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Topographic Maps, 7.5-minute Series

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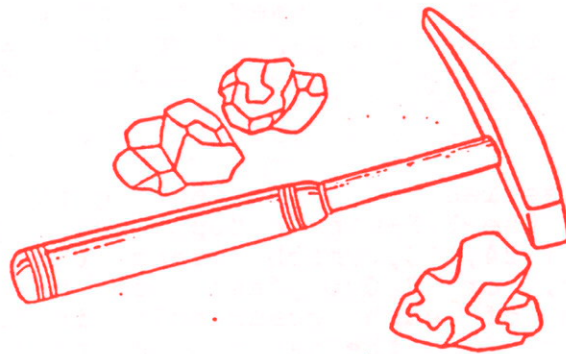
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NEBRASKA GEONOTES

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS, 7.5-MINUTE SERIES

Raymond R. Burchett



NEBRASKA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Conservation and Survey Division
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska—Lincoln**



July 1990



TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS, 7.5-MINUTE SERIES

Topography, or shape of the land surface, is best illustrated by the contour lines on a topographic map. These lines are drawn along lines of equal elevation and are identified by a number signifying their altitude in feet above mean sea level. Topographic maps also show towns, roads, railroads, rivers and lakes. Color coding and map symbols indicate a variety of cultural and physical features. Brown is used for elevation and configuration of the terrain; blue is used for rivers, ponds and drainageways; black or red is used for man-made features such as roads, highways and buildings; red is used also for urban areas and for township, range and section lines; green indicates vegetative cover. In addition, lavender is used to show changes that have occurred since the date of the original map. The contour interval (given at the bottom of the map) identifies the vertical differences in feet, between the contour lines; for example, a 10-foot contour interval means a 10-foot difference in land-surface elevation between adjacent contours on the map. Widely spaced contours indicate nearly flat or gently sloping terrain, and closely spaced contour indicate steep slopes. Contour lines have the following features: 1) they do not cross or intersect one another; 2) they do not split; 3) they close on themselves either within or outside the map area; 4) they bend upvalley (that is, they "V" upstream).

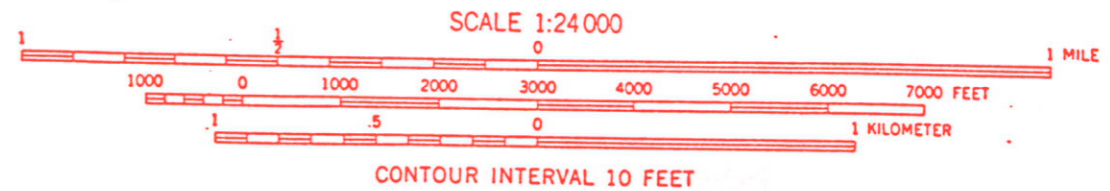
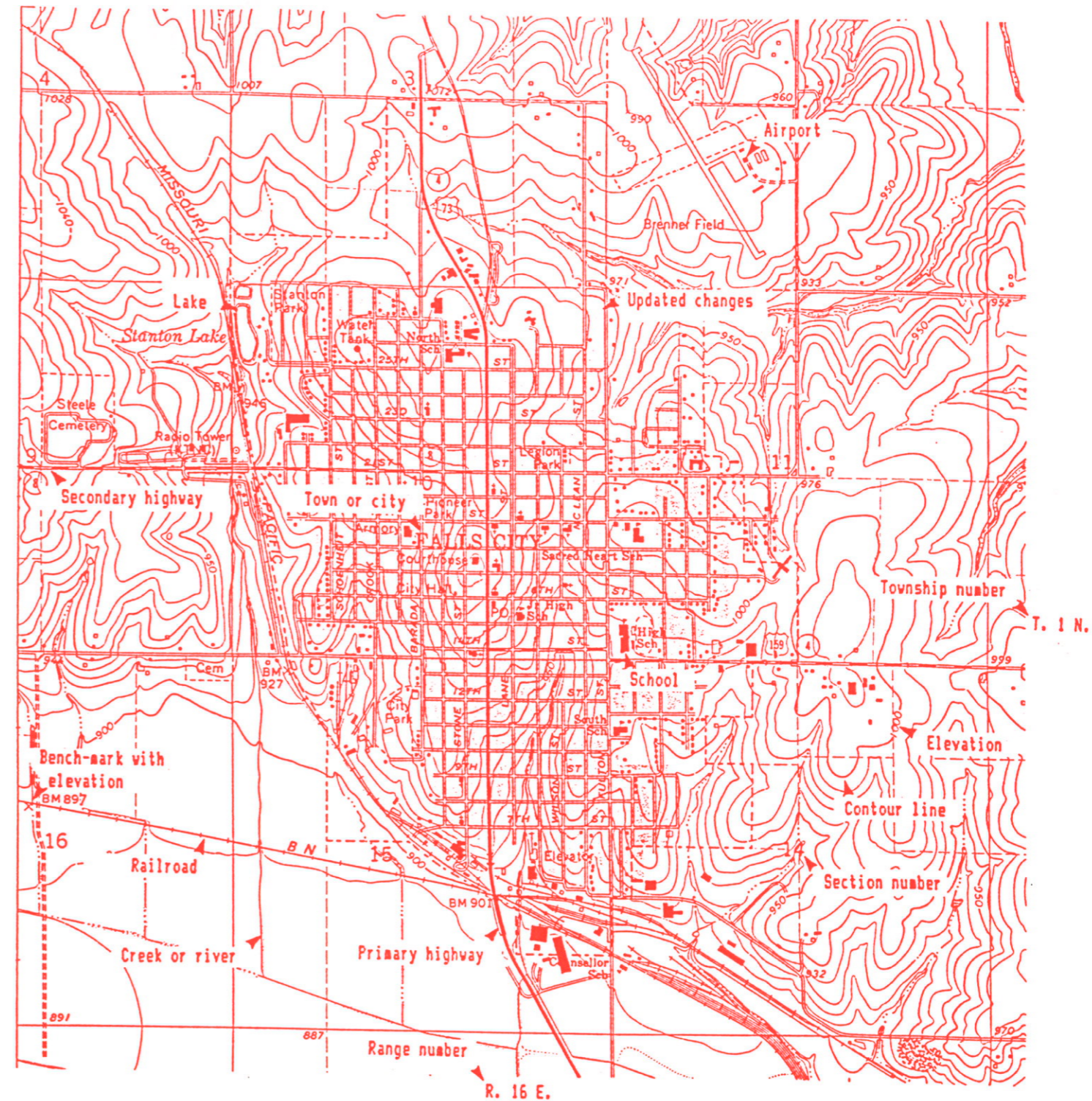
Topographic maps have many uses as basic planning tools for locating new highways, railroads, pipelines and transmission lines, and for selecting suitable sites for airports and for industrial, commercial and residential developments. The maps also may be useful in locating mineral resources and evaluating water sources.

One of several series of maps showing the contour of the land surface in Nebraska is the 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. This map series has a scale of 1:24,000, which means that one inch on the map equals 24,000 inches, or 2,000 feet, on the land surface. The north-south dimension of each quadrangle is 7.5 minutes of north latitude (as measured from the earth's equator) and the east-west dimension is 7.5 minutes of west longitude (as measured from 0° 0' 0", a straight line passing through Greenwich, England, and extending northward and southward to the earth's poles of rotation). A map in this series represents an area of about 55 square miles.

Topographic quadrangle maps of the 7.5-minute series are the most detailed maps available for Nebraska. They are especially useful for pinpointing geographic locations by latitude and longitude or by section, township, and range.

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 113 Nebraska Hall
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0517
 (402) 472-7523 or 472-3471



PART OF A 7.5-MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE

Adapted from U.S. Geological Survey
 Falls City 7.5' Quadrangle

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