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FLOOD REPORT

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LOUP RIVER BASIN NEBRASKA

AUGUST 12, 13, 14, & 15 1966



OFFICIAL FILE COPY

THE

PLANNING STAFF

OF THE

NEBRASKA

SOIL AND WATER

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
State Capitol Building Lincoln, Nebraska

August 23, 1966

TO: Warren Fairchild

FROM: James Owen

SUBJECT: Report of Flood Investigation in Loup River Basin
 August, 1966

In response to your request for a field inspection and report on the flooding conditions resulting from the storm of August 12 and 13 in the Loup Basin, the following report has been made. A visit was made to the area to view the damages, discuss the flood with local residents and obtain other pertinent information. The report includes brief sections on the history of the storm, its significance, extent of damages, and recommendations for Commission action.

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LOUP FLOOD OF AUGUST, 1966

INTRODUCTION

Parts of the Loup Basin were hard hit by high intensity thunderstorms beginning in the central region Friday morning August 12 and continuing until Saturday, August 13, in the eastern part of the basin. Unofficial reports of up to 17 inches of rainfall were received. The area receiving the rainfall was quite large and runoff in some tributary streams was probably the greatest on record. The eastern part of the basin received a lesser amount of rainfall (2-3 inches) but the runoff from upstream regions caused considerable flooding downstream.

The characteristics of the basin are such that the upper reaches of most streams are in the Sandhills area. This area contributes little to overland runoff. This storm located itself over the less permeable lands below the Sandhills creating the high runoff.

The rainfall centered itself over the lower North Loup Valley and moved eastward into the Cedar River Valley and other major tributaries of the Loup River. (Figure 5) Spring Creek and Beaver Creek were two of the major contributors. The greatest rainfall reported was in the upper Spring Creek and Timber Creek drainage areas near Greeley.

Damages were quite wide spread and were inflicted on individuals, counties, business and industrial firms alike. The main losses by agricultural interests were soil, fences, and livestock. Little crop damage was noted because of the season of the year. Road and bridge damages were quite high in the area. Several firms suffered grain and feed damage and many fuel and fertilizer storage tanks were carried downstream by the rampaging water. Railroads suffered damage to much of their trackage in the Cedar Valley. The greatest residential damage was inflicted on the Wagner Lake area at the south edge of Columbus. Nearly all homes in this area

had from three inches to three feet of water in them.

As an aftermath of the flood three counties, Platte, Boone and Nance, were declared disaster areas.

RAINFALL & RUNOFF

The precipitation occurred in two periods in the center of the storm. It began about 11:00 A.M. August 12 and stopped around 1:00 P.M. delivering around three to four inches of rainfall. It commenced again around 4:00 P.M. and continued until 10 or 11 P.M. dropping another eight to ten inches on the area. This is about twice the expected amount for a 100 year frequency 12 hour storm.

The storm moved from southwest to northeast across the north-south streams and somewhat downstream to the Loup River itself. This tended to make the peaks from each stream additive as they reached the main channel.

Some of the rainfall amounts reported are shown in the appended newspaper clippings.

Slopes in the upper reaches of most of these watersheds are quite steep making the concentration times short. This factor along with the less permeable soils and the intensity of the rainfall tended to make the runoff reach the main channels in a relatively short time.

Only preliminary information is available on runoff figures. Gage locations are shown on Figure 4. The Geological Survey has estimated the peak on the North Loup near St. Paul at 35,000 cfs. This is considerably less than the maximum recorded at this point of 90,000 cfs on June 6, 1896 and is about equal to the 1947 peak.

The Spring Creek peak at Cushing is not available at this time. The maximum recorded peak prior to this was 5350 cfs on May 10, 1953. The channel from above Wolbach to the mouth was inadequate to carry the flow.

The maximum flow recorded on Beaver Creek at Genoa was about 10,000 cfs which is considerably less than the maximum of 21,200 cfs recorded in 1950.

Peak flow of the Cedar River near Fullerton was roughly estimated at 20,000 cfs and was the greatest experienced since records began in 1931. Nearly all bridges or approaches on the river were lost.

The Cedar River near Spalding peaked at 2700 cfs indicating about the same runoff factor for this area as that below.

The Loup River near Genoa peaked at 13.5 feet which was 3.2 feet above the maximum crest recorded previously.

Preliminary estimates place the peak of the Loup River at Columbus at 100,000 cfs. The crest was about 1.1 feet above the 1947 flood at Columbus.

As the peak moved downstream into the Platte River, it flattened somewhat. The peak recorded at the North Bend gage was about 64,000 cfs.

DAMAGES

Damage in the North Loup River Basin was mainly to roads and bridges. Some houses had water in their basements mostly because of high intensity rainfall which could not run off rapidly enough. Agricultural damage was minor confined mainly to the channels and tributaries. Soil losses were quite high because of the rainfall intensity and lack of land treatment. The main river channel near the mouth was well within its banks and no flooding occurred at this point.

Spring Creek did considerable damage at Wolbach. Reported rainfall of up to 15 inches near Greeley contributed to the high runoff. Some homes were evacuated in the lower areas and several business firms were damaged. Two large fuel tanks were floated into the Highway 22 bridge. A propane

tank was washed about one-half mile downstream. A grain elevator suffered water damage and the C.B. & Q. Railroad tracks were washed out. The city park had several feet of water on it but damage will likely be minor. The east bridge approach to the highway bridge on Nebraska 22 was washed out and a section of roadbed was also lost. Some agricultural damage adjacent to the stream was noted but crop damage in general was quite minor considering the runoff.

Damage in the Cedar River drainage was quite high. Several towns were partly inundated and most bridges across the river between Spalding and Fullerton were rendered impassible either from approach failure or washing away of the floor itself. A Union Pacific spur line was severely damaged at several points up the valley. A Greeley county supervisor estimates one-half the bridges in the county were damaged.

A small dam on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Cedar near the upper end, failed during the storm. The capacity of this reservoir, Pibel Lake, was quite small due to sediment accumulation. This failure did not appreciably add to the flow since the storm runoff would have been passed but it likely increased the peak.

The town of Spalding suffered damage mainly to their municipal power plant when they were unable to keep the water out. Some basements were flooded by the high runoff from the town itself and not by the river.

Cedar Rapids received minor damage to several business firms located near the river. Bridge approaches and roads leading into town were damaged. The river cut a new channel just east of Cedar Rapids isolating a farmer on an island. This farmer lost three tractors, a combine, truck and other implements when the new channel was formed. Water also entered a power plant near the river but the plant has not been in use in recent years.

Fullerton was probably the hardest hit of the towns on the Cedar River. Most of the damage sustained was by business firms and the Union Pacific Railroad. Timber Creek enters the Cedar River about seven miles above Fullerton. This drainage area of about 160 square miles contributed measurably to the flow at Fullerton. Some bridges across Timber Creek had high water marks six - seven feet above the road. The biggest loss at Fullerton was suffered by the Union Pacific Railroad. Their yards were severely torn up and the depot was destroyed by swirling waters and floating boxcars.

The livestock auction barn at Fullerton was reportedly under 17 feet of water. Livestock losses were quite high in the Cedar Valley. One feeder near Fullerton reportedly lost several head. The depth of the water can be better realized by noting that several haystacks were floated from their position and two were deposited on Nebraska Highway 14 north of Fullerton.

Agricultural damages consisted of livestock losses, fence damage, and minor crop losses. It is difficult to assess crop losses but they generally appear light considering the magnitude of the runoff.

Damage in the Beaver Creek drainage area was confined mainly to road bridges, agricultural lands, and the town of St. Edward.

The business district of St. Edward was completely inundated and damage was sustained in the way of silt deposits, wet goods, etc. Some houses in the lower areas were flooded but the major part of the residential area was not affected.

There was little damage on Beaver Creek above Albion. Several small detention reservoirs were lost in the area around Albion. Agricultural losses were mostly livestock, fences, and minor crop damage. Some alfalfa was lost near the stream but the major crops of corn and sorghum received little

damage. Some channel erosion was observed near Albion and several large trees were undermined and fell into the stream posing a possible future problem. Flooding on the lower part of Beaver Creek was mainly confined to the city park at Genoa. Part of this water probably came from the Loup Public Power District Canal which was overtopped in this area.

Flooding on the Loup River occurred mainly below the mouth of the Cedar River. Low-lying agricultural lands were inundated. Much damage was sustained by the Loup Public Power District. Their diversion works near Genoa were overtopped and bypassed with resultant damage to their canal. A dredge used to clean the sediment from the canal was washed out of the settling basin and onto the canal bank. The access road to the diversion works was destroyed along with a bridge and partial section of the tailgate on the settling basin. Below the settling basin 150-200 yards of canal were eroded away when the flow cut back to the river. Several other sections of the canal were destroyed between this point and Genoa. A spokesman for the District estimates damages may reach half a million dollars.

Much damage was inflicted on county roads adjacent to the Loup River. A bridge approach south of Monroe and about 200 feet of roadbed were lost. Waters of the Loup River inundated Highway 39 south of Genoa for several days but little damage was done to the roadbed.

The southeast and southern parts of Columbus were mostly inundated. Some damage was inflicted to U. S. Highway 81 and 30 leading into Columbus. Some water entered the business district through a storm sewer. The Wagner Lake area suffered the major damage in this area. Nearly every home in the area had water in it and some were virtually destroyed because of foundation failures and erosion. Many streets in the southeast part of town were quite severely eroded when the water receded. Pawnee Park, along the river in the south part of town, received some damage from

sediment accumulation. Equipment was scattered and some picnic tables were damaged.

A preliminary estimate of the monetary damage suffered by cities and towns has been made by the Small Business Administration. The estimate for Platte, Nance and Boone Counties is:

Total homes affected	1,007
Completely destroyed	3
Major damages	329
(includes those with water above 1st floor)	
Minor damages	675
(basements, wet goods, etc.)	
Dollar value	\$ 1,194,250

Business firms affected	45
Completely destroyed	0
Major damages	13
Minor damages	32
Dollar value	\$123,000

Any county adjacent to these three can also qualify for disaster loans.

An estimate of the agricultural damages received from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is appended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A flood of this type and magnitude is hard to control but several measures would have lessened its severity. Control measures are necessary from the headwaters to the mouth and include detention structures and measures in the upper part of the basin as well as large storage reservoirs downstream.

Several reclamation projects have been proposed for this area and include some surcharge for flood control. These structures are near the outer fringe of the storm area as shown on Figure 2. They would have lessened the peak somewhat but would not have prevented the flooding downstream.

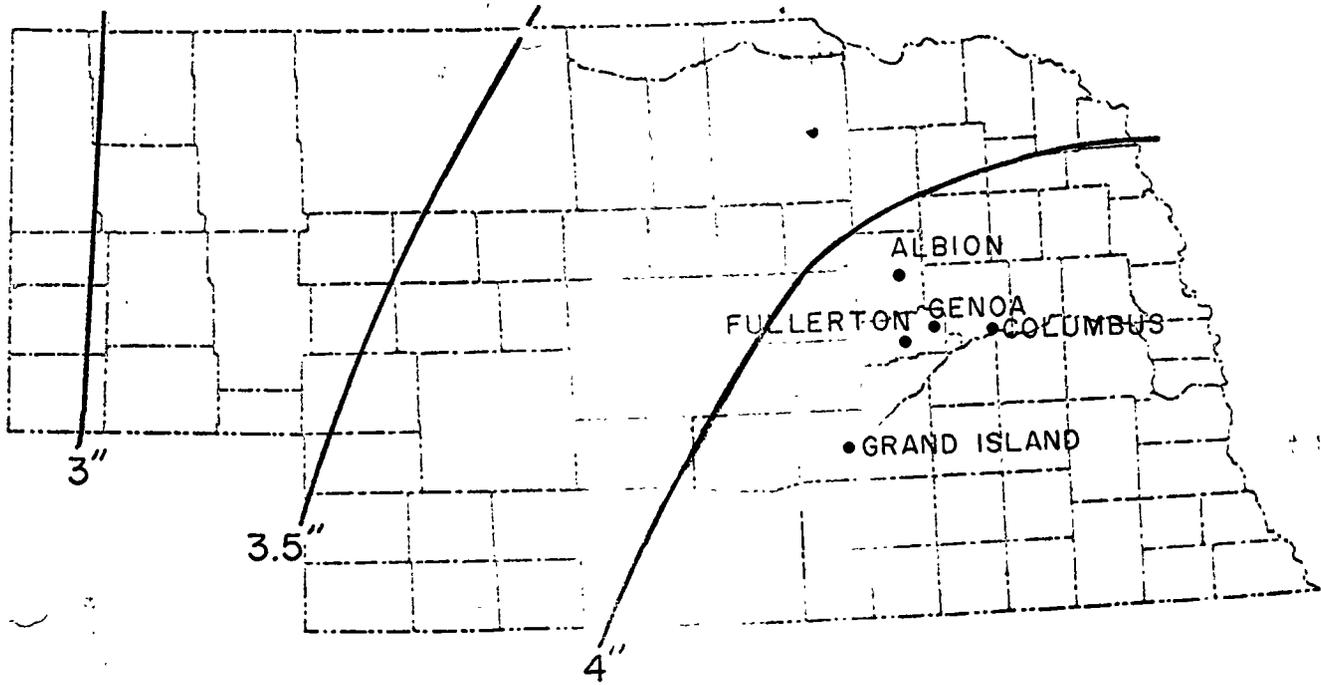
As a part of this flood investigation, a field of newly constructed parallel type terraces were viewed. These terraces controlled a 10 inch

rain with no overtopping. Some erosion in the channels was noted but it was not excessive. The newness of the terraces may have added to their infiltration ability but structures of this type would help considerably in lessening and flattening the peak discharge.

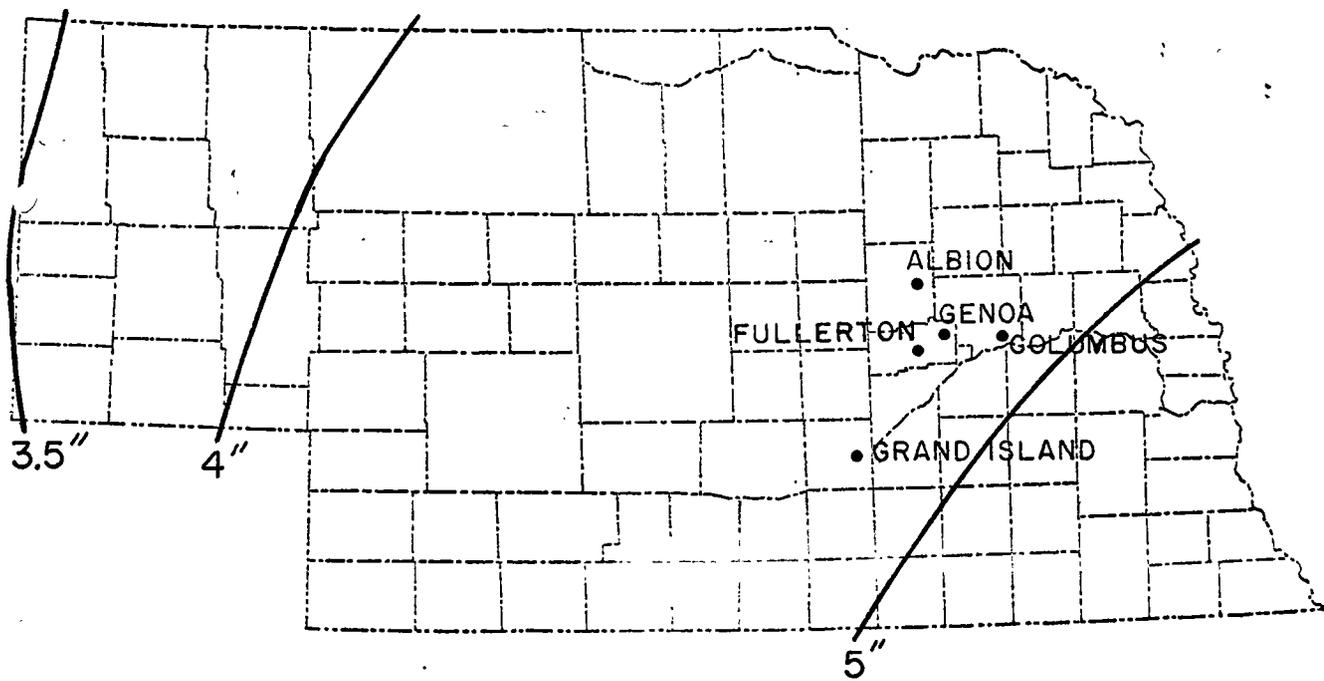
There has been little activity regarding watershed development on a project basis. Four watersheds have been considered for this area. One was disapproved and local interest has been lacking in the other three. These watersheds would have partially controlled about 500 square miles out of some 6500 square miles total at the mouth of the Loup. Eliminating the Shell Creek Watershed which was at the extreme eastern end of the high rainfall area and enters the Platte River below Columbus, the area controlled by these watersheds would have been about 175 square miles. This is less than three percent of the drainage area.

A comprehensive study of the lower Loup Basin is in order to determine what measures are necessary for complete control of the area. We would also recommend zoning regulations in those areas which have proven to be susceptible to damages from floods of this and lesser magnitude.

A tribute is due the local civil defense organizations for their effectiveness in avoiding loss of life during this catastrophe.

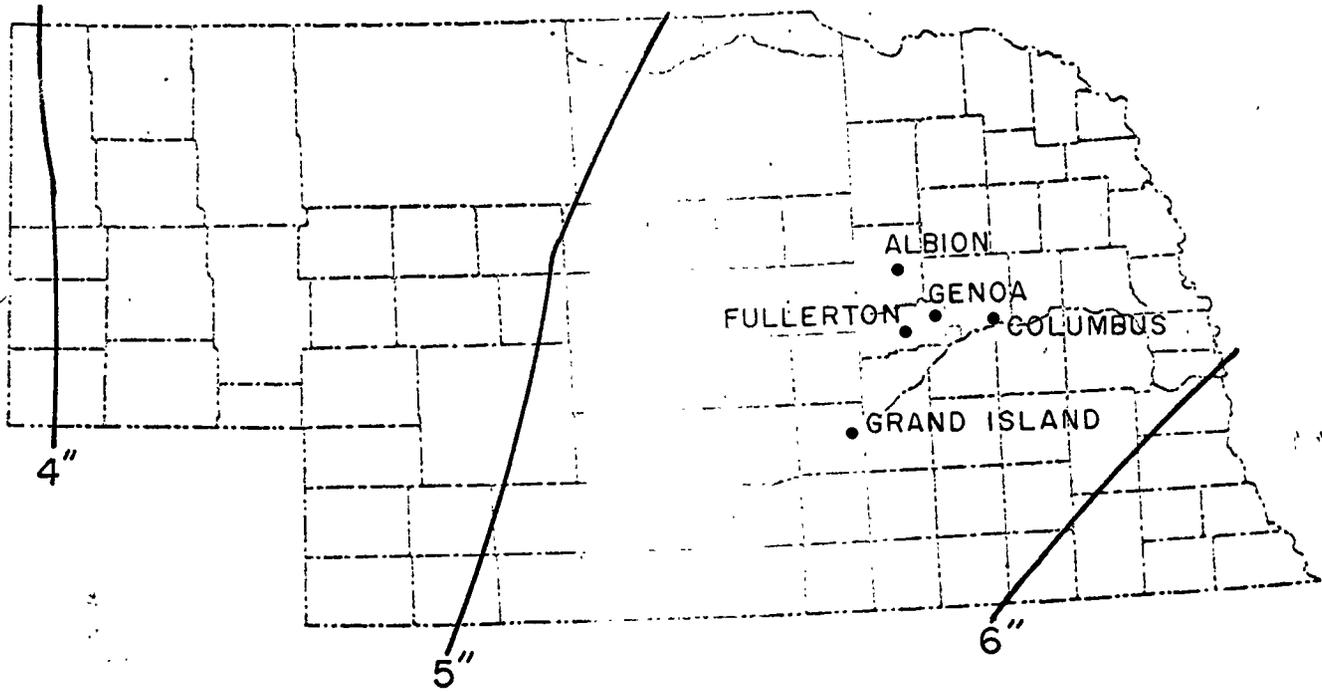


100 YEAR FREQUENCY 2 HOUR RAINFALL

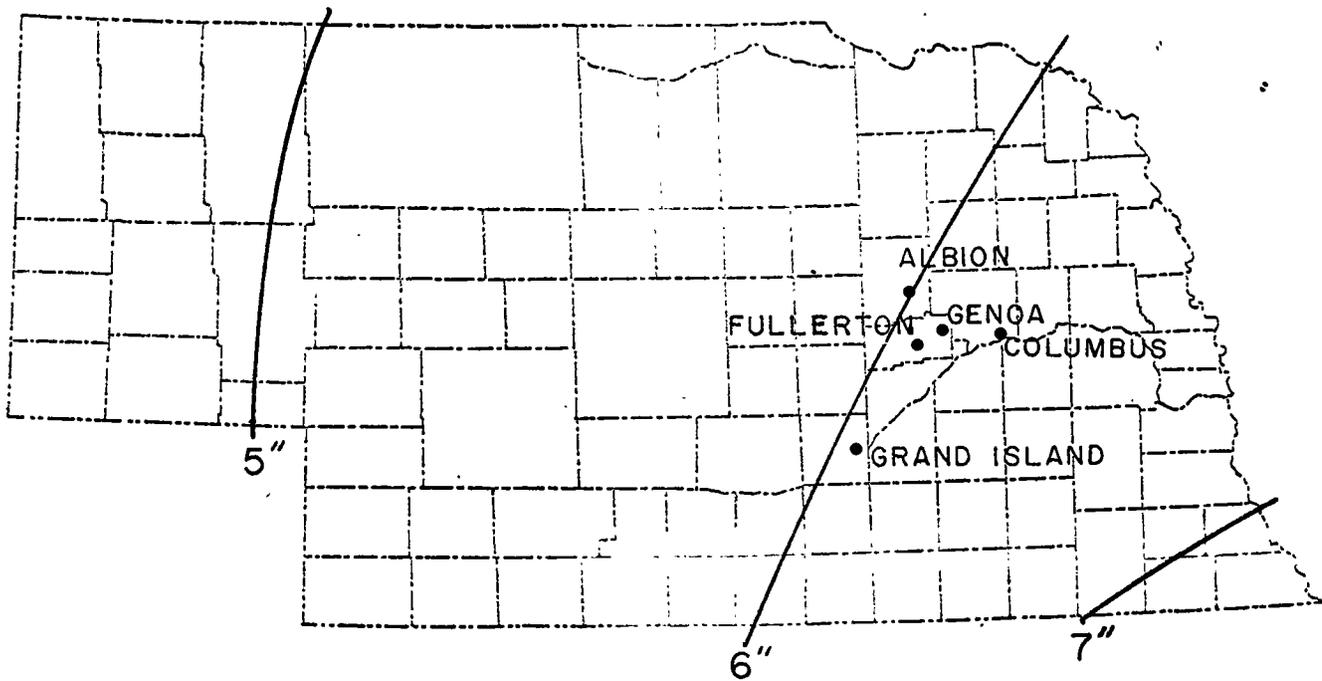


100 YEAR FREQUENCY 6 HOUR RAINFALL

FIGURE 1



100 YEAR FREQUENCY 12 HOUR RAINFALL



100 YEAR FREQUENCY 24 HOUR RAINFALL

FIGURE 2

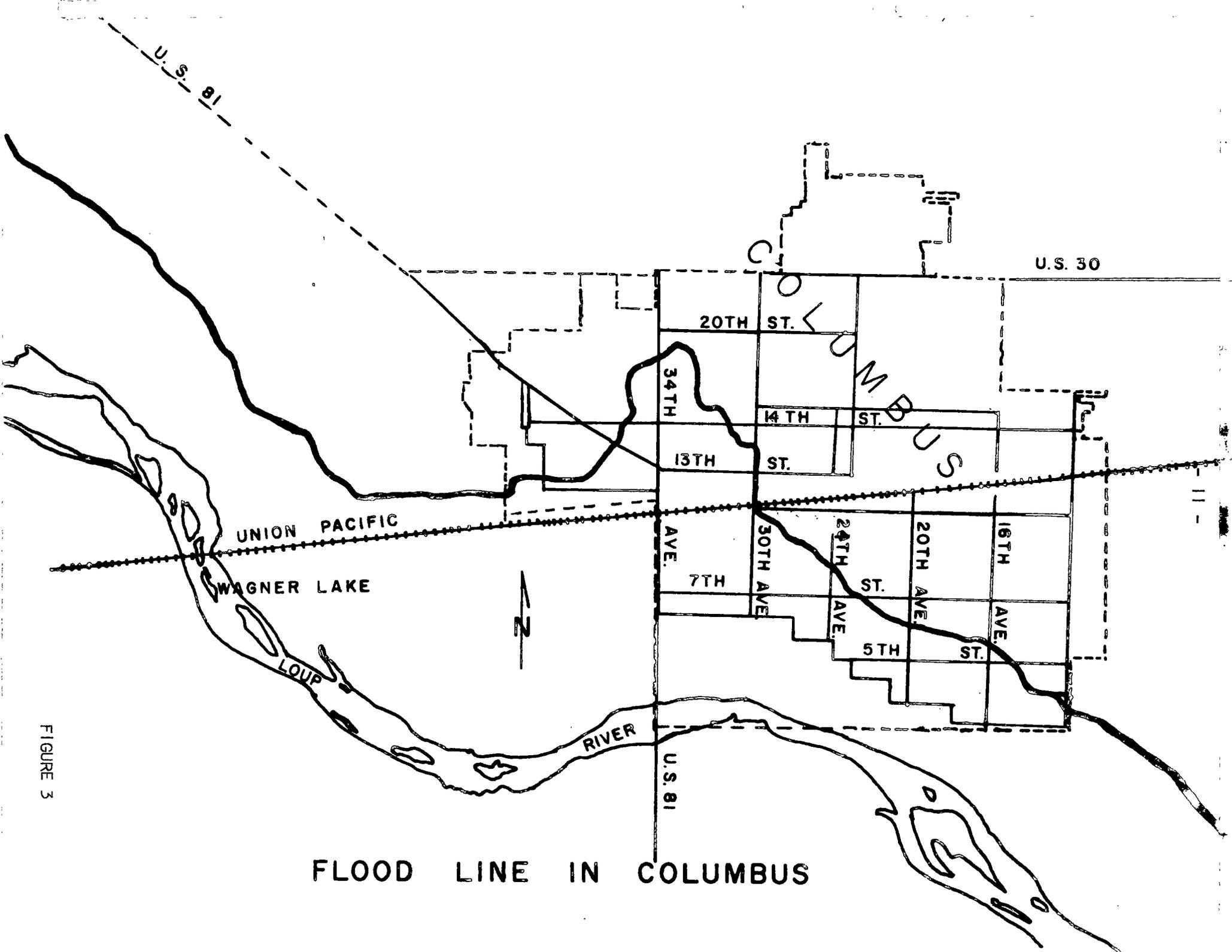


FIGURE 3

FLOOD LINE IN COLUMBUS



PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4



PICTURE 5



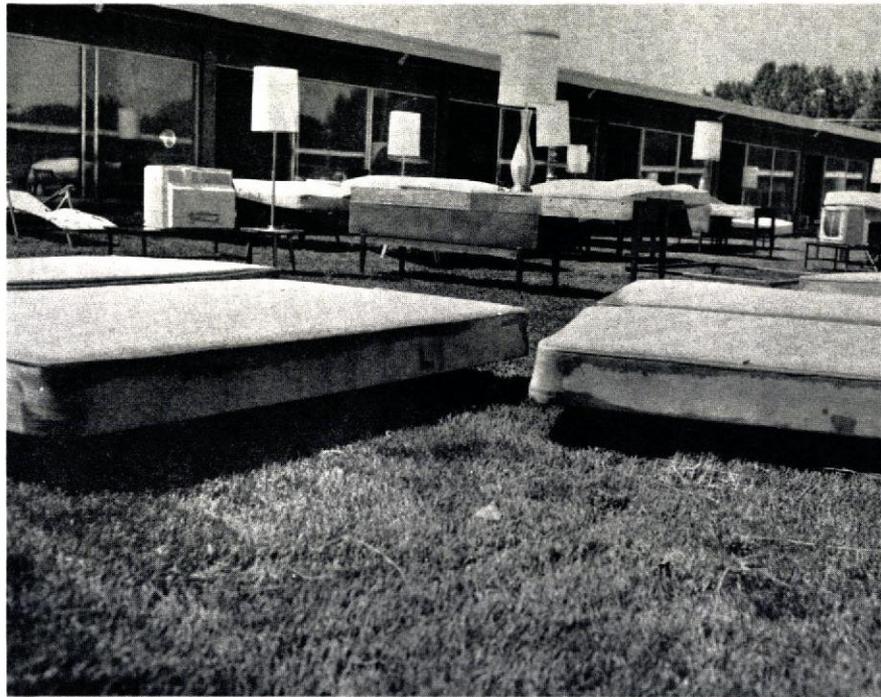
PICTURE 6



PICTURE 7



PICTURE 8



PICTURE 9



PICTURE 10



PICTURE 11

AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE APPENDIX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

TO : Hans O. Jensen, Chairman
Nebraska ASC State Committee

August 16, 1966

FROM : Rex L. Kuntzelman, Chairman
Boone USDA Defense Board

*Called FHA
8-17-66*

SUBJECT: Report of Flood Damage to Farm Producers in Boone County

On August 12, torrential rains ranging from 4 to 15 inches fell in Boone County in a period of about 8 hours.

The rain caused severe flooding along Beaver Creek, Cedar River, Shell Creek, Plum Creek, Vorhees Valley, and Timber Creek Watersheds. The major damage in Boone occurred on the flood plain of these streams and tributaries.

We estimate that approximately 300 farms suffered severe damage from the flood waters, resulting in losses of livestock, machinery, crops, pastures, buildings and fences.

We also estimate that approximately 500 farms suffered various damages of a lesser degree, damages such as loss of fences, dams, and portions of fields of crops and pastures.

Crop damages range from slight to severe. Soybeans on bottom lands were damaged. Hay stacked loose and in bales absorbed a great deal of water and mud, in many instances to the point of worthlessness.

Livestock losses can only be estimated at this time, because many cattle strayed and/or drifted with the flood and are co-mingled, and need to be separated and identified by their respective owners.

Most producers could not be contacted because roads and bridges have been destroyed.

The Boone USDA Defense Board estimates the following amounts of damage in Boone County.

Losses to be assumed on Commodity Credit Grain	\$ 5,000
Livestock	200,000
Fencing	40,000
Hay Crops	100,000
Soybeans	70,000
Corn and Grain Sorghum	20,000
Machinery	150,000
Livestock Water and Erosion Control Dams	50,000
Damage to Leveled Irrigated Land	250,000
Resceding Flooded Pastures	30,000

Gully and Waterway Repairs	<u>150,000</u> 2
Estimated total Sustained Losses	<u>\$1,065,000</u>

R. L. Hunt



Nance County

August 17, 1966

Cattle	\$100,000
Growing crops	300,000
Stored grain	50,000
Hay stacked or stored	100,000
Pasture land (covered with sand)	140,000
Farm Equipment	200,000
Irrigation Equipment	50,000
Fences	100,000
Farm buildings (Homes and out buildings)	125,000

Total \$1,165,000

Roads and Bridges \$50,000

Telephone Co 25,000

Power Co 85,000

Loup River PP works 550,000

RR 450,000

Commercial- (Installations-oil company tanks, etc.) 20,000

Coop Ele. (Fullerton) 30,000

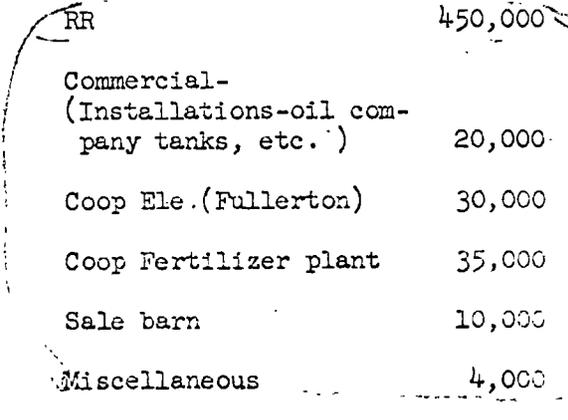
Coop Fertilizer plant 35,000

Sale barn 10,000

Miscellaneous 4,000

used
used

not used and buried Dec. 59, 1966



*Revised to
FH 7 8-17-66*

PLATTE COUNTY

Approximate acreage affected 51,520 acres

Buildings damaged (homes, granaries,
barns, fences, corralls, etc) \$ 575,000

Crops (row crops, hay- could be greater
if water stays in field) \$1,500,000

Livestock (hogs and cattle) \$ 100,000

Total \$2,175,000

Phoned to FHA - 8-16-66

MINUTES OF COLFAX COUNTY DISASTER COMMITTEE MEETING

The Colfax County Disaster Committee met on Monday, August 15, 1966

in the ASCS Office at 10:00 A.M.

Present: Otto Mackenstadt, Chairman, ASCS
Earl W. Moore, Office Manager, ASCS
Dean Jacobs, Extension Agent
Harold Richter, FWA
Ivan Bartling, FWA

The meeting of the Disaster Committee was called due to the damage caused by flood waters on the Platte River on August 14, 1966.

A survey of the damaged area was made and the following estimations established:

Pasture damage:	\$50,000.
Fence Damage:	\$150,000.
Crops:	\$135,000.
Hay:	50,000.
Debris:	5,000.
Land Leveling:	5,000.
Livestock loss:	2,000.
Building Damage:	<u>5,500.</u>
Total:	\$402,500.

A list of farmers affected by the flood was made.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.


Office Manager, ASCS

August 17, 1966

Greeley County

Terraces, dams, waterways	\$200,000
Fences	100,000
Crops, due to silting, washing, debris (includes hay)	400,000
Farm buildings	125,000
Farm Equipment	<u>50,000</u>
Total	\$875,000

Not necessarily complete.

Roads washed out all over and impossible
to get around.

unofficial 18 inches rain N.E. of Wolbach

*Revised to
FHA
C. W. L.*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Joseph Tresnak, Chairman
Nebraska State USDA Defense Committee

DATE: August 16, 1966

FROM : R. Clare Clement, Chairman
Valley County USDA Defense Committee

SUBJECT: Flood Damage Estimates

The following is an estimate of monetary loss incurred as a result of excessive rainfall received Friday, August 12, 1966: Conservation structures and practices destroyed, \$25,000.00; Building (including houses and out-buildings on farmsteads), \$25,000.00; North Loup Public Power and Irrigation (Valley County only), \$30,000.00; Valley County roads, bridges and culverts, \$120,000.00; and crops, \$50,000.00. Total \$250,000.00.

These estimates are based on information received from responsible individuals from the County Board of Supervisors and N.L.F.P.I.D. employees. As well as individual notices received from farmer owners and/or operators through public appeal from Radio Station KMLV, Ord, Nebraska.

R. Clare Clement

August 16, 1966

FORM ASCS-204-2 (9-6-62)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

August 16, 1966

TO : Joseph A. Tresnak, Chairman
State USDA Defense Board

FROM : Henry Lassen, Chairman
Howard USDA County Defense Board

SUBJECT: SURVEY OF FLOOD DAMAGE IN HOWARD COUNTY

Upon making a survey of the flood area in Howard County, we find the estimated cost of damage as follows:

Hay, Pasture, & Crops- - - - -	\$40,000
Property Damage- - - - -	3,000
Livestock- - - - -	3,000
Machinery- - - - -	4,000

49,000
H. L.

*Field FIA
6-17-66*

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING APPENDIX

RAINS CAUSE FLOOD

Wolbach Citizens Leave Homes After Cloudburst

Torrential cloudbursts fell in east central Nebraska Friday.

Hardest hit was Wolbach, in Greeley County, where flash flooding forced some residents from their homes and threatened the town's sewage disposal plant.

A number of funnel clouds were spotted in the area and C. E. Thompson, editor of the Wolbach Messenger, said "Spring Creek is on the rampage."

A tank with 9,000 gallons of propane gas in it was ripped from its cement mounting and washed down the creek. But there was no danger from the gas, sources said.

Washed Away

The creek also washed away a 70-foot coal bin, a large oil tank, a steel grain storage bin and five sections of bleachers and a 10-by-12 foot wooden building in a park. The park had been recently renovated after having been destroyed in a 1964 tornado. Thompson said a "conservative estimate" of the water's depth in the park would be 15 feet.

Thompson said there was "water all around" the sewer

age plant, but it was believed the crest of the flood had arrived.

He said at least five homes had been evacuated. One woman whose home is on Mary's Creek, a Spring Creek tributary, had to be evacuated by boat.

Unofficial reports received from Greeley, the source of Spring Creek, told of 11 inches of rainfall.

Lights were still out in Wolbach early Saturday morning.

A farmer northeast of Wolbach measured 15 inches of rain, Thompson said. He quoted the farmer as saying he owns a 5-inch rain gauge and "he emptied it three times and knows he missed some in between."

Highway Under

Highway 22 was under water from Scotia east to Highway 281. The Safety Patrol reported 5 feet of water on a stretch of road 200 feet long in the hilly area. Water also covered a stretch east from 281 into Wolbach on 22.

Cedar River in the Spalding area was flooding following an unofficial 12 inches of rain in that northwest Greeley County community.

Efforts were being made to keep the high water out of the Spalding light plant, located on the river. One home in the north part of Spalding had from two to three inches of water on the first floor.

Tracks Under Water

The OB&Q railroad tracks were reportedly under water. The Burlington dispatcher in Lincoln said that since no trains went through Wolbach until Sunday, no check of the tracks was to be made until Saturday morning.

Heavy rains over the upper reaches of the Elkhorn Valley were moving slowly eastward and expected to cause flash flooding during the night on most small tributaries in the

Elkhorn watershed. The Elkhorn River was expected to rise close to bankful from Neigh to West Point by Saturday morning.

In the Chalk Hills area between Cotesfield and Scotia mudslides were reported.

Greeley could not be reached by telephone.

Wolbach police, however, contacted Greeley by radio early Saturday morning. The rainfall there totaled 11 inches and Highway 56 east of town was closed. But there was no major flooding in Greeley itself.

Bridge Closed

In North Loup unofficial sources reported 7 or 8 inches of rain. The North Loup River bridge leading into Scotia was under water. The road was closed and the river out of its banks.

Basements in the north part of the town were filling with water. Mire Creek which borders on the north edge of town was out of its banks.

Scotia reported eight inches Friday night with rain still falling. All highways leading into the small town were flooded leaving it isolated.

According to the Scotia police department, Ord had 8 to 9 inches of rain.

At Ericson, in Wheeler County, businessman Frank Pierce said about 7.75 inches of rain had fallen, ending at about 10:30 p.m.

At Ord, newspaperman Syl Furtak said the rainfall went over 6 inches in the evening and was the biggest downpour there in some 35 years. The rain lasted all day and several severe electric storms accompanied it.

Neb. 70 out of Ord was closed by high water in the evening, he said.

The flooding also closed Neb. 39 near Albion, the State Safety Patrol said in Lincoln.

Columbus

It was like a beehive here late Saturday as Loup River floodwaters began inundating the south side and threatening in the west end of town.

Water at 9:30 p. m. had reached as far north as Sixth Street.

Highway 30 is cut south of the river and National Guard trucks were dispatched at 10 p. m. to evacuate 50 people from the Country Club Motel at the junction of Highways 30 and 81 south of town.

Highway 81 remained open, but there was fear it would also have to be closed. The motel was surrounded by water.

Pawnee Park, also on the south side, was under water.

The Grand Island National Guard unit, scheduled to bivouac at the Armory here enroute to a week end training exercise at Camp Ashland, was diverted to the police station and Civil Defense headquarters. Col. Ed. Binder said approval had been received to activate 12 members of the company to augment the Columbus National Guard Unit. The Armory is also surrounded by water.

At 10 p. m. the river level was reported at 11 feet, 10 inches and it was expected to crest later Saturday night at above 12 feet. Flood stage is nine feet.

Observers said that in the Sixth Street area water had been rising at a rate of an inch a minute and had moved north from Fifth Street to Sixth Street in 45 minutes.

Emergency centers were established at City Hall and residents on higher ground have thrown open spare rooms to evacuees. It is estimated four hundred families are affected on the South Side.

In the downtown business district, many stores have been sandbagged. In the 1947 flood, water barely reached into the main business district but wary residents are heeding warnings that this flood may top the levels of the previous inundation.

Another danger area was Wagner Lake, a resort area filled with vacationing families southwest of town.

They said the resort area, with an estimated one thousand residents, appeared likely to catch the brunt of the high water.

At the YMCA Camp Sheldon just south of Columbus,

Damage in Flooded Loup Valley

Estimated in Millions

evacuation preparations were under way.

Camp Director Dennis Johnson of Omaha said all campers had left the area because of the close of a camping session. He said he did not know the fate of a young Republican encampment scheduled for today. Senator Carl Curtis was to be guest of honor.

Mr. Johnson said that in 1947 the flood level reached the windows of the cabins.

"All I can say is that we will be as ready as we can get for this one."

* * *

St. Edward

One-half of the community of 780 had flooded after the crest of Beaver Creek reached town at 10 a. m. Debris-laden water churned through the business district and 12 houses were evacuated.

Residents said basements were filled to their ceilings and some buildings had from 12 to 18 inches of water on their first floors.

Mrs. Clarence Price of St. Edward said at one time volunteer flood fighters "sloshed around in six to eight inches of water while trying to get a cup of coffee in a restaurant which had opened to serve them."

Business men at St. Edward suffered considerable loss, said Mrs. Price, since most use basements for storage.

"A couple of haystacks and some tree limbs floated over the highway," said James Brown, who worked throughout the night directing flood operations by telephone.

* * *

Roads Closed

Highways reported closed Saturday included 22 west of Wolbach, east of Scotia, and at Elgin; 91 west of Albion and east and west of Lindsay; 39 in Albion and at St. Edward; 56 at Cedar Rapids, and 14 north of Albion.

* * *

Ord

Newspaper man Syl Furtak called Friday's rain the heaviest

in 35 years. He said rain started in the morning and lasted throughout the day.

Mud slides were reported in the near-by Chalk Hills between Cotesfield and Scotia.

* * *

Monroe

The community of 261 was evacuated as a precautionary measure.

A canal was unable to contain the swirling flood water which burst out of a channel and back into the Loup, easing pressure on the town.

* * *

Red Cross

The Douglas-Sarpy County Chapter of the Red Cross sent a team headed by King Bogardus of Omaha to Albion to assist the Boone County Chapter.

The Lancaster County Chapter dispatched a mobile feeding van to Columbus. Three Lancaster County Red Cross volunteers accompanied the mobile unit. Saturday evening they fed civil defense and other rescue personnel in downtown Columbus.

Red Cross spokesmen said they would stay until they were no longer needed.

The Hall County Chapter in Grand Island sent a disaster feeding trailer into Fullerton. The Red Cross is on alert to set up a mass shelter at Fullerton if needed.

* * *

St. Paul

Volunteer Fire Department rescuers, after several futile tries, pulled Woodward Killinger, 51, to safety when he was trapped by floodwaters north of town. Earlier a chain of men had failed to reach him.

The firemen pulled Mr. Killinger free with a rope.

Mr. Killinger, of Wolbach, was stranded when his car stalled on a railroad track near Greeley. He was on the roof of the car 90 minutes.

* * *

Fair, Warmer

Fair skies and warmer temperatures are expected to return today to most of the Midlands, the Weather Bureau reports.

The exception is the Nebraska Panhandle, where partly cloudy skies and afternoon and evening thunder showers are forecast.

Nebraska's highs should be in the 80's, while temperatures in Western Iowa will be in the upper 70's.

Rain measurements reported Saturday:

Nebraska	
Bruning	.67
David City	.31
Fairbury	.39
Hastings	.80
Hebron	.98
Albion	10.29
Schuyler	2.17
Hartington	2.31
Tekamah	1.38
Columbus	2.20
Red Cloud	.69
Superior	.65
York	.82
Bradshaw	1.13
Gresham	1.73
Wilber	1.25
Friend	.95
Phillips	.40
Palmer	.70
Wood River	.25
Harvard	.60
Doniphan	.75
Alda	.50
St. Libory	.95
Fullerton	1.91
Cauro	.20
Stromsburg	1.25
Aurora	.55
Curtis	1.15
Moorefield	2.17
Stockville	.81
Oakley	1.70
Neligh	2.14
Hadar	4.90
Winside	3.96
Wakefield	2.72
M'dow Grove	2.44
Lyons	1.01
Emerson	2.85
Ewing	2.64
Osmond	1.75
Bloomington	.61
Cambridge	1.10
Franklin	.65
Naponee	.69
Orleans	.28
Ragan	.82
Stamford	.50
Upland	.50
Western	1.20
Wilsonville	.85
Oberlin	.84
Cambridge	2.80
Clay Center	.36
Central City	1.00
St. Paul	.24
Sutton	.90
Loup City	4.50
Chapman	.50
Kansas	
Clifton	.80
Clyde	.75
Smith Center	.63
Miltonvale	.65
Jamestown	.42
Huscher	.41
Jewell	.65
Agenda	.60
Burr Oak	.82
Esbon	.77
Lebanon	.73
Belleville	.51
Barnard	1.07
Beloit	.98
Brookville	1.02
Ellis	1.20
Glasco	.82
Hays	.53
Longford	.57
Manhattan	.02
Minneapolis	.92
Niles	1.31
Washington	.58
Glendale	.85
Iowa	
Kennebec	1.40
Correctionville	.97
James	1.51
Pisgah	.61

Cedar Rapids

On the Cedar, crop and livestock losses at Cedar Rapids were described as "huge by Mrs. Floyd Maybon. Two river bridges were badly damaged and an approach to a new bridge was badly damaged on Highway 56.

She said the George Braun family, who farmed near the river, lost three tractors, a truck and livestock. One herd of cattle numbering two hundred head was reported missing and another farmer said he had saved only 17 of 74 head.

Mrs. Maybon said "dead animals litter the bridge approaches" near town.

The town of Cedar Rapids was not hit by the river, but the power plant was flooded and Mrs. Maybon said "many basements had water in them and walls caved in."

* * *

Genoa

Although the town of Genoa itself was not hit, there was considerable damage to the headworks of the Loup River Power District power canal, six miles south of town. Despite sandbagging attempts, water flowed through the headgates, damaging the canal.

In the battle to hold back the surging waters, 40 men took part in the sandbagging effort. But when the water flowed over the headgates and punched several holes in the canal, a helicopter rescued about 35 men.

Five remained all night, Saturday, including Supt. Irving Rood, at the powerhouse. Though safe, they were cut off from Genoa, except by helicopter. An oil road along the Loup River to the dam was washed out. Telephone service was out.

Beaver Creek remained above bankful Sunday in the Genoa area, and its floodwaters and accompanying debris still were over the lower part of Genoa City Park.

* * *

St. Edward

St. Edward, a town of about 780, was in the clean-up stage Sunday after Beaver Creek subsided. The business district and much of the residential district was flooded.

"They were pumping out basements Saturday night and at the general store, one could have washed clothes in the dirty suds," said Mrs. Clarence Price. "Apparently the flood water, to the basement ceilings of the stores, got into some stored soap powder."

But Mrs. Price, who has lived at St. Edward for 60 years, said: "We were lucky. No one was injured and no one was killed. The closest we came to an emergency was when our doctor, thinking of a patient, started out to near-by Albion and got stranded."

Dr. William Reardon of St. Edward was caught by flood waters and debris on Highway 39. He finally climbed atop his car and remained there until a boat was dispatched from St. Edward about three hours later to pick him up.

Mrs. Price said streets in St. Edward were badly cut up by the high water, which at its peak reached a foot on the first floor of business houses.

* * *

Fullerton

The Cedar River flood at Fullerton was described "as down and out" Sunday. The sale barn, at the edge of town, where 17 feet of water reached the top Saturday, was being cleaned up.

The Union Pacific Railroad depot, completely inundated, was found wrecked when the water receded. Two boxcars had been tossed against it by the water and had flattened it.

Livestock losses in the Fullerton area were described by one observer as "enormous." Feed lots near the Cedar River were flooded and farmers reported their stock had perished. One feeder said he saved only 40 of 180 head of "nearly finished feeders."

Spalding

Telephone and postal service was restored Sunday in Spalding as the Cedar River subsided, leaving damage unofficially estimated at 60 thousand to 70 thousand dollars to the Municipal Power Plant. C. F. Seaman of the Spalding Village Board said the hydro-electric plant was shut down before it was surrounded by water. Sandbag crews kept the damage from being worse.

A stand-by diesel plant, plus power borrowed from REA sources kept the town supplied through most of the emergency. Power was out about two hours late Friday. The Friday night rains in the area varied from 10 to 11 inches. Pibel Lake recreation grounds northwest of Spalding were isolated during the flood. Many farmers suffered heavy livestock losses. County Commissioner Bob Bassett of Spalding reported four Cedar River bridges destroyed in his district.

* * *

Schuyler

The Platte River was reported Sunday afternoon to have reached its peak at Schuyler, and was beginning to drop.

It didn't enter the Schuyler business district or residential area, but floodwater crept up over Community Park and the golf course south of town.

The crest passed Sunday evening.

* * *

North Bend

North Bend Police Chief Jack Newson said the Platte River raised about four inches in about 90 minutes Sunday afternoon and was "slopping into the lowlands."

However, Chief Newson said "it's still a long way from the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and we never get too worried until it reaches the tracks."

* * *

Loup Valley Flood Topped 1947 Record

Wagner's, Stire's Lake Residents Cleaning Up Water Soaked Homes

By JOHN LEE

Outstate Nebraska Bureau
Columbus — "This was a beautiful, peaceful, serene view here Saturday afternoon when we pulled out," said Frank Knox from the backyard of his home.

That was before the "water came through everywhere."

Residents of the Wagner's Lake and Stire's Lake developments were finally able to return to their soaked homes Monday.

Some had little to go back to. Others still had to swim, wade or ford muddy waters to reach the houses.

Several of the homes were washed entirely off their foundations, others were partially gone or crumbling.

The Knox home, set higher than some of the others, had water four inches deep through the living room, though it had been sandbagged and the furniture placed on saw horses.

In places, small boats plied Wagner's Lake carrying loads of water-logged furniture to higher ground where it would have a chance to dry.

Scoop Out Mud

Discouraged residents waded knee deep in places to carry furniture out while others scooped mud and debris out of their living quarters.

Water flowed around the two lakes so an observer

couldn't tell where one left off and another began. Even Pawnee Park and a golf course were included as the mass of water from the flooded Loup River began to recede.

Wagner's Lake, on the southwest outskirts of Columbus, is built up with some 300 homes, the majority of which are summer and weekend hide-aways. Stire's Lake embraces 57 permanent dwellings in the \$12,000 to \$30,000 class. The area has been built up in the last 10 years.

Only residents and Civil Defense and Red Cross workers were being allowed into the area.

Elsewhere in the southern part of the city, citizens were able to return to their homes Monday.

As Red Cross volunteers distributed cleaning materials and equipment, furniture was set out to dry in yard after yard.

Even downtown businessmen were involved, pumping out flooded basements after water ran into streets further north than it has

pushed in previous floods.

"This is worse than the one in 1947," commented a housewife who escaped to higher ground Saturday evening, then had to move even further when the flood reached that refuge point.

Mrs. Bert Zakrzewski was busy moving her and her husband's five children back into the home next to the park that, luckily, was built up several feet and had no water inside.

Red Cross personnel remained on the job at disaster headquarters in the city auditorium, from which they had delivered 1,600 meals to residents and workers during the crisis.

The Red Cross said a total of 1,000 homes in Columbus sustained some damage. Two homes were destroyed, 25 had major damage.

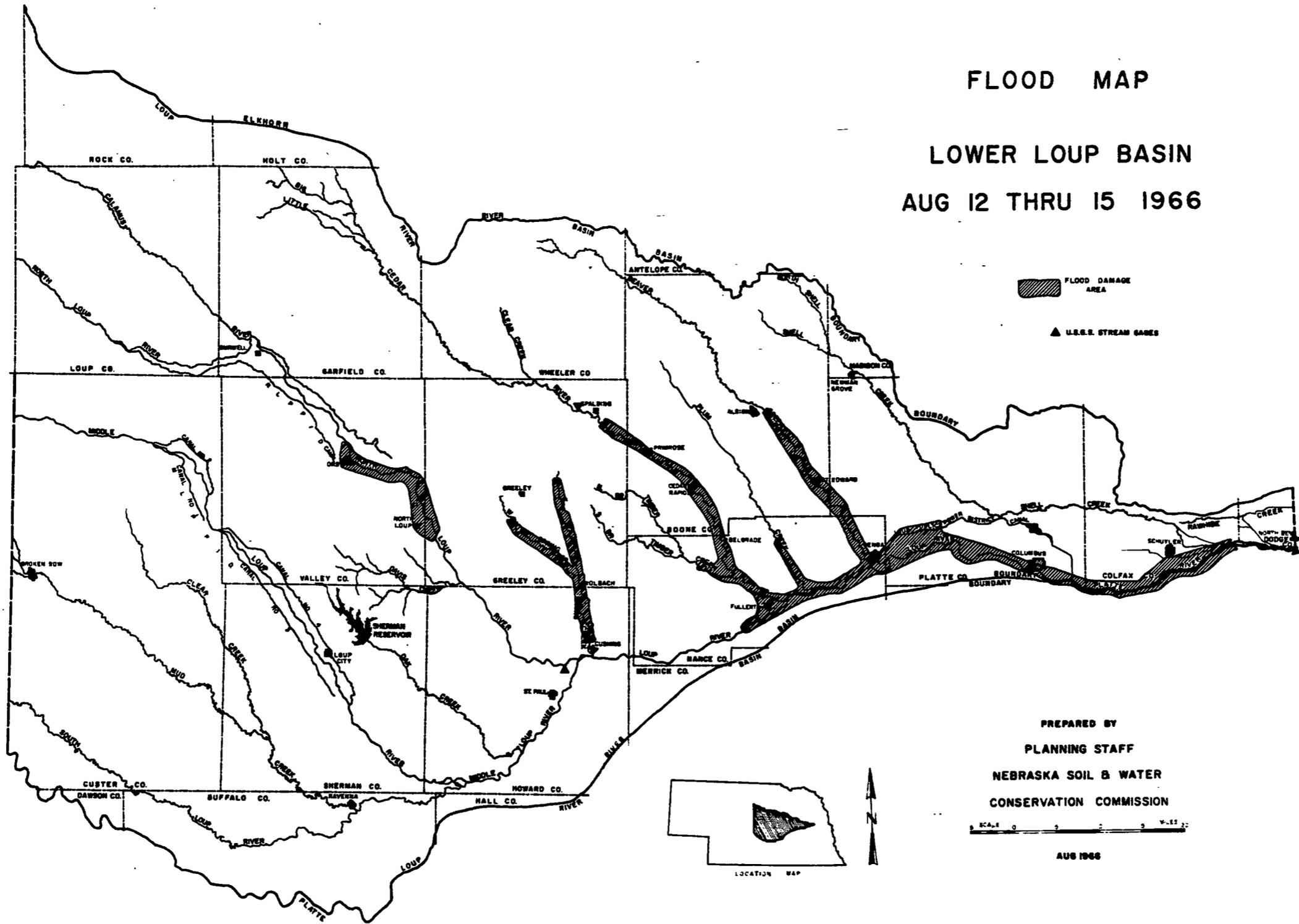
"We estimate 1,000 families were affected in the Columbus area alone and more in the rural areas, particularly around Genoa," said Victoria Gage, Red Cross representative in charge of relief operations.

Small Business Administration representatives were in Columbus to make damage estimate reports, with the expectation the area would be declared a disaster area.

State highway workers expected to complete temporary repairs on a washed-out bridge on Highway 81 south of Columbus so traffic could be moving by early Tuesday.

FLOOD MAP

LOWER LOUP BASIN AUG 12 THRU 15 1966



PREPARED BY
PLANNING STAFF
NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

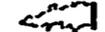
AUG 1966

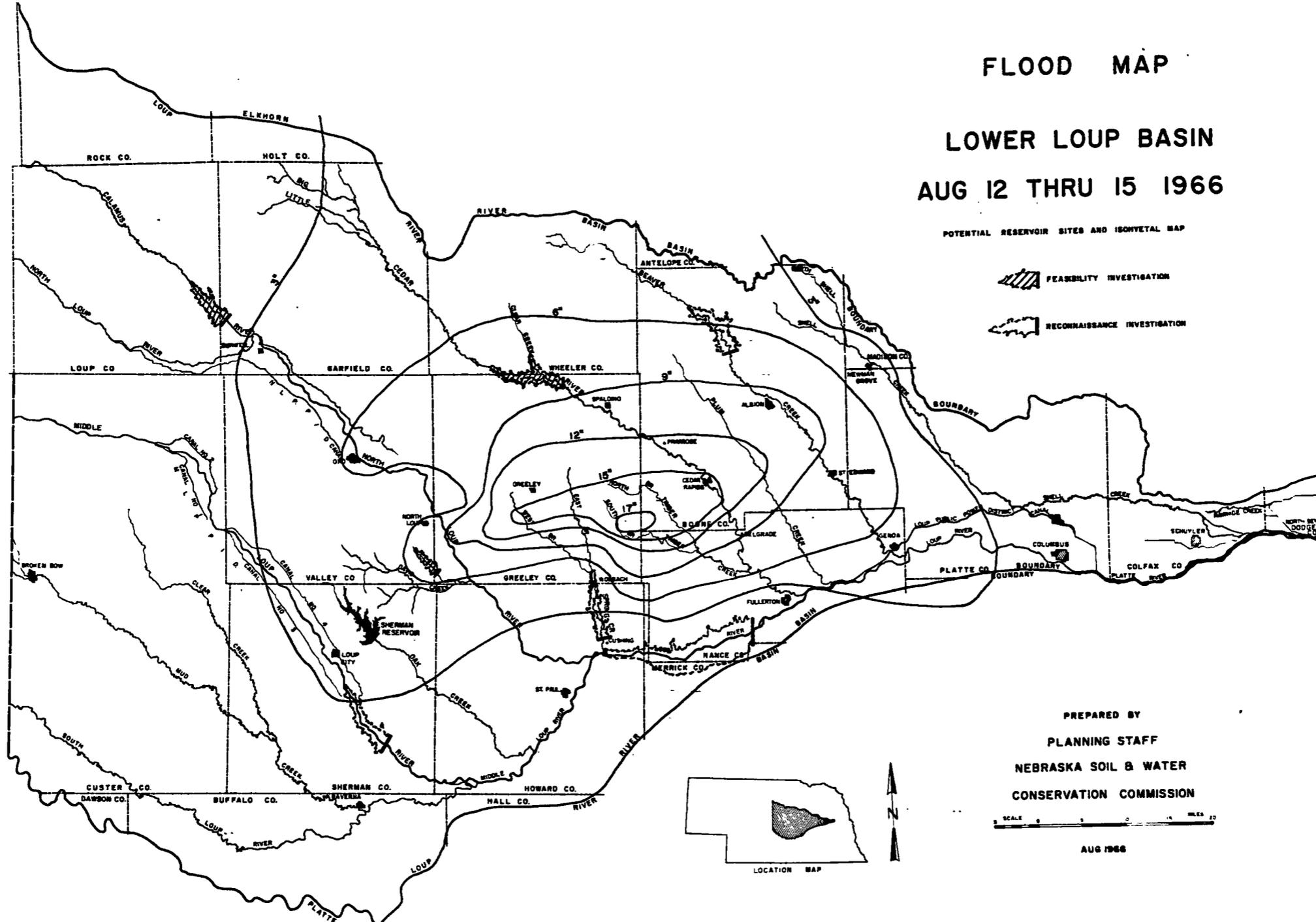
FLOOD MAP

LOWER LOUP BASIN AUG 12 THRU 15 1966

POTENTIAL RESERVOIR SITES AND ISONETAL MAP

 FEASIBILITY INVESTIGATION

 RECONNAISSANCE INVESTIGATION



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