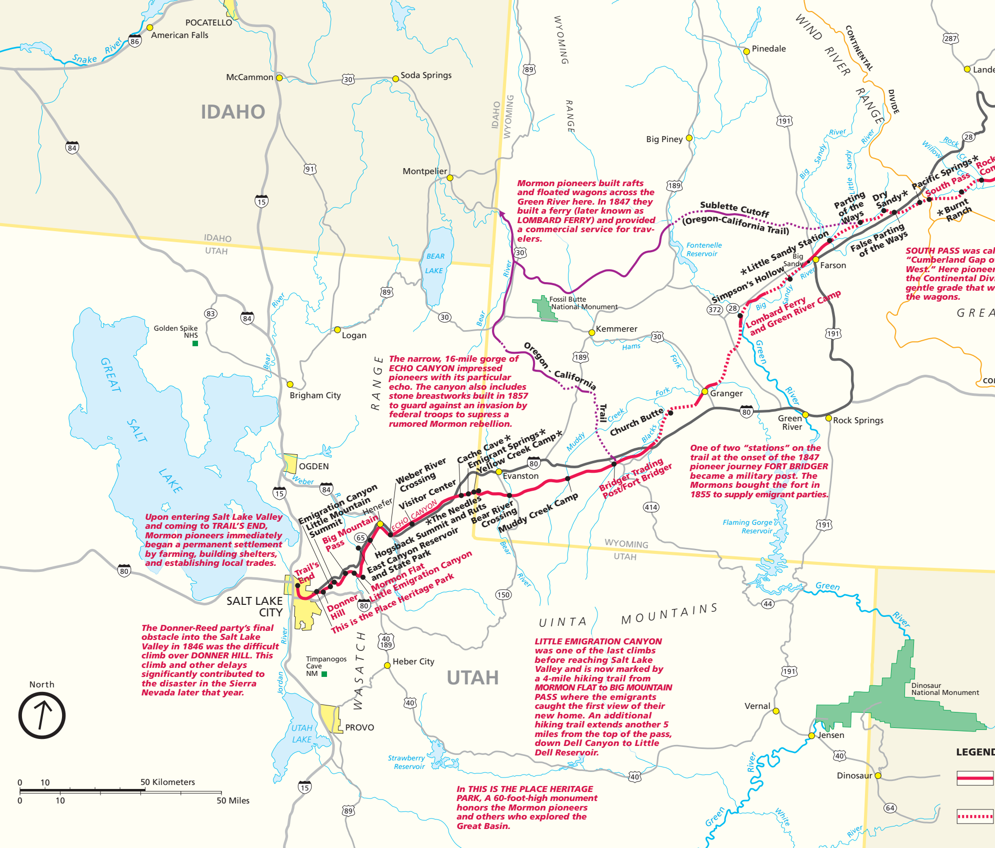


POCATELLO
American Falls
Snake River
86
McCammon
30
Soda Springs
IDAHO
84
91
15
Montpelier
IDAHO
UTAH
IDAHO
WYOMING
WYOMING RANGE
89
Pinedale
WIND RIVER RANGE
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
287
Lande
191
Big Piney
189
28
BEAR LAKE
Golden Spike NHS
83
84
89
30
Logan
Bear River
Brigham City
GREAT SALT LAKE
RANGE
OGDEN
Weber River
84
15
80
SALT LAKE CITY
Trail's End
Donner Hill
Emigration Canyon
Little Mountain Summit
Big Mountain Pass
Henefer
Weber River Crossing
Visitor Center
ECHO CANYON
Cache Cave*
Emigrant Springs*
Yellow Creek Camp*
*The Needles
Hogsback Summit and Ruts
East Canyon Reservoir and State Park
Mormon Flat
Little Emigration Canyon
This is the Place Heritage Park
Bear River Crossing
Muddy Creek Camp
Evanston
80
65
80
Fossil Butte National Monument
Kemmerer
30
Hams Fork
189
Oregon - California Trail
Muddy Creek
Blacks Fork
Church Butte
Bridger Trading Post/Fort Bridger
414
Granger
80
Green River
Rock Springs
191
Green River
Lombard Ferry and Green River Camp
Big Sandy River
Simpson's Hollow
372
28
*Little Sandy Station
Big Sandy
Farson
Fontenelle Reservoir
Sublette Cutoff (Oregon-California Trail)
Parting of the Ways
Dry Sandy*
False Parting of the Ways
Pacific Springs*
South Pass
*Burnt Ranch
Rock Cr
Willow Cr
Little Sandy
Big Sandy River
GREA
CO
Flaming Gorge Reservoir
191
WYOMING
UTAH
Green River
44
150
UINTA MOUNTAINS
WASATCH
40 189
Heber City
Timpanogos Cave NM
Jordan River
UTAH
40
UTAH LAKE
PROVO
Strawberry Reservoir
15
89
40
191
Vernal
Jensen
40
Dinosaur National Monument
Dinosaur
64
Green River
White River
North
0 10 50 Kilometers
0 10 50 Miles
LEGEND

Mormon pioneers built rafts and floated wagons across the Green River here. In 1847 they built a ferry (later known as LOMBARD FERRY) and provided a commercial service for travelers.

The narrow, 16-mile gorge of ECHO CANYON impressed pioneers with its particular echo. The canyon also includes stone breastworks built in 1857 to guard against an invasion by federal troops to supress a rumored Mormon rebellion.

SOUTH PASS was cal
"Cumberland Gap o
West." Here pioneer
the Continental Divi
gentle grade that w
the wagons.

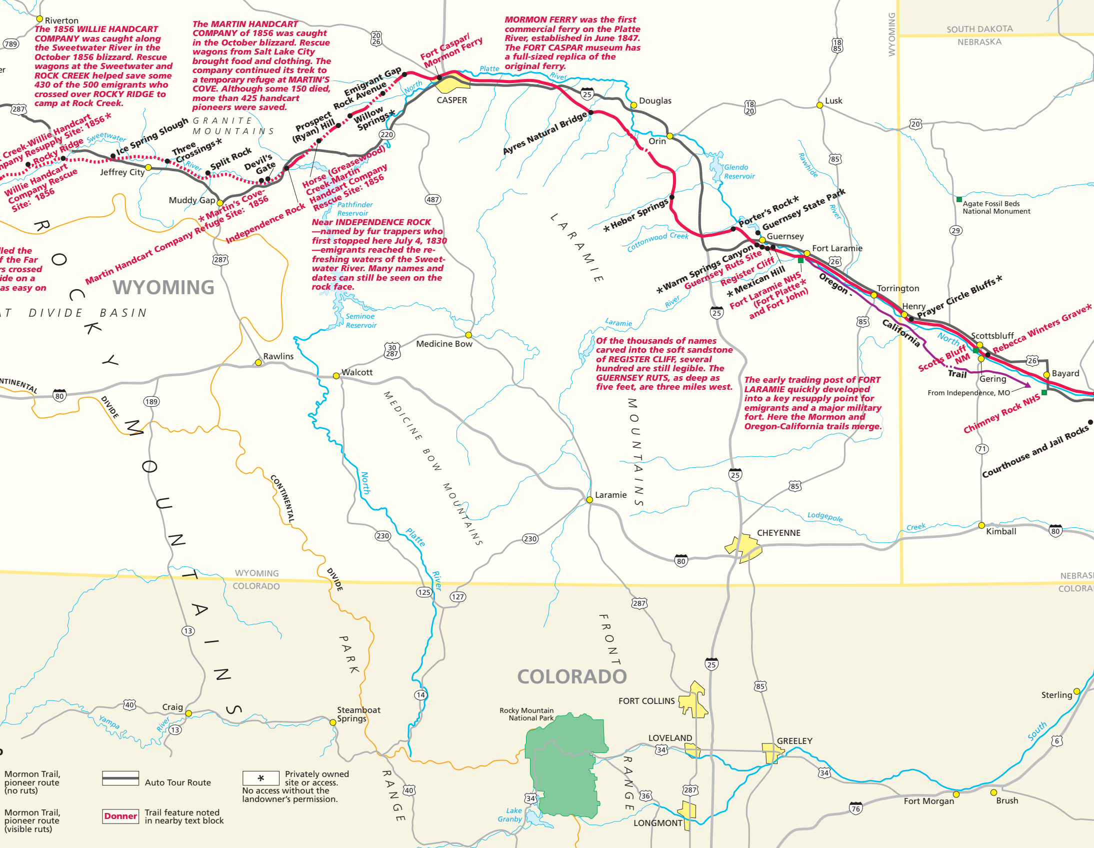
One of two "stations" on the trail at the onset of the 1847 pioneer journey FORT BRIDGER became a military post. The Mormons bought the fort in 1855 to supply emigrant parties.

Upon entering Salt Lake Valley and coming to TRAIL'S END, Mormon pioneers immediately began a permanent settlement by farming, building shelters, and establishing local trades.

The Donner-Reed party's final obstacle into the Salt Lake Valley in 1846 was the difficult climb over DONNER HILL. This climb and other delays significantly contributed to the disaster in the Sierra Nevada later that year.

LITTLE EMIGRATION CANYON was one of the last climbs before reaching Salt Lake Valley and is now marked by a 4-mile hiking trail from MORMON FLAT to BIG MOUNTAIN PASS where the emigrants caught the first view of their new home. An additional hiking trail extends another 5 miles from the top of the pass, down Dell Canyon to Little Dell Reservoir.

In THIS IS THE PLACE HERITAGE PARK, A 60-foot-high monument honors the Mormon pioneers and others who explored the Great Basin.


Riverton
789
287
Creek-Willie Handcart
Company Resupply Site: 1856 *
Rocky Ridge
Sweetwater
Ice Spring Slough
Three Crossings *
River
Jeffrey City
Willie Handcart Company Rescue Site: 1856
Split Rock
Devil's Gate
Muddy Gap
* Martin's Cove-Martin Handcart Company Refuge Site: 1856
Independence Rock
GRANITE MOUNTAINS
Prospect (Ryan) Hill
Rock Avenue
Emigrant Gap
Willow Springs *
220
North
Horse (Greasewood) Creek-Martin Handcart Company Rescue Site: 1856
Pathfinder Reservoir
20 26
Fort Caspar/ Mormon Ferry
CASPER
Platte
River
25
Ayres Natural Bridge
Douglas
Orin
18 20
Lusk
18 85
20
85
Glendo Reservoir
Rawhide
River
* Heber Springs
Cottonwood Creek
Porter's Rock *
Guernsey State Park
Guernsey
Fort Laramie
* Warm Springs Canyon
Guernsey Ruts Site
Register Cliff
* Mexican Hill
Fort Laramie NHS (Fort Platte * and Fort John)
26
Oregon -
California
Torrington
Henry
Prayer Circle Bluffs *
Scottsbluff
Rebecca Winters Grave *
Scotts Bluff NM
Trail
Gering
North
26
Bayard
From Independence, MO
Chimney Rock NHS
Courthouse and Jail Rocks
Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
29
71
SOUTH DAKOTA
NEBRASKA
WYOMING
LARAMIE
River
Laramie
25
487
287
WYOMING
DIVIDE BASIN
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
Seminoe Reservoir
Rawlins
30 287
Medicine Bow
Walcott
CONTINENTAL
80
189
DIVIDE
MEDICINE BOW MOUNTAINS
North
Platte
River
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
230
230
Laramie
MOUNTAINS
25
85
Lodgepole
Creek
Kimball
80
CHEYENNE
80
WYOMING
COLORADO
NEBRASKA
COLORADO
125
127
287
FRONT RANGE
13
PARK RANGE
25
85
COLORADO
FORT COLLINS
Sterling
South
6
40
Craig
Yampa
River
13
Steamboat Springs
14
Rocky Mountain National Park
LOVELAND
34
GREELEY
34
40
34
36
287
Lake Granby
LONGMONT
76
Fort Morgan
Brush

The 1856 WILLIE HANDCART COMPANY was caught along the Sweetwater River in the October 1856 blizzard. Rescue wagons at the Sweetwater and ROCK CREEK helped save some 430 of the 500 emigrants who crossed over ROCKY RIDGE to camp at Rock Creek.

The MARTIN HANDCART COMPANY of 1856 was caught in the October blizzard. Rescue wagons from Salt Lake City brought food and clothing. The company continued its trek to a temporary refuge at MARTIN'S COVE. Although some 150 died, more than 425 handcart pioneers were saved.

MORMON FERRY was the first commercial ferry on the Platte River, established in June 1847. The FORT CASPAR museum has a full-sized replica of the original ferry.

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Near INDEPENDENCE ROCK —named by fur trappers who first stopped here July 4, 1830 —emigrants reached the refreshing waters of the Sweetwater River. Many names and dates can still be seen on the rock face.

Of the thousands of names carved into the soft sandstone of REGISTER CLIFF, several hundred are still legible. The GUERNSEY RUTS, as deep as five feet, are three miles west.

The early trading post of FORT LARAMIE quickly developed into a key resupply point for emigrants and a major military fort. Here the Mormon and Oregon-California trails merge.

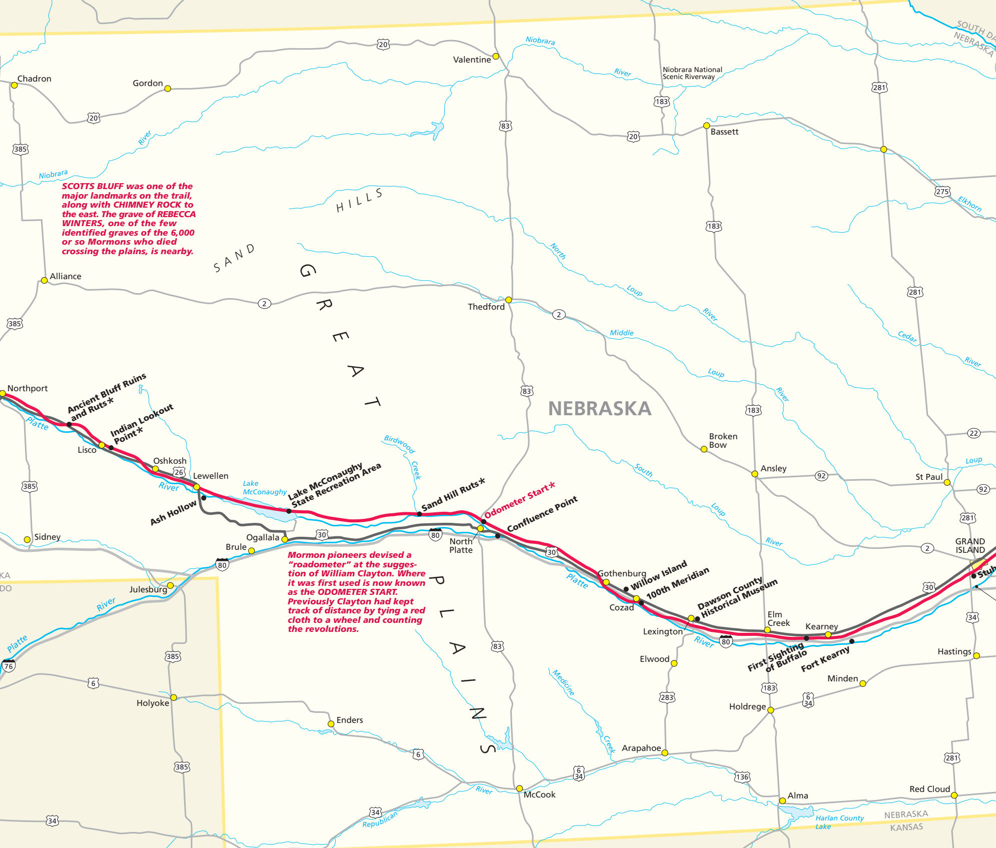
Mormon Trail, pioneer route (no ruts)

Auto Tour Route

* Privately owned site or access. No access without the landowner's permission.

Mormon Trail, pioneer route (visible ruts)

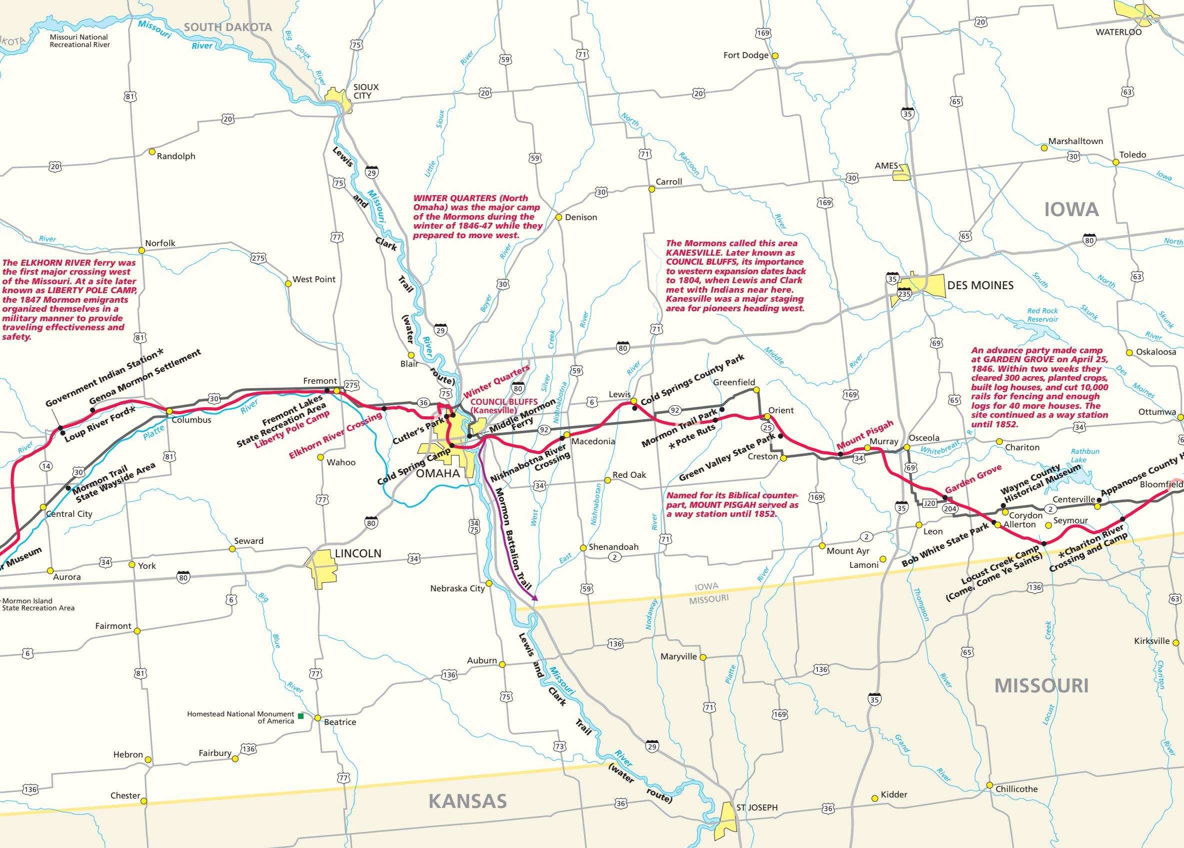
Donner Trail feature noted in nearby text block



SOUTH DA
NEBRASKA
Valentine
Niobrara
River
Niobrara National Scenic Riverway
Chadron
Gordon
20
183
281
83
Bassett
River
385
Niobrara
275
Elkhorn
HILLS
SAND
183
North
Alliance
GREAT PLAINS
Thedford
2
Loup
River
281
Cedar
Middle
River
385
Loup
River
83
NEBRASKA
183
Northport
Ancient Bluff Ruins and Ruts*
Platte
Lisco
Indian Lookout Point*
Birdwood Creek
Broken Bow
22
Oshkosh
26
Lewellen
Lake McConaughy
Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area
South
Ansley
92
St Paul
Loup
92
385
River
Ash Hollow
Sand Hill Ruts*
Odometer Start*
Loup
Confluence Point
281
Sidney
Ogallala
30
80
North Platte
River
2
GRAND ISLAND
Brule
30
Stuh
80
KA
DO
Julesburg
Gothenburg
Willow Island
100th Meridian
Platte
Dawson County Historical Museum
River
Cozad
30
Platte
Elm Creek
Lexington
Kearney
34
River
80
76
385
First Sighting of Buffalo
Fort Kearny
Elwood
Hastings
6
Holyoke
83
Medicine Creek
Minden
283
183
6 34
Holdrege
Enders
385
Arapahoe
6
6 34
281
136
River
McCook
Alma
Red Cloud
34
34
Republican
Harlan County Lake
NEBRASKA
KANSAS

SCOTTS BLUFF was one of the major landmarks on the trail, along with CHIMNEY ROCK to the east. The grave of REBECCA WINTERS, one of the few identified graves of the 6,000 or so Mormons who died crossing the plains, is nearby.

Mormon pioneers devised a "roadometer" at the suggestion of William Clayton. Where it was first used is now known as the ODOMETER START. Previously Clayton had kept track of distance by tying a red cloth to a wheel and counting the revolutions.


SOUTH DAKOTA
IOWA
MISSOURI
KANSAS
Missouri National Recreational River
Missouri River
Big Sioux River
SIOUX CITY
Randolph
Norfolk
West Point
Fremont
Blair
Columbus
Central City
Aurora
York
Seward
LINCOLN
Wahoo
OMAHA
COUNCIL BLUFFS (Kanesville)
Winter Quarters
Nebraska City
Fairmont
Auburn
Beatrice
Homestead National Monument of America
Hebron
Fairbury
Chester
Mormon Island State Recreation Area
Museum
Government Indian Station*
Genoa Mormon Settlement
Loup River Ford*
Mormon Trail State Wayside Area
Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area
Liberty Pole Camp
Elkhorn River Crossing
Cutler's Park
Cold Spring Camp
Middle Mormon Ferry
Nishnabotna River Crossing
Mormon Battalion Trail
Lewis and Clark Trail (water route)
Platte River
Elkhorn River
Loup River
Big Blue River
Denison
Carroll
Fort Dodge
AMES
Marshalltown
Toledo
WATERLOO
DES MOINES
Red Rock Reservoir
Oskaloosa
Ottumwa
Lewis
Cold Springs County Park
Greenfield
Macedonia
Mormon Trail Park
*Pote Ruts
Orient
Creston
Green Valley State Park
Red Oak
Shenandoah
Mount Pisgah
Murray
Osceola
Chariton
Rathbun Lake
Garden Grove
Wayne County Historical Museum
Appanoose County H
Centerville
Bloomfield
Corydon
Allerton
Seymour
Leon
Bob White State Park
Mount Ayr
Lamoni
Locust Creek Camp (Come, Come Ye Saints)
*Chariton River Crossing and Camp
Maryville
ST JOSEPH
Kidder
Chillicothe
Kirksville
Nishnabotna River
East Nishnabotna
West Nishnabotna
Silver Creek
Boyer River
Little Sioux River
Raccoon River
North Raccoon River
Middle River
Nodaway River
Platte River
Grand River
Thompson River
Locust Creek
Chariton River
Whitebreast
Des Moines River
South Skunk River
North Skunk River
Iowa River
IOWA MISSOURI

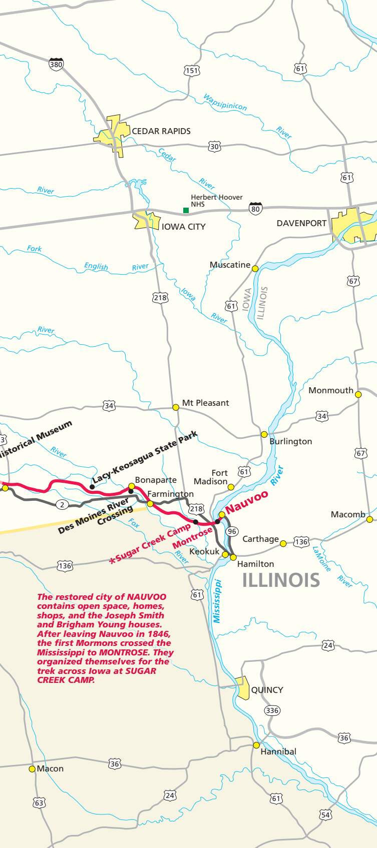
The ELKHORN RIVER ferry was the first major crossing west of the Missouri. At a site later known as LIBERTY POLE CAMP, the 1847 Mormon emigrants organized themselves in a military manner to provide traveling effectiveness and safety.

WINTER QUARTERS (North Omaha) was the major camp of the Mormons during the winter of 1846-47 while they prepared to move west.

The Mormons called this area KANESVILLE. Later known as COUNCIL BLUFFS, its importance to western expansion dates back to 1804, when Lewis and Clark met with Indians near here. Kanesville was a major staging area for pioneers heading west.

An advance party made camp at GARDEN GROVE on April 25, 1846. Within two weeks they cleared 300 acres, planted crops, built log houses, and cut 10,000 rails for fencing and enough logs for 40 more houses. The site continued as a way station until 1852.

Named for its Biblical counterpart, MOUNT PISGAH served as a way station until 1852.


380
151
61
Wapsipinicon
River
CEDAR RAPIDS
30
Cedar
River
River
Herbert Hoover
NHS
80
IOWA CITY
DAVENPORT
Fork
English
River
Muscatine
67
218
Iowa
River
61
IOWA
ILLINOIS
River
Monmouth
34
Mt Pleasant
34
Burlington
Historical Museum
3
River
Lacy-Keosagua State Park
67
Bonaparte
Fort
Madison
61
River
Farmington
2
Des Moines River
Crossing
218
Nauvoo
Macomb
Fox
Sugar Creek Camp
Montrose
96
Carthage
136
River
Keokuk
LaMoine
River
136
Hamilton
ILLINOIS
61
Mississippi
24
QUINCY
336
36
Hannibal
Macon
36
24
61
63
54

The restored city of NAUVOO contains open space, homes, shops, and the Joseph Smith and Brigham Young houses. After leaving Nauvoo in 1846, the first Mormons crossed the Mississippi to MONTROSE. They organized themselves for the trek across Iowa at SUGAR CREEK CAMP.