



# Nebraska State HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Here open to all is the history of this people.*

February 20, 2025

Joy Beasley  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
National Register Program  
1849 C Street, NW (7228)  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Property in Nebraska

Dear Ms. Beasley,

This submittal contains a true and correct copy of the nomination for the Ash Creek Ranch Barn located in the vicinity of Newport, NE, to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Notification

The property owner(s) was (were) notified of the proposed nomination on December 11, 2024.

- No objections to the nomination were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office during the public comment period.
- An objection to the nomination was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office during the public comment period.
- A letter of support for the nomination was submitted to the State Preservation Office during the public comment period.

#### Certified Local Government

- The nominated property is not located in a CLG community.
- The nominated property is located in a CLG community and a copy of the local commission's review is attached.

#### Historic Tax Credits

- The federal historic tax credit is being used in the rehabilitation of this property.

#### NPS Grant-Funded Submissions

- Not funded with an NPS grant
- African American Civil Rights Grant
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities Grant
- History of Equal Rights Grant

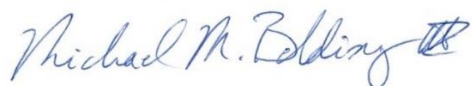
- Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
- Save America's Treasures Grant
- Semiquincentennial Grant
- Tribal Heritage Grant
- Underrepresented Communities Grant

State Review Board

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Board reviewed the draft nomination materials at its meeting on January 31, 2025. The Board voted that the property meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation under Criterion C. The State Historic Preservation Officer has approved the nomination.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at [michael.belding@nebraska.gov](mailto:michael.belding@nebraska.gov) or (402) 613-1591.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Belding III  
National Register and Historic Markers Coordinator  
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office  
[michael.belding@nebraska.gov](mailto:michael.belding@nebraska.gov)  
Phone: 402-613-1591

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ash Creek Ranch Barn

Other names/site number: Ash Creek Farm Barn

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 889<sup>th</sup> Road

City or town: Newport State: Nebraska County: Rock

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification


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

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

   national         statewide      X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

   A         B      X C         D

 Signature of certifying official/Title	DIRECTOR/SHPO 2/18/2025 Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	Date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	Date

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private	x
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	x
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

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## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/barn

### Materials

(enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: weatherboard (cladding)  
METAL: tin (cladding and roof)  
CONCRETE (foundation)

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn is located northeast of Newport, Nebraska along the banks of Ash Creek. Built in 1940, this large gambrel-roofed barn was used for general ranch operations including dairy production and granary storage. Additionally, the barn was the social setting for local dances. The barn is constructed of both wood weatherboard and metal tin siding. Three ventilators are still atop its tin roof. The Ash Creek Ranch Barn is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance. With additional research the barn could also be considered under Criterion A for its association with agriculture.

The Period of Significance has been noted as 1940–1974. This reflects the year of construction up until the fifty-year cut off from the current year.

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### Narrative Description

#### Site

Rock County is located in north-central Nebraska; its northern border is the Niobrara River and is bordered by Keya Paha County (north), Holt County (east), Loup County (south) and Brown County (west). The setting for this barn is slightly secluded, set approximately 300 yards north of 889<sup>th</sup> Road in Rock County, Nebraska which runs east-west. The barn is marginally rotated so that its south façade faces slightly southeast.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

Immediately adjacent to the barn is Ash Creek, which flows at a diagonal to the barn's north and east façades. A small open area, likely a feedlot during the barn's use, is to the south. Trees shade the west façade. The barn is given some protection from the elements by being located in a bit of a valley, having an abrupt hill to the west and more gentle hills to the east.

The barn was once a part of a working ranch, with numerous outbuildings and residential structures in the general vicinity. Over the years, changes in ranching practices and technology have caused many of the buildings to no longer serve a purpose and have been lost or are in various forms of deterioration.

Beyond the barn site are vast ranching lands typical of the Sandhills region of north-central and northwestern Nebraska, with subtle hills and few trees.

### Exterior

The Ash Creek Ranch barn is a large, gambrel-roofed barn measuring 50' x 100'. The south and west façades of the barn feature its primary access points. The south side is primarily for live-stock use and the west for equipment access. The south and north elevations are 50' wide, its east and west elevations measuring 100' in length. Its cladding material is a mix of horizontal, wood weatherboard (south end) and corrugated tin (north end). The wood weatherboard is painted red; faint tracings of white faux trim are still evident in some locations, though other decorative paintings are no longer visible (see Figure 9).

The barn's roof is of corrugated tin. Three ventilators are located here, the two southernmost ones still maintaining their weathervanes, complete with decorative stars adorning the tips. Most of the materials found throughout the barn appear to be original to the construction of the barn, with a few new replacement pieces as necessary for repairs.

Having both a gambrel roof and an extensive width provides the Ash Creek Farm Barn with a stockier appearance than a typical gambrel-roofed barn. The barn's proportions make it no less impressive, however, as its design accommodates its uses and its placement accommodates its location's realities.

To protect it from the harsh climates and difficult circumstances of ranch life in remote rural Nebraska, the Ash Creek Ranch Barn is appropriately located near a natural windbreak to the north-west in the form of a steep hill and faces south to reduce the chances of snow build-up at the front of the barn during winter months.

The south façade consists of four bays: four openings for livestock, which enter into large holding bays on the interior. Each of these bays has a south-facing, fixed, four-paned window. A large opening at the loft level is situated in the middle of the façade. Two smaller windows are located near the top of the roof, directly under the eaves. No rain hood ever appears to have been constructed.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

The east façade consists of both wood weatherboard on the southern portion and corrugated tin panels on the north end. Three small, fixed, four-paned windows are distributed along the wood weatherboard, as well as a larger opening with sliding wood doors. Directly above this opening is an opening at the loft level. Extending out of the barn to the east for approximately ten feet is a concrete trough installed in the ground, likely used for mucking-out purposes.

The north façade is entirely covered in corrugated tin panels, vertically installed, with no openings.

The west façade is similar to the east in that the southern portion is clad in wood and the north in tin. Extra-large sliding wood doors are located within the tin cladding. Along the wood weatherboard are a large sliding wood door and several small, fixed, four-paned windows. A group of three windows to the north of the door and four individual windows to the south for a total of six openings on the west façade, ground level. Though all the same size, the sill heights of these windows vary slightly. Above the sliding wood door is an opening with a sliding wood door at the loft level.

### Interior

The barn consists of a main floor and, above the southern half of the barn, a loft. This aligns with the change in exterior cladding; the loft is found where wood cladding is utilized. The remaining portion of the barn is a voluminous single-story space.

The south half of the first story, under the loft, was used to lodge, feed, and milk cows and draft horses. It is furnished with and divided into stalls, holding bays, feed troughs, a milking parlor, and, along the west side of the barn, two small storage rooms. The floors in this portion of the barn are dirt. The distance between them and the ceiling is a relatively low nine feet. The loft above is supported by columns of undressed timber posts that measure approximately four to five inches wide and deep, which are set into concrete footings.

The second-floor space is accessed by a ladder, opening up to a large loft with deep ceilings for adequate hay storage. Gambrel roofs were purposely implemented to maximize the amount of storage that could be contained within the barn footprint. The loft is divided into three bays as demarcated by a line of queen posts the length of the loft that support the roof above.

The north half of the barn was likely used for grain and implement storage. This is evidenced by the type of materials used; the largest openings for the barn are also located here, on the west side. Large square columns extend the full height of the two-story space, reaching heights of approximately 30'. Floors in this area are concrete.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

### Historic Integrity

The barn retains an excellent level of overall historic integrity. It has not been moved from its original site (**location**) and its original materials are intact and display the original builders' skills (**design, materials and workmanship**). The feeling of the site and the structure itself remain as it would have when first constructed. Though it is no longer used for its original purpose (it is now vacant) the builder of the barn would most assuredly recognize the existing structure and experience its original feeling (**feeling and association**) of being a shelter for livestock and serve as a storage space for feed and equipment.

The immediate **setting** of the barn has seen some changes over the decades. The structure is still part of a working ranch; however, numerous structures that were once used for its ranch operations are no longer extant. Additionally, no one lives in any of the residential structures on the property or immediately adjacent as families did in the first few decades of the barn's use. Overall, the integrity of the setting is still good.

Because of the loss of some of the original outbuildings, and likely additional removal of some of the remaining outbuildings in the near future due to extreme deterioration, the opportunity for a nomination of the entire property as a working ranch is not reasonable. However, the integrity of the Ash Creek Ranch Barn is retained and stands as a valuable resource to the agricultural scene of Rock County, Nebraska.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

### Period of Significance

1940-1974

### Significant Dates

1940

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

## Cultural Affiliation

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## Architect/Builder

R.A. Coffman

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## Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

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

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn, located northeast of Newport, Nebraska in Rock County, is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C for architectural significance and potentially eligible under Criterion A for its association with agriculture. This large barn is one of the few remaining gambrel-roofed barns in the county, unaltered over the course of its lifetime. It is an excellent example of barns built to facilitate farming and ranching operations in an agricultural transition period in the fringe areas of the northeastern sandhills of Nebraska.

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

### *Statement of Significance*

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn, located northeast of Newport, Nebraska in Rock County, is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C for architectural significance as an example of transitional agricultural architecture, spanning the farming and ranching methods of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and those of the post-World War II era. Its very location is also transitional – located in a part of the state that is on the margins of two significantly different agricultural ranges.



*Figure 1: Rock County is located in north-central Nebraska.*

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn is a clear example of architecture spanning these different generations of a typical Nebraska ranch. It was constructed in a time of change, not only architecturally but also in a time of evolution in the farming and ranching industries. With its large gambrel

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

roof, wood sliding doors and wood-frame construction the Ash Creek Ranch Barn's form is closer in appearance to those barns constructed at the turn of the century. In its tin siding and "sheet steel roof," the latter noteworthy to *Rock County Leader* in its reporting at a celebratory barn dance, the barn shows similarities with the prefabricated buildings of ranching's future.

Early generations of Nebraska farmers and ranchers built simple, functional buildings with materials that were readily available. Frame buildings were only constructed where dimensional lumber was available; sod "bricks" were more commonly implemented on the treeless plains in Nebraska's early days.

Later generations who were able to build on the improvements of their predecessors often built large, gambrel or monitor-roofed barns with decorative elements. Mail-order catalogs and access to railroad transportation made this possible by offering standard building supplies locally.<sup>1</sup> These "prairie barns" or "Western barns" were, on average, much larger than other barn types typically built in earlier decades and further east. Western farmers needed plenty of storage space for hay and feed for large beef herds and were generally used less as dairy barns. Long, extensive roofs were typical characteristics of these prairie barns; the Gothic arch and gambrel roof became an iconic feature across barns found in the plains.<sup>2</sup>

### Visual Characteristics of Historic Barns

The National Park Service's Preservation Brief #20, "*The Historic Preservation of Barns*" notes the following characteristics of historic barns that are important to consider as contributing to the historic nature of the building:

*Setting:* The setting of a barn is key to its overall sense of feeling. Barns were constructed for agricultural purposes; if the immediate surrounding area no longer reflects this use the historic integrity of the barn is diminished. While some buildings have been demolished over the years, the general area of the Ash Creek Ranch Barn has remained relatively unchanged.

*Form:* The shape of the barn is most assuredly one of the most recognized features. Roofs play an important role in the form of a barn. The Ash Creek Ranch Barn's gambrel roof is a key defining feature.

*Materials:* Materials are important to providing integrity to any historic structure. Barns were typically constructed of utilitarian and sensible materials and over time will weather and show signs of years of use. The Ash Creek Barn retains its original materials with minor exceptions. It is a combination of traditional weathered wood Dutch lap siding (livestock areas) and corrugated tin-plated steel in 2' x 8' sheets (storage areas).

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<sup>1</sup> Companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Gordon-Van Tine were well known in the Midwest for their kit homes but also experimented with selling kits for agricultural buildings. Everything from large gambrel barns to small chicken coops were available.

<sup>2</sup> (Auer, 1989)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

*Openings:* Openings are generally reduced to only what is necessary for the barn's purpose. The type of windows can often provide an insight into the barn's uses. For example, dairy barns often utilized more windows to provide better lighting for the work being performed while barns used more for storage featured fewer windows. Openings in the Ash Creek Ranch Barn are reflective of this with small, fixed windows on the south portion of the barn (livestock use) and no windows at the north portion (storage use). Two different sizes of sliding doors are used: smaller ones in the livestock area and larger ones at the north end.

*Interior Spaces:* The interior space of a barn is unlike most other building types. While some spaces were confined with low ceiling heights and narrow stalls, other areas were extremely open. Because of the utilitarian purpose of a barn, its structure was typically exposed, creating a space in which much of the barn is visible from any viewpoint. This creates a space that feels larger than realized from the exterior. This is especially evident in the barn's mow, which typically consists of one open space. The Ash Creek Ranch Barn is indicative of this typical character defining feature with its open spaces used for storage (north end and loft spaces) and more confined spaces for areas dedicated to livestock.

*Structural Framework:* Early barns built in America were often of heavy timber construction. This system provided a strong and rigid building but was cumbersome to build due to its weight and intricacies of design. The numerous structural components also reduced the amount of storage capacity in its mow. Barn construction eventually evolved to incorporate a trussed rafter system. This system was much lighter and easier to build than earlier heavy timber construction but would eventually cede to an even lighter structural system.<sup>3</sup>

The braced rafter system was an even lighter structural system which also provided a rigid frame for a sturdy construction. Because each rafter was a stand-alone unit it was more easily constructed and more economical for the owner. Barns could be constructed in any length; if more space was needed additional rafters could be added on until the desired size was realized. This more efficient design also opened up the mow due to the reduced structural members, giving the owner a larger amount of storage space and creating the character defining space of the impressive hay mow.<sup>4</sup>

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn implements the braced rafter system in its gambrel roof. Its mow is not cluttered with numerous columns but rather is open and provides ample storage space. The first floor structure is exposed; the south end features undressed wood columns that support the mow above while the north end utilizes square wood columns that span the full height of the barn.

*Decorative Features:* Barns were utilitarian by nature and thus had no need for decorative frills. Barn owners, however, often implemented decorative functional features or added decoration. This was often a way to advertise the farm or ranch name. In the case of the Ash Creek Ranch Barn ghostings of decorative "trim," signage and colorful images are faintly visible in some

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<sup>3</sup> (Dale, 1942)

<sup>4</sup> (Dale, 1942)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn

Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska

County and State

areas.<sup>5</sup> This was also a popular way to emphasize the structure of the building. The color of the Ash Creek Barn is also based on tradition. While early American barns were constructed of weathered, unpainted wood, barns built later in the nineteenth century and beyond were painted. Red was a favorite color across the country, not only because of the sturdy, bold image it presented but also because of the readily available, inexpensive ingredients needed. Skim milk, red iron oxide, and lime were combined to create the iconic barn red. Even after pigmented paints became more readily available farmers continued to use red due to tradition, as seen on the Ash Creek Ranch Barn.<sup>6</sup>

### *Changes in Postwar Agrarian Architecture*

While the Ash Creek Ranch Barn displays many of the traditional characteristics of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century barns as noted above, it also features some of the more modern design choices of future decades.

By the mid-twentieth century pre-engineered metal barn kits were available and becoming more popular. These highly utilitarian designs were economical and quick to build. The process of galvanization improved over the years and new versions of protective coatings would allow these metal buildings to become a staple on farms and ranches across the country in postwar America.

Changes in manufacturing processes and materials that were available were not the only significant impact on agricultural buildings by the postwar era. The machinery needed to farm and ranch the Nebraska landscape changed substantially from the beginning of US American settlement to the World War II era. Such changes and diminishing dependence on horses and other forms of organic power demanded different building types and forms. Agricultural censuses from 1940 and 1950 illustrate the progression being made. Farms reported fewer horses, more tractors, automobiles, and other farm implements used with gas powered tractors. Reports of electricity were becoming more detailed and specific. For instance, the 1940 agricultural census recorded only a farm's access to electricity while the 1950 census recorded appliances utilizing electricity.<sup>7</sup>

### *Disappearing Resource*

Historic agrarian-based resources are quickly disappearing from the Nebraska landscape. Many of the resources recorded by the 1989 historic buildings reconnaissance survey of Rock County were at that time part of abandoned ranches or farmsteads. Many of the large barns and agricultural resources recorded in this survey are no longer standing.

In a 2012 book of local barns was assembled by the Sandhills Quilt Guild to tell the story of a quilt made by local quilters. The group project incorporated 97 barns, 85 of which are in Rock County. Barns of all ages and types, including the Ash Creek Ranch Barn, were showcased in an

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<sup>5</sup> The "trim" as seen in Figure 9 is decorative only, painted to give the appearance of dimensional trim.

<sup>6</sup> (Scalisi, 2023)

<sup>7</sup> (United States Department of Commerce, 1942) (United States Department of Commerce, 1951)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

effort to share the county's agricultural history with a personal touch. Of these 97 barns, only 25 featured gambrel roofs; 8 of which are non-extant.<sup>8</sup>

With such losses Ash Creek Ranch Barn becomes an even more important resource to tell the story of ranching in the Nebraska Sandhills Region.<sup>9</sup>

### Historical Background

#### Rock County Development

In 1862 the Homestead Act allowed Nebraska to become a place for Euro-Americans to settle down in, rather than remain merely a place to pass through on the way to points further west. Migrants who were willing to live on the land were offered the opportunity to own 160 acres of their own land in exchange for improving it within five years. With such an incentive, those looking for opportunities did not have to venture all the way to places such as California or Oregon, where fertile and unclaimed land was being promoted in the 1840s and 1850s.

Prior to the influx of white settlers, the bison-based Sioux and Pawnee societies inhabited the northern Sandhills region, organizing their communities around their interactions with and use of North America's largest wild grazer. However, by 1876, the entire Sandhills area was opened for Euro-American settlement through a series of governmental treaties. Still, the sandy soil of the area did not attract large amounts of homesteaders.

In 1888, Rock County was formed by subdividing Brown County, now immediately to the west of the current Rock County. The latter took its name from Rock Creek, which rises northwest of Newport and flows northward to the Niobrara River.<sup>10</sup>

#### Rock County Agricultural Development

The county consists of two main agricultural regions: the southern areas are part of the Sand Hills Range Livestock Production while the north (in which the Ash Creek Ranch Barn is located) is considered to be a part of the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production region.<sup>11</sup>

The soil conditions of Rock County vary greatly. The area in which the Ash Creek Barn is located is considered to be a "fringe" area of the Sandhills and is part of the Holt Table. The Holt Table consists of soil conditions that are suitable for conventional Midwest farming practices and cultivated crops, but the sandy soils of the southern parts of the county differed from what

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<sup>8</sup> (Sandhills Quilt Guild, 2012)

<sup>9</sup> Two examples of hay barns listed in the 1989 reconnaissance survey for Rock County that are no longer standing include a c1905 haybarn at the northeast corner of Lake and First Streets and a c1895 haybarn at the southwest corner of Lay and Second Streets, both in Newport.

<sup>10</sup> (Various Authors, 1976)

<sup>11</sup> Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types per NeSHPO Historic Contexts in Nebraska: 1989. These were defined by Harold Hedges and F.F. Elliot.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn

Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska

County and State

settlers expected and were accustomed to. The variation in soil types had a significant impact on the subregion's farming and ranching practices. Farming practices typical to large expanses of loamy soil, with which many migrants were familiar, could not be used. Understanding how to make the most of the conditions found in this region of Nebraska took several years of experimentation and trial. Indeed, less than 7% of Rock County land was suitable for cultivated crops. The remaining area being most suitable for grazing (73%) and hay (21%). Ultimately, farmers stepped back from their conventional practices of plowing and sowing and transitioned to a grazing-focused agricultural land use.<sup>12</sup>

The first homestead in Rock County was filed in 1871.<sup>13</sup> Homesteading in Rock County was difficult at this time, as farmers competed against ranchers and their free-roaming herds.<sup>14</sup> Two achievements would contribute to the settlement of the county: the invention of barbed wire, which allowed farmers and ranchers to better control their herds; and the Kincaid Act of 1904. The Kincaid Act was instrumental as it increased the size of a filed homestead from 160 acres to 640 acres, a need specifically considered for those attempting to wrest a living from the sandy soil of Rock County.<sup>15</sup> The original 160 acres of the Homestead Act was based on a standard farm in a climate that was conducive to raising crops which were dependent on more than 24" of annual precipitation. No account was given for lands in northern and western Nebraska with its arid climate and sandy soil. By 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt's Public Lands Commission confirmed that the current law needed to be adjusted for the conditions found in the unclaimed lands.<sup>16</sup>

Failure rates for homesteads were high in the area, but with the introduction of the Kincaid Act as the *Omaha Daily Bee* stated in 1904:

“A farmer could not make a living on a quarter section, but with 640 acres, a careful man could by keeping cattle make a good living for his family on any section of purely sand hill land.”

Over 54,000 acres of Rock County land was subject to the Kincaid Act, which was a key component to its settlement. Once in effect, the improvements were almost immediate. Livestock, grain, and personal property all increased in value.<sup>17</sup>

The population of Rock County also experienced a generous boost likely due to the Kincaid Act, with a peak population realized in 1940. Since then, the population has been in a steady decline.

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<sup>12</sup> (Tubbs, 1957) The Ash Creek Ranch Barn is located within the 7% of land suitable for cultivated crops.

<sup>13</sup> (Save America's Heritage, 1989)

<sup>14</sup> Herd law did not become statewide until 1877. Prior to this, farmers were responsible for fencing free range cattle out of their crops. (Hewes, 1982)

<sup>15</sup> Moses P. Kinkaid originally suggested the number of acres be increased to 1,280 for a single homestead. An earlier bill, proposed by William Neville also encouraged the increase in acres included in a homestead based on the number of necessary acres per head of livestock needed to sustain a family. Unfortunately for area farmers and ranchers this bill was not successful.

<sup>16</sup> (Tubbs, 1957)

<sup>17</sup> (Effect of New Homestead Law, 1904), (Tubbs, 1957)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn

Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska

County and State

	Rock County	Nebraska Counties Subject to Kincaid Act, total
1890	3,083	124,508
1900	2,809	107,434
1910	3,627	162,217

*Table 1: Effect on population by the 1904 Kincaid Act.*

### The Wild Hay Industry

The gently rolling hills that cover much of the Nebraska landscape with their sandy soil were, for many years, considered undesirable and incapable of eking out a profitable living. As early as 1796, James Mackay, a Scottish explorer, helped develop a map that would describe the area in Rock County as “sandy hilly country.” An 1855 report by Lt. G.K. Warren, a topographical engineer performing military surveys, described the land as “uninhabitable except for nomadic hunters.” He also, somewhat prophetically, suggested that the land was more suitable for a pastoral lifestyle rather than an agricultural one. Thirty years later a handbook promoting the opportunities of northwestern Nebraska predicted that the sandhill areas of the state would be the last lands inhabited. Railroads were also slow to expand into the minimally populated regions of the sandhills. Without access to nearby rail transportation shipping out cash crops and shipping in supplies stunted the growth of communities and delayed the arrival of settlers in large quantities compared to other, more easily accessible areas of the state.<sup>18</sup>

The 1880s was a period of growth for the region. Rainfall amounts were suitable for cultivated crops and wheat harvested in the fringe area was awarded for its top quality, winning first prize on the Chicago Board of Trade as “the best quality received” in both 1884 and 1888. Settlers believed the increase of rainfall in the 1880s was a sign of things to come, and a fulfillment of the adage, “rainfall follows the plow.” Planting trees was also credited for the increase in precipitation.<sup>19</sup>

Local papers publicized the apparent prosperity, and farmers accumulated debt to grow their agricultural pursuits by purchasing additional land, stock, and equipment. Additional migrants also followed the positive reports.

However, settlers eventually realized that the majority of the land in Rock County was more suitable for grazing than for cultivated crops. Plowing the soil resulted in blowouts, destabilizing the soil, which created erosion. Rock County receives an average of less than twenty-four inches of precipitation annually, most of which falls during a growing season that is shorter than that of areas well-suited for cultivated crops.<sup>20</sup> It was soon discovered that the “hay flats” of Rock

<sup>18</sup> (Warren, 1856) (Tubbs, 1957)

<sup>19</sup> (Tubbs, 1957)

<sup>20</sup> Most traditional crops need at minimum 27” of annual precipitation, spread over the year.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

County offered ideal conditions for the growing of wild hay. The combination of a high water table and dense grass cover created a topsoil rich in organic matter. In fact, Rock County “ranked among the most productive of native hay in Nebraska” and Newport would be credited with being the “largest wild hay shipping point in Nebraska and one of the largest in the world” in 1907. The wild hay industry easily surpassed grain production in the region at this time.<sup>21</sup>

S.P. Alderman, manager of the Bassett Hardware & Supply Co. and later Newport depot agent, is credited with the idea of exporting hay as a cash crop near the turn of the century. Baling the hay so that it could be easily transported was a cumbersome and difficult task, laborious with little cash reward. Numerous methods were tried, and contraptions invented, in an effort to make it a profitable industry.<sup>22</sup>

Early methods of hay production involved an inclined frame of lumber which hay was swept onto and then shoved into a haystack with use of horsepower and a log. As the idea of selling hay began to take shape, improved balers were presented to farmers. One such machine was the foot-feed baler, a horse-powered hay press in which a plunger compressed hay into a chamber. This apparatus was still inefficient and potentially dangerous, however.

By 1899 the Admiral Hay Press, produced by Kansas City’s Cookson Manufacturing Company, was on the market for farmers. It promoted greater efficiency and a smoother bale with less waste.<sup>23</sup> This new implement was self-feeding, reducing the amount of labor needed. Four horses were needed to operate the hay press; one pair would operate the machine for forty bales and were then spelled by the second pair.<sup>24</sup>



Figure 2: An Admiral Hay Press advertisement in *The Kansas Farmer* in 1899.

Slide stackers were later utilized to stack the unbaled prairie hay. These could be built to order or made by hand. The slide stacker helped to keep the center of the stack of hay higher than the rest so that water could easily shed off, keeping the pile dry.

In contrast with the Rock County seat of Bassett, Newport was ideally situated in the “hay flats.” Bassett was located at the outer reaches of the pastures that produced the high-quality hay in the Elkhorn Valley; land west of Bassett did not produce the quantities that the Newport area did. In

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<sup>21</sup> (Tubbs, 1957)

<sup>22</sup> Wyoming and Montana were two of the largest consumers of Nebraska’s wild hay.

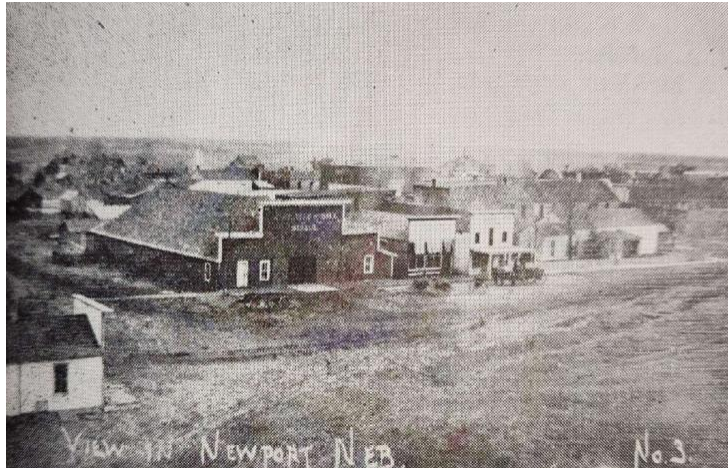
<sup>23</sup> (Publishers' Paragraphs, 1899)

<sup>24</sup> (Various, 1976)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

1898 twenty-five carloads of hay were shipped out of Newport monthly.<sup>25</sup> A single car's capacity to carry twelve to twenty tons of hay places monthly shipments at 300–500 tons.<sup>26</sup> Hay had a year-long market but a short-term production season, creating a need for large hay barns to store the hay until shipment. Many hay barns were constructed in Newport; most of these buildings related to the hay industry are non-extant.



*Figure 3: (left) Hay barn in Newport, Nebraska. Date unknown.*

In 1939 Rock County reported over 73,000 tons of cut and baled wild hay, second only to Cherry County, Nebraska's largest county in land area.<sup>27</sup>

The production and export of wild hay would continue to expand until the price of beef would be realized, making cattle the more profitable industry for area farmers and ranchers. After-

wards, the hay grown in the area would be consumed locally rather than being considered a cash crop. Changes in farming techniques, such as reduced dependence on horse-powered machinery and the introduction of the gas-powered tractor, also reduced farmers' need for hay.

While the hay industry had a huge impact on the county, cattle ranching was the first agricultural business in the area, ever since large herds of cattle were moved in from Texas. The initiation of The Kinkaid Act of 1904 was the beginning of the end for the large-scale rancher and the impetus for smaller ranches to settle in and establish communities with permanent roots.

With the introduction of the Kincaid Act the family ranch was not only able to become viable, but profitable as well. The 1920s brought about a great number of changes for the rancher and farmer. By 1930 most farms owned a motor vehicle, reducing the rural isolation that so many Nebraskans faced; one-third of Nebraska farmers owned gas-powered tractors and one-third of automobiles owned in Nebraska were owned by farmers. With increased transportation access, the need for horses was down considerably across the country. In Nebraska alone this reduction in horse powered conveyance meant fewer horses to feed, opening up two million acres of pastureland for cash crops across the state and giving farmers and ranchers increased income. Radios, which were practically unheard of in 1920 were in 40% of Nebraska homes by 1930. While

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<sup>25</sup> (Newport Items, 1898) A single car held 12 – 20 tons of hay. The head of the Elkhorn River lay between Newport and Stuart, directly south of the Ash Creek Barn.

<sup>26</sup> This equates to enough hay to feed approximately 900 – 1450 head of cattle.

<sup>27</sup> (United States Department of Commerce, 1942) Rock County recorded 499 farms reporting nearly 143,000 acres producing over 73,000 tons of wild hay, or about 1.95 tons/acre. By contrast, Cherry County recorded 916 farms reporting nearly 421,000 acres producing over 300,000 tons of wild hay, or about 1.40 tons/acre.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

farmers and ranchers waited longer than urban dwellers for these modern conveniences, the isolation they once faced was nearly eliminated by 1930.<sup>28</sup>

Ranch Development: R.A. Coffman

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn is located in Section 27, Township 32, Range 17 of Rock County, Nebraska. The first land claimed in this section was by Joseph McGranahan in December of 1885.<sup>29</sup> Several individuals would stake a claim in Section 27 over the years until it was fully claimed in 1892. The parcel quarter-quarter section in which the nominated barn is located (the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter) was one of the last to be claimed.<sup>30</sup> The various parcels of Section 27 would continue to exchange hands several times over the next several decades; by 1935 all but two parcels (the east half of the southeast quarter<sup>31</sup>) was in the ownership of Rollo Allen (R.A. or “Chic”) Coffman.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> (Luebke, 2005) The number of horses on Nebraska farms had decreased by more than 200,000, a drop of more than 22%. (United States Department of Commerce, 1932)

<sup>29</sup> (Rock County Recorder's Records, Section 27) McGranahan's homestead included the north half of the northeast quarter (80 acres).

<sup>30</sup> The last name of the Grantee is unintelligible in the Recorder's record; “Cassius B-“ in 1892.

<sup>31</sup> These two parcels would be purchased by B.H. Casady, likely Coffman's brother-in-law from Appanoose County, Iowa in 1941. Casady would later sell his portion to Earl E. McCleave who also purchased the remaining portion of Section 27 from Coffman, putting the entirety of the section into single ownership for a short time.

<sup>32</sup> (Rock County Recorder's Records, Section 27)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

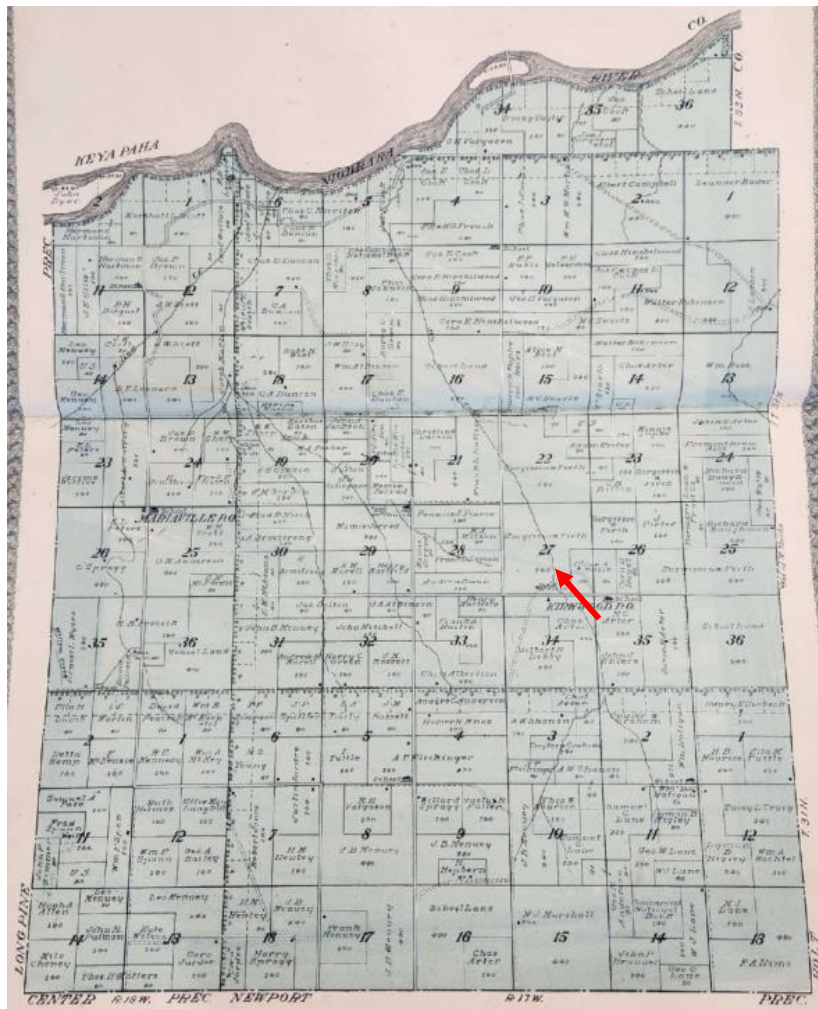


Figure 4: c1920 plat map. Arrow indicates site of future barn.

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn was built in 1940 by Coffman, a prominent rancher in the area. Coffman arrived in Nebraska from his native Missouri via a short stay in southeastern Iowa. While in Iowa he met and married his wife, Mamie Flo Rachford in 1921.

Coffman's first known purchase in the area was a quarter-section near Atkinson, Nebraska (Holt County) for \$50 an acre in 1925.<sup>33</sup> He later purchased an adjoining half section to the north in 1926, though at the time he and his wife did not move to the property.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>33</sup> (Sells Quarter Section At \$50 Per Acre, Cash Deal, 1925) Atkinson, Nebraska lies about 25 miles southeast of the Ash Creek Ranch Barn.

<sup>34</sup> (The Atkinson Graphic, 1926)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn

Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska

County and State



*Figure 5: Coffman's name etched in concrete near an outbuilding, west of the Ash Creek Ranch Barn, date unknown. Photo taken 2024.*

Over the next several years, there would be numerous local newspaper reports making note of the Coffman properties. Typical examples include livestock boarding (1927), White Rock cockerels (1929), “native farm work horses” (1931) and cattle (1933). A 1935 notice of a sheriff’s sale of a Coffman debtor’s assets and a 1955 notice of a lawsuit against one of his debtors suggest that he periodically loaned money to other farmers and ranchers in the area.<sup>35</sup>

In 1930, a typical Nebraska farm consisted of 160 acres, 6 horses, 8 milk cows, 9 cattle, 10 sows and less than 100 poultry, typically chickens.<sup>36</sup> County averages in the Sandhills region were significantly higher; an average farm in 1939 was typically 600 – 1,200 acres.<sup>37</sup>

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn is located within the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay, and Cash Grain Production agricultural region. The region is transitional between the Sandhills cattle country and the Northeast Intensive Livestock region and is known for its mixed production of cattle, cultivated crops, and wild hay.<sup>38</sup> This reflects the agricultural production attributed to Coffman in local newspaper reports in which hay, cattle, and grain are all associated with his operations.<sup>39</sup>

The year 1937 appears to have been a busy one for the Coffmans, moving from Stuart, Nebraska to a new property, the Ash Creek Ranch.<sup>40</sup> Hard times did not seem to affect the Coffman family as much as others in the region. On one occasion it was reported that they installed a telephone line; on another that they traveled to Omaha to purchase a new car and then continued on to Iowa

<sup>35</sup> (Notice of Sheriff’s Sale, 1935), (Notice of Suit, 1955)

<sup>36</sup> (Luebke, 2005)

<sup>37</sup> (United States Department of Commerce, 1942)

<sup>38</sup> (Save America’s Heritage, 1989)

<sup>39</sup> Examples include articles from *The Stuart Advocate* – November 28, 1929, March 12, 1931, September 23, 1937, *The Nebraska Farmer* – October 28, 1933, November 6, 1937, *The Stockman’s Journal* – October 27, 1937, *Rock County Leader* – December 12, 1940.

<sup>40</sup> (The Stuart Advocate, 1937) Note that the newspaper clipping did not refer to the property as the Ash Creek Ranch but it can be assumed as it was noted as “their new farm property north of Newport.” Coffman had purchased this property in 1935.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn

Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska

County and State

and Missouri to visit friends and family.<sup>41</sup> Reports show Coffman selling more livestock than any other owner at a local sale in 1937, selling about 60 heifers and a beef cow.<sup>42</sup> Large numbers of livestock were reported over the next several months, including the purchase of 200 baby Australox chickens.<sup>43</sup>

Coffman's ranching operations continued to experience success in 1938; while some local ranchers reported poor hay crops, Coffman claimed to have a prosperous year in his meadows.<sup>44</sup> Indeed, the 1930s were not a favorable decade for farmers or ranchers across the country. Nebraska faced some of the driest years on record and experienced a 5% population loss.<sup>45</sup>

The success of his ranching operations likely sanctioned the need for a new barn towards the end of the decade. In the summer of 1940, Coffman celebrated the construction of his barn by hosting a dance for the locals. Such dances were still popular, several being recorded as the source of local entertainment during this time.<sup>46</sup> The Coffman barn was reported as a 50' x 100' barn with a "sheet steel roof."<sup>47</sup> Coffman's success is further illustrated by the fact that the land was commonly referred to as "the Chic Coffman place" despite his relatively short residence on the property and its history with several different owners and renters.<sup>48</sup>

By 1941 the Coffmans had moved back to Stuart, selling off livestock, hay, machinery, and farm tools at a "cleanup ranch sale" which made the news for not only its success, but as an enjoyable social event as well.<sup>49</sup> Earl McCleave of Barnard, Missouri bought the land, eventually owning all parcels of Section 27.<sup>50</sup> McCleave did not move to the property and sold it quickly; in 1942 he sold a 4,160 acre ranch ("known in that locality as the old C.A. Koffman [*sic*] ranch") to Walter Klauer of Dubuque, Iowa.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> The Stuart Advocate 1937: February 25, May 20, August 26. The number of farms with telephones reported in the agricultural census dropped by nearly 30% from 1930 to 1940 while the number of farms with electricity increased by over 12%. In 1940 only 181 out of 496 Rock County farms had telephones. By contrast, while automobiles were common on Rock County farms, only 200 farms in had automobiles that were 1936 model years or newer. (United States Department of Commerce, 1942)

<sup>42</sup> (Pavilion Holds Another Splendid Sale Here Today, 1937) Coffman would also be reported as selling the "biggest single shipments of mules [112] ever to be loaded out of any town in this area" in 1941, shortly after selling the Ash Creek property.

<sup>43</sup> (Springview Herald, 1938)

<sup>44</sup> (Hay! Hay! Hay! How Much Hay?, 1938)

<sup>45</sup> (Luebke, 2005)

<sup>46</sup> A few examples include: *Rock County Leader* – April 25, 1935, May 14, 1937, June 10, 1937.

<sup>47</sup> (Among Mariaville Folk, 1940)

<sup>48</sup> (Among the Mariaville Folk, 1942), (Personal News, 1943) (Riverside News, 1944)

<sup>49</sup>R.A. and Mamie Coffman would eventually follow their only child, Rex, to Eagle, Colorado where they would continue in the ranching business for several years. (Cleanup Ranch Sale, 1941) (Coats, 1941)

<sup>50</sup> Three different spellings of Earl McCleave's name have been found; the one found in the Rock County Assessor's records is the one used here.

<sup>51</sup> (Iowa Man Buys Rock County Ranch, 1942)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

Later Owners: Pearl Stewart and Her Descendants

Pearl E. Stewart was a divorced mother of two grown sons in 1948 when she purchased the entirety of Section 27, Township 32, Range 17.<sup>52</sup> Stewart was born Pearl E. Peterson to Nebraska ranchers in 1885.<sup>53</sup> In 1904 she married Robert “Dale” Stewart but this union was dissolved in 1921 when Pearl “brought suit for divorce” against her husband.<sup>54</sup> Stewart was well-regarded throughout her life for both her kindness and willingness to help others.

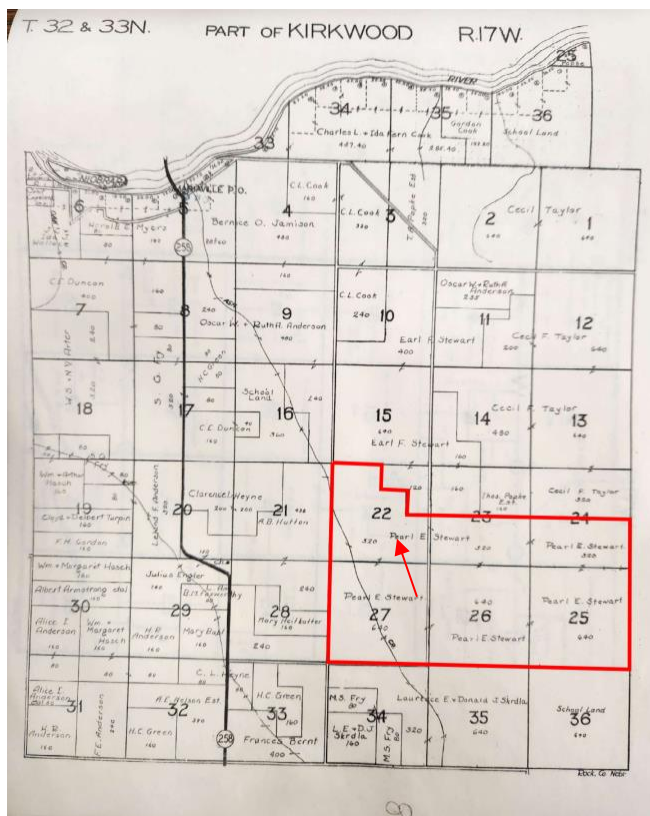


Figure 6: 1950 plat map, Kirkwood Township. Red outline highlights Pearl Stewart's holdings. Arrow points to approximate location of barn.

It does not appear that Stewart ever resided on the ranch; at the time of her divorce she was living at the marital ranch south of Newport where she stayed to raise her young sons. In 1938-1939 Stewart lived with her widowed son Earl to help raise her grandchildren until he remarried. She then moved north to the Pony Lake area of northern Rock County to take care of her mother. By the mid-1940s Stewart and her mother had moved to Bassett, where she remained until her death in 1956.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>52</sup>A third son, Harvey, had died of a gunshot wound at age 19 in 1933. (Rock County Recorder's Records, Section 27)

<sup>53</sup> Pearl's brother, Charles Peterson, became one of the most prosperous ranchers in neighboring Holt County, owning over 38,000 acres of land. Another brother, Earl owned approximately 33,000 in the area.

<sup>54</sup> (Omaha World-Herald, 1921)

<sup>55</sup> (Rock County Centennial Book Committee and Rock County Historical Society, 1987)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State



Figure 7: Pearl Peterson  
Stewart (date unknown)

Stewart was also highly respected as a rancher. Born into a ranching family, Stewart continued in the business and was often recorded in local newspapers for her large quantities of livestock and crop sales. Reports of train cars of heifers, hogs, corn-fed cattle, steers, and teams of horses were reported as being sold to buyers in Omaha and other eastern buyers.<sup>56</sup>

The property was eventually passed down to Stewart's oldest son, Lester, upon Pearl's death.<sup>57</sup> Lester had moved his family to the Chic Coffman ranch two years prior to his mother purchasing the place in 1948.<sup>58</sup> The barn is now in the possession of Lester's granddaughter, Mary Ammon, who grew up in one of the houses on the ranch.



Figure 8: Velma and Lester Stewart  
(date unknown)

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<sup>56</sup> Some examples include reports in *Rock County Leader* on February 20, 1930, August 27, 1931, June 2, 1932, June 16, 1932 and May 10, 1934.

<sup>57</sup> (Rock County Recorder's Records, Section 27)

<sup>58</sup> (Rock County Leader, 1946)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State



Figure 9: Velma & Lester Stewart (date unknown, Lester died July 1979 at age 71)

### Summary

The Ash Creek Ranch Barn was not only built during a time of transition in the farming and ranching industry, but it was also built in a transitional area of the country. The Ash Creek Ranch property was uniquely situated where ranchers could take advantage of some of the best hay-producing land in the country while also able to utilize the soils of the Holt Table for cash crops. The Ash Creek Ranch barn is a reflection of these juxtapositions.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

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Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of this nomination is a quadrangle that encloses the barn at a distance of five feet from its exterior envelope.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The original property has been subdivided amongst family over the years. Additionally, many of the original ranch buildings and outbuildings have been demolished or have lost their historic integrity. Because of the irregularity of the property lines in 2024 and the significant loss of other buildings needed for ranch operations, only the barn itself is included in the nomination; no surrounding areas are included.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michelle A. Cunliffe, AIA  
organization: RDG Planning & Design  
street & number: 301 Grand Ave  
city or town: Des Moines state: IA zip code: 50309  
e-mail: mcunliffe@rdgusa.com  
telephone: 515-473-6363  
date: February 20, 2025

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

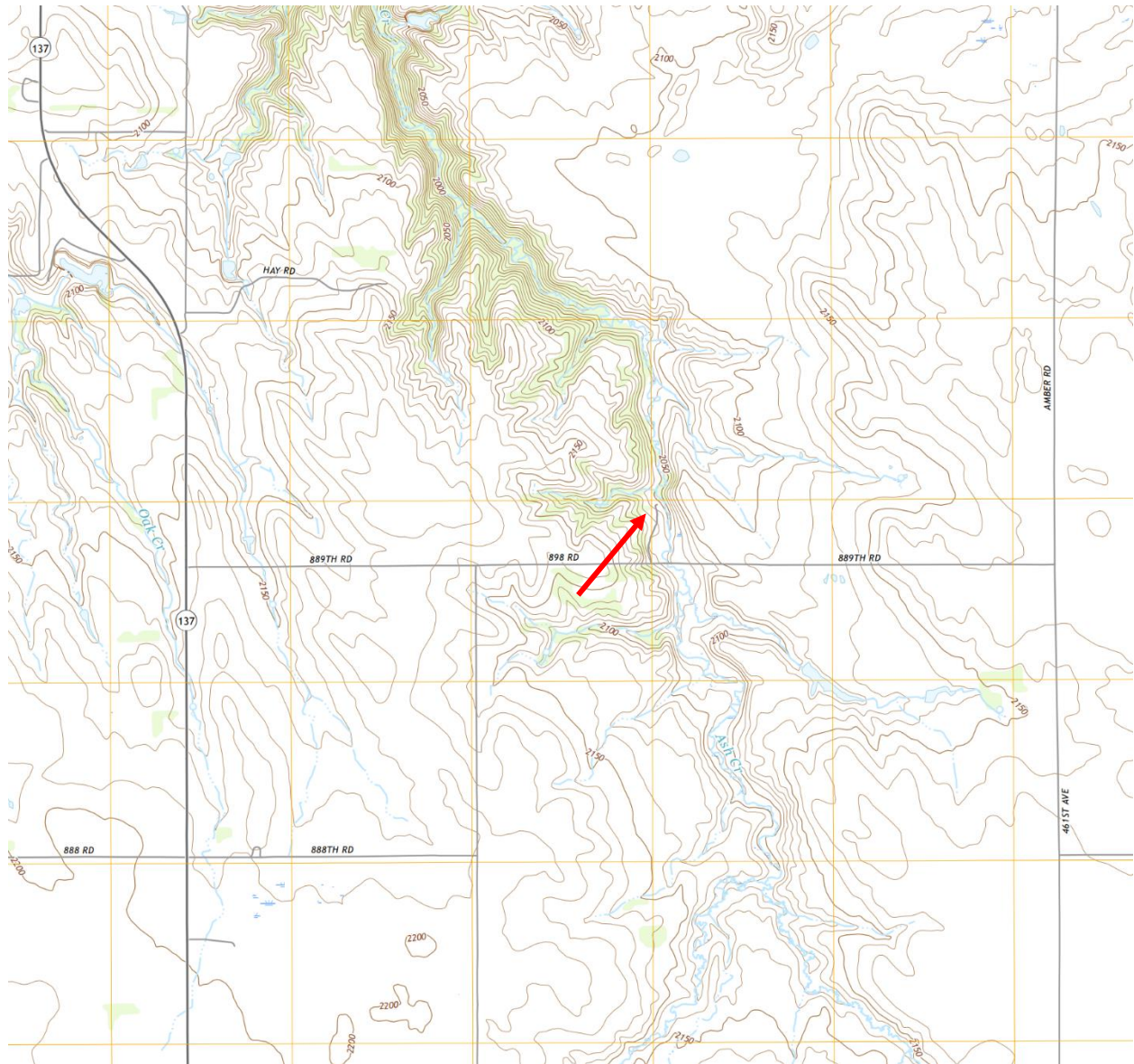


Figure 10: USGS 7.5 Topographic Map - Newport, NE NE Quadrangle (2021) Arrow points to site. North is at the top of the page. ([www.store.usgs.gov](http://www.store.usgs.gov); Assessed December 16, 2024.)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

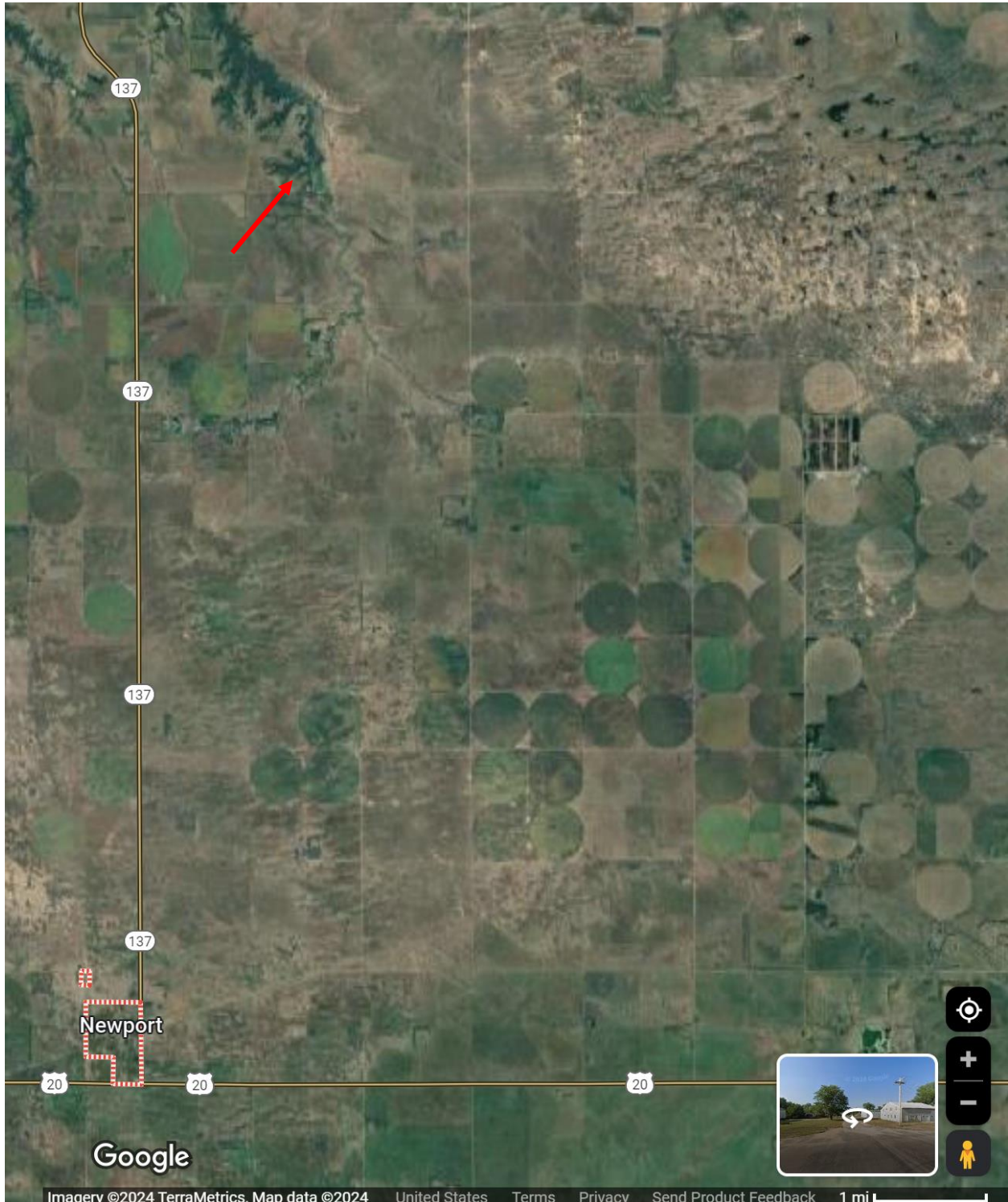


Figure 11: Vicinity map showing barn in relation to Newport, Nebraska. Arrow points to barn. North is at the top of the page. (Google Maps 2024) Accessed December 16, 2024.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

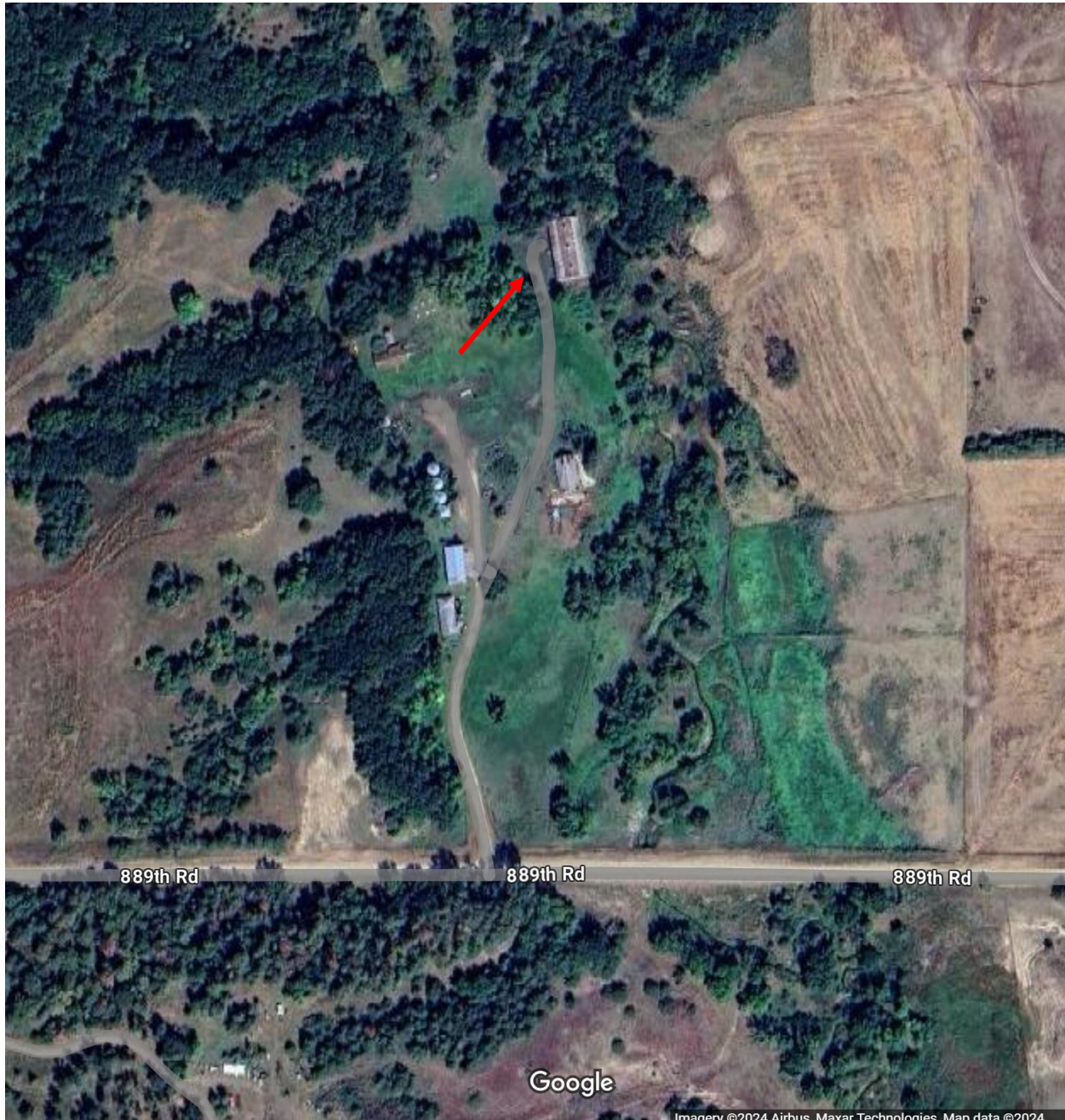


Figure 12: Ash Creek Ranch Barn, aerial view. Arrow points to barn. North is at the top of the page. (Google Maps 2024) Accessed December 16, 2024.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

**Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.  
Key all photographs to this map.

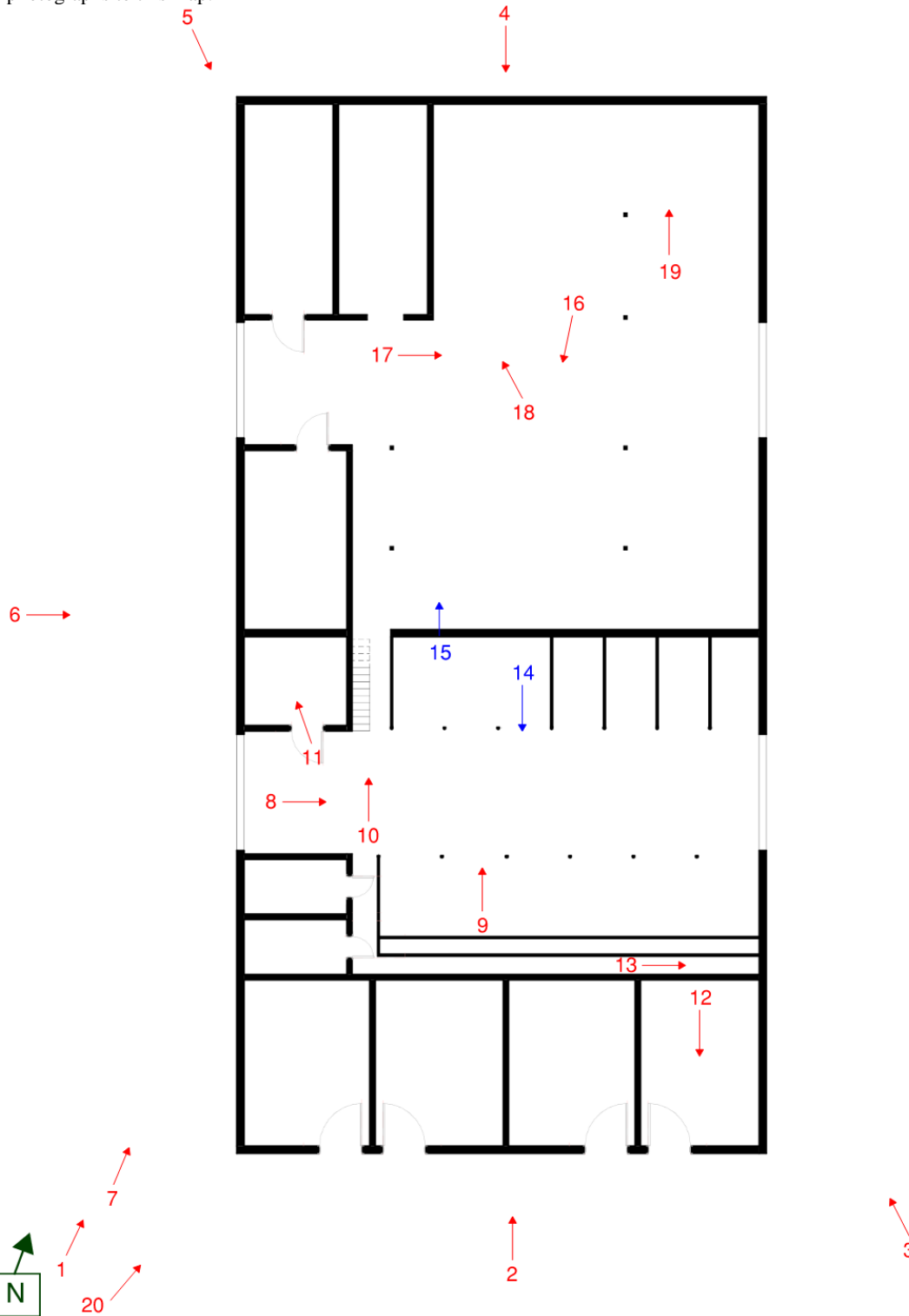


PHOTO KEY (windows not shown)

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

**Additional items:**

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

**Photographs**

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

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Ash Creek Ranch Barn

City or Vicinity: Newport

County: Rock State: Nebraska

Photographer: Michelle A. Cunliffe, AIA

Date Photographed: August 22, 2024

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

Photo 1 of 20. West and south elevations. View northeast.

Photo 2 of 20. South facade. View north.

Photo 3 of 20. East elevation. View northwest.

Photo 4 of 20. North elevation. View south.

Photo 5 of 20. North and west facades. View southeast.

Photo 6 of 20. West elevation. View east.

Photo 7 of 20. West and south facades. View northeast.

Photo 8 of 20. Interior central bay, first floor. View east.

Photo 9 of 20. Interior central bay, first floor. View north.

Photo 10 of 20. Interior central bay, first floor - milking parlor door and loft ladder. View north.

Ash Creek Ranch Barn  
Name of Property

Rock County, Nebraska  
County and State

Photo 11 of 20. Milking parlor windows, first floor. View northwest.

Photo 12 of 20. Livestock holding bay, first floor. View south.

Photo 13 of 20. Interior feeding trough and walkway, first floor. View east.

Photo 14 of 20. Loft level. View south.

Photo 15 of 20. North end of barn, view from loft. View north.

Photo 16 of 20. North end of barn, first floor. View south.

Photo 17 of 20. North end of barn. View east.

Photo 18 of 20. North end of barn, first floor. View northwest.

Photo 19 of 20. North end of barn, first floor. View north.

Photo 20 of 20. Barn setting, view northeast.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.







































