

The goal of this project is to locate, digitally document, archive and organize historic signatures, dates and artwork spanning the time period from the 1800's to the present.

The populace that left these marks participated in significant national events that shaped the west. Individually, some inscriptions were created by figures that stand out in history; together, the collection documents the general settlement and development of the region through a period of general national expansion, continuing into a period of early community development.

Thousands of these inscriptions that chronicle the settlement of the west are located on the natural sandstone surfaces of the northern plains.

Due to natural and cultural forces, these resources are disappearing at an accelerating rate. This project provides a foundation for continued archiving and researching of these unique historic resources. The collection created through this project also serves as a new resource for historic research through these nationally significant incisions.