

Who Lived Here?

Prehistoric People

Long before the villages described and illustrated in the early 1800s by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, there existed a series of settled farming communities throughout the Loess Hills by about AD 1000. Those residents built substantial earthlodge houses along either side of the Missouri River in southeastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa, where the archaeological remains of these communities have been found. These are grouped into what is called the Nebraska Culture, which belongs to the Central Plains tradition. In an area extending from northern Kansas across Nebraska and west to Colorado was the Upper Republican Culture, also part of the Central Plains tradition. While they share a common cultural ancestry and exhibit a number of very similar characteristics, differences in ceramic pottery is the primary feature that distinguishes the two cultures.

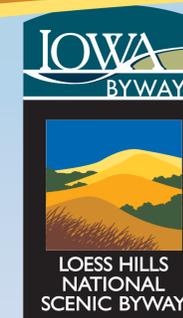
Nebraska Culture at Glenwood

Nebraska Culture sites in Iowa are concentrated in the vicinity of Glenwood in Mills County. These sites were individual homesteads or small village clusters of earthlodges dispersed along ridge summits, low terraces, and valley wall slopes in the Loess Hills and adjacent areas. Nebraska Culture subsistence was based on collecting plants, hunting, fishing, and a mixture of agriculture. Domesticated plants included corn, squash, beans, sunflower, goosefoot, and marsh elder.



House floor plan, excavated earth lodge in Mills County. Used with permission from the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist.

Artist's rendering of Glenwood Earth Lodge used with permission from the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist. Folsom Point Preserve, Mills County courtesy of Lance Brisbois.



The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway™ is a 220 mile paved route through the Loess Hills. The 16 excursion loops make up an additional 185 miles (some gravel) for the more adventuresome!



www.iowabyways.org
www.visitloesshills.org

This project was made possible by a funding award from the National Park Service and Outdoor Foundation.

Coordinated by Golden Hills RC&D.
www.goldenhillsrcd.org

Additional funding provided by MidAmerican Energy and the Parks to People Loess Hills Missouri River Region.