Exhibits:
The Museum has many collections, which cannot be exhibited all of the time. These are exhibited at special times and the exhibits are changed regularly. The museum also hosts many special events including the annual Wagons West Day in the summer and a Christmas Tree Walk in December. The museum is open for special groups by appointment by calling the Museum Office at (308) 234-3041.

Contributions:
A part of the funding for Trails & Rails Museum operations comes from the Buffalo County general fund. All other museum expenses come from contributions. All contributions are appreciated. Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum is a private, not-for-profit organization operating under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Schools, Organizations, or Group Tours:
All groups are welcome. Appointments may be made by contacting the museum office at (308) 234-3041 or e-mail bchs.education@hotmail.com

Future Plans:
BCHS/Trails & Rails Museum is currently expanding. We have recently acquired the land to the west of our existing property and will double in size. Check our web site for additional information.

Hours & Admission:
Memorial Day-Labor Day:
Mon.-Sat. 10 AM-6 PM and Sun. 1-5 PM
Sept.-May:
Mon.-Fri. 1-5 PM or by appointment

For admission rates, additional hours, and special events:
Call (308) 234-3041 or Visit www.bchs.us
Sorry no credit or debit cards are accepted.
Grounds Legend

1 Union Pacific Depot
The museum building is the Union Pacific depot, moved from Shelton on the east edge of Buffalo County. It was built in 1898. The waiting room and ticket office have been restored to appear as they did when the depot was in use. The baggage room has been converted into an exhibit room showing the history of wagon, train, and auto transportation in and through Buffalo County.

2 Engine No. 481
1903 Baldwin Steam Engine No. 481, Union Pacific Flat Car and Caboose.

3 Loup River Freighters Hotel
This house was built in the 1880s to provide freight wagon drivers a place to stay overnight when taking supplies from Kearney to Broken Bow.

4 District No. 1 School House
Pioneers traveling on the Mormon Trail settled in eastern Buffalo County. They organized the county’s first school district and, in 1871, built this school. It was the first wooden frame schoolhouse to be completed in the county.

5 Pony Shed

6 German Baptist Church
This building was constructed in 1899-1900 by the congregation of the German Baptist Church of the Brethren to serve as a house of worship in Kearney. The original site of this building included five lots to provide space for hitch racks for horses since cars were not in use yet.

7 Log Cabin
The cabin of the 1860-1870 period on the museum grounds is a fine interpretive exhibit of a structure like the one at Post South Loup Fork, and provides a place to show and tell local history.

8 Archive Building
Our current archive building will soon be expanding into a new building on the west property. We have very dedicated volunteers that help to organize the archives and to help research inquiries. We are proud to share our history through our documents and artifacts. The volunteers assist researchers and genealogists nationwide on a daily basis via internet, telephone, and in person.

   Email: bcshs.archives@hotmail.com

9 Boyd Ranch House
This house was the first wooden frame house in Buffalo County. It was built in the late 1850s when it was part of the J.E. Boyd Trail Ranch on the Wood River near Gibbon. The ranch furnished supplies to travelers on the Platte Valley Overland Trails.

10 Livery Barn
This brand new building is now the home for our larger artifacts. These displays include covered wagons, a mail cart, a Mormon handcart, a sleigh, and numerous other fabulous items.

11 Gazebo
The Gazebo is a perfect location for an outdoor wedding, picnic, or your favorite musical group.

E Entrance

P Parking
Be a part of history and participate in the BCHS Building Fund Drive!

The Buffalo County Historical Society is conducting a drive to give the county’s residents a building to better display artifacts such as the curtain from the old Opera House that can’t be fully unrolled, to better serve people researching their family histories, to provide a space for exhibits and events that help us understand our heritage, to make using the museum more comfortable for people with accessible bathrooms and better parking, and to help Trails and Rails Museum start preserving artifacts and setting up displays from the 20th century. The society needs your help.

Here is picture of what the building layout may look like:

![Building Layout Diagram]

Naming rights are still available.

Ask a staff member for more information!

BCHS is a not-for-profit, 501C-3 organization. Your building fund contribution can be tax deductible.
BCHS Federal ID #: 51-0168183

**Buffalo County Historical Society Mission:**

“The Buffalo County Historical Society is the primary institution with responsibility to collect, preserve, research, and interpret artifacts, documents, and published materials relating to the history of Buffalo County.”

The Trails & Rails Museum is owned and operated by the Buffalo County Historical Society.

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www.bcchs.us