is rooted in their potential to yield information relevant to the dwelling types of the pre-railroad settlement of Cedar County and for possible association with significant ethnic cultures.

Unfortunately, their eligibility for National Register listing is somewhat in question due to their abandoned and often extremely deteriorated condition. Because of their current state of deterioration, the continued existence of these properties is very much in doubt. They are threatened not only by the possibility of human destruction but also by the ravages of the northeast Nebraska environment. Consequently, Save America's Heritage urges the immediate undertaking of intensive surveys for each of the properties presented in the following Inventory and suggests that, after such surveys, these properties be placed in a Historic Context previously identified by the NeSHPO.



**CD00-2: Log House**



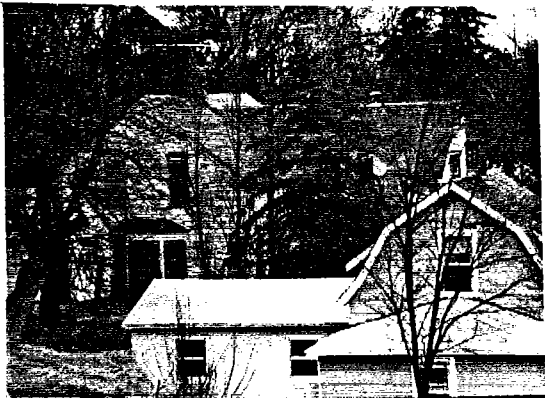
**CD00-13: John Nelson House**



**CD00-14: Log House**



**CD00-22: Abandoned House**



**CD00-24: Chalk Rock House**



**CD00-35: Frame/Chalk Rock Barn**



**CD00-47: Abandoned Farmstead**



**CD00-66: Concrete Block Barn**



**CD00-68: Log House**



**CD00-73: Chalk Rock Barn**



**CD00-98: Abandoned Brick House**



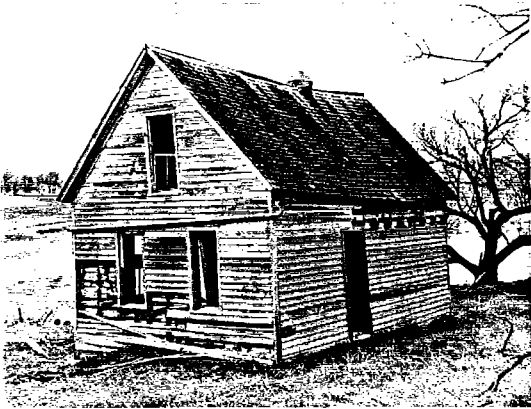
**CD00-115: Abandoned Farmstead**



**CD00-117: Log House**



**CD00-131: Abandoned Farmstead**



**CD00-157: Log House**



**CD00-197: Abandoned House**



**CD14-3: Abandoned House**



**CD14-4: Abandoned House**



## 2. Ethnic Groups in Cedar County

The selection of specific ethnic groups to be intensively studied during the Historic Buildings Surveys of northeast Nebraska counties has heretofore been determined by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) and incorporated into the contractual agreements outlining such surveys. However, in the case of the Cedar County Historic Buildings Survey, the selection and intensive study of the buildings created by an ethnic group or groups was not included in the Project Work Program outlined in the Contractual Agreement. Instead, the NeSHPO has chosen to complete a 100% reconnaissance survey to first determine the status of extant resources and then follow up with intensive studies of those ethnic buildings targeted by the reconnaissance survey as potentially significant for their association with identified ethnic cultures. The identification of these ethnic cultures was preliminarily derived through pre-field research.

Information on the numbers of foreign-born persons was taken from Wayne Wheeler's compilation of census data. Since no detailed census analysis was performed, the locations of various ethnic settlements within the county must be inferred, primarily from county and ethnic histories and other secondary sources. Evidence of the various groups' presence is indicated by the institutions which they founded. Churches, cemeteries, and fraternal organizations are examples of such institutions. In some cases, secondary sources mention specific ethnic groups as having settled in a particular area. In any event, a precinct-by-precinct census analysis should be performed to obtain a more precise picture of ethnic settlement within the county.

The 1870 census was the first census for which Wheeler lists data for Cedar County. In that year the foreign born comprised 40% of the total population. This was due to the large number of Germans residing in the county. As more and more U.S.-born settlers arrived and children of the foreign born were born in the U.S., the percentages of foreign born declined. By 1880 the percentage of foreign born had decreased to 27% of the total population. The percentages continued to decrease, with 23% of the total population being foreign born in 1890, 18% in 1900, and 14% in

1910. The percentages of foreign born in Cedar County in the early years was greater than that of neighboring counties such as Knox County to the west, in which 13% of the total population was foreign born in 1880.

An overview of the three applicable census years included in Wheeler's compilations (1880, 1890, 1910) shows that three particular ethnic groups were represented in numerically significant amounts. These three groups were: 1) Germans, 2) Swedes, and 3) Norwegians. Based upon an analysis of the Cedar County Historic Buildings Survey results and the review of Wayne Wheeler's census compilations, Save America's Heritage is recommending the investigation of these three ethnic cultures for future development as Historic Context Reports.

### **3. Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production**

Cedar County lies within the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production (NNILP) area. In this area crops are grown more for their value as livestock feed than as a cash crop.

The loess soils of the county are able to retain a large amount of water and plant nutrients as well which make them suitable for growing a number of crop types. The cropping system consists of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, plus some wheat and oats. These are grown due to their adaptability to environmental conditions and their appropriateness as livestock feed.

Cedar County was originally covered with luxuriant prairie grasses. Cattle grazing was the first important industry but with the arrival of the railroad and more settlers, farming replaced ranching as the predominant agricultural industry.

As settlers came in to northeast Nebraska, they brought with them the same agricultural practices they had known in the Midwest Cornbelt. Corn was the usual first crop put in by settlers (Fite, p. 246). By the end of the 19th century, real advances in scientific farming began to have an impact on production. Crop rotation, seed selection, higher quality livestock through selective breeding, and research into plant and animal diseases were advances in agricultural practice.

Two advances were very important to intensive livestock production. A serum to prevent hog cholera resulted in an increase in production. The other highly significant advance was in the use of alfalfa in rotation with corn to maintain soil fertility. This allowed livestock production to be practiced on a more intensive level (Sweedlum, p. 207).

By the end of the 1930s, the intensive livestock system of farming was in full flower with northeast Nebraska having more livestock per section than any other area of the state (Hedges and Elliott, pp. 36-38).

Cattle and hog feeding are the main livestock enterprises. The value of livestock has increased through time. By 1969, Williams and Murfield report over 90% of farms reporting some kind of livestock with receipts from livestock and livestock products accounting for over 80% of average farm income (p. 33).

Corn has always been the most important grain produced in the county. It is grown as a feed crop for finishing cattle and hogs and as a cash grain crop. It is chopped and ensiled for feed for dairy and beef cattle. The development of irrigation has helped to guarantee consistently high yields. Oats, rape, barley, alfalfa, and sweetclover are also grown. In recent years soybeans have been grown as a cash grain crop.

Data from the Census of Agriculture for the years 1910 (p. 31), 1935 (p. 327), and 1982 (p. 121) reveal the number of farms in Cedar County has dropped substantially from 2,041 in 1910 to only 1,142 farms in 1982. As the numbers of farms decreased, the average size of individual farms has increased from 217 acres in 1910, to 202 acres in 1935, to a full 369 acres in 1982. These trends hold true for the state as a whole, as well. Eastern Nebraska is farmed more intensively than many areas of the state and this is reflected in the smaller than average (state average 746 acres) farm size.

The drastic decline in the number of Cedar County farms between 1910 and 1982 has important implications for historic building survey. As farms are combined to increase acreage, surplus farmsteads were likely abandoned. Buildings designed to meet the changing economics and farming practices of today are different than the traditional buildings of 50 or more years ago.

Therefore, it is Save America's Heritage recommendation that the Northeastern Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context Report be developed by the NeSHPO and followed by an investigative study of historic properties within Cedar County which relate to this context. For a list of prospective properties fitting this context, please refer to the Preliminary Inventory found in Part 1 of the General Summary.

#### **4. The Lammers Family Multiple Property Research Study**

A fourth Multiple Property study suggested for further evaluation concerns a group of historic properties potentially associated with John Lammers, one of Cedar County's earliest immigrant pioneers. John Lammers was born in the city of Hanover, Germany on July 5, 1839 and, at the age of 18 years, he came to America and took up residence in Cincinnati, Ohio where he learned the cooper's trade. Later he moved to Navine, Iowa and afterwards to Dubuque. There he married and in the spring of 1861, the Lammers family joined a number of neighbors on a westward-bound trek that brought them to the community of St. Helena. Lammers' first homestead consisted of a 160-acre tract of land located one mile southwest of St. Helena. From the time of his immigration into Cedar County (1861) until his death (1897), Lammers had acquired land holdings in excess of 4,000 acres. In addition to his farming activities, he engaged extensively in the livestock industry and is credited with being the first man to ship fattened cattle out of Cedar County. He was the first owner and proprietor of what was known as the Lammers Ranch. This was the largest ranch of its kind in northeast Nebraska during the late 19th century and earned Lammers the local title of "Cattle King of Cedar County" (McCoy, p. 136). He brought the first self binder into Cedar County and was credited with the first use of a threshing machine for farm operations. In addition to this, he owned a mercantile business in St. Helena and later established and operated the lumber yards in Hartington and Bloomfield.

Although a prominent citizen in the early settlement history of Cedar County, John Lammers may not represent a particular individual significance over other early immigrant settlers who homesteaded in the

St. Helena environs during the late 1850s and early 1860s. This study is merely suggested at this time for preliminary research due to the abundance of large-scale properties recorded in Cedar County which are believed to be associated with John Lammers or descendants of John Lammers.



The majority of these properties consist of large-scale intensive livestock producing farmsteads founded during a period ranging from 1875 to 1910. The centerpiece of the more noteworthy farmsteads is typically a large two-story brick house often containing Italianate style details. These properties are located primarily in the Norwegian Bow Creek Valley and in the rural environs surrounding the historic community of St. Helena. Among these properties are the original John Lammers brick house (CD00-87, ca. 1875), the Antone Lammers house in Hartington which is now the home of the Cedar County Museum (CD07-3, ca. 1908), and the Frank Lammers livestock farmstead and brick house (CD00-36, ca. 1895).

**Inventory of Potential Lammers-Related Properties:**

CD00-36	CD00-42	CD00-87
CD00-37	CD00-43	CD00-90
CD00-38	CD00-45	CD00-92
CD00-39	CD00-79	CD00-93
CD00-40	CD00-83	CD07-3
CD00-41	CD00-86	CD07-19

## 5. Norwegian Bow and Bow Creek Multiple Property Nomination



A third thematic study which should be further evaluated for potential significance is the collection of historic properties located in the Norwegian Bow and Bow Creek Valleys. The Norwegian Bow Creek enters west-central Cedar County and travels in an easterly direction to a point in the center of Cedar County where it then merges with the main branch of the Bow Creek. This confluence is located approximately one-half mile east of Hartington, the current seat of county-based government. From this confluence, the Bow Creek then runs in a northeasterly curving fashion until it eventually turns due north and drains into the Missouri River. On its northward trek through northeastern Cedar County, it travels through the historic community of St. James which was founded in 1857 and served as the original county seat for Cedar County.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Cedar County recorded a somewhat heavy concentration of historic properties located in the Norwegian Bow and Bow Creek Valleys. In fact, 24 historic properties were recorded within a proximity of one and one-half miles from these creeks. These properties contain a direct physical relationship with the creeks and suggest that they may have served as linear magnets of settlement from as early as 1865 to as late as 1910. The 24 recorded properties exhibit exceptional qualities of design and integrity and are primarily associated with four contextual themes. These are: Agriculture, Settlement Systems, Education, and Religion.

**Inventory of Potential Contributing Properties: (24)**

CD00-36	CD00-41	CD00-66	CD00-150	CD00-155
CD00-37	CD00-42	CD00-67	CD00-151	CD00-169
CD00-38	CD00-49	CD00-147	CD00-152	CD00-170
CD00-39	CD00-64	CD00-148	CD00-153	CD00-3
CD00-40	CD00-65	CD00-149	CD00-154	CD00-4

**APPENDIX 1**

**A RESEARCH DESIGN  
FOR THE  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY  
OF  
CEDAR COUNTY**



## RECONNAISSANCE RESEARCH DESIGN

### 1. Introduction

It is the intention of this paper to contribute two important functions towards the execution of the Reconnaissance Survey of Cedar County. First, it will provide Save America's Heritage (SAVE) survey team with the guidelines by which the survey will be performed and secondly, it establishes a means of communicating these guidelines to NeSHPO project managers for critique and refinement.

The format of this Research Design will be to discuss first the "non-mechanical" aspects of the survey, followed by a discussion of the tasks considered more "mechanical" in nature. The primary purpose of the "mechanical" discussion is to define the documentation process used in the recording of historic properties while the "non-mechanical" discussion will consist of the survey objectives and limitations.

### 2. Objectives Of Reconnaissance Survey

After completing a preliminary outline of the objectives associated with a reconnaissance survey, it became apparent that there was an obvious division between those objectives which were qualitative in nature and those that were quantitative. This division has organized the reconnaissance objectives into the two listings that follow.

#### **Qualitative Objectives:**

The most obvious objective of a reconnaissance-level survey is the concept of providing a preliminary characterization of the historic resources extant in a particular geographic area. Beyond this are several other very important objectives which may be used to enhance both the importance of the information generated by the reconnaissance-level survey and the importance of the survey itself. First among these additional objectives is the concept of establishing the setting of Nebraska's multi-contextual historic architecture. Each historic building survey performed will generate information which contributes to a statewide knowledge and builds a background which future survey information can be evaluated with.

Secondly, it is the objective of the historic building survey to identify specific properties or geographic areas which, in the event of an intensive survey, would contribute useful information to the above-mentioned multi-context setting. Further qualitative objectives include: the possible identification of specific building types, the identification of construction methodologies which may relate to or are unique to the context of Nebraska's historic architecture, the identification of sites worthy of National Register listing, and the expansion of knowledge relative to a specific geographic area within the state context such as ethnic settlement, building technologies and architectural image.

**Outline of Qualitative Objectives:**

- A. To create a community awareness and interest in Historic Preservation and the National Register of Historic Places.
- B. The documentation of several significant sites which will eventually be placed on the NRHP as individual, thematic, or district nominations.
- C. To document site information concerning building typologies in a format consistent with the NeSHPO Topical Listing, which can be used as an organizing element in the Final Report and Preliminary Inventory.
- D. To record any potential links between a particular ethnic settlement and its associated architectural images within the survey area.
- E. To complete a comprehensive, conscientious survey which will generate information useful to the planning process and future surveys.
- F. The collation of survey data for planning intensive survey and relating of information into the contextual frameworks.
- G. To promote historic preservation through the identification of the historic properties located within the county.
- H. To record information useful to the local planning decisions of the county when assessing projects affecting historic structures.
- I. To identify properties whose owners may be eligible for various kinds of federal, state, and local assistance in the event the owner

pursues the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of their historic building(s).

**Quantitative Objectives:**

- A. The recording of an estimated 600 properties in Cedar County by the completion of the survey.
- B. The covering of approximately 320,000 acres (500 sq. miles) in Cedar County. In addition, all 14 towns in Cedar County will be surveyed.
- C. Identification of at least 50 properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- D. Evaluating by the following hierarchy those sites for a) high potential for significance, b) suspicious buildings—those buildings that may be of significance, c) no potential in comparison to others, d) those sites not likely to yield any information.

**3. Methods Of Reconnaissance Survey**

The "mechanical" aspect of reconnaissance historic building surveys will focus primarily upon the documentation process and corresponding methods used in the recording of historical resources. The recording technique is considered of prime importance and it is the attitude of Save America's Heritage to strive for a conscientious effort and accurate method while recording historic resources. To best communicate our intentions, the following discussion on survey methods has been organized into three groups. These are 1) pre-field research, 2) pre-field activities, and 3) field activities.

**Pre-Field Research:**

Following the selection of the survey's geographic boundaries by the NeSHPO, the pre-field research is begun and focuses primarily on the performance of archival research. The main purpose of archival research is to identify the nature of the survey area's settlement by culture, geographic location, and time frame. In addition, the archival research should attempt to identify potential themes of architectural, cultural, and historical significance within the survey area, should they exist.

While it is acknowledged that the extent and availability of research information varies according to the events and background of the area, the following references will be investigated prior to the reconnaissance survey: locally written county histories, county histories written within a statewide history, existing survey data in the NeSHPO site files including survey forms, the files of the NSHS photographic collections, centennial publications on community and church histories, archival maps and atlases, newspaper articles concerning a community's built environment, and literature published by local or county historical groups. The majority of these types of publications can be found in the libraries of state and county historical societies. A bibliography of all sources referenced should be maintained and, along with photocopied information, added to the site files. These general data files are organized according to specific counties, local communities, and individual sites. The files are used prior to reconnaissance survey to familiarize the surveyors with the survey area and are consulted again in the field during the survey. Added to the general files are all forms of public correspondence received up to the point the survey is begun.

Due to the absence of an existing Historic Overview report, extensive preparation becomes necessary to satisfactorily develop the concepts of the report. The content of the Historic Overview is considered a prime source of pre-survey information. Therefore, the following is an outline of the methodology to be employed by SAVE's personnel during the composition of the county Historic Overview.

Each Historic Overview report will identify important patterns, events, persons, or cultural values pertaining to the county. It is anticipated that the information within the Historic Overview will aid in the identification of property types associated with each individual theme. In the preparation of the Historic Overview, the following will be considered:

- A. Trends in area settlement and development.
- B. Aesthetic and artistic values embodied in architecture, construction technology, or craftsmanship.

- C. Research values or problems relevant to the county, social and physical sciences and humanities, and cultural interests of local communities.
- D. Intangible cultural values of ethnic groups and native American people.

**Pre-Field Activities:**

The topic of pre-field activities are considered separate from pre-field research on the basis of their more publicly extroverted nature. Save America's Heritage will begin the pre-field activities with the distribution of notices announcing the survey and its intentions to all the general public. This will be done by placing general notices in established commercial and non-commercial facilities of the communities, such as the U.S. Post Office, grocery stores, donut shops, etc. Reinforcing this is the dispersal of press releases to all active newspapers existing in the county. The intent of the release is to inform the public of the survey programs and to solicit their input in the identification of historic resources. In addition to this, communication will be established with the local historians and historical societies detailing our intent and welcoming their possible input. Included in this communication will be information concerning the thematic topics and the time frame of the survey. The final task of pre-field activity will be the precautionary attempts to eliminate public suspicion. The justifiable suspicion aroused by survey activities will potentially be eliminated through the listing of survey vehicles and personnel with local police departments and county sheriff patrols. (For examples of typical communications, see Appendix D.)

**Field Activities—General:**

The first step prior to embarking on the survey would be the assemblage of the necessary documents used during the recording of identified sites. This includes town plat maps, USGS 7 1/2 minute topographical maps, county road maps, site files, and the preparation of the Historic Overview. The recording of a county's significant sites

would be conducted during the reconnaissance survey and would consist of identifying structures, mapping locations, architectural descriptions, and photographic documentation. Any supplemental field notes derived from observations or public communications will also be added.

The reconnaissance photography would consist of two photographs per site from opposite 45 degree angles using a wide angle perspective correcting lens. In certain cases, additional photographs of the more significant structures will be recorded showing context, detailing, or construction. Brief descriptions of each site will be recorded to define basic characteristics of the site and aid in map location during the post-survey cataloging. For domestic sites, the supratypological vocabulary developed by The Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee will be used in the description process. Photographic field notes will also be kept concerning the aspect of the image, exposure number, and corresponding roll number. In addition to the recording of the information listed above, further research will be conducted on those sites which are considered to have greater significance.

A primary concept in the documentation of historic buildings is the recognition that different building types may require different recording techniques. Therefore, it is necessary for the surveyor to define the specific types of information most relevant to the typology of the property he is documenting.

#### 4. Reconnaissance Survey Biases

##### **Integrity:**

To be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a property must possess integrity. Integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. If a property retains the physical characteristics it possessed in the past then it has the capacity to convey association with historical patterns or persons, architectural design, or information about a culture or people. Consequently, the determination of integrity is considered a most important field activity.

For reconnaissance-level documentation, two very basic questions must first be asked. These are:

1. Is the building at least 50 years old?
2. Does it retain its integrity?

The answer to question 1 is usually quite objective; however, the determination of integrity requires some discussion.

It must first be recognized that the degree of integrity exhibited by historic buildings can vary greatly. The principal investigator must first ask, "Does this property reflect its historic character or has it been altered by the application of contemporary building materials and technologies?" In most instances, the house is the first building scrutinized, especially in the case of town surveys where they represent the majority of extant buildings. However, the importance of "house integrity" is diminished when dealing with buildings located in rural settings. For most cases in Nebraska, this means a farmstead. With the added significance of agricultural-related buildings (such as hay, horse and livestock barns, granaries, corn cribs, and elevators), a limited amount of alteration to the house should not prevent the site from being documented. In the case where a farmstead contains a large historic representation of farm buildings with a severely altered house, the site will be documented as a farmstead with a non-contributing house. A final case may exist where a single, highly significant, farm-related building is located within an otherwise altered farmstead. In this event, Save America's Heritage will document the individual building designating a site number solely to the specific building, structure, or object.

Integrity also appears to play an important role in the field documentation of commercial buildings. Traditionally, buildings used for commerce have been adaptively reused by subsequent generations. These buildings are positioned along a primary local thoroughfare or even a regionally important highway, thus lending appeal to present-day retailers seeking new locations. Often the buildings are physically altered to accommodate new functions and therefore suffer a loss of integrity. With this in mind, only those buildings exhibiting the visual characteristics of their historic period will be documented.

In summary, the determination of integrity will be based upon the historic retention of the following physical characteristics.

- Materials: Does the building retain the original materials from its period of historic importance?
- Location: Is the building placed in its original location or has it been moved?
- Design: Does the building reflect the design aesthetics of its historic period?
- Setting: Does the building reflect a historic "sense of place"?  
Does the historic image and feel still exist?
- Function: Does the building represent its historic use?

#### **Characteristics of Rural Integrity:**

With the concept of Rural Historic Districts added to the National Register process, the principal investigator is forced to develop new visual sensitivities which are sympathetic to the qualities of rural settings. New methods of survey and research must be added to our understanding of both the built and natural environment and the historic relationship between them.

With this in mind, Save America's Heritage will attempt, without contractual obligation, to observe the following characteristics of potential significance to rural historic enclaves.

- The condition and presence of features, natural and built, which relate to a historic period of importance.
- The ability of a rural environment to reflect a sense of a past time or place.
- Potential unifying factors which may link rural properties together.
- The potential significance of historic contexts not preliminarily identified as important to the study area.
- The overall patterns of landscape spatial organization (landforms, natural features, material components).
- Land-use categories and activities (farming, ranching, recreation).
- Response to natural features (landform affect on material components).



- Boundaries (cultural, political, or natural).
- Cluster arrangements (position of material elements within landscape setting).
- Ecological context (Missouri River Valley).
- Integrity: Loss of natural features that were historically integral to the rural setting and intrusion of non-contributing features.
- The presence of sociocultural institutions with association to buildings within the district (granges, township halls).

## 5. Anticipated Property Types

Save America's Heritage anticipates the identification of historic properties in each of the following nine categories.

- ECCLESIASTICAL: Churches, church schools, parsonages, and convents
- COMMERCIAL: Banks, liveries, agricultural dealers, hotels, auto dealers, general stores, newspapers, cafes, and grocery stores
- TOWN-RESIDENTIAL: Single family dwellings, high-rise apartment blocks
- RURAL-RESIDENTIAL: Farm houses
- INDUSTRIAL: Utility buildings (electrical, water, telephone) and private manufacturing warehouses
- ENGINEERING: Rail bridges, highway bridges, dams, and tunnels
- AGRICULTURAL: Cattle barns, horse barns, hog barns, hog fences, cattle fences, cellars, cob houses, orchards, windmills, windbreaks, pump systems, cattle loafing sheds, hog loafing sheds, farrowing houses, corn cribs, wash houses, summer kitchens, chicken houses, brooder houses, machine shops, implement sheds, granaries, silos, elevators, and stock tank systems
- TRANSPORTATION: Depots, garages, gas stations, auto dealerships, and roundhouses

•PUBLIC BUILDINGS: Elementary and high schools, post offices, libraries, park structures, courthouses, hospitals, and township halls

## **6. Evaluation Process and Criteria**

### **Process Of Evaluation:**

Two primary reasons exist for the evaluation of the resources documented by the Historic Buildings survey. The first is the identification of properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and the second is the designation of those properties to be preserved by local planning processes. The National Register criterion A, B, C, and D as translated by the Historic Context Reports shall be the basis for evaluation.

The Preliminary Inventory is the primary reference list of all properties within Cedar County that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, its primary purpose is to define the entire "pool" of historic resources which appear potentially eligible for listing.

The Preliminary Inventory also fulfills additional roles which include its use as a guide for suggesting future work in the study area and the identification of building types which are no longer extant or never existed within the study area. The analysis of the inventoried data may also provide the NeSHPO with answers to the following questions:

1. What percentage of the total number of sites surveyed were worthy of intensive survey on the basis of their association to an identified historic theme or to a preliminarily identified Historic Context?
2. What percentage of the total number of sites surveyed were worthy of intensive survey as non-historic context sites?
3. What percentage of those sites noted during the field survey as potentially significant were actually found to be significant for:
  - a. Historic context sites?
  - b. Non-historic context sites?

Save America's Heritage originally viewed the assembling of the Preliminary Inventory as a two-step process consisting of survey and review. However, as outlined below, a refined methodology has evolved from previous survey experience which now involves several levels of evaluation. What has emerged is a more in-depth compilation of potential NRHP sites using a variety of historical and contemporary resources.

Initial base list of potentially eligible properties derived from review of reconnaissance survey documentation.

Review of contact sheets and site descriptions performed to add or delete base-list properties.

Land atlas research documenting historic chain of ownership (1891, 1911, 19250 for rural base-list properties.

Review all published county, church, and centennial histories, with particular emphasis on historic building citations of base-list properties.

Contact local historical societies for input on histories of base-list properties.

Second base-list review with application of criterion to derive final lists of sites which:

- a) are strongly recommended for NRHP listing, and
- b) may not be strongly recommended for listing but contribute to the character of the historic built environment.

**Criteria For Evaluation:**

If the ultimate goal of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey is indeed the identification of properties worthy of National Register listing, then the definitions and criteria established by the NRHP become

the primary concepts by which the significance of a historic property is evaluated.

The National Register defines a historic property as a district, site, building, structure, or object significant in American history, architecture, engineering, archeology, and culture. A historic context is a broad pattern of historical development in a community or its region, that may be represented by historic resources. The use of historic contexts provides a mechanism for translating the broad National Register criteria into locally meaningful terms. For example, the National Register criteria allow any property that is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past to be regarded as eligible for listing, but it is the historic contexts of the area that define who such people were (p. 55, Nat. Reg. Bulletin, No. 24, V. 5, Dept. of the Interior). With this in mind, the National Register criteria translated into local meaning by the Historic Context Reports are as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## APPENDIX 2

### Cedar County Supratype Master List

The listing of residential properties surveyed in Cedar County utilized the supratype method of description. As illustrated below, this list indicates a total of 101 core supratypes representing the 506 total residential properties documented within the county.

Each supratype is listed according to its five core descriptors which are found at the headings of each column. The core supratype number is found in the first column followed by the descriptors which are, respectively: core shape (SH), horizontal width in units (SZ), wall height in stories (HT), roof type (RF), and orientation (OR). The total number of the supratype is found in the next column (#), followed by the percentage of that type within Cedar County (% CD).

<u>S.Type</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>SZ#</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% CD</u>
S.1	I	.5	2.0	GJ	N	1	.2
S.2	I	1.0	1.0	G	N	1	.2
S.3	I	1.0	1.0	H	N	1	.2
S.4	I	1.5	1.5	G	N	1	.2
S.5	I	1.0	1.5	HT	N	1	.2
S.6	I	1.5	2.0	G	Lo	1	.2
S.7	I	1.0	2.0	H	N	1	.2
S.8	L	0.5	1.0	G	Lo	7	1.4
S.9	L	0.5	1.0	GJ	Lo	1	.2
S.10	L	0.5	1.5	G	Lo	4	.8
S.11	L	1.0	1.0	G	Lo	5	1.0
S.12	L	1.5	1.0	G	Lo	1	.2
S.13	L	1.0	1.5	G	Lo	13	2.6
S.14	L	1.5	2.0	G	Lo	1	.2
S.15	L	1.0	2.0	G	Lo	3	.6
S.16	L	1.5	2.0	H	Lo	1	.2
S.17	R	0.5	1.0	G	La	8	1.6
S.18	R	0.5	1.0	G	Lo	2	.4
S.19	R	0.5	1.5	G	La	9	1.8
S.20	R	0.5	1.5	G	Lo	2	.4
S.21	R	1.0	1.0	G	La	8	1.6
S.22	R	1.5	1.0	G	La	22	4.3
S.23	R	1.5	1.0	G	Lo	38	7.5
S.24	R	1.0	1.0	G	Lo	10	2.0
S.25	R	1.5	1.0	GG	La	2	.4

<u>S.Type</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>SZ#</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% CD</u>
S.26	R	1.5	1.0	GG	Lo	2	.4
S.27	R	1.5	1.0	GJ	La	1	.2
S.28	R	1.5	1.0	GJ	Lo	7	1.4
S.29	R	1.0	1.0	H	La	1	.2
S.30	R	1.5	1.0	H	La	4	.8
S.31	R	1.5	1.0	H	Lo	26	5.1
S.32	R	1.5	1.0	HG	Lo	1	.2
S.33	R	1.5	1.0	HT	La	1	.2
S.34	R	1.0	1.0	HT	La	1	.2
S.35	R	1.5	1.0	HT	Lo	2	.4
S.36	R	1.0	1.5	G	La	24	4.7
S.37	R	1.5	1.5	G	La	17	3.4
S.38	R	1.0	1.5	G	Lo	34	6.7
S.39	R	1.5	1.5	G	Lo	22	4.3
S.40	R	1.0	1.5	GG	La	1	.2
S.41	R	1.5	1.5	GG	Lo	3	.6
S.42	R	1.5	1.5	GJ	La	2	.4
S.43	R	1.0	1.5	GJ	La	1	.2
S.44	R	1.5	1.5	H	Lo	4	.8
S.45	R	1.5	1.5	HM	La	1	.2
S.46	R	1.5	2.0	G	La	2	.4
S.47	R	1.0	2.0	G	La	1	.2
S.48	R	1.5	2.0	G	La	1	.2
S.49	R	1.5	2.0	G	Lo	5	1.0
S.50	R	1.5	2.0	H	La	2	.4
S.51	R	1.5	2.0	H	Lo	3	.6
S.52	R	1.5	2.0	HT	La	1	.2
S.53	R	1.5	2.0	HT	Lo	2	.4
S.54	R	2.0	1.0	G	La	7	1.4
S.55	R	2.0	1.0	G	Lo	1	.2
S.56	R	2.0	1.0	H	La	1	.2
S.57	R	2.0	1.0	H	Lo	1	.2
S.58	R	2.0	1.5	G	La	5	1.0
S.59	R	2.0	1.5	G	Lo	3	.6
S.60	R	2.0	1.5	GJ	La	2	.4
S.61	R	2.0	2.0	G	La	3	.6
S.62	R	2.0	2.0	G	Lo	1	.2
S.63	R	2.0	2.0	GJ	Lo	1	.2
S.64	R	2.0	2.0	H	La	6	1.2
S.65	R	2.0	2.0	H	Lo	10	2.0
S.66	R	2.0	2.0	HT	La	3	.6
S.67	R	2.0	2.0	HT	Lo	2	.4
S.68	S	1.5	1.0	G	La	1	.2
S.69	S	1.5	1.0	GX	N	1	.2
S.70	S	1.5	1.0	H	Lo	1	.2
S.71	S	1.5	1.0	H	N	5	1.0
S.72	S	1.5	1.0	HT	N	22	4.3
S.73	S	1.5	1.5	G	Lo	1	.2
S.74	S	1.5	1.5	GX	N	6	1.2

<u>S.Type</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>SZ#</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% CD</u>
S.75	S	1.5	1.5	H	N	1	.2
S.76	S	1.5	1.5	HT	N	4	.8
S.77	S	1.5	2.0	H	N	3	.6
S.78	S	1.5	2.0	HT	N	2	.4
S.79	S	2.0	1.0	H	La	1	.2
S.80	S	2.0	1.0	HT	N	1	.2
S.81	S	2.0	1.5	G	La	1	.2
S.82	S	2.0	1.5	GG	N	1	.2
S.83	S	2.0	1.5	GX	N	1	.2
S.84	S	2.0	1.5	HG	N	1	.2
S.85	S	2.0	1.5	HT	N	2	.4
S.86	S	2.0	2.0	GX	N	2	.4
S.87	S	2.0	2.0	H	La	1	.2
S.88	S	2.0	2.0	H	Lo	1	.2
S.89	S	2.0	2.0	H	N	33	6.5
S.90	S	2.0	2.0	HP	N	1	.2
S.91	S	2.0	2.0	HT	N	20	4.0
S.92	T	0.5	1.0	G	La	3	.6
S.93	T	0.5	1.0	G	Lo	1	.2
S.94	T	0.5	1.5	G	La	3	.6
S.95	T	0.5	1.5	G	Lo	3	.6
S.96	T	1.0	1.5	G	La	7	1.4
S.97	T	1.0	1.5	G	Lo	9	1.8
S.98	T	1.5	1.5	G	Lo	1	.2
S.99	T	1.0	1.5	GCC	La	1	.2
S.100	T	1.5	2.0	G	Lo	1	.2
S.101	T	1.5	2.0	H	Lo	1	.2

## APPENDIX 3

### Index of Abbreviations

The following index attempts to explain the abbreviations used by the survey team while recording historic buildings in the eight-county area of the Northeast Nebraska survey project. These abbreviations were developed as a means of expediting the survey recording process. The need for abbreviations was especially necessary in the recording of rural-based historic properties. In these cases, every effort was made to note each building, structure, and object which contributed to the historic character of the property. Many of the abbreviations were developed by the NeSHPO during their former surveys of historic buildings throughout Nebraska. The remaining group of abbreviations were developed by Save America's Heritage with the approval of the NeSHPO. It should be mentioned that these abbreviations were used extensively and were transferred from field notes to the history cards with the approval of the NeSHPO.

Fr.	= Frame	Addn.	= Addition
Br.	= Brick	Cent.	= Central
Conc. blk.	= Concrete block	Enc.	= Enclosed
Frmhse.	= Farmhouse	Att.	= Attached
Frmstd.	= Farmstead	Perpend.	= Perpendicular
Hse.	= House	Symm.	= Symmetrical
S.K.	= Summer kitchen	Lg.	= Large
Ckn. hse.	= Chicken house	G.W.D.	= Gable wall dormer
Gar.	= Garage	E.G.W.D.	= Entry gable wall dormer
Gran.	= Granary	Gab.	= Gable
Carr. barn	= Carriage barn	Drnr.	= Dormer
D.T. gran.	= Drive-thru granary	Outbldg.	= Outbuilding
D.T. crib	= Drive-thru crib	Aban.	= Abandoned
L.S.	= Loafing shed	Det.	= Deteriorated



Hd. hse. = Head house  
W.W. fence = Woven wire fence  
Bd. fence = Board fence  
Fdn. = Foundation  
Rf. = Roof  
Chim. = Chimney

N.C. = Non-contributing  
P.O. = Present owner  
Orig. = Original  
Cem. = Cemetery  
Orn. = Ornamental

