

OREGON TRAIL RUTS

0.5 miles south of Guernsey

Few “bumpy roads” evoke any sense of history, but this one surely does. Worn from two to six feet deep in an eroded sandstone ridge on the south side of the North Platte River, these ruts give clear physical evidence of the Oregon Trail, the route that thousands of 19th-century pioneers took on their westward trek across the plains. The trail’s first recorded use was in 1812, and it continued in use until completion of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1869 provided a shorter, surer, safer journey.