

# Rock Creek Station State Historical Park

park information: History made its mark at Rock Creek Station. The California-Oregon Trail passed through the area, leaving highly visible trail ruts which can be seen from the visitor center. Rock Creek Station was also the second Nebraska relay station for the Pony Express. All three trails are designated as National Historic Trails. Perhaps most infamously, Rock Creek Station is known as the site where "Wild Bill" Hickok murdered his first victim, David C. McCandles, in 1861, launching him into dime store novel fame and a legendary career as a gunfighter.

Today you can view a reconstructed Pony Express barn, bunkhouse, toll bridge cabin and two other cabins. Visitors enjoy 6 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, as well as a picnic area complete with a larger shelter, which can be reserved.

The visitor center, which includes historic displays and artifacts, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily May 1-Sept. 24. A park permit is required and can be purchased at the visitor center.

camping amenities: The park has 25 electrical sites (half can be reserved), primitive tent area, shower building, a playground and three picnic shelters. We have an equestrian primitive campground with water and shelter for those who bring their own horses to ride. Day parking is available.

activities: Find fun things to do at [www.negpp.org](http://www.negpp.org) under "Activities."

directions: Due to area road construction, travel to Jansen on Hwy 136, or East Endicott on Hwy 8, turning onto County Road 574 Ave. Follow signage and turn east on to 710 Rd. Park entrance is 1 1/4 miles on the right side of the road.



clue: On the historical ranch site, cross the toll bridge and look to the horizon. See a large Nebraska State Tree. Do you think that tree is as old as Nebraska's statehood? The etching post is under the tree's canopy.

distance: .44 miles from visitor center parking lot, or .37 miles from picnic area.

surface: Grass trail to West Ranch, and original California-Oregon trail to the East Ranch.

## Rock Creek Station State Historical Park (imprint here)

contact: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_

zip: \_\_\_\_\_ phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



mail nature impressions to:  
NERPA  
Attn: Great Parks Pursuit  
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 701  
Omaha, NE 68183