

Heritage Handbook

for ages 10 to 100



the
NATIONAL RANCHING
HERITAGE CENTER

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Teacher _____

Date _____

How to Use this Booklet

Use this book to write your connection to the things you see or what they mean to you as you tour the National Ranching Heritage Center. The pictures and stories in this book will help you better understand your visit.



What do you expect?

Below, write what you expect to learn and see during your visit at the National Ranching Heritage Center.

Can you find Joe-Jack Rabbit??

As you explore the National Ranching Heritage Center, keep an eye out for Joe-Jack rabbit! Remember to look for Joe-Jack every time you visit the NRHC. He doesn't stay in one spot for long!



Where is Joe-Jack Rabbit?

How Many Jackrabbits Can You Find?

Many different types of wildlife live here in Proctor Park among the structures. The most popular is the Jackrabbit! Count how many Jackrabbits you see and keep count below! Also, we don't want to scare them away so please don't chase them!



Keep Count Here

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Los Corralitos

Los Corralitos was built, as you see it here, to protect the family from intruders. What do you notice about this house that would keep the family safe?

What is the English translation of “Los Corralitos”?

Look at the small, round, brick structure next to Los Corralitos. What do you think this was used for?

El Capote

El Capote is a typical example of what type of structure?

Write what you think life would be like living in a one-room cabin like El Capote.

Hedwig Hill

Read the following journal entry as you stand in the breezeway at Hedwig Hill, then answer the questions below. The date is October 1856.

My hands ache tonight from peeling “apfels” all day. Some will be dried and stored for the months ahead and baked into our favorite “apfelkuchen.” Others, I will boil and mash for applesauce, so good warmed and spooned over waffles. The fruit and vegetables harvest was generous, and I am feeling something akin to the little animals I see scurrying around, putting away nuts and seeds for the winter ahead. Cold here is not like winter in Deustschland, though. This milder weather brings snow and ice rarely. Tonight I will write little for it is hard to grip the quill and put the words on paper. But I am smiling, nonetheless, for tomorrow. I will delight the family with a special treat—an apple pie, fragrant and good, hidden away in my beautiful pie safe. Fritz gave it to me when we were young, and I treasure it. While he was in town today, he bought a book that was written in 1851 by Herman Melville about “Moby Dick,” a white whale the size of a barn. Who would name a whale? And there’s no such thing as a white one! I laugh about it still—Fritz is such a tease.

1. The word “apfels” means apple in another language. What language do you think it is?

2. Why did the writer feel akin to the little animals putting nuts away for the winter ahead?

3. What member of the family do you think wrote this journal? (circle one)

Father

Mother

Son

Daughter

Jowell House

Read the following journal entry as you stand in front of the Jowell house, then answer the questions below. The date is September 1876.

The baby sleeps peacefully. My family is near me, and for that I am grateful tonight. Word came to us this day that in a place called Little Big Horn in Montana territory, a terrible battle was waged June 25 between the U.S. Army and the Sioux Indians. The rider carrying the news said Chief Sitting Bull and his warriors killed General George A. Custer and the 265 men serving under him. He said only one survived: a horse named Comanche. I rock the baby and remember that we, too, have come face to face with the Indians. I recall 1872 when my beloved George left us to drive the cattle to Kansas City. While he was gone, Indians attacked and burned our cabin to the ground. We fled and were unarmed. When George returned, he immediately saw to the construction of a fortified home for us, this one made of stone. Never again will we fear those who appear so savage to us. Never again will we fear their fire. Sleep peacefully, my little one, for you are safe.

1. How long did it take word to reach the family about the battle of Little Big Horn? _____

Why did it take so long? _____

2. How long has it been since the family's home was attacked?

3. Look around the Jowell House. Do you see anything that will protect it from intruders? Why is it protected from fire? Write down any observations that you have.

Old Mail Camp

The Old Mail Camp was used as a rest stop for early military couriers. What is a courier?

How do you think early Plains settlers received mail?

What are different ways that you receive mail today?

Matador Half-Dugout

Part of the walls of the Matador Half-Dugout come from a hole in the ground. Why did early Texans use dirt for part of their walls?

There are many carvings and brands on the fireplace and in the walls. Draw or write one thing you see.

Bairfield Schoolhouse

The Bairfield Schoolhouse is a typical one-room schoolhouse.

Describe what you think school would be like if all ages were taught by one teacher in the same room.

How is this school different from your school?



Have You Seen Me?

In which structures did you see the artifacts below?



Lunch Pails: _____



Sewing Machine: _____



Saddle: _____



Cash Register: _____

Harrell House

Read the following journal entry as you stand in front of the Harrell house, then answer the questions below. The date is July 31, 1898.

Papa has come back from town buying ice. He got more than we need for the icebox, so we can make ice cream tonight and invite the neighbors. He said beef prices are high because of the Spanish-American War, so we got good money for the cattle. My little brother is a pest. He and the cousins have been out catching grasshoppers and worms to drop into the ice cream mixture when no one is looking. The bugs and worms will freeze and scare the ones whose bowl they're in. I hope he gets licks. Mama told me once that her parents didn't have an icebox when she was my age (12), and they never got to make ice cream in the summer. Her parents had to keep food in a root cellar or milk house. That sounds primitive. I'm glad I am sophisticated and live in a time of modern conveniences. I don't know what this means, but I just heard Papa tell Mama that Teddy Roosevelt charged up San Juan Hill with some rough riders. I bet my Grandma could teach those ruffians a thing or two!

1. What job do you think the writer's father does? _____
Why did you guess this?

2. What does your family use to keep their food cold? _____
How was an ice box different?

3. What job did Teddy Roosevelt end up doing only a few years after he charged up San Juan Hill?

JA Milk & Meat House

The JA Milk & Meat House shows how settlers preserved their food. What do you use to preserve your food today?

Read the sign and explain how the JA Milk & Meat House preserved meat.

How were milk, eggs and butter preserved? _____



Barton House

The Barton House is a good example of a house that a wealthy ranch family lived in. Name examples of what makes this house different from others. _____

U Lazy S Carriage House

The U Lazy S Carriage House was used as a place to store buggies, livestock and tack. It also contains a saddle room for the ranch owner. What part of your house do you think a carriage house compares to?

What form of transportation did you use to get to the NRHC? _____

Name three other forms of transportation (past or present):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6666 Barn

Before barbed wire fences were built around ranches, the cattle roamed freely. To keep track of them, the ranchers branded the cattle. Every ranch put different symbols on its cattle to identify who owned what. We, at the NRHC, even have our own brand:



Look at the different examples of brands in the 6666 Barn and create your own brand below!

What does your brand mean?

6666 Barn

View the exhibition on barbed wire inside the 6666 Barn. When did ranchers begin using barbed wire on the frontier?

How did barbed wire help the West? _____

Were there any negative aspects to barbed wire? _____
If so, explain.

Ropes Depot

The Ropes Depot was one of the many stops for railroads in the West. How did railroads help the West grow?

Inside the depot you will see a telegraph. What did telegraphs do?

Picket & Sotol House

Read the following journal entry as you stand in front of the Picket & Sotol House, then answer the questions below. The date is Summer 1904.

This dwelling is poor and void of any comforts. The wind blows without ceasing and my neighbors are the scorpions that scoot across the sand and come inside to investigate. The nearest water must be hauled by horse and sled from 200 yards away. If we can survive here three years, the homestead will be granted to us. (I secretly admit that the prospect of this being my forever home makes me unhappy.) Our furnishings are so few that, to improve my sorrowful spirit, my husband took the chuck box off the wagon and fastened it to the wall to make a cabinet. When the lid is lowered, I have a table on which to roll biscuit dough. To add color to this stark cabin, I have been sewing a rag rug from scraps of clothes that Mama and my sisters gave me in a sewing bag as they saw us off on this lonely adventure. My favorite is the white strip, cut by Mama from her petticoat. I saved most of it for bandages, but one piece I sewed into my rug and remember her lovingly as I touch it.

1. What does the writer mean when she says the wind blows without ceasing?

2. Have your teacher help you see how far 200 yards is. What would make it hard if you had to travel that far for water?

3. Write how you think the writer feels about living in this house.

4. What natural resources were used to build this house that weren't used to build other NRHC structures?

McCombs Gallery

Look around the main gallery and write about what you see.

What is the name of the current exhibit? _____

Exhibits tell a story. Write a summary of the story this exhibit is telling.

What is your favorite part of the exhibit? _____

Why? _____

You Are Here



Reflection

1. Name your favorite structure at the NRHC. _____

2. Why is it your favorite structure? _____

3. Would you like to live in this structure? _____

Why or why not? _____

the
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