

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 24 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 26 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC OMAHA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON U. S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER FACILITY, "THE OLD CORRAL"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Irregular pattern bounded by Hickory Street, 22nd Street, Woolworth Avenue, 20th Street, and the northwesterly line of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way

CITY, TOWN Omaha VICINITY OF #2 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Nebraska CODE 31 COUNTY Douglas CODE 055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
U. S. Army, 1st Infantry Division

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Fort Riley VICINITY OF STATE Kansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas Civic Center

STREET & NUMBER 1819 Farnam Street
CITY, TOWN Omaha STATE Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE "Condition Survey and Inventory of Omaha QM Military Reservation, Omaha, Nebraska"

DATE March 1950 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army Office of the District Engineer
CITY, TOWN Omaha STATE Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Omaha Quartermaster Depot Historic District contains approximately a half-dozen structures that, by their virtually unaltered facades and their siting, convey, in spite of later building intrusions, the atmosphere of a late 19th Century military compound.

The seven-acre site, clearly defined on three sides by a stone wall topped by an iron fence with a barbed wire entanglement and on the fourth side by the main line tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad, is on the southwestern edge of Omaha's present-day central business district. Light industrial development with pockets of older residential neighborhoods ring this irregularly shaped and gently sloping site. The extensive and well-maintained landscaping of the Depot gives it a park-like feeling. Some of the present landscaping dates from 1886, the most visible evidence of which is a row of catalpa trees to the west of Building 1.* The landscaping was re-worked and added to in 1938 by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps.)

The layout of the structures on this tightly organized site has been influenced by the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad and the local topography. Of the buildings that comprise the historic "heart" of the Depot (Buildings 1, 3, 18, 20, 21), Buildings 1, 3, 20 & 21 are laid out parallel to the main line tracks, while Building 18 is set at a 45° angle to those buildings on the site's highest point. The influence of the railroad on the linear siting of the Depot was even more pronounced in the late 19th Century when a spur of the Union Pacific tracks ran right down the middle of the Depot in the slot of space defined by Buildings 1, 3, 20 & 21. Later building intrusions have not significantly affected the impact of the original geometry of the Depot's siting.

In general, the buildings of architectural and historic interest in the Depot (dating from 1881 to 1894) can be characterized by their linear form, their formal organization--a central tower section with two symmetrical wings of a lower height, and by their construction--heavy timber framing with exterior brick bearing walls. Stylistically, while the buildings lean toward the Italianate in massing and detailing, there are touches of Richardsonian Romanesque in some, and several are rather simple vernacular brick structures. None of the Depot's wood frame storehouses, stables, and sheds from the late 19th Century remain.

The other existing buildings in the Historic District date from 1938 or after. Several of these including the two gatehouses, Buildings 2 & 4, and a storage building, Building 15, do not detract from the character of the original Depot since their materials and scale are sympathetic to the older structures. The remaining buildings (Buildings 24, 11, 6, and 8) are clearly intrusions in the District.

*A note on the numbering of the buildings. The numbers used in referring to buildings in the Omaha Quartermaster Depot Historic District are taken from the U. S. Army's numbering of buildings. There are numbers in the sequence which are missing, indicating structures that have been removed.

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Building No. 1 Post Headquarters: 1881, Italianate, two-story central structure with 2 one-story symmetrical wings, brick with slate roof, notable cornice on central portion and decorative grille covers for ventilating devices on wings. Extensive interior remodeling, presently offices for U. S. Army Reserve, good condition.

Building No. 3 Engineering Administration Building: 1881, vernacular brick, one-story, brick with shingle roof. Interior remodelings, presently vacant, good condition.

Building No. 18 Finance Administration Building: 1889, Italianate/vernacular brick, two stories, brick with slate roof. Interior remodelings for CCC in 1938 and for Italian prisoners of war in World War II, presently offices for U. S. Army Reserve, good condition.

Building No. 21 General Storehouse: 1890, Richardsonian Romanesque massing and detailing, two stories with full basement, brick with slate roof, original heavy timber trusses, columns, and joists still evident on the interior. Presently vacant, deteriorated condition.

Building No. 20 Administrative Offices and Storehouse: 1894, Italianate/vernacular brick, three-story central tower with 2 two-story symmetrical wings, full basement, brick with slate roof, chimneys notable for brickwork and iron supports, good warehouse doors. Interior remodeling, presently offices and classrooms for U. S. Army Reserve, good condition.

Buildings No. 2 and 4 Gatehouses: 1938, vernacular brick, one-story brick with asbestos shingle roof. Interior remodeling, presently used as offices, good condition.

Building No. 15 Administration: 1938, vernacular brick, one-story brick with asbestos shingle roof. Presently used as storage, good condition.

Nonconforming Intrusions in the District

Building No. 5 Maintenance: 1936, brick with shingle roof. Presently used as motor pool, shops.

Building No. 24 Administration: 1944, masonry construction with flat roof. Presently used as field hospital.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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Building No. 11 Motor Repair/Garage: 1948, brick with shingle roof.

Building No. 6 Flammable Storage: 1954, concrete block with flat roof.

Building No. 8 General Storage: 1958, metal building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Omaha Quartermaster Depot played a significant role in late 19th and early 20th Century regional and local history and today remains a remarkably cohesive ensemble of military architecture from that period. As a Quartermaster Depot it was responsible for obtaining, storing, and dispersing supplies to military personnel and outposts of the U. S. Army's Department of the Platte at the end of the Indian Wars. The peak of activity at the Depot occurred during World War I when it supplied camps and National Guard units throughout the Plains. During the New Deal years it served as the supply base for 34 regional CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camps. On a local level, it is one of the few remnants of Omaha's turn-of-the-century glory days as a rail capital. Today, the Depot's uniquely preserved architectural character and its park-like setting provide a valuable object lesson in Omaha's urban heritage.

In 1866 the U. S. Army re-established the Department of the Platte with headquarters in Omaha. The specific purpose of this infantry and cavalry department was to protect both settlers moving through the Indian territory and those constructing the Union Pacific Railroad. These troops, traveling "forty miles a day on beans and hay", were sorely pressed when their beans, hay, ammunition, oats, medical supplies, coffee, and animals gave out. Omaha was chosen as the site for the Department's Quartermaster Depot in 1866, and the first "Government Corral" was established in the vicinity of 13th & Webster on land owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. The "Old Corral", as it was called, handled materials brought up the Missouri River with as many as 5 steamboats a day docked at Omaha with supplies for the Depot.

In 1879, the original facility was considered inadequate to outfit the far-flung frontier outposts, so General William T. Sherman ordered a new storehouse be built at the present location of the Omaha Quartermaster Depot. This location is some 7 blocks west of the original site and is nearly halfway between Omaha's other early military installations, Fort Omaha to the north and Fort Crook in Bellevue. Although no horses or other livestock were quartered at the new Depot, as they had been at the original, the name the "Old Corral" was inherited by the 21st & Woolworth site from its predecessor. As the principal supply depot for the Department of the Platte, the Depot's customers included Forts Bridge, Douglas, Laramie, McKinney, Niobrara, Robinson, Russell, Sidney, Wasnokie, Montezuma Creek, DuChesne; Camps Medicine and Pilot Buttes; and sub-depots at Ogallala, Nebraska and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The original site of 4.9 acres was purchased from the estate of Jacob Shull in 1879, for the sum of \$3000.00, with money raised by public subscription. Additional land, amounting to about 2 acres, was acquired from Mary A. Elliott and Albert Hartsuff

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army. "Condition Survey and Inventory of Omaha QM Depot Reservation, Omaha, Nebraska." Report on file, Corps of Engineers, office of the District Engineer, Omaha, Nebraska (1950).

Lynn, Maj. Stuart C. "The Old Corral Lives On." Manuscript on file, U. S. Army Reserve Center Facility, Omaha, Nebraska (1978).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.0

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	2, 5, 3	3, 6, 0	4, 5, 6, 9	8, 5, 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Omaha Quartermaster Depot Historic District are described as follows:

Beginning at the point of interesection of the northwesterly line of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's right-of-way with the west line of Twentieth Street, which point is 23 feet south and 33 feet west of the SE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 27, and running along said northwesterly line of the said railroad

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Gary R. Bowen, AIA, Principal
William P. Ryan III, Architect-in-Training

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Bahr Vermeer & Haecker, Architects, Ltd.	29 September 1978
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1623 Farnam Street, Suite 535	402/345-3060
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Omaha	Nebraska

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

Martin W. Smith
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is 1 National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Francis R. Becker*

TITLE Director, Real Property and Natural Resources DATE 5/8/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Huns DATE 7-26-79
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *William H. Braitham* 7-26-79 DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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in 1903, bringing the Depot to its present 7.0 acres. By 1882, 17 buildings had been built, 2 of which remain today (Buildings 1 and 3); and in 1886 the site was landscaped. The predominantly red brick buildings constructed at this time that remain on the Depot (Buildings 1, 3, 18, 20, 21) are representative of stylistic tendencies of the late 19th Century architecture (Italianate massing and detailing, Richardsonian Romanesque touches) and of vernacular buildings of the time. The architectural strength of the structures remaining from this period lies not in their individual merits, but in the ambiance created by their siting and materials.

Even though the Indians of the Central and Northern Plains had been moved onto reservations by 1880, the Depot saw Indian activity until the last outbreak of the Sioux in 1890 that culminated with the Battle of Wounded Knee. The Army's responsibilities in the area continued to diminish until 1898 when the Department of the Platte was phased out. No significant activities took place at the Depot until the outbreak of "The Great War" in 1917.

In the 3 years preceding the war, only 9.56 million pounds of supplies were handled; however, during the 18 months of the war some 278.2 million pounds passed through the Depot. The Depot supported some 150,000 troops at Camp Funston, Kansas; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort Des Moines, Iowa; and the National Guard of Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Missouri, and Colorado. Records indicate single contracts for \$919,750.00 for potatoes and 10,000 turkeys. In 1918 an addition to Storehouse Building No. 20 was built to increase the capacity to handle the increased requirements of World War I. In February, 1919 the Depot was staffed by 29 military officers, 63 enlisted men, and 302 civilians, up from one military officer and 37 civilians 2 years before.

After the war, the Depot's use was diminished to the point where no supplies were stored there in 1927. It was declared surplus and offered for sale. No takers were found. In 1932 it was offered, but again no sale was made. During the first Roosevelt administration Building 21 was used as a transient shelter. Following a 3-alarm fire in Building 21 in 1937, traces of which can still be seen in the building, a CCC detachment was housed in Building No. 18, which had been remodeled by the WPA (Works Project Administration.) Building No. 1 was also renovated to serve as the headquarters for this CCC detachment. A new garage was built to house CCC trucks, pavement was repaired, and a general "facelift" was given the Depot, including substantial landscaping.

During World War II the Depot provided expendable supplies to recruiting depots, served as an ordinance school for officers, and as an automotive training center. Toward the end of the war, Italian prisoners of war were quartered in Building 18. At this time the brown wood fence that once topped the stone wall surrounding the Depot was replaced by the present steel fence with the inward-angled barbed wire entanglement meant to discourage prisoner escapes.

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After World War II, the installation became the base for the Iowa-Nebraska National Guard. During this post-war era the "Old Corral" was referred to officially as "Kansas City Quartermaster Sub-depot." Today the Depot, officially known as the United States Army Reserve Center Facility, is the headquarters for the 561st Support Group, United States Army Reserve.

The history of the Omaha Quartermaster Depot, closely paralleling Omaha's rise and decline as a rail center, reads like a synopsis of American history as turn-of-the-century energies were re-directed from the conquering of a continent to international leadership. To the present day, the Depot provides an accurate record of the physical setting that was the background for these events in America's emergence into adulthood.

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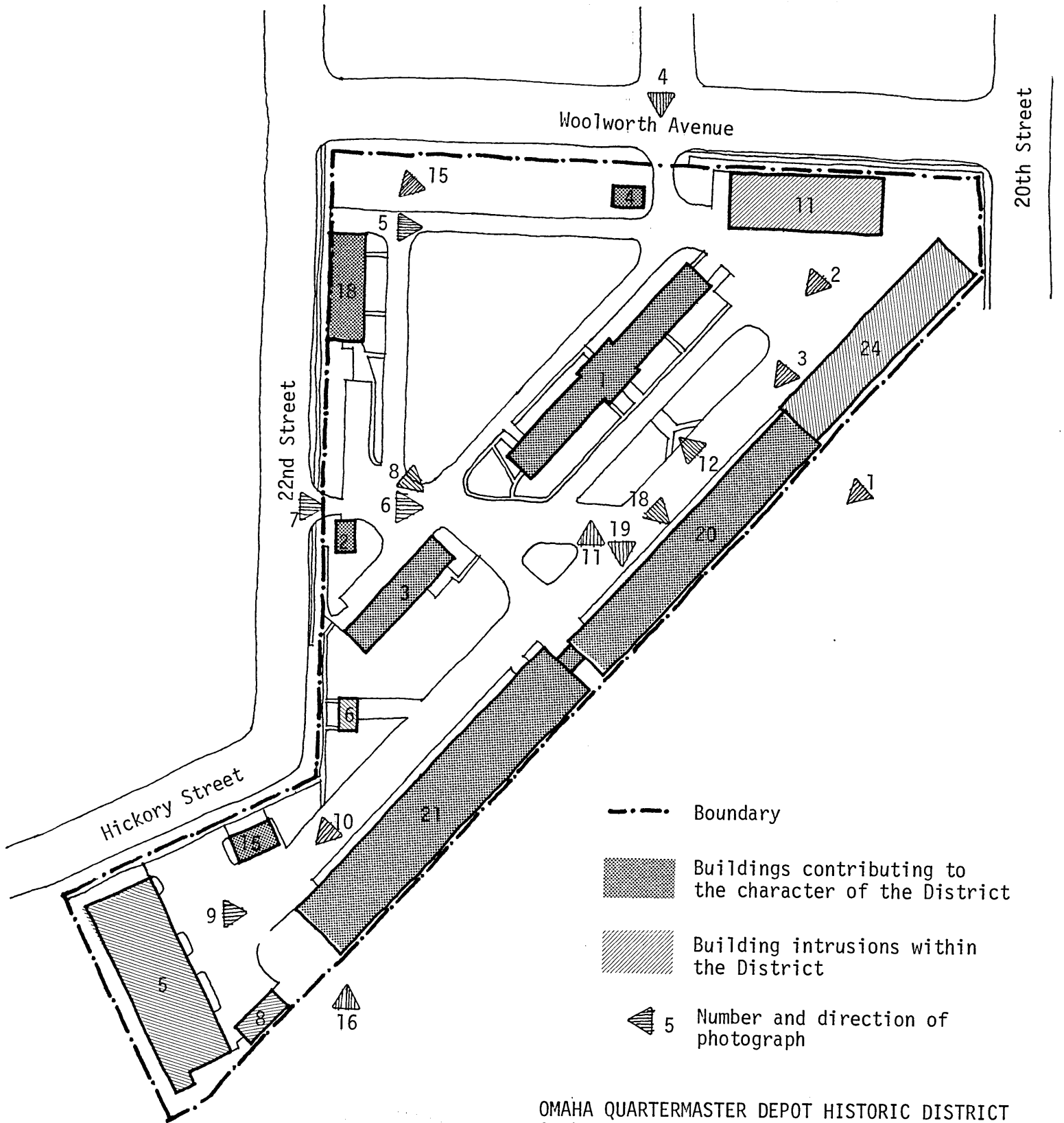
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right-of-way the following 2 courses: (1) S. 41°00' W., 966.24 feet; (2) Southwesterly, 141.7 feet; (3) Northwesterly, 240.6 feet, to a point in the south-easterly line of Hickory Street; (4) Northeasterly, 268.5 feet, along said southeasterly line of Hickory Street, to a point in the east line of Twenty-second Street; (5) North, 585.25 feet, along said east line of Twenty-second Street, to a point in the south line of Woolworth Avenue; (6) East, 600.0 feet, along said south line of Woolworth Avenue, to a point in the aforesaid west line of Twentieth Street; (7) South, 85.0 feet, along said west line of Twentieth Street, to the point of beginning. The directions of the lines refer to the true meridian.

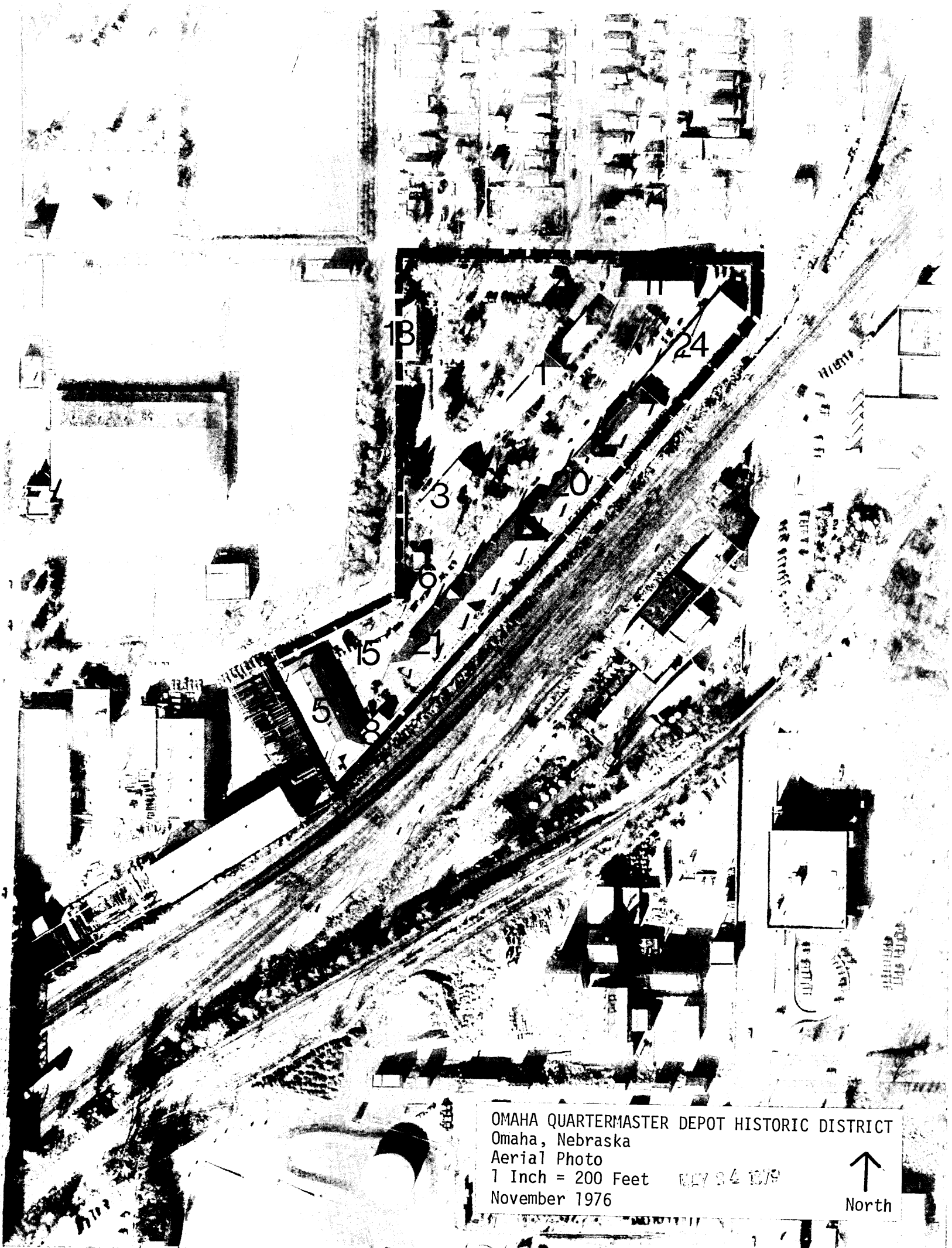


- Boundary
- █ Buildings contributing to the character of the District
- ▨ Building intrusions within the District
- ◀ 5 Number and direction of photograph

OMAHA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Omaha, Nebraska
 Sketch Map
 Approximate Scale 1 inch = 120 feet



MAY 24 1978



OMAHA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
Omaha, Nebraska
Aerial Photo
1 Inch = 200 Feet
November 1976

MAY 24 1979



North

JUL 26 1979