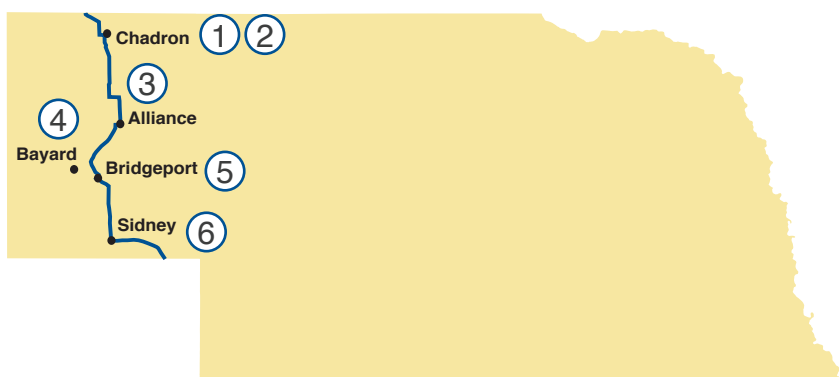


385 - Gold Rush Byway

This section of U.S. Highway 385 has played a very important role in Nebraska's history. During the Black Hills gold rush in the 1870s, gold was transported along this route to the railroad station in Sidney. The byway also passes through areas steeped in pioneer, literary, and military history.

Historical Happenings



- ① At the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, a well-known author from the area is memorialized along with her archives. Sandoz made an impact on literature with such works as *Old Jules*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Crazy Horse*, and she was recognized as an expert on Native American culture.
- ② The Chadron area was popular with fur traders before homesteaders began settling in Nebraska. The Bordeaux Trading Post, now home to the Museum of the Fur Trade, was in operation from 1840 to 1872. The primary people this post traded with were the Brule Sioux Indians.
- ③ During World War II, Alliance was home to a military airbase. But as the war effort slowed, so did the necessity for the base. It was officially deactivated in October of 1945. The Sallows Military Museum in Alliance features artifacts from the airbase.
- ④ One of the most famous landmarks of the western migration, Chimney Rock is a sandstone spire outside Bayard. Many pioneers wrote about seeing this formation in their journals.
- ⑤ Courthouse and Jail Rocks rise above the prairie near Bridgeport. They served as natural landmarks to the emigrants making their way west.
- ⑥ Sidney was one end of the Sidney–Deadwood Trail, a trail connecting the railroad to the Black Hills. Gold shipments frequently made their way along this path to be loaded on the train in Sidney.