

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY 3 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Bradshaw Town Hall

and/or common na

**2. Location**

street & number na off U.S. 34 na not for publication

city, town Bradshaw na vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county York code 185

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>na</u> 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Community Center</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Village of Bradshaw c/o Mrs. Harold Watt

street & number 276B

city, town Bradshaw na vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, York County Courthouse

street & number Northeast corner of 5th and Lincoln Streets

city, town York state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date on-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>na</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Bradshaw Town Hall is a two-story brick municipal building constructed in 1902-03, located in the village of Bradshaw, a small community in western York County, Nebraska. The building is presently used as a community center. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved, except for minor interior alterations.

The Bradshaw Town Hall is located in Bradshaw (1983 population 373), situated approximately eight miles west of York, the county seat of York County.

The two-story brick, rectangular-shaped building has a flat roof and parapet walls and rests on a concrete slab foundation. The front (west) facade features a pressed metal cornice with dentils, end brackets and corner finials. A central pedimented crown, originally part of the cornice, is no longer extant. The year "1902" appears in the cornice. Access to the building is provided through a segmentally arched door opening in the central bay with a recessed entry showing double wooden doors with sunken panels and a transom above. A rounded arch of brick corbeling crowns the entry opening. A plaque with the words "Town Hall" is located directly over the main entry. On the north and south facades, brick pilasters with stone copings divide the building into four bays. The original cast iron stairway, which leads to the second floor masonic hall, is still intact on the south facade. The hinged outside metal doors on the second story entry are operable. Fenestration in the building consists of segmentally arched window openings with double hung windows of two over two pane arrangement. The window openings are crowned with brick arched window hoods and have concrete lugsills. The rear (east) facade shows simple brick corbeling at the roof line, and an additional entry. Otherwise, the facade is devoid of ornamentation.

The interior floor plan, on the first level, consists of the foyer, the main meeting room and kitchen and bath facilities. Double doors with transoms lead from the foyer into the meeting hall space. The meeting room displays wainscoting and windows with decorative hood moldings. The original pressed tin ceiling is intact on the first level. The second level is similar in floor plan, with a meeting room making up the major space.

The Bradshaw Town Hall was constructed in 1902-03 by the Bradshaw Improvement Company. The building originally provided facilities for two separate organizations. The first level was erected by the village board for use as a town hall with the second level being constructed by the masonic lodge for a new meeting place. The building is presently used as a community center, known as the Bradshaw Civic Center.

## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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 1902-03

Builder/Architect na

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bradshaw Town Hall is architecturally significant to Nebraska as an intact example of the town hall, a building type which became evident in many towns throughout the state in the early 20th century. Significant in the field of politics, the hall served as a public meeting place for the people of Bradshaw in which local civic and governmental activities were attended to.

Architecturally significant, the Bradshaw Town Hall represents an example of the early 20th century Nebraska town hall, standing in near-original condition, both exterior and interior, with few alterations occurring over the years. The building is relatively simple in plan and design as compared to other known examples in the state recorded thus far in the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. Town halls similar in scale and design to Bradshaw are found in Tekamah, Burt County; Boelus, Howard County; Howells, Colfax County; and Newman Grove in Madison County. These buildings are two stories in height, of brick construction with a flat roof, and have limited ornamentation. In Nebraska, there are five city halls and one township hall listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Of these six, three are individually listed and three are included within historic districts.

In a local context, the town hall remains as the only two story building in the two block business district in downtown Bradshaw. The Bradshaw fire department was originally housed in a brick building (no longer extant) located just north of the town hall. A new metal pre-fab building, housing the volunteer fire department, now stands on the site. The remaining downtown properties are one story in height and are constructed, for the most part, of brick and/or frame. Several modern intrusions, consisting of metal pre-fab buildings are also found in the business district. Because of its scale and design, the town hall stands as a substantial structure in the small village, one of the few buildings worthy of architectural note.

In the Historic Architecture Sourcebook, Cyril M. Harris defines town hall as "a public hall/building, belonging to a town where public offices are established, the town council meets, the people assemble in town meetings, etc." In May, 1902, an issue was discussed whether or not the village board should call a special election to vote on the question authorizing the board to make a levy to be used in the construction of the town hall. In that same month, the masonic fraternity was making plans for the erection of a new masonic hall, with a committee being formed and appointed to the duty of the hall's completion. In October of that same year, construction on the new town hall began, being completed approximately one year

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bradshaw, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	6	0	5	5	9	0	4	5	2	6	3	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is located on lots 16, 17, Block 7, original Town of Bradshaw, including all historically related real estate.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state na code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Preservation Associate

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date April, 1984

street & number 1500 "R" St., P.O. Box 82554

telephone (402) 471-4767

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Martin E. Kennell

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 4/23/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. A. Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-31-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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later. In the November 19, 1903 issue of The Bradshaw Republican, it states "the township hall is now completed and Bradshaw has the neatest and best town hall in York County, besides the Masonic hall above, which is also finished, adds greatly to the external appearance of the structure." The new town hall provided the people of Bradshaw with a municipal center in which to hold local civic and governmental activities. With the second level housing the masonic lodge, the two story brick structure became a prominent landmark in the village due to its associations not only with civic affairs but also with fraternal activities.

The building has been in use by the people of Bradshaw since its completion in 1902, except for a short period of time when the building was owned by York County and was used for a voting center. The building is presently known as the Bradshaw Civic Center and is used to house activities for the senior citizens, 4-H club groups and other social organizations.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Bradshaw, Nebraska 1880 to 1980, Centennial Book Committee, Bradshaw, Nebr. 1980.

Harris, Cyril M., Historic Architecture Source Book, McGraw-Hill Book Company,  
U.S.A., 1977.

The Bradshaw Republican, local newspaper, various articles dated May, 1902 to Novem-  
ber, 1903. Bradshaw, Nebraska.