

Courthouse Rock & Jail Rock

Courthouse and Jail Rocks are two of the most



famous landmarks of the mid 1800's westward migration.

Hundreds of overland emigrants mentioned Courthouse Rock in their diaries. Pioneers often called it a "castle" or "solitary tower." The name Courthouse was first used in 1837.

Courthouse and Jail Rocks, rise some 400 feet above the North Platte Valley, and are composed of clay, sandstone and volcanic ash.

To an emigrant who had never seen a mountain, or even a bluff, Courthouse Rock and its companion, Jail Rock were quite stunning. Many pioneers were so amazed by these strange geologic features they took a side trip of several miles--on foot--just to get a closer look.