Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Leary Site (25-RH-1)

AND/OR COMMON: Leary-Kelly Site

2 LOCATION

[redacted]

STREET & NUMBER: [redacted]

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Rulo X VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 001

STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31 COUNTY: Richardson CODE: 147

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Leon Campbell, Tribal Chairman, Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 144

CITY, TOWN: Hiawatha __ VICINITY OF STATE: Kansas 66434

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Doniphan Co. Courthouse (Nanomantube deed at Falls City, Nebraska Co. Courthouse)

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Troy STATE: Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Report of Field work at the Leary Site by the Archeological Survey of the Nebraska State Historical Society 1935, Nebraska History Magazine, Addison E. Sheldon, ed., Vol. XVII, No. 1, 74 p. 1936.

DATE: 1935 __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Nebraska State Historical Society Building

CITY, TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Leary site is located in the southeast corner of Nebraska [redacted]. Most of the site rests on a gently rising natural terrace [redacted]. As a result of a recent channelization project, however, [redacted] now enters the original river channel in the northwest corner of the site and follows northeastward for a mile [redacted] enters the southeast portion of the site, runs along the north edge of three ridge toes, and turns northwestward across the middle of the terrace to empty at the junction of [redacted] Creek and the original river channel. A long north south ridge begins just north of the [redacted] Creek entry in the southeast corner and continues north along the eastern portion of the site until [redacted] Creek cuts off both the ridge and terrace in the northeast corner.

Most of the site is under cultivation, including all of the terrace and the three ridge toes in the southeast corner. Deciduous forest growth is retained on the west slope of the ridge in the extreme northeastern corner of the site as well as along the creeks and ravines. The crest of the ridge in the eastern portion of the site is in tall-grass pasture, however the flanks of the ridge are cultivated.

The archeological boundary begins at the intersection of the gravel road through the site [redacted] It extends east 2,080 feet and then turns north-northeast 4,090 feet at a bearing of 10° east of North. It proceeds 1,170 feet west until meeting [redacted] Creek, whereupon it proceeds upstream [redacted] It then rejoins the starting point 1,460 feet to the east. For the most part, the site delimitation is based on actual distribution of the relatively abundant village refuse; but it is extended to include both the adjoining ridge on the [redacted] side which has at least three possible burial mounds and the three ridge toes on the southeast side which have a potential for cultural features.

Investigations

The Leary site has been visited by a number of people since the beginning of the 19th century, and each person has recorded an opinion on the identity of its previous inhabitants based on material observed either on the surface or from excavation: In 1714, Bourgmont camped near the Leary site at the mouth of the [redacted] River but makes no mention of any Indians in the area at that time. The first recorded visitor to the site was William Clark in 1804 who, while mentioning no inhabitants, observed several mounds on the terrace and on the hill [redacted] and opined that the mounds along the latter were artificial and for the purpose of human burial. In 1912, F. H. Sterns of the Harvard University Peabody Museum located the site on a survey and on the basis of his sample of potsherds (apparently mostly Oneota) felt that the site was different from the Rectangular Earth Lodge Culture (Nebraska Culture) and could be assigned to the Kansa tribe of "almost historic" age. William Barada, in 1914, is said to have uncovered human remains on one of the mounds along the [redacted] ridge, apparently confirming Clark's suggested use for the mounds. In 1918, M. E. Zimmerman of White Cloud, Kansas was the first

to describe the shell-tempered pottery from the site as being unique for the Nebraska and Kansas area. In 1922, Gerard Fowke of the Smithsonian Institution could not find anything unusual about the pottery collected and identified the site as Pawnee due to the fact that the local Iowa and Oto Indians said they had wiped out the Pawnee there in a raid of 1837. In 1926, E. E. Blackman of the Nebraska State Historical Society considered the site as pre-Caucasian (sic) after digging several cache pits and thought that the artifacts bore resemblances to those of Ohio Mound Builders as well as those of Osage sites in Missouri. In 1935, W. D. Strong of the Smithsonian Institution suggested that the Leary site was Oneota upon examining the material.

After A. T. Hill of the Nebraska State Historical Society extensively tested and excavated the site in 1935, both Hill and Waldo Wedel published a site report in 1936 which supplied overwhelming evidence for Strong's contention and none whatsoever for Fowke's.[1] In 1960, William Bass of the University of Nebraska supplied additional support for labeling the Leary site "Oneota" through the salvage of several Oneota burials or cache pits which occurred along the road dividing the site. In addition, a test by Bass in one of the [redacted] mounds produced human remains and led him to believe that the mounds indeed were of artifical construction as Clark suggested.[2] The presence of a second and probably earlier component, however, is indicated for the site from an excavation in 1965 by Marvin Kivett and Wendell Frantz, which produced a significant number of Nebraska Culture remains.[3]

Finds

By the time Hill began his 1935 excavation, the refuse mounds that Clark apparently had observed on the terrace had been lowered considerably due to plowing. Hill and Wedel note, however, that site refuse was abundant over the whole terrace [redacted] and that it extended down to 18 inches in many places. Excavation in some of the refuse mounds, which were 10 to 25 yards in diameter, confirmed their nature and disposed of the earlier notion that they might mark the location of earthlodges. In addition to these occurrences of refuse, over 150 of the site's ubiquitous cache pits[4] were excavated that contained generally large quantities of discarded stone, bone, and pottery artifacts along with ash, charcoal, and stones.

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[1]Hill and Wedel, 1936.
[2]Bass, personal communication, 1975.
[3]Kivett and Frantz, personal communication, 1975.
[4]thought to be used for grain storage originally.

The burial mounds observed by Clark on the hill [redacted] could not be tested due to local objections by Iowa Indians; however, the diggings of William Barada (an Iowa Indian) in 1914 reportedly produced one whole pot, parts of two others, part of a wooden implement, and a rawhide bracelet as well as human remains. Hill and Wedel also mention finding human bone and miscellaneous artifacts on the surface in this area in 1935. Bass's excavation in 1960 of a 5 by 10 foot square [redacted] produced the remains of two individuals along with Oneota pottery and some stone.[5]

A large number of burials was indicated also for the entire village area from the 1935 excavation. The remains of 15 individuals were recovered, buried usually in an extended supine position with few artifacts, but also occurring as secondary bundle burials. Altogether, two similar rectangular earthlodges have been excavated, with the first in 1935 thought by Hill and Wedel to be the rarer of two house types for the Oneota at the Leary site--the other possibly being a pole-and-bark structure[6]--and the second in 1965 identified by Kivett and Frantz as Nebraska Culture based on pottery from both the lodge and associated cache pits.

Pottery from the Leary site is extremely abundant with 9 vessels (1 found whole) being recovered in 1935 out of over 3400 potsherds. The squat globular vessels, brown to orange in color, have strap handles in many instances and possess distinctive trailed and punctate decorations on the upper body and notching or finger-impressing on the lip. Stone artifacts recovered include: granite mealing stones, grooved mauls, polished celts, notched axes, gaming stones, hammerstones, arrowshaft smoothers, pumice lumps, Siouan and disk-stem style pipes of catlinite and sandstone, catlinite tablets, triangular, unnotched arrowpoints, end scrapers, gravers, drills, and knives. Bone artifacts include: scapula hoes, ulna picks, flat-eyed needles, arrowshaft straighteners, polished tubes, a pottery decorator, and various unidentifiable items. Other artifacts consist of: one bi-perforated clamshell disk, bison hair cordage, and a copper cone. Glass beads and metal are also reported from the site, but appear to result from occupation of the area by the Iowa in historic times.

5 Bass, p.202, 1961

6 One of the original landowners reportedly saw fireplaces all over the surface of the site, which gives support to Hill and Wedel's idea of pole-and-bark or similar perishable structure for the Oneota.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
X PREHISTORIC	X ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	X SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES (see significance) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

DISCUSSION

In their comparison of the above trait list for the Leary site[7] with that for Oneota Culture in general, Hill and Wedel saw far more similarities than differences, leading them to the conclusion that the site was Oneota and consequently would have cultural affiliations to the east, particularly northern Iowa. During Hill's excavation in 1935 a few Upper Republican-like, grit-tempered potsherds were found on the floor of the rectangular earthlodge, along with a number of Oneota cache pits which, in several instances, were observed to originate beneath the floor. Hill and Wedel therefore reasoned that since some of the cache pits had to be older than the lodge, both it and the grit-tempered potsherds were in all likelihood contemporaneous with the Oneota occupation and served as an example of the variation in Oneota style. They also considered the possibility of these anomalous Upper Republican-like occurrences as being a product of trait-borrowing by the Oneota at the Leary site, but stated that future excavation in the region eventually should provide evidence for this kind of exchange, if it took place.[8]

Although Oneota Culture in Iowa dates into proto-historic times, the lack of a definite association of European trade goods with aboriginal features at the Leary site suggests a pre-Contact occupation. The similarity of the Leary site and Oneota artifact inventories, though, made it difficult at the time for Hill and Wedel to assign a date of any earlier than around 1430 A.D. for the beginning of occupation, and they suggested that it may even be more recent.[9]

Wedel does allow that the lodge excavated by Hill in 1935 could have been Nebraska Culture,[10] but only if the field evidence was misinterpreted somehow. Recent carbon-14 dates as early as 930 A.D. from the Dixon site in Iowa may extend Oneota back far enough in time for them to have adopted the widespread trait of rectangular earthlodges for the Central Plains. This coupled with the fact that subsequent excavations have revealed differences in Oneota house forms still leaves open the possibility that the Oneota at the Leary site may have used a rectangular earthlodge, perhaps along with one or more additional house styles at the same time.[11] Based on an appreciable increase, though, in the number of Nebraska Culture potsherds apparently recovered during excavation of the second earthlodge by Kivett and Frantz in 1965, a stronger case is imminent for the existence of the Nebraska Culture

as a major component at the Leary site; however, two discrepant carbon-14 dates of 1330±100 and 780±600 A.D. obtained from a charred post in the earthlodge preclude establishing the chronological relationship to Oneota Culture. In any event, with the excavation of only two lodges thus far, the question remains as to the kinds of house styles present at the site and their identification culturally.

It should also be mentioned that as a result of an examination of Leary site pottery, including potsherds from a cache pit dug there by Mett Shippee in 1964, Dale Henning of the University of Nebraska is inclined to believe that two occupations are represented for the Oneota at the Leary site.[12] The first is thought to be similar to the "Correctionville" phase of Oneota Culture in northwest Iowa, a phase that he feels dates from 1000 A.D.[13] (Two University of Wisconsin carbon-14 dates of 1250±70 and 1360±70 A.D. were obtained from charcoal in the cache pit.) The second occupation is thought to be similar to the "Orr" phase of Oneota Culture which later was more widespread in Iowa. In addition, Henning voices the long-held opinion that of the tribes generally thought to have descended from the prehistoric and protohistoric Oneota--Kansa, Osage, Omaha, Winnebago, Iowa, Oto, and Missouri--the Chiweran speaking Iowa, Oto, and Missouri were most closely related to the Oneota inhabitants of the Leary site. On the other hand, both Mildred and Waldo Wedel feel that it might be premature to say that two occupations are present even if two styles of Oneota pottery are present, unless this can be demonstrated formally by the manner in which the pottery is distributed over the site, viz. in houses, cache pits, and midden areas.[14] In addition, they are of the opinion that the Iowa and Oto are most closely related to the Leary site Oneota inhabitants.

IMPORTANCE

The Leary site in southeastern Nebraska is a key Oneota Culture site that currently stands as the largest and richest one of only a few occurring west of the Missouri River. The site's unique and distinctive artifact assemblage, of which the cultural connections are chiefly to the east in the Iowa prairie area, contrasts sharply with those of overlapping Central Plains cultures to the west such as Nebraska, Upper Republican, and Lower Loup, and as a result should be a valuable aid to cross-dating as more Oneota trade goods are uncovered on Central Plains sites.

7 Hill and Wedel, pp. 31-32, 1936.
8 ibid., p. 69.
9 Hill and Wedel, p. 69, 1936.
10 "Nebraska Culture" has tended to replace "Upper Republican" for this area of the state.
11 Wedel, personal communication, 1975.
12 Henning, personal communication, 1975.
13 According to Mildred Wedel such an early date may be unreliable since carbon-14 dates for the Correctionville Phase Dixon site have been shown to cluster between 1180 and 1460 A.D.
14 Mildred and Waldo Wedel, personal communication, 1975.

Although it is impossible to say for certain which of the historically known tribes was responsible for producing this assemblage, the Chiweran-speaking Iowa, Oto, and possibly Missouri presently are regarded as being most closely related to the Leary site Oneota inhabitants.

The site has been subjected only to two excavations of any scope at all over the last forty years and remains in relatively good condition despite plowing. Much more work can and needs to be done on the remaining evidence while it is still in retrievable form. The site has a potential for yielding information not only on how the Oneota developed but also on how they may have interacted with Plains cultures and taken on new adaptations to a different environment. Moreover, additional excavation should help to reveal the village's settlement pattern through time, including the major types of houses present and their cultural identity.

While it seems certain that the Oneota represent at least a major cultural occupation for the site, additional questions have been raised as a result of sporadic field work there by Nebraska archeologists in the 1960's, although unfortunately the results have yet to be published: The first is the extent to which Nebraska Culture is present and its chronological and/or cultural relationship to the Oneota. For example, if the rectangular earthlodge excavated by Hill in 1935 is Oneota, then the question arises whether the Oneota were in the area early enough to have borrowed this trait from Nebraska Culture people, and then either abandoned it in due time or continued its use until just before European contact. If the latter is the case as Hill and Wedel have suggested, then the Leary site might have the latest example of a rectangular earthlodge in the Plains. The second question is whether the Oneota occupation is divisible into two periods correlative to the Correctionville and subsequent Orr phases in Iowa, as Henning suggests.

Presently two carbon-14 dates, 1205± 70 and 1360± 70 A.D., from a single cache pit indicate that the Oneota may have occupied the Leary site 200 years earlier than the original 1936 estimate. Although two carbon-14 dates, 1330± 100 and 780± 60 A.D., were obtained from a post in a Nebraska Culture lodge, these dates are so widely disparate that they cannot be compared safely with the Oneota dates to establish their chronological relationship.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hill, A. T. and Waldo R. Wedel "Report of Field Work at the Leary Site by the Archeological Survey of the Nebraska State Historical Society 1935, "Nebraska History Magazine, Addision E. Sheldon, ed., Vol. XVII, No. 1, pp. 1-73, 1936

Bass, William "Excavation at the Leary Site", Nebraska History Magazine, Addley Shepard, ed. 1960.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 220 (polar planimeter)

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	B	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
C	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	D	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See attached Physical Description)

See Item 7

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
none			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Ronald C. Corbyn, Principal Archeologist, Landmark Review Project

DATE
2/16/75

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, OAHP, National Park Service

TELEPHONE
(202) 523-5464 or 65

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street, NW.

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Landmark Designated: January 19, 1964 date

Boundary Certified: May 16, 1979 date

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

DATE 2/18/85

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

THIS MAP HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY REMOVED FOR SECURITY PURPOSES.