

City of Auburn

Local Landmark
Designation Application

For Staff Use Only			
<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> District	Approval Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Property	_____

1. NAME AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Historic Name New Opera House
Other names/site number Maclay Opera House
Address 921 Central Ave.
Historic address _____

2. PROPERTY OWNER(S) NAME AND ADDRESS

Name Robert W. Hemmingsen
Street and number 720 17th St
City Auburn State NE Zip 68305
Phone (H) (402) 274-5537 (w) (402) 274-3631 Email _____

3. NOMINATION PREPARED BY

Name/title Sarah R Atkinson
Organization Peru State College
Street and number _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (785) 640-7840 Email Saatkinson@campus.peru.edu
Date prepared _____ Signature Sarah R Atkinson

Name of Property _____

4. NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY

Contributing	Non Contributing		Contributing resources previously listed on the National Register or Local Register
1		Buildings	<u>New Opera House</u>
		Sites	
		Structures	
		Objects	
1		Total	

5. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Acreege of property less than (1) one acre

Property identification number 640034136

6. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Describe boundary line encompassing all man-made and natural resources to be included in designation (general legal description or survey). Attach map delimiting proposed boundary. (Use continuation sheet if necessary)

Howe & Nixon addition to Auburn Block 20 Lots 10 and 11

7. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions	Current Functions
<u>Theatre</u>	<u>Bank</u>
<u>Meeting Hall</u>	<u>Retail Store</u>
<u>Retail Store</u>	<u>Warehouse</u>

8. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification	Materials
<u>Commercial Block</u>	<u>Brick</u>

Narrative Description
On one or more continuation sheets describe the historic and existing condition of the property. Illustrate the following information: original location and setting; natural features; pre-historic man-made features; subdivision design; description of surrounding buildings; major alterations and present appearance; interior appearance.

Name of Property _____

9. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria for Significance

(mark one or more boxes for the appropriate criteria)

- (1) Historical importance or cultural significance, or association with a significant person
- (2) Architectural and engineering importance
- (3) Geographic importance
- (4) Archeological importance

Area(s) of Significance

(See Attachment A for list of categories)

Period of Significance

1890 - 1917

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person(s)

Cultural Affiliation/Historic Period

Builder

Dorrum, William

Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property as it relates to the above criteria and information on one or more continuation sheets. Include biographical data on significant person(s), builder, and architect, if known.

10. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.

ATTACHMENT A – Areas of Significance for Local Landmark Designation

A particular site, structure, or area may be designated for preservation as a landmark or historical district if it has:

- (1) Historical importance or cultural significance, or association with a significant person
 - Historical importance or cultural significance, interest or value as part of the development, history, heritage or culture of the City, state or nation;
 - Associated with the life of a person significant in the past;
 - Site of an historic event, or exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, educational, social or historic heritage of the community;

- (2) Architectural and engineering importance
 - Architectural and engineering importance, portraying the historical setting or environment of a distinctive characteristic of an architectural or engineering type, period, style, or method of construction;
 - Work of a resident, builder or designer whose individual work is significant in the development of the City;
 - Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship of distinctive quality, or which represents a significant innovation;

- (3) Geographic importance
 - Geographic importance, by being a part of or related to a city center, park or other distinctive area, which should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural or architectural motif;
 - Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City; or

- (4) Archeological importance has yielded or is likely to yield information regarding the history of the area prior to the establishment of the City.

Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

This building, located at 921 Central Ave (also known as Hwy 36). It was built in 1890 after a fire destroyed much of the block during the spring of 1890. The façade features elaborate stonework that was typical of the opera houses built in Nebraska at the time. The building itself occupies two lots.

The second story is the New Opera House, which is already on the National Register of Historic Places.

The first story was originally split into two separate spaces, but the dividing wall was torn down to convert the building into one large space in 1971. The wall has since been rebuilt to again divide the spaces.

New windows were installed in 2012.

The seats that were used when the New Opera House was open were removed and taken to the Brownville Village Theater in Brownville, NE.

Continuation

Section 9 Page 1

Since its construction in 1890, this building has been a part of the downtown business area of Auburn. Several businesses have occupied the space over the years, most notably Hemmingsen's Store, which opened in 1929 in the west half of the building. Hemmingsen's remained there until the 1990s. The building was purchased by the Hemmingsen family in 1954 and remains in their possession today.

The first businesses to occupy the first floor were the stores of W.M. Robinson and E.H. Dort (a druggist). By 1900, A.H. Gilmore & Sons occupied the building.

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5,000

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Iron wall.

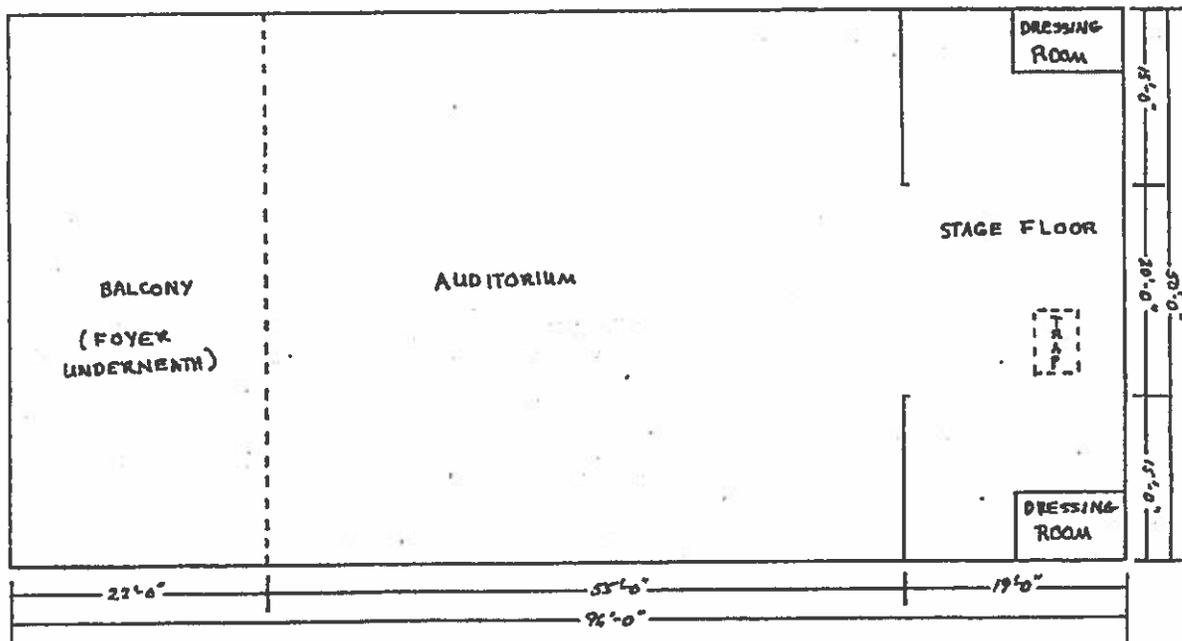
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 24 1988

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Floor plan, New Opera House, Auburn



P. Leitner, Draftsman

Continuation

Section 10 Page 1

Bibliography

Auburn Directory. Years 1930, 1954-1961, 1982. Auburn: Nemaha County Museum. 13 March 2013 and 10 Apr 2013.

Barnhart, E.G. Auburn: A progressive, Wide Awake City of the Great Mid-West. Auburn, NE: Herald Printing House, Date Unknown. Print.

Engles, Margaret. Personal Interview. Auburn: 14 Apr 2013.

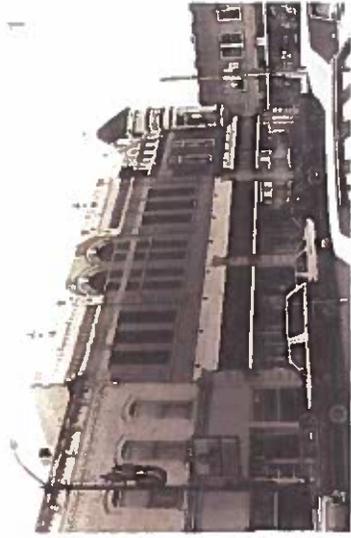
Hemmingsen, Robert. Personal Interview. Auburn: 25 Feb 2013.

Nemaha County Assessor. Nemaha County Assessor. Web. 13 April 2013

Nemaha County Museum Archives. Undated photographs. 10 Apr 2013.

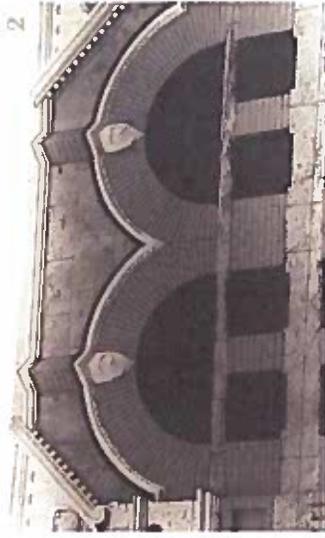
Nemaha County Register of Deeds. Misc. public records. 12 Apr 2013.

21 Central



Left Photo taken 1988
Right Photo taken 2013

New Opera House already
On National Registry of
Historic Places



Built in 1890, Opera House
Open from 1890 to 1917

Home of Hemmingsen's
Clothing since 1929



21 Central (Continued)

First stores were opened by W.M. Robinson and E.H. Dort in the winter of 1890

New Opera House not only served as entertainment, but also as a neutral political meeting place. Other businesses once here included A.H. Gilmore & Sons, Souder's Store, and Murphy and Brown



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 21 1988

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

New Opera House, Auburn
Representative Entertainments, 1894-1917

DATE	EVENT AND PERFORMERS
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Performing Arts, cont'd.

Nov 1911	<i>The Wizard of Wiseland</i> Mozart Concert Co. <i>The Punkin Husker</i>
Oct 1912	<i>The Wolf</i>
Nov 1912	Hilliard Wight as <i>Hamlet</i> with Miss Amber Wight Roney's Boys Concert Co.
Oct 1913	<i>The Girl of Eagle Ranch</i>
Nov 1913	<i>The Shepherd of the Hills</i>
Dec 1913	<i>Lena Rivers</i>
Oct 1914	<i>The Time, The Place, and The Girl</i>
Dec 1914	Frank Lea Short co. in <i>The Romancers</i>
Apr 1916	<i>The New Lady Bantock</i> by the Peru State Normal Dramatic Club
May 1916	<i>The Blossoming of Mary Anne</i> , Senior Class home talent production

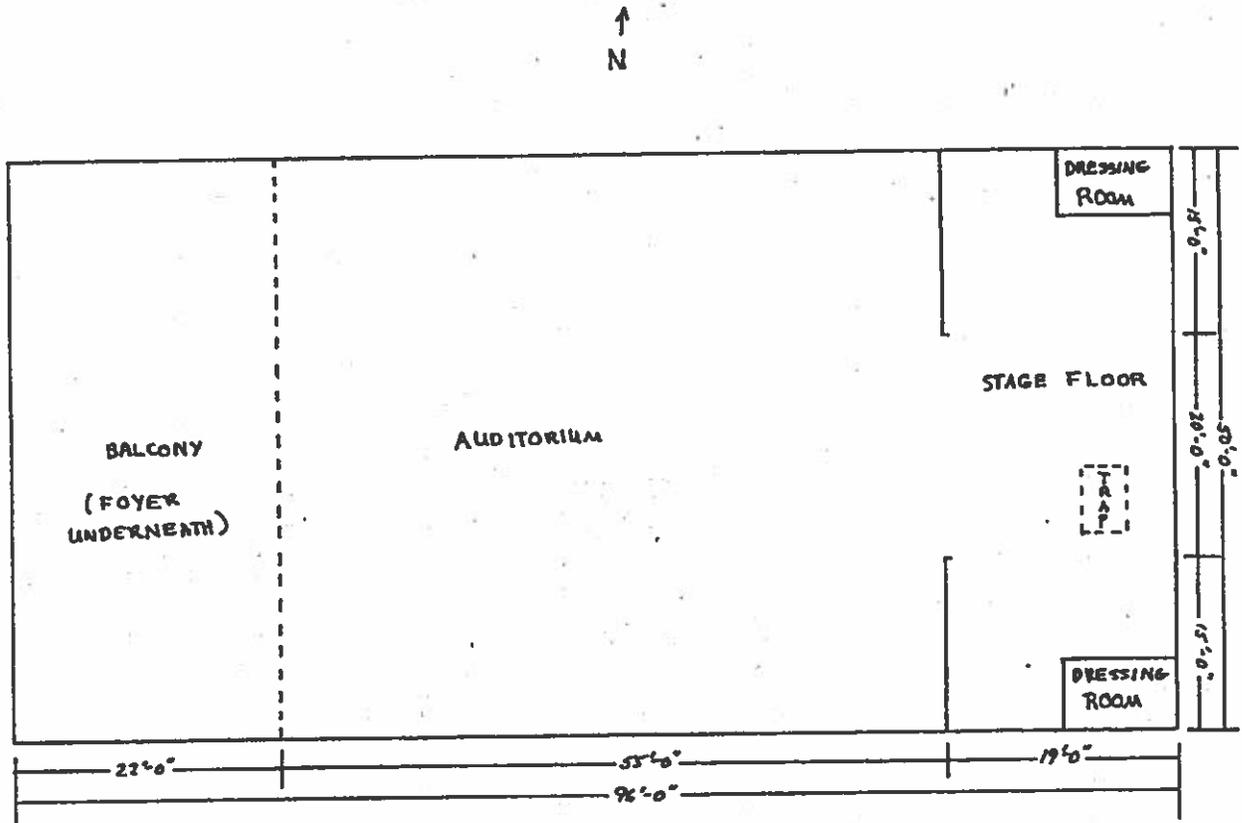
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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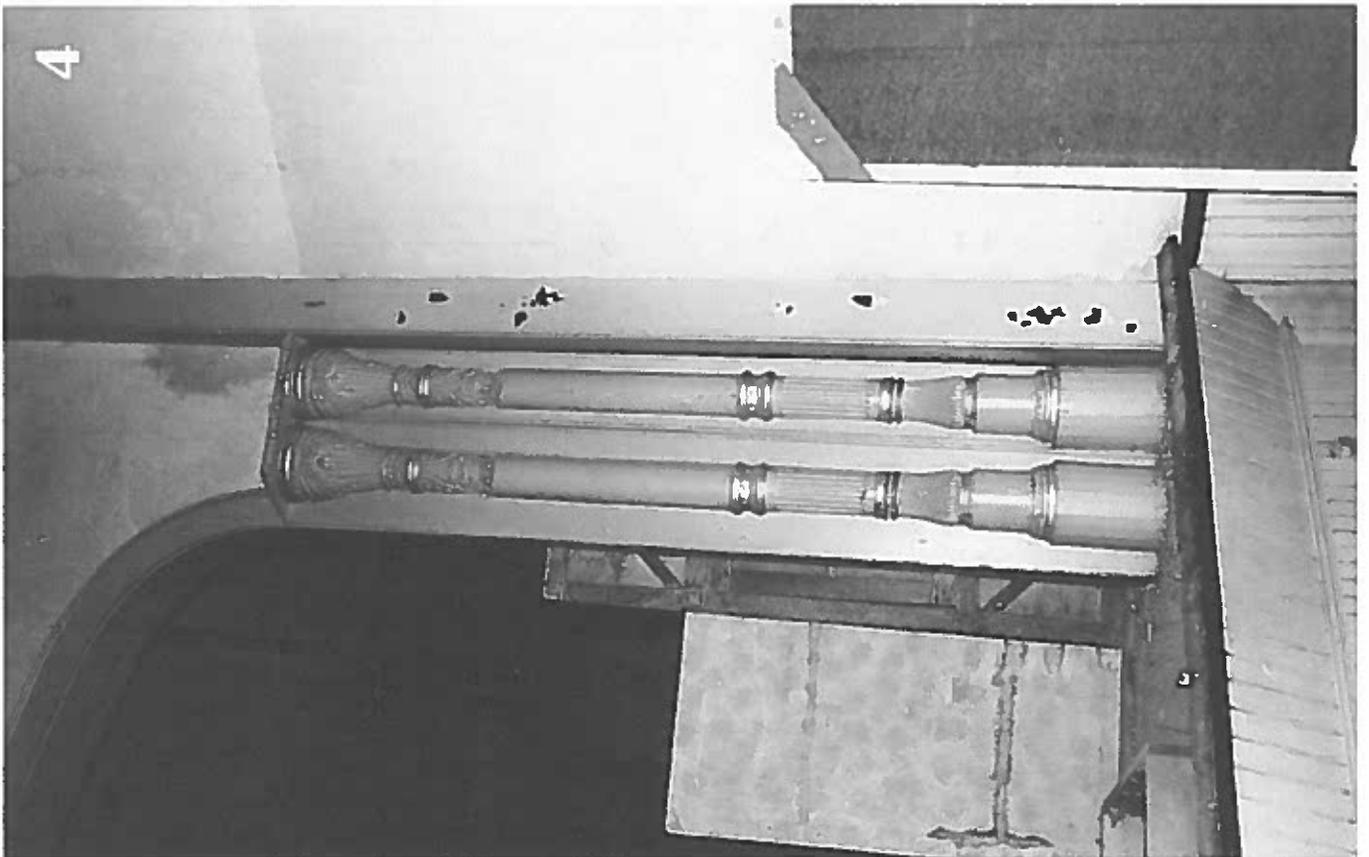
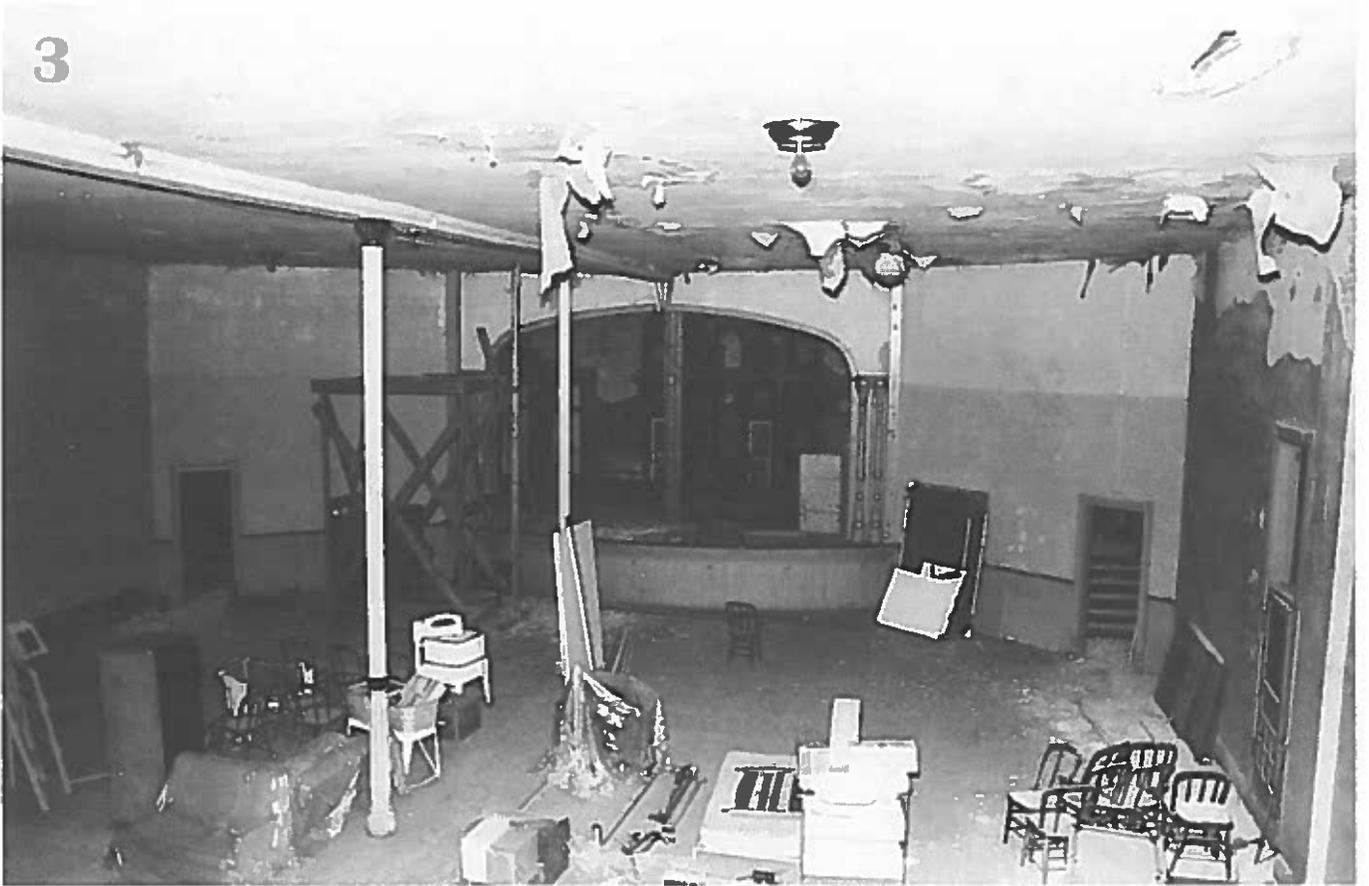
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Floor plan, New Opera House, Auburn



P. Leitner, Draftsman



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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1988

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name New Opera House
other names/site number Maclay Opera House; NeHBS #NH01-45; OHBIN #11-29-02

2. Location

street & number 921 Central Ave. N/A not for publication
city, town Auburn N/A vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county Nemaha code 127 zip code 68305

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Opera House Buildings in Nebraska 1867-1917
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

James L. Hanson May 16, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)