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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A)*. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Petersburg Jail  
Other names/site number NEHBS #BO07-013

2. Location

Street & number Main Street and Second Street Not for publication   
City or town Petersburg Vicinity   
State Nebraska Code NE County Boone Code 011 Zip code 68652

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wendell Sumner 1/26/05  
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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edgar H. Beall 3/15/05  
[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Petersburg Jail

Name of Property

Boone County, Nebraska

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

- Private
Public-local
Public-state
Public-federal

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, Total.

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation BRICK

Walls BRICK

Roof METAL: Tin

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

- X 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 a grave.
D A cemetery.
E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F A commemorative property.
G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1902-1945

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 #

Primary location for additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

Petersburg Jail

Name of Property

Boone County, Nebraska

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property Less than one acre.

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	576415	4633790	3.			
2.				4.			

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Greg Miller, Preservation Historian  
organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date December 2004  
street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone (402) 471-4787  
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68508

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

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

name/title Village of Petersburg  
street & number Main Street telephone (402) 386-5368  
city or town Petersburg state NE zip code 68652

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Petersburg Jail**

Name of Property

**Boone County, Nebraska**

County and State

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Petersburg is a small community (pop. 388, 2000) in Boone County in eastern central Nebraska. The Petersburg Jail is located on a one-half block site immediately behind (north) of the town's commercial district. The east end of the block is partially developed, and vacant on the south and west sides. Across the street from the west end of the block is the raised bed of the abandoned railroad tracks.

Built in 1902, the one-story jail measures approximately 24 by 16 feet, and is constructed of locally manufactured brick. The original wooden shingles covering the gabled-roof have been replaced with tin sheeting. The entrance (with a non-original) is located on the main (east) façade. A window on the south side is boarded over, but the original segmented window frame remains intact. A window opening on the north side has been bricked in. An arched lintel is above the former and current window openings.

The interior is a single room. The floor is dirt and the ceiling is bead-board. Originally, the jail occupied the entire room. In 1926, metal bars were installed dividing the space in half. Behind the bars was a bunk bed while the marshal had his desk on the other (east) half. The bars have since been removed returning the jail to its single room configuration.

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Petersburg Jail

Name of Property

Boone County, Nebraska

County and State

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Established in 1887, Petersburg is located in eastern central Nebraska. Although the community never attained a large population, it had, until recently, maintained a relatively consistent populace. In 1900 Petersburg consisted of 478 residents with this number rising to 533 in 1910. The town reached its peak population of 657 in 1940.

As Petersburg grew from its founding in 1887 to a modest population in 1900, village officials became more concerned with law and order in the community. As a consequence a decision was made to erect a jail. The material needed to build the jail was readily available. The Petersburg Brick Yard, established in 1900 on the northwest side of town, provided the bricks necessary for the jail's construction. Completed in 1902 the jail was situated just behind Main Street and near the railroad tracks and station. This convenient location allowed for the incarceration of troublemakers from town and for those coming by rail. Although not overly utilized, the jail did serve its purpose in the community.

In 1926 metal bars were added to the interior of the jail at a cost of one hundred-fifty dollars. After the bars were installed, one-half of the building was used as a holding cell while the other portion was employed as the marshal's office.

The Petersburg Jail is significant because it represents a period in the community's history when the local officials thought the town required such a facility. Since the village offices were housed in the bank there was no marshal's office or city hall in which the jail could be located. For this reason the Village Board decided to have a free standing structure built. The establishment of the jail as the only municipal building reinforces the Village Board's concern for public safety. According to the Nebraska State Historic Building Survey, the single-room, free standing Petersburg Jail is the only one of its type in Boone County. Only two other jails are documented in the county. They are both located in the multi-use City Hall offices in St. Edward and Cedar Rapids. For these reasons the Petersburg Jail is significant at the local level under Criterion A as an excellent example of a jail designed for a small community. The period of significance is from 1902, when the jail was constructed to 1945 when it was last used.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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**Petersburg Jail**

Name of Property

**Boone County, Nebraska**

County and State

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**Bibliography**

The History of Petersburg, Nebraska, 1887-1987. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987.

Oral interview with Bernadette Cunningham, November 10, 2004.

*Petersburg Index*

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**Petersburg Jail**

Name of Property

**Boone County, Nebraska**

County and State

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Described as lots 3-6, block 4, Original Town of Petersburg, Boone County, Nebraska.

**Boundary Justification**

Boundary includes all historically associated real estate.