

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



107

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Superior City Hall and Auditorium

other names/site number NU13-734

2. Location

street & number 450 North Commercial

city or town Superior

state Nebraska code NE county Nuckolls code 129 zip code 68978

☐ not for publication

☐ vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Michael J. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

01-23-2012
Date

Director/CEO, SHPO, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

other (explain):

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

3/12/2012
Date of Action

Superior City Hall and Auditorium
Name of Property

Nuckolls County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1 – in the Superior Commercial Historic District

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/city hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: brick

roof:

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Superior Auditorium and City Offices is located in Superior, Nebraska, the largest community in Nuckolls County. As of the 2010 Census, Superior had a population of 1,957, however the town's population peaked in 1950 with 3,227 citizens. The auditorium sits on the southeast corner of East 5th Street and North Commercial Avenue, which is one block east of Central Avenue, or the main commercial street. The building is situated on what has become a municipal block, with the post office to the south and the new library on the east. It is poised near the commercial area as it transitions into a residential neighborhood to the north. The auditorium itself takes up approximately one quarter of the block.

The Auditorium and City Hall is a rectangular shaped building with a steel frame and decorative brick veneer. The brick and limestone details are distinctly Art Deco in style, with applied towers that provide a vertical interest to the building. The building has a recessed central entrance under an arched limestone marquee.

Narrative Description

This Art Deco auditorium is a rectangular-shaped, three-story steel and brick-veneer structure with a barrel vaulted roof. It has a concrete foundation and limestone details interspersed in with the brick. The portion of the building that contains the auditorium is an enormous rectangular block, upon which additional elements have been applied. On the front façade, two entrance towers were applied, which feature vertical limestone elements. It has a central entrance into the auditorium space with four aluminum and glass doors, as well as paired entrances into each tower. The windows are all multi-lite industrial sashes. The north tower contains a stair that goes up to the third floor which is visible through the windows. The stairs provide access to the balcony and the third floor jail cell above. The south tower is slightly wider, with additional limestone fluting details that emphasize verticality. There are sets of three windows on the second and third floors of the south tower. At one time, the entrance of the south tower provided access to the city offices, but the large space in which temporary partitions were added is now empty. The limestone detail at the top of each of the towers provides a stepped and fluted design element.

The space between the towers is spanned by an arched limestone marquee with horizontal fluting. The fluting of the marquee carries through the fluting motif under the windows on the north tower, and the arch mimics the arch over the door into the city offices, tying both towers together aesthetically. Beneath the marquee, four modern doors of glass and aluminum provide access to the lobby. The space above the marquee is also recessed creating a balcony approximately eight feet deep, and features windows at the balcony level, and brick and limestone engaged buttresses to help provide strength and additional vertical design elements. The corners of the front façade have decorative brick and stone work that carries the horizontal fluting design through. The back of the auditorium building has a higher roof line to provide a fly loft, or space above the stage that houses lines, pulleys and counterweights to control curtains and set changes.

The lobby of the auditorium features a terrazzo floor and an enclosed, canted brick and oak ticket booth. Central doors lead into the auditorium proper, which has a maple floor, a steeply sloped balcony above. The balcony contains seven rows of historic wood seats with decorative bronze ends. The brick projection room was added sometime after the initial construction of the auditorium, but appears to be quite old. The auditorium space features eight original light fixtures – large globes that were surrounded by an aluminum decorative band. Walls are largely unfinished brick, topped by plaster walls at the very top of the walls and including the area around the stage. The stage has a recessed proscenium with concentric arches radiating outward in four layers. There are also projecting ribs that provide additional ornamentation to the proscenium. The original velvet valence is present, with a central "S" perched within a laurel wreath. From the stage, a circular stair provides access to a "make up room" above the north corner of the stage. Small changing rooms are located on the south.

The south side of the building contains a series of rooms as deep as the auditorium itself. The first floor space contained the city offices and a kitchen for concessions in the auditorium. The original kitchen retains an oak pass-through door for vending purposes. There are no remaining fixtures or cabinets within the kitchen. On the second floor, the space above the city offices was used for city council meetings. This room was accessed by a set of decorative wrought-iron stairs just inside the lobby. The same stairs could be used to access the balcony. On the third floor, the north stair provided access

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to the jail cell, which contained several cots, hot and cold running water, a toilet, and a wrought iron door. It also featured an amazing view of the residential section of town, perhaps the highest and best view in town.ⁱ

Historic Integrity

The auditorium retains excellent historic integrity. Four of the windows on the north side of the building that provided light into the auditorium space have been bricked in, presumably because of either light infiltration during events or poor condition of the historic windows. From photographs in the Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory, we can tell that this alteration was made after 1987. Otherwise, the building continues to look much as it always has.

ⁱ Superior Journal, 25 March 1937.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1936-1961

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Kenneth Gedney – architect

Green Brothers - builders

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance runs from 1936, the date of the building's completion, to 1961, a date fifty years from the date of this nomination's writing. Since the building was used continually through this period, it is appropriate to extend the end date of the period significance through to the 50 year age requirement.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Superior City Hall and Auditorium is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its association with local government and the federal programs of the New Deal, and under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The Auditorium is an exceedingly significant building worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building is a lovely example of an Art Deco public building, a style that is relatively rare in Nebraska. The auditorium is even more significant for its association with Federal relief programs that sought to alleviate the extreme poverty of the American public during the Great Depression. The citizenry of Superior committed themselves to higher taxes in order to bring this building opportunity to their town. Many jobs were created in a community that sorely needed them, and a lovely facility was constructed that has contributed to the livability of Superior as a charming mid-sized community for the last seventy-five years.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Architecture

The Art Deco style emerged out of the Paris Exposition Internationale Des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in 1925. Having emerged from a bitter, modern war just seven years before, the goal of the Paris Exposition was to announce the coming of a new modern age by determining a new, international modern style of architecture and decorative arts. Much like Art Nouveau almost four decades before, proponents of Art Deco rejected decorative vocabularies of the past and chose new geometric and streamlined motifs rather than the classical columns, architraves and pediments of previous styles.

The Superior Auditorium and City Hall was designed in the Art Deco style. While it is not as exuberantly and excessively decorated as many examples of Art Deco architecture found elsewhere in the country, it is a product of its time and its location. The lean years of the Great Depression would not tolerate such excesses. Still, the building exhibits many features that distinguish it as an example of this style. The emphasis on the buildings verticality with the close spacing of fluting in the limestone details and the almost-crenellated cornices on the towers signify its associations with Art Deco. Inside, various decorative elements, such as the ticket booth, the light fixtures, and the arched proscenium above the stage all contribute to a unified style.

The Auditorium and City Hall were designed by architect Kenneth Hayde Gedney of Hastings, Nebraska. Educated at the University of Kansas, Gedney served as the administrative engineer for Gedney Construction Company of Kansas City, Missouri and Hastings, Nebraska from 1920 to 1921, later becoming the head of this architectural company. While only six of his buildings are identified in Nebraska, the three that are located in Superior, Nebraska are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Superior Commercial Historic District, and the three that are located in Hastings have been determined eligible for listing. The types of buildings that he designed in Nebraska range from public buildings such as the auditorium in Superior and a school in Hastings, to a residential U-shaped apartment complex in Hastings and a fraternal headquarters building for the Elks, also in Hastings.

Politics/Government

The construction of the Superior Auditorium emerged out of a period of economic upheaval in the United States. The Great Depression had been underway for six years when the project was proposed, and a huge percentage of people throughout the nation were either unemployed or underemployed. With families to support and work difficult to find, the voters elected a new president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who promised a "New Deal" for everyone. Since communities and states were straining under the same economic difficulties as their citizens, the federal government was the only entity that had any hope of providing assistance to its citizens. Among many programs that the New Deal instituted to provide opportunities to work, the Public Works Administration provided grants for, among many things, municipal construction projects. The auditorium is one such project.

By providing communities with matching grant opportunities, communities were able to select projects that would enrich the community's infrastructure, serve a greater need that they might not be able to pay for on their own, and provide local workers with an opportunity for income. The PWA provided a grant and a loan to the community that amounted to nearly \$73,000.00, an amount that would provide for the materials and most importantly for local labor.

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Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

While the stock market crash in October of 1929 created a crisis in America's business and industry, agricultural areas throughout the United States had been in a depression for most of the decade of the 1920s. Farm prices that spiked during and after World War I fell as drastically as they had risen. As prices fell in the mid-1920s, farmers were faced with debts they were unable to pay. Farmers' incomes did not keep pace with inflation, and a devaluation in land prices contributed to their financial problems. Suffering in the agricultural economy caused economic problems for the rest of Nebraska at large. Black Tuesday was simply another devastating blow to an already depressed economy. As the authors of *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State* described the Depression,

The condition of the farmers affected Nebraska merchants, lumber dealers, realtors, school teachers, laborers, and artisans. Housewives stocked their pantry shelves with the simplest essentials; construction lagged; school administrators curtailed their programs as tax receipts went down; day laborers, formerly sure of a place on Nebraska farms and in Nebraska industries, began the long trek of the unemployed.ⁱⁱ

By December of 1932, farm prices were the lowest in Nebraska history. In addition, Nebraska, and the rest of the Midwest, was suffering from a severe drought that caused valuable topsoil to erode, damaged crops and reduced agricultural production. Nation-wide, there were more than 12 million people unemployed and in need of assistance. Twenty-five percent of the American labor force was jobless.ⁱⁱⁱ State governments were incapable of supporting the vast numbers of destitute citizens who required help. The Federal government was forced to intercede, and with the inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933, the New Deal was set in motion. In his first Inaugural Address on March 4, 1933, Roosevelt stated,

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources.^{iv}

Roosevelt's New Deal policies came in many manifestations, from the Social Security Act that provided monthly pensions to the elderly to direct relief payments from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and perhaps most importantly public work relief projects that provided jobs to America's able-bodied unemployed. Some of these projects took the form of road construction, sewer repair, ditch digging, reforestation projects, and the construction of public buildings, among many other projects.^v Throughout much of the Roosevelt administration, from 1933 to 1940 when public assistance was most required, billions of dollars were spent on projects intended to provide the worker with an opportunity to work. Under the Public Works Administration, programs administered by various administrations including the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works led to the construction of 11,000 public buildings, including courthouses, firehouses, hospitals, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and schools, as well as over 100 airfields and 800 parks. They made repairs and improvements on more than 30,000 other pre-existing buildings, laid out 40,000 miles of public roads and repaired 150,000 miles of roads. They constructed 1,400 athletic fields and 1,800 swimming pools, and reforested 20,000 acres with trees and bushes.^{vi}

The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 created the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for the purpose of giving employment and enabling local and state governments to undertake public construction works that had been on hold during the early depression years.^{vii} According to a study of work relief projects completed at the close of the Great Depression, public works projects were provided

not primarily as a test of willingness to labor but rather as a means of conserving the skills, work habits, and morale of the able-bodied unemployed. Work-relief projects...are not conceived of merely as a means of frightening off

ⁱⁱ Works Progress Administration, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State* (1939; rpt. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979), 67; quoted in James C. Olson and Ronald C. Naugle, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), 313.

ⁱⁱⁱ Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985), 5.

^{iv} *Inaugural Addresses of the Presidents of the United States*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O.: for sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O., 1989; Bartleby.com, 2001. www.bartleby.com/124/. [January 5, 2009].

^v Page Smith, *Redeeming the Time: A People's History of the 1920s and the New Deal* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1987), 598.

^{vi} Smith, 814.

^{vii} Arthur E. Burns and Edward A. Williams, *Federal Work, Security, and Relief Programs* (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1941), 70.

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applicants for relief. True work-relief undertakings therefore, cannot be selected in a haphazard fashion, emphasis is placed, rather, on securing projects which when completed will be of value to the community.^{viii}

Roosevelt was convinced that public works projects were far better for America's morale than public relief, or "the dole", because such projects were not simply handouts to the needy. They were a means of providing the unemployed with a way to help themselves. The Superior City Hall and Auditorium was one such project.

A city hall and auditorium special election was held on July 30, 1935, and drew a fair number of the electorate to consider the proposition. The bond issue carried by a vote of 393 in favor and 161 against, with a total of 554 votes cast.^{ix} According to the *Superior Weekly Journal*, there was not much active campaigning either for or against the bond issue. Many voters were unsure how they would vote until they actually stepped into the voting booth. The issue that did seem certain was that Superior needed a new city hall and an auditorium. Their current building was inadequate to fill the needs of a city hall, and had no capacity to accommodate the Police Judge or other officers of the city.

In October, the newspaper announced that the PWA had approved the project, the president had signed off on it, and it was then awaiting only final approval of the comptroller, General McCarl in order to proceed. Kenneth Hayde Gedney, Hastings architect, had drawn plans and specifications for a building to cost approximately \$73,000.00. The PWA provided a grant and a loan to Superior that would amount to \$72,727.00 which neatly approached the desired amount.^x

City officials selected a site for the city hall and auditorium in December 1935. After meeting three separate times on the issue, the city council decided on lots 15, 16, 17, and 18, in Block 30, Original Townsite. These lots were located just north and in the same block as the post office building, and were available for purchase for \$3,500.00.^{xi} The contract for excavating the site was let to the C. E. Atwater Company of Grand Island in advance of requesting bids for the construction of the building itself.^{xii}

In the spring, the city council began to question the expense of building a brick building, and asked the architect to draw plans for a "monolithic concrete" building of the same dimensions. Bids were requested on both sets of plans so that the decision could be made with an eye to relative costs. Bids were expected to be opened publicly on April 23rd.^{xiii} Many bids were received, but the general construction contract was granted to Green Brothers of Hastings with a base bid of \$64,900.00.^{xiv} A brick exterior was selected.

Excavation began on June 9th, which proceeded quickly.^{xv} Although the *Superior Weekly Journal* provided a week by week explanation of the progress of the project up until the moment construction began, the newspaper was reticent on the subject until the building was nearing completion. In November, they provided their first update on its progress, which relayed that the stone and brickwork was completed, as well as the roof. With the windows were installed, the building envelope was sealed and interior work could continue throughout the winter.^{xvi} By the end of December, the heating system was nearly completely installed, and waited testing. The asphalt tile floors in several of the rooms could not be laid until the rooms were warm, so this project awaited the boiler's successful tests. Likewise, the maple floor could not be laid and sealed until the auditorium was heated.^{xvii} Nevertheless, the contractor promised to complete the building in time for the President's Ball on January 30th; the dance was planned to be the first event in the new auditorium.

Presidents Balls were held throughout the country to raise money for Roosevelt's favorite charity, the Infantile Paralysis Fund. The building was sufficiently complete to hold the ball, but work continued long after January 30th.^{xviii} The building was formally accepted by the city on February 26, 1937, having been inspected by architect Kenneth H. Gedney. The first

^{viii} Ibid., 27.

^{ix} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 1 August 1935.

^x *Superior Weekly Journal*, 3 October 1935.

^{xi} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 12 December 1935.

^{xii} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 19 December 1935.

^{xiii} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 2 April 1936.

^{xiv} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 28 May 1936.

^{xv} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 11 June 1936.

^{xvi} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 19 November 1936.

^{xvii} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 31 December 1936.

^{xviii} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 21 January 1937.

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city council meeting in the new building was held the next Monday. The official dedication of the building was delayed until the new seats and curtain had been installed.^{xix}

The chair and curtain issue persisted until the end of 1937. The city applied for a grant for the chairs and curtains, having exhausted the original grant. The PWA refused the grant, saying they had no funds available. Desiring accoutrements of fine quality to match the auditorium, the city had trouble finding funding. Revenues of the auditorium were merely paying for janitorial services, and it was difficult to obtain more bookings for the auditorium without chairs and curtains.^{xx} In October, the city council decided to use money from the general fund to pay for the seating, curtains and stage equipment, which would amount to approximately \$3,000.00. The city council requested bids on 500 seats for the auditorium, 250 seats for the balcony, the curtains and cyclorama for the stage.^{xxi} Bids on the stage equipment were received and accepted, but the seat issue became even more complicated. The city was given the opportunity to buy second-hand seats at a much lower cost than new seats, however the seats were made for a sloping floor, not a stepped floor, and would have to be propped up. Additionally, they were scorched in a fire and would have to be sanded and revarnished. The council was largely reluctant to put second-hand seats in a brand new auditorium, but asked the public's opinion on the matter.^{xxii} In the end, the city chose to contract with the American Seating Company of Grand Rapids for the purchase of 576 seats at a cost of \$2,009.60. It was expected that all the seating and equipment would be installed by the end of November 1937.^{xxiii}

With the auditorium finally complete, the building was dedicated on December 28, 1937. The Reverend B. H. Ward of Des Moines, a former Superior minister, delivered the address. In addition to the main address, the municipal band presented a twenty minute concert, Mayor B. C. Robinson and architect H. K. Gedney gave brief talks. The public was also given an opportunity to view the building.^{xxiv} Many years of community activities in the building followed, including boxing matches, school sports, dances with famous traveling bands, such as Lawrence Welk and Harry James.

The Auditorium was at the heart of the community for several generations. When the North Ward School was completed in the mid 1950s, many school functions that were previously held in the city auditorium were moved to the new school's "activity room." In 1964, the Superior School District completed construction of a new high school with a gymnasium and small theater, effectively removing all school activities from the city auditorium. Without much income, the building became difficult and expensive to maintain, and maintenance work was deferred. The city offices moved out to a new location several decades ago and the building was shuttered for a time. When the city sought to reopen the building, the fire marshal informed the city that life safety issues were no longer grandfathered, and the building would need to be brought up to current codes. Consequently, it has been closed since. A committee seeks to raise funds through grants and donations for the rehabilitation of the auditorium in hopes of restoring the building to full usefulness and as a central hub of the community again.

^{xix} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 4 March 1937.

^{xx} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 19 August 1937.

^{xxi} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 7 October 1937.

^{xxii} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 21 October 1937.

^{xxiii} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 4 November 1937.

^{xxiv} *Superior Weekly Journal*, 23 December 1937.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Burns, Arthur E. and Edward A. Williams. *Federal Work, Security, and Relief Programs*. Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1941.

Cutler, Phoebe. *The Public Landscape of the New Deal*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985.

Harris, Cyril M., ed. *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*. New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1977.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Smith, Page. *Redeeming the Time: A People's History of the 1920s and the New Deal*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1987.

Superior Weekly Journal, August 1, 1935 – 23 December 1937.

Works Progress Administration, *Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State*. 1939; rpt. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979; quoted in James C. Olson and Ronald C. Naugle, *History of Nebraska*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NU13-734

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 579393 4430466
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 15, 16, 17, and 18, in Block 30, Original Townsite, Superior, Nuckolls County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the lots historically associated with the Superior City Hall and Auditorium.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill E. Dolberg/Review and Compliance Coordinator

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date November 4, 2011

street & number 1500 R Street, Box 82554

telephone (402) 471-4773

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska zip code 68501-2554

e-mail Jill.Dolberg@nebraska.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Superior
street & number 135 West 4th Street telephone (402) 879-4713
city or town Superior state Nebraska zip code 68978

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Superior City Hall and Auditorium
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Nuckolls

DATE RECEIVED: 1/27/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/23/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/09/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/13/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000107

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/12/2012 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Excellent example of Art Deco, Done using PWA funding
Served as civic center for many years. Reflects importance of
New Deal programs on local infrastructure

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. Graber DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Superior Auditorium & City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Sonia Schmidt

Original image property of Sonia Schmidt

April 20, 2011

View SE

Photo 1 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Soma Schmidt

April 20, 2011

Original image property of Soma Schmidt

View East

Photo 2 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Sonia Schmidt

April 20, 2011

Original image property of Sonia Schmidt

Interior view

Photo 3 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Sonia Schmidt

April 20, 2011

Original image property of Sonia Schmidt

Interior View

Photo 4 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Sonia Schmidt

April 20, 2011

Original image property of Sonia Schmidt

Interior view

Photo 5 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Jessie Nunn

May 28, 2011

Original image property of Jessie Nunn

Interior view

Photo 6 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

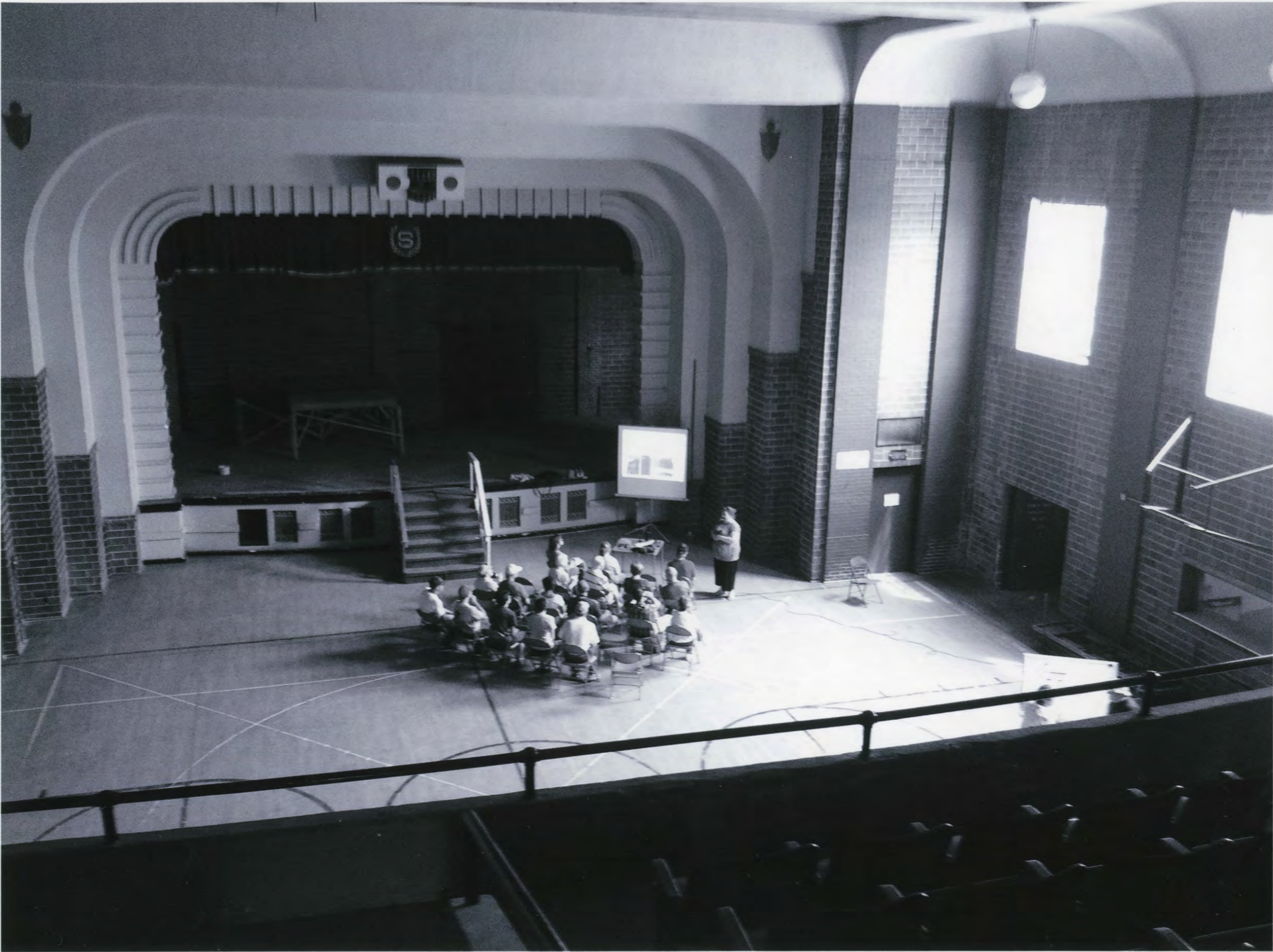
Jessie Nunn

May 28, 2011

Original image property of Jessie Nunn

Interior view

Photo 7 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

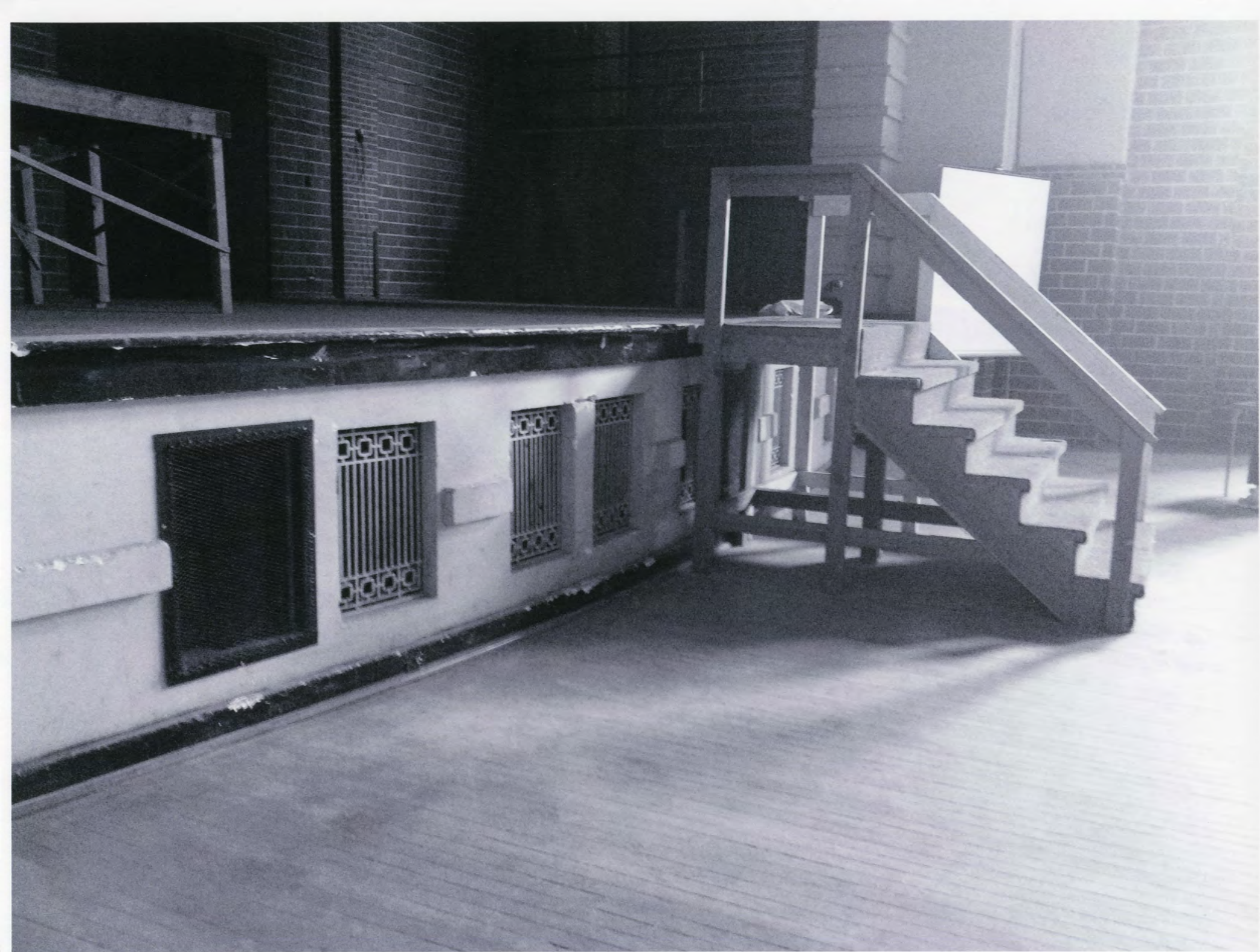
Jessie Nunn

May 28, 2011

Original image property of Jessie Nunn

Interior view

Photo 8 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Jessie Nunn

May 28, 2011

Original image property of Jessie Nunn

Interior view

Photo 9 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

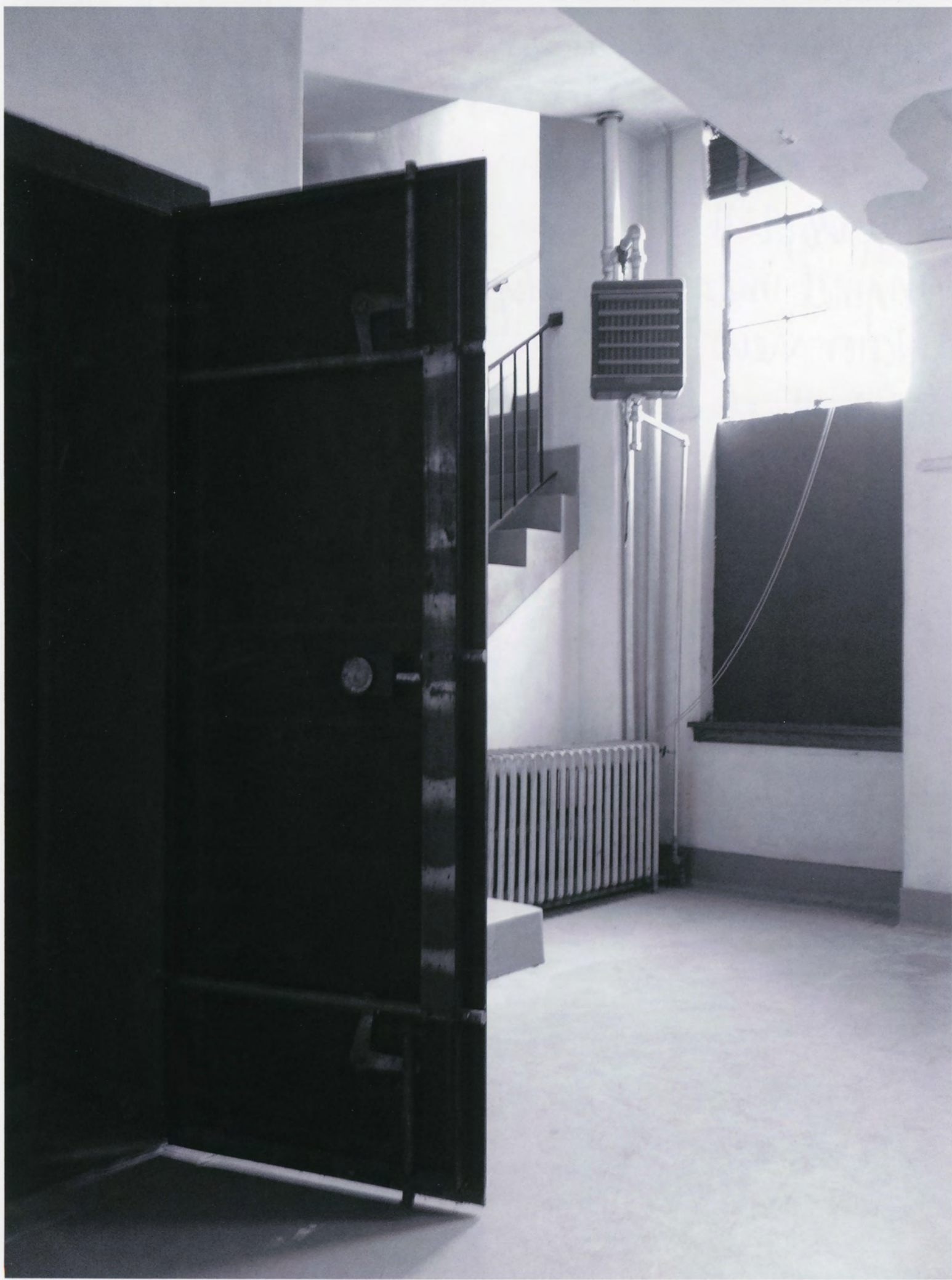
Jessie Nunn

May 28, 2011

Original image property of Jessie Nunn

Interior view

Photo 10 of 11



Superior Auditorium and City Hall
Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Jessie Nunn

May 28, 2011

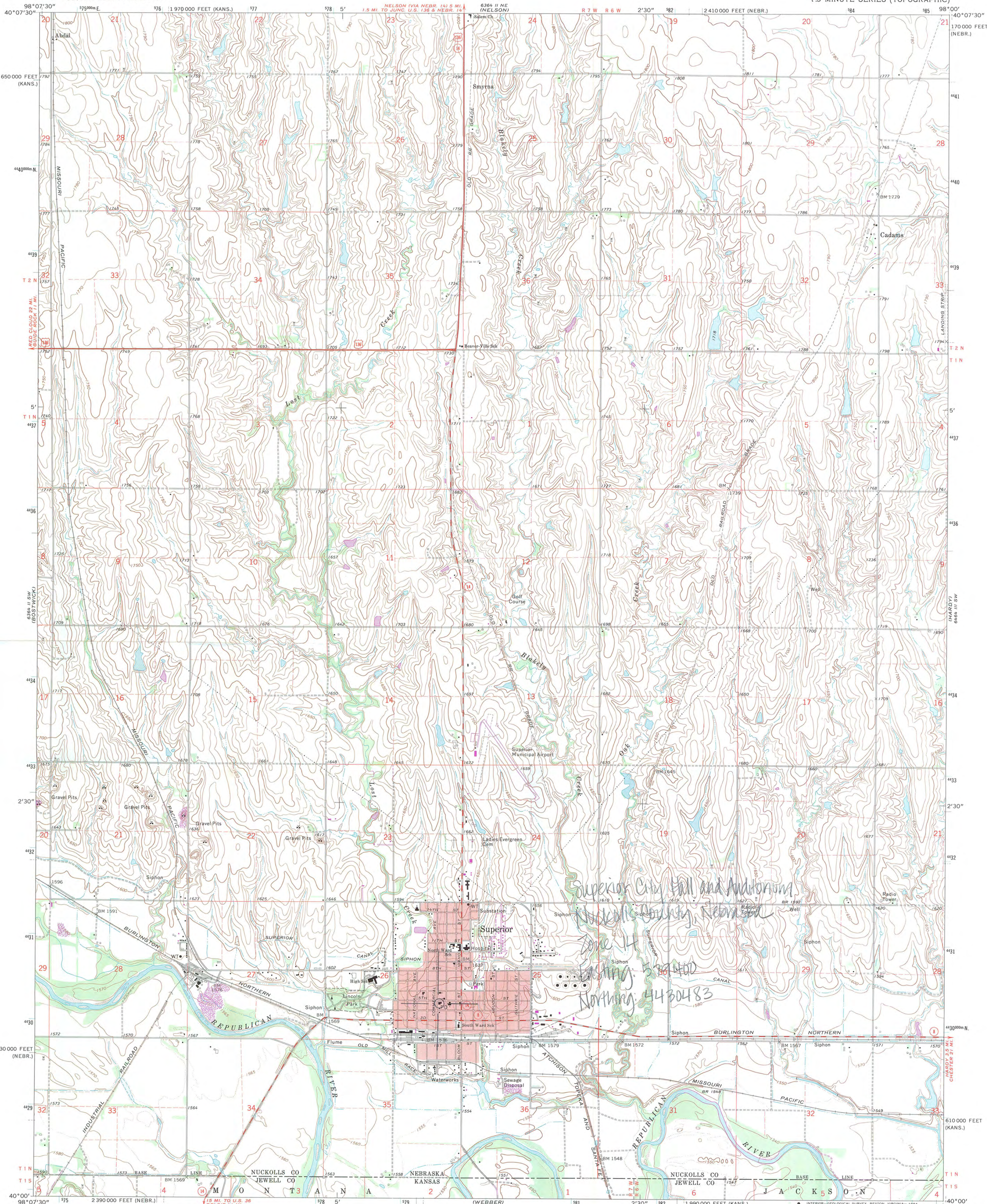
Original image property of Jessie Nunn

Interior view

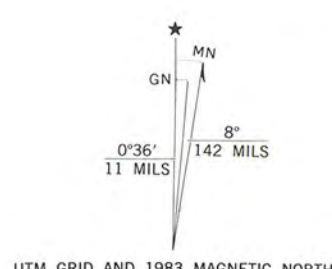
Photo 11 of 11

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SUPERIOR QUADRANGLE
NEBRASKA-KANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography of Nebraska area by photogrammetric methods from
aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974
Topography of Kansas area by photogrammetric methods from
aerial photographs taken 1967. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1973. Field checked 1974
Projection: Nebraska coordinate system, south zone
(Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Nebraska coordinate
system, south zone, and Kansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 4 meters north and
29 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

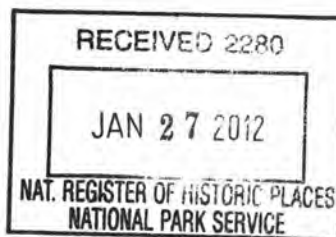


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
U. S. Route
State Route

SUPERIOR, NEBR.-KANS.
N4000-W9800/7.5

1974
PHOTOREVISED 1983
DMA 6364 II SE-SERIES V875

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1981 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1983



January 23, 2012

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Superior City Hall and Auditorium
Superior, Nuckolls County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bob Puschendorf".

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

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