

SG-1393



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 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.

#### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Hastings College  
Other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of related multiple property listing N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

#### 2. Location

Street & Number 710 North Turner Avenue  
City or town Hastings State Nebraska County Adams  
Not for publication  Vicinity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  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 at the following level(s) of significance:  national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

[Signature] SHPO/Director 5/31/17  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
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 of 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] 7.31.2017  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action  
Fu

Hastings College Historic District

Adams County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 11           | 4               | Buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | Sites      |
| _____        | _____           | Structures |
| _____        | _____           | Objects    |
| 11           | 4               | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/college  
EDUCATION/education-related (dorms and boarding houses)  
RELIGION/church school  
RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/college  
EDUCATION/education-related (dorms and boarding houses)  
RELIGION/religious facility

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Georgian Revival  
Modern Movement: Mid-Century Modern

**Materials** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, stone, slate roofing

Hastings College Historic District

Adams County, Nebraska

**Name of Property****County and State****Description**

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Hastings College is located east of downtown Hastings in what was originally known as the College Addition. The Hastings College Historic District is generally bounded by Turner Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Ash Avenue, Elm Street, and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Surrounded by residential neighborhoods today, Hastings College was initially rurally located at the time of its occupation in 1884. The area around campus expanded rapidly throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries—especially in the years leading up to and during WWII to accommodate for the immense population boom spurred by the establishment of the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) in 1942. From 1942 to 1943 the population of Hastings exploded by 50 percent, rising from 15,000 to 23,000. As a result of its location between downtown Hastings and the NAD, the college was poised to assist in training civilians and soldiers, and progressed with a building campaign that transformed the college over the course of the twentieth century.

Buildings within the district represent a wide variety of styles from every period of campus development, visually unified by the use of red brick and limestone design elements. There are sixteen buildings located within the campus' historic district boundary; twelve of these are contributing and four are noncontributing. The district retains a high degree of integrity representative of campus growth from the end of WWI to 1969 and overall retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

The Hastings College Historic District is composed of a variety of building styles constructed throughout three distinct periods of building: an early period as a street campus from 1883 to World War One, the completion of the central quadrangle and expansion across 9<sup>th</sup> street from the end of WWI to 1969, and the further expansion of campus north of 9<sup>th</sup> street from 1969 to the present. Contributing buildings reflect the second major period of growth from 1919-1969. Ideas of an institution of higher learning in Hastings began circulating just after the city was founded. By August 19, 1873, A. L. Wigton wrote in the *Hastings Journal* that Hastings was the perfect spot for a college. It did not take long for the community to adopt the suggestion, but not until 1881 would substantial steps be taken to incorporate Wigton's proposal. In total, it took 93 individuals and a contribution of \$11,050 to finally purchase the site for the college and begin construction.

Hastings College formally opened on September 13, 1882 during a chapel service in the First Presbyterian Church. Practically overflowing from those in attendance, the service ended with students and faculty walking three blocks to the Chilcothe building downtown where classes would be held until construction was completed on McCormick Hall. By 1883, with the completion of McCormick Hall, campus began to develop along the east side of Elm Street. The erection of Ringland Hall in 1884 spurred further development along Elm Street and in 1906 a library was built utilizing funds secured through Scottish-born industrialist Andrew Carnegie. The Carnegie Library was followed by the erection of Alexander Hall—a girl's dormitory—on the west side of Elm Street in 1907.

The first cohesive plan for campus appeared in 1916 through the Hastings architectural firm of C.W. Way. This was the first comprehensive plan to conceptualize the main campus as a quadrangle stretching the length of two city blocks from 9<sup>th</sup> street to 7<sup>th</sup> street that would be bisected by a circle drive. By the end of WWI, this plan had been scrapped and replaced with a grand Collegiate Gothic quadrangle designed by the Illinois firm of Miller, Fullenweider, and Dowling. Despite such grand ambitions, this plan was never realized, and instead temporary buildings were constructed to assuage the burgeoning student population following the end of WWI.

From the end of WWI to 1969, concerted efforts were made to complete the quadrangle envisioned in 1916. In 1935 Elm Street from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Streets was closed and replaced with a circle drive. Following the end of WWII, Davis and Wilson, a Lincoln, Nebraska-based firm, completed plans to further develop the campus quadrangle and expand north across 9<sup>th</sup> Street. As college administration raised funds to complete Davis and Wilson's vision, another wave of temporary buildings were constructed to accommodate students returning to school on the G.I. and Korean War bills—many moved from the NAD. By the mid-1950s, Davis and Wilson's plans were largely completed, unifying the campus under the Georgian

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Revival and Contemporary mid-century modern styles and continuing the brick and cream limestone design precedents established by McCormick and Ringland Halls.

Beginning in the 1960s, another Lincoln, Nebraska firm—Hemphill and Vierk—continued the push to complete the campus quadrangle and expand further north of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, utilizing the modified Georgian Revival style reinterpreted by Davis and Wilson. By 1969, large-scale efforts to plan campus on the part of a single architectural firm became largely obsolete as student enrollment declined from its post-WWII rapidity. Since then, the college's third, and present, period of growth has largely been informal and organic. New construction has focused on the area stretching north of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and east along 12<sup>th</sup> Street. More recently, in the fall of 2016, the area of 9<sup>th</sup> street between Elm Street and Ash Street was closed and subsequently reconstructed as Steinhart Plaza, effectively stitching together the north and south sides of campus. Despite such informal planning, newer construction still makes use of the red brick and cream limestone building vocabulary, albeit on a much wider variety of architectural styles.

**McCormick Hall, currently listed in the NRHP, completed 1884**

McCormick Hall was the first building constructed on campus from 1883-1884. Named for primary donor, Cyrus McCormick, McCormick Hall is a two-story Italianate brick structure with a three-story entrance tower. In the early years of the college, McCormick Hall served as the primary classroom building and housed the departments of English, math, speech, drama, and chemistry. The college chapel was located in a room on the second floor and was later turned in to the little theatre. Because of its association and importance to early college activity, McCormick Hall was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

**Taylor Hall first phase of construction 1921, completed in 1938, modified 1949, Contributing.**

This three-story plus basement building is situated in the northwest section of the historic district. Taylor's west façade faces Turner Avenue, the south façade faces the college's circle drive, the entrance faces campus on the east façade, and the north façade faces 9<sup>th</sup> street. Taylor Hall was initially conceived by the architectural firm of Miller, Fullenweider, and Dowling as part of the larger Collegiate Gothic quadrangle envisioned for Hastings College in the 1920s. With an initial donation of \$50,000 secured, work on the foundation and raised basement level of Taylor Hall was completed by 1921 and was utilized as a dining hall. After abandoning Miller, Fullenweider, and Dowling's Gothic campaign in the late 1920s, HC administration selected Jenn Frederick Larson to complete Taylor Hall in 1938. The remaining three floors of the structure were finished in the Georgian Revival style, and Glen W. Bouton—a Hastings architect—added dormer windows to the third floor in 1949.

As completed, Taylor Hall is a cross-gabled structure with a brick and steel framing system. The basement level of Taylor features rough, dark red brick laid in common running bond with heavy stone tracery around the windows and in a banded rustication around the entire basement level. A stone stringcourse caps the basement at the base of the main floor. Two bay windows, framed in stone, are spaced symmetrically on the east and west facades of the basement. Included in the basement's south façade is a one-story flat-roofed small projecting wing, initially intended to provide the base of a grand entrance and balcony to the dormitory. Today this flat-roofed section of Taylor is a patio accessed from a lounge inside. The brick of the remaining two floors and gables is a smooth pressed brick laid in a common bond. The roof is sheathed in metal and a simple wooden eave cornice returns at each gable end. The parapet gables of the east and west facades are dominated by double nonfunctional chimneys. A smaller gable on the east façade is framed by two decorative pillars and is situated symmetrically above the entrance to the dormitory. Two half-spiral staircases with an iron railing meet at a landing and from this landing a smaller set of steps leads to the front entrance. Framing the front entrance are two engaged Tuscan pilasters supporting an unadorned frieze and curved, unbroken segmental pediment. Fenestration consists of symmetrically placed seven-over-seven double hung sash windows with decorative, stylized quoins created by the surrounding brick. After completion in 1938 the entire building—excluding the stone tracery and lintels—was painted white. This paint was removed when the building was rehabilitated in the 1990s.

**Calvin H. French Memorial Chapel, Completed 1950, Contributing**

The Calvin H. French Memorial Chapel—named after former HC president Calvin French—was designed by the Lincoln-based architecture firm of Davis and Wilson. Located between McCormick Hall and the Daughterty Center, The French Chapel dominates the center of campus at the head of the circle drive. Since 1921 construction of a new chapel had been a central issue in the development of campus. Unable to raise sufficient funds in the 1920s, campus administration instead chose to erect a veritable wooden shack just north of Ringland Hall that would temporarily serve the campus until the construction of a new chapel. This shack was expanded throughout the intervening years between 1921 and 1950, and

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was incredibly insufficient to provide enough space for the burgeoning student population of the college following WWII. Construction on the French Memorial Chapel began in 1948 and was completed in 1950.

The French Memorial Chapel is a Georgian Revival T-plan front-gabled two-story plus partial basement structure with a steel and brick framing system and a brick and stone exterior. The central, front-gabled block of the chapel has two smaller one-story gabled wings attached perpendicularly to the north and south facades near the east façade. The north, one-story wing was initially used as a music library and the south wing was a separate, smaller memorial chapel. Constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, the brickwork projects at the corners in order to create stylized decorative quoins.

Fenestration of the wings is composed of symmetrically placed doors and windows on the west facades. The west facades of the wings each have a recessed aluminum plate glass door and leaded glass transom with stone architrave near the central block of the chapel. To either side of these doors are two eight-over-twelve wooden double hung sash windows with stone sills and lintels. The south facade of the south wing has no windows or doors, but the east façade has three symmetrically placed windows of the same design as the west façade. The north façade of the north wing features three symmetrically placed windows of the same design as the west façade. Roofed with slate, the gables of each wing feature a plain stone architrave and simple boxed eaves. Placed in the gable of each wing is a small, paned circular window.

The central front-gabled block of the chapel has brickwork laid in Flemish bond and a stone watertable. The west façade features a centered pediment entry pitched at the same angle as the roof and a central projection. Also roofed with slate, the roofline of the chapel is broken sharply by a wooden bell tower rising from the west gable. The base of the tower is square with beveled edges, the wood lain in horizontal bands in order to imitate stone. A wooden denticulated stringcourse caps the base and a faux railing surrounds the windows and shaft of the bell tower. Each window is a wooden paned arched window with wooden architrave and carved keystone. A simple wooden cornice runs around the top of the tower and the metal roof flares up from the edges, coming to a dramatic point capped with a small lightning rod.

A denticulated cornice and plain entablature runs along the eaves and on the face of the gables and west pediment. Symmetrically placed within the pediment is a stone crest with two swags attached to either side. The stone crest reads "Pro Rege," a Latin phrase meaning "For the King." A plain frieze and denticulated cornice run along the bottom of the pediment and is supported by four engaged stone pilasters with carved capitals. Fenestration of the west pediment features three eight-over-twelve symmetrically placed entrances on the ground floor and three windows spaced above these entrances. Resting on stone sills and surrounded by stone architraves, each window has a carved stone bracket. The central doorway is composed of a heavy stone architrave made up of two engaged fluted pilasters supporting two rosettes and a plain entablature upon which is carved "Calvin H. French Memorial Chapel." Resting atop this entablature is a broken ogee pediment. The doorways that flank this central entrance are composed of heavy stone architraves supporting a plain entablature. Each doorway is recessed into the wall and the inset walls are stone with three panels. Each doorway has two six-panel wooden doors and a leaded glass transom.

Four large arched paned windows, recalling the design of the arched windows of the bell tower, dominate the north and south facades of the central block. Each window rests on a stone sill and has a stone architrave with keystone. Situated near the west façade on both the north and south facades is a simple eight-over-twelve double hung wooden sash window of the same design as the west pediment windows. Separating these windows from the arched windows is a decorative, stylized stone quoin. These quoins also run vertically from the apex of the gables of the one-story wings to the denticulated entablature and at each corner of the central block.

The east façade of the central block is largely blank, with only a centered pair of service doors located off the ground to provide an entrance for the backstage area of the chapel. These doors have a stone architrave with keystone.

**Weyer Hall, Completed 1950, Contributing**

Weyer Hall, named after long-time Hastings College Dean Frank E. Weyer, is located in the northeast section of the historic district near the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Ash streets. Designed by the Lincoln-based architecture firm of Davis and Wilson, Weyer Hall was completed in 1950.

Weyer Hall is a rectangular plan three-story plus basement structure with a steel and concrete framing system faced with brick. The brick is laid in a one in seven bond and raised at the corners of the building to create decorative quoins. A low-pitched hipped roof tops the building and smaller, cascading hipped wings that contain the central staircases protrude from the north and south facades. Roofed with slate, a plain, unadorned frieze and simple cornice run beneath the boxed eaves.

The west façade serves as the primary entrance to Weyer and a set of curved stone steps with a wrought iron balustrade and railing lead to the front door symmetrically placed in the center of the west façade. The door is a modern steel and plate glass door with sidelights and transom and is surrounded by a heavy stone architrave that supports a

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denticulated broken pediment. Two lanterns with orange glass are attached to the wall flanking the doorway. Fenestration consists of symmetrically placed eight-over-eight double hung wooden sash windows with modern aluminum storm windows. Each window rests on a stone sill and has brick flat jack arches. Windows located on the main level have a stone key centered in the jack arch, while the remaining two stories simply have brick. The second-story window placed above the central entranceway and pediment recalls the design of the windows of the French Memorial Chapel and features a heavy stone architrave and scrolled bracket keystone.

The north and south facades—made up of the cascading hipped roof wings—are identical in design. A doorway, flush with the ground, is centered on each façade and is surrounded by heavy stone architraves supporting a plain entablature. Above this entablature, running to the frieze and cornice beneath the eaves, are three windows—one nine light window, one nine-over-nine window, and one eight-over-eight window—stacked atop one another encompassed by a single stone architrave. These windows primarily provide light for the stairwell on each side of the building. Flanking this centered composition are windows of the same design as the west façade. A small shed dormer window with wood louvres is located on the roof of each cascading hipped roof wing.

The east façade looks nearly identical to the west façade, although it does not have a centrally located doorway and is only composed of a symmetrical arrangement of windows of the same design as the north, south, and west façade. The two vertical rows of windows located closest to the south façade are made of a block glass in order to provide privacy for the restroom and shower facilities located on each floor. A small shed dormer window with louvres is centered on the roof.

**Fuhr Hall, Completed 1956, Contributing**

Named after former music conservatory director Hayes Fuhr, Fuhr Hall of Music was completed in 1956 and initially housed both the music and art departments. Designed by Davis and Wilson, Fuhr Hall alleviated space from the aging Alexander Hall and Navy Hall that had been split up into practice rooms for the music department. Located immediately north of Weyer Hall, Fuhr Hall is a one-story plus partial basement structure of steel and reinforced concrete framing with brick and limestone facing.

Constructed in an irregular T-plan, Fuhr Hall is a mid-century modern structure with a flat gravel roof. An auditorium dominates the central mass of the structure with two radiating double-loaded corridors stretching north and south of the auditorium to connect two larger wings to the auditorium—one wing initially a band room and the other a large art studio. Single-loaded corridors flank either side of the auditorium with a lower roofline than that of the auditorium. The brickwork of the building is laid in a common bond and much of the roof is flat with a simple stone stringcourse and aluminum gravel stop. Parts of the east and west façade, however, feature a projecting concrete fascia and soffit.

The west façade is anchored by a curved wing projecting from the central auditorium faced with grey limestone that has a bay of eight aluminum windows with transoms. From the lounge of Fuhr Hall this bay of windows provided a sweeping view of the Hastings Country Club, originally located in this area before extensive development in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The fenestration of the connecting wings consists of symmetrically placed aluminum picture windows with double hung flankers with a simple stone sill, architrave, and lintel. The north and south facades have recessed doorways made of aluminum framing and plate glass that lead into the double-loaded corridors. The east side of Fuhr Hall, composed of the projecting rear side of the auditorium and the larger wings connected by the double-loaded corridors, have short aluminum frame and plate glass windows placed in the upper part of the wall. The corridors immediately flanking the auditorium have ten symmetrically placed double hung windows with limestone sills. Recessed wood and plate glass doorways are located on either side of the auditorium wing.

**Bronc Hall, Completed 1960, Contributing**

Located at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Ash streets, Bronc Hall is the second incarnation of a men's dormitory in this location. The original Bronc Hall was a former barracks located at the Hastings NAD that was relocated in 1946 to HC's campus to alleviate dorm overcrowding as a result of increased enrollment. By 1959, Davis and Wilson conceived a new Bronc Hall, completed in 1960 on the site of the former barracks building.

Framed with reinforced concrete and steel and faced with brick, Bronc Hall is a three story plus basement structure with a flat roof capped by an aluminum gravel stop. A contemporary, mid-century modern structure in design, the rectangular plan of Bronc Hall is formed around a single double-loaded corridor. A one-story wing projects from the south façade, disrupting the otherwise symmetrically rectangular plan of the building. The central bay and primary entrance of the north façade is recessed and a cantilevered concrete awning, supported by metal posts with aluminum plate glass windows, hangs over this entrance. This entrance was remodeled in 2014. The second and third floors of this recessed bay

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feature aluminum plate glass windows with transoms that span the length of the bay. Decorative grey 1x1 mosaic ceramic tile panels connected with aluminum bands are located above and below these sets of windows.

The brickwork of Bronc Hall is a common bond laid in vertical panels along each façade between the windows. Fenestration consists of symmetrically placed aluminum frame and plate glass windows with transoms. Below and above each window is decorative grey 1x1 mosaic ceramic tile, creating vertical bands of windows and tile that alternate with the panels of brickwork. These bands of brick and window and tile extend from the base of the building to roof. The east and west facades of Bronc have three-story projecting wings which each contain a stairwell for the building. The east and west facades of these wings have a single continuous band of five stacked aluminum frosted plate glass windows that extend from the base of the building to the roof. The remaining space on the east and west facades are solid brick walls. The one-story projecting wing on the south façade features the same design elements as the rest of the building and is nearly square in its footprint.

**Former Maintenance Building, Completed Circa 1961, Contributing**

Located immediately north of the Former Art Center and Kiewit Physical Education Complex, available records reveal that this building was constructed circa 1961 by an unknown architectural firm. The earliest available evidence to pinpoint its construction is a 1961 landscaping plan that shows the building as an auxiliary structure to the heating plant originally located behind Ringland Hall that was first used as a maintenance building and later as a storage facility for sculptures produced by art students.

One story with no basement, this structure is a simple gabled rectangular plan building made of reinforced concrete and brick laid in a common bond. The low-pitched roof is covered with modern asphalt shingles. The east façade is the primary entrance to the structure, consisting of two large metal sliding garage doors and three wooden doors with simple wooden architraves—two of these doors are spaced to the left of the garage doors and the other is to the right. The door to the right of the garage doors has a transom window. Fenestration of the south façade is composed of three symmetrically spaced four-over-one metal and plate glass windows with concrete sills and no architraves. The windows on the west façade are of this same design, but the single window on the north façade is a set of modern aluminum frame paired six light windows with a concrete sill.

**Hazelrigg Student Union, Completed 1962, Contributing**

Located north of Steinhart Plaza, Hazelrigg Student Union was built to replace Bellevue House, the student union since 1937. Built as a clubhouse for the Hastings Country Club in 1917, the college acquired Bellevue House in 1937 after the golf course was forced to foreclose to provide space for a student union. A municipal golf course had existed in Hastings since the 1890s, but the course relocated in 1917 to a 50-acre tract just north of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Both the new student union and the former clubhouse were named in honor of Bellevue College, a small Presbyterian liberal arts college located near Omaha, Nebraska. Opened in 1880, the college ceased to function in 1919, and was officially disbanded in 1934. At that time, the historical and academic records were transferred to Hastings College, then considered its sister school, and all graduates and former students were officially recorded as alumni of Hastings College. Utilizing the assets acquired from the school's closure, HC administration purchased a section of the golf course and acquired the old Bellevue House that was then demolished in 1960. The new Bellevue Center was designed by Davis and Wilson and was completed in 1962. In 1995, after architect Leo A. Daly completed extensive remodeling and additions to the east and north facades, Bellevue Center reopened as the Hazelrigg Student Union.

Rectangular in plan, Hazelrigg is a flat-roofed mid-century modern structure framed with reinforced concrete and steel and faced with brick and concrete panels. This one-story plus half basement structure can be divided roughly in half. The primary mass of the structure, made up of the western half, is constructed of large concrete panels with a pressed diamond design. The north façade of this western mass features large aluminum plate glass windows. The western façade has an independent brick wall with geometric brick design that provides privacy to the kitchen entrance from Elm Street.

The eastern half of the structure is faced with stone and brick laid in a common bond. A simple stone and aluminum gravel stop caps the flat roof. A large clock tower on the south façade, added during the 1995 renovations and independent of the building, is made of brick and stone with the main clock face framed in metal painted white. This clock tower sits just in front of the central entrance to the student union—a pair of aluminum plate glass doors separated by a window. The remainder of the south façade is composed of a series of recessed brick walls broken by supporting brick barriers. Within these recessed areas are two floor-to-ceiling windows separated by a short horizontal window situated high in the wall. This pattern is replicated across the remainder of the south façade.

The east side of the building is U-plan in shape. This footprint was created by the extension of the east façade in 1995 past a bank of curved aluminum frame plate glass windows recalling the curve of Fuhr Hall's bank of windows on the west

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façade. A garden was implemented in this newly created courtyard space. Dedicated to Hastings, Nebraska's sister city, Ozu, Japan, the garden was created by master gardeners from Ozu. The north façade consists of a series of cascading wings created by the 1995 additions with a central entrance identical to the entrance on south façade. Fenestration consists of paired aluminum plate glass windows. A wooden patio is nestled into the corner created by the projecting north addition from the original western concrete mass.

**Hurley-McDonald Hall, Completed 1962, Contributing**

Located near the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Turner Avenue, Hurley-McDonald Hall was named after Henry A. Hurley and J.M. McDonald, father and son respectively. The J.M. McDonald foundation was the primary donor towards the building, giving a grant of \$150,000 to Hastings College. Completed in 1962, Hurley-McDonald Hall was constructed by the architecture firm of Hemphill and Vierk. Like Davis and Wilson, Hemphill and Vierk was also based out of Lincoln, Nebraska, and followed many of the same Georgian Revival precedents set by Davis and Wilson throughout the 1950s.

Hurley-McDonald Hall is a rectangular plan Georgian Revival structure built of reinforced concrete and steel and faced with brick laid in Flemish bond. A stone watertable is at the base of the building and stylized nonstructural brick quoins are at the corners of the structure. A hipped roof made of slate caps the entire building and a simple stone cornice and stone frieze run beneath the eaves. Parts of this cornice are denticulated on the west façade. A domed wooden cupola with beveled corners rises from the center of the roof. Like the French Memorial Chapel, this cupola has arched windows with wooden architraves on all four sides, although today modern vinyl shutters cover these windows. The base of the cupola also is clad in modern vinyl siding. A modern vinyl and plastic picket fence provides a balustrade around the cupola. A simple cornice runs along the eaves of the cupola and the metal-sheathed dome is capped by a lightning rod.

The west façade's central bay is slightly recessed. An accentuated portico entry dominates this recession. A curved stone staircase leads to the entrance landing and paired stone Tuscan columns support a denticulated entablature. Carved into the entablature is "Hurley-McDonald Hall-1961." Supported by this entablature is a balcony with a stone balustrade composed of stone turned balusters and alternating carved stone panels. The front doors are simple aluminum frame and plate glass paired doors surrounded by two leaded glass sidelights and a leaded glass transom window.

Fenestration of the west façade consists of symmetrically arranged nine-over-nine double hung windows in aluminum frames. Each window rests on a stone sill and has a flat jack arch. The windows of the main floor have a stone key placed in the arch, while the remaining windows on the second floor have simple brick flat jack arches. The window located immediately over the portico has a heavy stone architrave and stone sill. Three arched dormer windows are spaced symmetrically above the portico. The north and south facades feature this same composition of windows with stone sills and flat jack arches. The south façade, however, has a centrally located doorway sheltered by a brick breezeway connecting Hurley-McDonald Hall to Perkins Library. This breezeway matches the design of both structures with five arches on either side complete with keystones.

The east façade of Hurley-McDonald Hall features two accentuated entrances—each with a set of double doors made of aluminum and plate glass with sidelights and transom windows. A cantilevered concrete awning supported by paired square metal poles with decorative steel railings shelters these doorways. The windows above these entrances are six-over-six double hung aluminum windows with four-paned sidelights. Between these two accentuated entrances are paired windows of the same design as the west, south, and north facades. These windows all have brick flat jack arches. The windows to either side of the entrances follow the same design as the other facades as single, symmetrically arranged six-over-six double hung aluminum windows with stone sills and flat jack arches. Like the remaining facades, the flat jack arches of the main floor windows have stone key.

**Perkins Library, Completed 1963, Contributing**

Located immediately south of Hurley-McDonald Hall, Perkins Library is situated at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Turner Avenue. Designed by Hemphill and Vierk, Perkins Library was made possible through the generosity of Edwin and Kitty Perkins, the family responsible for the invention of Kool-Aid in Hastings in 1927. Constructed in 1963, Perkins Library is a two-story plus partial basement structure constructed of reinforced concrete and steel and faced with brick and stone.

Rectangular in plan, Perkins Library is a Georgian Revival structure with brick laid in Flemish bond and a hipped mansard slate roof. A stone watertable runs along the base of the structure and decorative stone quoining is applied at the corners of the building and in vertical bands along each façade. The south façade has a projecting central bay with three sections divided by a decorative stone quoin. Fenestration of this bay consists of symmetrically arranged twelve-over-twelve double hung aluminum windows with stone sills and brick flat jack arches. The windows on the main floor of this bay are surrounded by decorative brickwork created by repetitive rows of brick headers forming an arch above each window. Inset in the top of each arch is a stone rosette. Below these windows, extending to the watertable, is white vinyl siding. The



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windows on the second floor are twelve-over-twelve windows with a stone sill and brick flat jack arch. The cornice of this bay is a simple denticulated stone cornice with frieze. Six hipped-roof dormer windows are arranged symmetrically above this projection with six-over-six double hung aluminum windows. The remainder of the south facade—the area flanking either side of the central bay—has symmetrically arranged six-over-six double hung aluminum windows with stone sills and brick flat jack arches. The windows on the main floor have a stone key. A simple stone frieze and cornice run beneath the eaves.

The west façade has a similar arrangement of windows as the central bay of the south façade. Four windows with brick arches and rosettes are situated on the main floor and four windows with stone sills and brick flat jack arches are spaced above those. This composition is flanked on either side by a decorative stone quoin and a single window on either floor. The windows on the main floor differ from those on the second with a stone key placed in the flat jack arch. The same simple stone entablature and cornice run beneath the eaves.

The east façade is nearly identical to the west façade, although instead of six windows, seven windows are symmetrically arranged on each floor. A centrally located aluminum and plate glass door is situated on the main floor and is surrounded by the same decorative arched brick design with a stone rosette on the south and north facades. This door is accessed by a stone and brick set of curved stairs with a steel railing and balustrade. The remaining windows are twelve-over-twelve double hung aluminum windows with stone sills and brick flat jack arches. The windows on the main floor each have a stone key.

The central bay of the north façade recesses slightly in from the rest of the façade and is divided into three sections by decorative stone quoins. On either side of this bay are four windows: the windows of the main floor have stone sills and flat jack arches with stone keys and the windows of the second floor do not have a stone key. A cantilevered concrete awning runs along the north façade above a pair of aluminum and plate glass doors with sidelights and transoms that serves as the main entrance. Two large picture windows with flankers and transoms are located to the right of this central entrance. A single wooden door with a six-over-six window is located on the north façade beneath the breezeway connecting Perkins Library to Hurley-McDonald Hall. A simple stone frieze and cornice is beneath the eaves of this façade. Located in the middle of this façade along the roofline is a backlit clock face framed with stone trim and scrolled brackets. Below this clock face, carved into the stone frieze, is “Perkins Library.” Six dormer windows, of the same design as the south façade, are spaced symmetrically above the central bay. The windows along the second floor are three-over-four double hung aluminum windows with stone sills and brick flat jack arches.

**Altman Hall, Completed 1963, Contributing**

Located immediately south of Bronc Hall along Ash Street, Altman Hall is named after former professor of English and Dean of Women Clara Altman. Constructed in 1963, Altman Hall is a three-story plus basement structure made of reinforced concrete and steel and faced with brick.

Rectangular in plan, Altman Hall is a contemporary flat-roofed mid-century modern building. In designing Altman, Hemphill and Vierk closely followed the design of Bronc Hall—the two buildings look remarkably similar to one another. Like Bronc, Altman’s plan is formed around a single double-loaded corridor running from one end of the building to the other. Three-story projecting wings, containing the stairwells for the building, cascade from the north and south façades of Altman. These wings have five stacked aluminum and plate glass frosted windows extending in a single band on the east and west façade from the base of the building to the roof. Solid brick panels cover the remainder of the space on these façades and form decorative vertical bands.

The central bay of the west façade projects past the surrounding façade and has a cantilevered concrete awning over the main entrance. A set of aluminum and plate glass doors and windows are located at the ground level and bands of aluminum and plate glass windows with transoms extend from one side of the projecting bay to the other on the second and third floors. Immediately above and below these rows of windows the brickwork is laid in a stack bond. The remaining brickwork of Altman Hall is laid in a common bond and in vertical bands alternating between the windows—similar in composition to Bronc Hall. Made of aluminum and plate glass with transoms, the windows are paired and have black sheet metal attached below and above each window. This alternating vertical composition of windows and sheet metal stretches from the ground to the aluminum gravel stop at roof level.

The east façade features two accentuated secondary entrances each with a cantilevered concrete awning and entrance at ground level with a single transom window at the second and third floors. A larger cantilevered concrete awning is above the primary entrance and is supported by a composition of aluminum and plate glass doors and windows. Fenestration and brickwork of this façade is similar to that of the west façade.

**Former Art Center/Kiewit Physical Education Building, Completed 1969, Contributing.**

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The last major structure completed by Hemphill and Vierk, the former Art Center and Kiewit Physical Education Building is a major remodeling and addition to two campus structures: the original Carnegie Library building constructed in 1906 and the P. L. Johnson gymnasium completed in 1925. The structure is located in the southeast section of the historic district and is bounded by 7<sup>th</sup> street on the south. With enrollment steadily increasing, the addition of an art facility separate from Fuhr Hall of Fine Arts and expanded gymnasium space became a blatant necessity on campus. Hemphill and Vierk's work on these two structures entailed encasing the original P. L. Johnson gymnasium with new outer walls, replacing the brick façade of the Carnegie library, and connecting the two structures with an L-shaped wing.

Because it is made up of three separate, but interconnected, structures, the Art Center and Kiewit building are built with a much wider variety of materials and the structure overall remains visually separated between the former Carnegie Library, P. L. Johnson gymnasium, and Hemphill and Vierk's new addition. An L-plan structure, the Carnegie Library portion is constructed of reinforced brick and concrete and is one story with a half basement. The connecting addition and former P. L. Johnson gymnasium are two stories with a half basement and are made of reinforced concrete, steel, and faced with brick.

The Carnegie Library portion of the facility, located on the west façade, is of a Neoclassical design with brick laid in a common running bond. Decorative stylized brick quoins run at each corner of the structure and on the north and south facades, separating these facades into three panels. Fenestration consists of six-over-six double hung aluminum windows with a transom on the main floor. The windows of the half basement, located at ground level, are six-over-six double hung aluminum windows. There are no windows on the west façade. The west façade is dominated by an accentuated entryway with five Ionic columns supporting a denticulated entablature and cornice. This same cornice runs around the rest of the building. The doorway is composed of two wood doors with plate glass windows and a transom with a decorative metal grille. The doorway is surrounded by a heavy stone architrave capped with an entablature supported by two stone brackets.

The connecting wing between the Carnegie Library and P. L. Johnson gymnasium is faced with brick laid in a common bond. The roof is flat and is capped with an aluminum gravel stop. The primary entrance to the Kiewit Physical Education Building is located on the south façade and is composed of an accentuated arched portico entry. The entrance consists of three arches with keystones and decorative stone quoins supporting a stone balustrade. Three sets of wood and plate glass double doors are spaced symmetrically beneath this portico and a plain stone rosette is centered above each doorway. There are no windows on the main floor of the south façade. Fenestration of the second floor is made up of nine twelve-over-twelve double hung aluminum frame windows with stone sills and brick flat jack arches. The three windows above the portico each have a stone key. Metal letters spell out "Kiewit Physical Education Building" above this portico and a stone stringcourse runs just below the aluminum gravel stop. The north façade of this wing has no windows, but decorative stylized brick quoins separate the façade into several panels.

The P. L. Johnson section of the facility, made up of the southeast portion of the building, is faced with brick laid in a common bond. Stylized brick quoins run at the corners and separate the west, south, and east facades into solid brick panels. A denticulated cornice created by the brick runs at the top of the building. The flat roof is capped with an aluminum gravel stop. There are no windows on this portion of the building or along the south and north facades except for a single aluminum and plate glass bay window on the east facade. The east façade of the entire Kiewit Physical Education Building is irregular, a result of the former P. L. Johnson gymnasium meeting with the newer construction of Hemphill and Vierk roughly midway along the east façade.

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

**Period of Significance**

1944-1969

**Significant Dates**

June 22, 1944

October 2, 1946

1948

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Jens Frederick Larson

Glen W. Bouton

Davis and Wilson

Hemphill and Vierk

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hastings College Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of education for its association with collegiate growth as a result of the 1944 G.I. Bill of Rights and its subsequent extension to Korean War veterans in 1952. The association with these national trends is evident in the explosive growth of the college following the close of World War II; from 1943 to 1946 enrollment spiked from 524 to 1,138. Roughly half of newly registered students took advantage

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of the benefits afforded to them under the G.I. Bill of Rights. Enrollment, and campus, continued to grow under the extension of the G.I. Bill to Korean War veterans in 1952. This stunning—and unprecedented—increase in students created a lasting impact that physically transformed and expanded Hastings College over the course of the twentieth century. The Hastings College Historic District is significant at the local level for its historic merit to the entire campus and community of Hastings, Nebraska.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)**Early History of Hastings College**

Before the modest prairie community of Hastings, Nebraska was officially incorporated in 1874, ideas of an institution of higher learning were already circulating amongst city leaders. The idea of Hastings College was first manifested in print in the August 19, 1873 *Hastings Journal* by A. L. Wigton and was subsequently proposed to the Kearney Presbytery on November 19, 1873. Although received with enthusiasm by the Presbytery, nine years passed before substantial steps were taken to formally establish a college in Hastings. Finally, in 1881, after receiving \$11,050 in donations, land was purchased and construction on Hastings College began. The opening of the college was marked by a ceremony in the First Presbyterian Church on September 13, 1882. After the service, students and faculty walked three blocks to the Chilcothe building in downtown Hastings where classes would be temporarily held in the upper stories for the next two years during the construction of McCormick Hall.

The site that college founders had chosen was a largely vacant and rural tract of land east of downtown Hastings known as the College Addition. By 1884, McCormick Hall—named for primary donor and inventor and founder of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, Cyrus McCormick—and South Hall—later named Ringland Hall after first college president, William Ringland—rose from the flat prairie farmland along Elm Avenue. All college functions were contained within these two High Victorian structures; Ringland was utilized as a dormitory and administrative offices, a chapel room was located on the second floor of McCormick Hall, and the remaining space was devoted to classrooms. By 1887 enrollment stood at 190 students.

Development of the college before World War I (WWI) was gradual and primarily concentrated along Elm Avenue. Various architects contributed to this informal construction process. In 1906, funds secured through Andrew Carnegie led to the construction of a neoclassical Carnegie library and science building south of Ringland Hall. In 1907, a new girls dormitory was built northwest of McCormick Hall along Elm Avenue. Students helped construct a wooden gymnasium in 1911, and, before the outbreak of WWI, college administration purchased two private homes along Ninth Street to be used as dormitory and classroom space.

As growing tensions continued to point towards U.S. intervention in WWI, campus administration showed increasing anxieties about the physical growth and development of the college. Citing the grab bag of architectural styles embodied by the aging campus buildings and the steadily increasing enrollment, administration worried that campus was taxed to its “utmost capacity” and was unsuitable to provide the “spiritual training so necessary to true happiness.” Administration reached out to C. W. Way, a local Hastings architect, to complete an extensive plan of the future development of Hastings College. This plan was the first to envision campus as a unified quadrangle stretching between Ninth and Seventh Streets and bisected by a circle drive. Way’s plan set an unwavering precedent for campus: future architects of the college continually mapped campus construction along the same lines established by Way. The style for future buildings chosen by Way and campus administration was Gothic, largely because of its immediate visual connection with religiosity and morality.

The campaign was brought to a screeching halt by the United States’ entry into WWI. Campus life was dramatically restructured after a large portion of the male student body was sent off to war. Those that remained behind immediately entered the Student Army Training Corps (SATC), participated in military training on the football field, and took “War Aims” classes while living in Ringland Hall—at the time converted into barracks. As the war drew to a close in 1918, growing student enrollment and the need to convert campus buildings from barracks back into classrooms and dormitories exacerbated the same pre-war anxieties of a physically unsuitable campus exhibited by campus administration. In 1919 administration made the ambitious leap to scrap Way’s plan of campus and instead hired the Illinois architectural firm of Miller, Fullenweider, and Dowling (MFD) to oversee the future development of the college. MFD’s plan took a sharp break from the modest changes proposed by Way in 1916. MFD proposed a complete overhaul of campus; gone from the property were any traces of extant buildings, and in their stead were new Collegiate Gothic structures that formed the basic quadrangle envisioned by Way. Although wielding the endorsement of the entire Nebraska Presbyterian Synod, the

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detrimental effects of a national depression strangled the plan out of existence by the 1930s. The only portion of MFD's plan completed was the ground floor of Taylor Hall in 1921—an unfinished, one-story addition to the campus that was strikingly incomplete without the remaining three floors. Despite the implosion of MFD's plan, the image of an architecturally unified and symmetrical campus quadrangle was evoked in nearly every plan envisioned for the college after World War II (WWII).

In the meantime, enrollment continued to grow while construction on campus stagnated. From 1920 to 1930 enrollment climbed from 209 to 494. To assuage an influx of students, a temporary wooden chapel was constructed just north of Ringland Hall. While enrollment remained stable throughout the 1930s, the college's financial resources did not. Saving an extra penny was no small matter in the minds of administration; this depression-era mindset culminated with Alonzo Draddow—head of the maintenance department—sleeping on the floor of the boiler room throughout the winter months to stoke the coal fires to save the college money on the price of coal.

The transformation of HC in the second half of the twentieth century wiped away much of the early fabric of the college. By 1935 campus began to shift from a haphazardly planned street campus to an architecturally unified quadrangle with continued growth north of Ninth Street. Rather than the elaborate Gothic plans envisioned by MFD, the post-WWII developers of HC (Davis and Wilson and Hemphill and Vierk) settled on a modified Neo-Georgian Revival and mid-century modern aesthetic for campus. Encouraged by the rate of enrollment as a result of the G.I. Bill of Rights, HC made extensive efforts to redevelop and expand campus throughout the second half of the twentieth century.

**Narrative Statement**

Since the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22<sup>nd</sup> of that same year, it has achieved almost mythical status due to the educational benefits provided to WWII veterans and its subsequent extension to Korean War veterans in 1952. More commonly known as the G.I. Bill of Rights, the legislation changed both the institutional organization and physical structure of colleges across the United States. Those that served in WWII between September 1940 and July 1947 were eligible for the first round of benefits that included \$500 in tuition, educational expenses paid to the institution, and a monthly stipend of \$65 if single, or \$90 if married. All together, these benefits created what economic historians John Bound and Sarah Turner describe as a "historically unparalleled federal subsidy for college enrollment..." Not only was it an unprecedented federal educational investment, the G.I. Bill maintained its status as a "democratizing" force in the world of higher education; for one of the first times in American history individuals from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds could afford the cost of college. Many of the benefits provided to WWII veterans were available to Korean War veterans as well, creating an immense boom in college enrollment from the end of WWII to roughly 1970 as a direct result.

The effects of the legislation were substantial: between 1950 and 1990 the number of colleges and universities soared from 1,851 to 3,535. Roughly one in eight returning service men and women attended college under the G.I. Bill and enrollment nationwide jumped by 50% just after WWII. With federal investment in place, public support was not far behind. By 1960, higher education succeeded as a valuable tool in career development as well as a "public good that substantially furthered national defense, economic growth, and equality of education opportunity." The G.I. and Korean War veterans' bills were instrumental in this shift, and this professionalization and rapid expansion in collegiate education led to a dramatic explosion of construction on college campuses across the United States. The Hastings College Historic District is representative of these dramatic changes brought about in American higher education.

The effects of WWII, the G.I. Bill, and its 1952 extension to Korean War veterans were not lost on the community of Hastings, Nebraska or Hastings College. Both the campus community and surrounding community of Hastings were intricately linked with one another and to the tumultuous change created by America's involvement in WWII beginning in 1941. The implications of the war on the American home front gave HC administration the rationale to finally begin expanding campus. Just six years earlier, in 1935, Elm Avenue was closed and replaced with a circle drive—the first substantial change to campus since redevelopment plans were drawn nearly two decades ago in 1916. The next major development was the completion of Taylor Hall in 1938, and, just one month before the events of Pearl Harbor, college administration announced a fundraising drive to begin construction on a new men's dormitory. By 1944, this singular campaign to raise one building had morphed into a massive "Post-War Building Fund" to construct numerous buildings across campus.

A number of factors dovetailed throughout the course of WWII to give college administration the confidence they needed to enlarge campus—an ambition that had faced trial and error since 1916. The proliferation of war bonds created an accessible and valuable donation that was utilized by donors—primarily HC alumnus—for the building fund. A newfound abundance of inexpensive building materials in response to a national housing crisis impacted the cost and efficiency of

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new construction. At Hastings College, new building materials created a host of opportunities for campus development; whereas a single building had a projected cost of \$300,000 in 1919, that same amount was the total amount projected for the entire post-war building fund.

As these larger national trends shaped Hastings College's wartime and postwar construction, local factors converged on the college's development as well. On June 10, 1942 the United States Navy announced the establishment of a \$45,000,000 Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD). Constructed east of Hastings, by the time it was completed in 1943, 2,200 buildings sprawled over 48,000 acres of land. Over the course of WWII, the NAD produced 40% of ammunition for the United States Navy and at its height employed over 8,500 individuals. The impact on the city of Hastings was instantaneous: in 1943 the population boomed from 15,000 to 23,000, a nearly 50% increase in less than one year. Over 1,000 mobile homes were rolled into the city, and much of the existing housing stock was converted into apartments to solve the housing crisis that had appeared almost literally overnight.

Hastings College was quick to adapt to wartime changes and changes in the surrounding community, making the institution relevant during wartime and lending credence to the post-war building campaign. Campus administration helped establish the 74<sup>th</sup> College Training Detachment (Air Crew) that provided education for enlisted men. Army students were enrolled for a five-month course that provided a typical collegiate education as well as military and flight training. By 1944, HC trained 771 aircrew cadets for the armed forces, earning special recognition from Brigadier General Ray G. Harris, the District Supervisor of the Air Technical Service Command. Not only did HC open its doors to the military, civilian courses were available to the community, the most popular being a Red Cross training course.

As WWII drew to a close, the post-war building fund was still over \$200,000 short of the intended goal and enrollment was steadily increasing with over one third, and eventually, one half, of enrolling students taking advantage of the benefits provided by the G.I. Bill. In 1943 enrollment stood at 524, one year later in 1944 it had jumped to 735, 962 in 1945, and 1,138 in 1946—over a 50% increase in just three years. College administration welcomed veterans with open arms, assigning each one a personal counselor and administering special examinations to place veterans in appropriate courses. But by 1946, the ardent welcome extended by college administration dimmed as college president Calvin French announced there was only room for 150 new students to be admitted. HC was operating at "full capacity," its physical facilities stretched ever thinner from the increased enrollment.

As the student body rapidly grew, campus development stagnated, forcing administration to look to the NAD for a solution. Three buildings, two former dispensaries and barracks, were moved onto campus. The barracks were turned into Bronc Hall, a men's dormitory, and one of the dispensaries was renamed Navy Hall and used as additional classroom and office space behind McCormick Hall. The second dispensary building served as a campus canteen. While these buildings were meant to be a temporary solution, they nevertheless represented a vital link between HC and the NAD.

While the NAD buildings provided temporary relief from overcrowding, campus administration still looked to the building fund to alleviate the influx of students taking advantage of the G.I. Bill. As former dean Frank Weyer remembers:

Most of the men were WWII veterans. I can't give the ages now, but so many of them had had two, three, four years in military service, now they all came back. Many of those men were married. Some had had college work before, here or elsewhere. But now they were here, and had the GI bill of rights, and that incidentally was one of the finest pieces of legislation that Uncle Sam has ever enacted.

While "Uncle Sam" was able to pay for the education of returning veterans, he was unable to raise the remaining money for the building fund. The G.I. Bill and the resultant growth of the student body remained large in the psyches of much of the administration of Hastings College, and made the push for new construction more necessary.

Finally, in 1948 ground was broken on the Calvin H. French Memorial Chapel, and other structures were not far behind: by 1950 the chapel was completed and the long-ago proposed men's dormitory—Weyer Hall—was finally finished with plans still in the works for a new science building and music hall. In 1949, the third floor of Taylor Hall was finished by Hastings architect Glen W. Bouton to maximize the available living space for female students. But as tensions pointed to U.S. intervention in Korea, enrollment dipped slightly as students were drafted for military service and donations to the building campaign slowed.

By 1951, the "enlisting bug" had taken its toll on enrollment, but the relatively short conflict in Korea had little impact on overall enrollment at HC. In 1952, 916 students were enrolled, many of them Korean War veterans taking advantage of the extension of the G.I. Bill, and this number steadily rose to over 1,000 by 1960. As enrollment increased, so too did the number of buildings across campus. In 1956 the Steinhart Science Hall and Fuhr Hall of Fine Arts were constructed, followed by Bellevue Center and Bronc Hall in 1961, Perkins Library, Altman Hall, and Hurley-McDonald Hall in 1963, and the renovated Art Center and Kiewit Physical Education Building in 1969. This new construction quite literally reflected the changes in enrollment: with men enrolling over women at a ratio of two to one following WWII, twice as many dormitories

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were constructed for men than women. By 1970, the dramatic effects of the G.I. Bill led to both the completion of the main campus quadrangle and expansion north across Ninth Street—developments that shape the college to the present-day.

Overall, the Hastings College Historic District merits recognition as an excellent example of the effects of the G.I. Bill and its 1952 extension on the development of college campuses and higher education following WWII. In its local context, HC accommodated for the NAD and enlisted men in central Nebraska during wartime and nearly doubled in size as a direct result of the G.I. Bill of Rights, thus making it eligible and achieving significance under Criterion A in the area of education.

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- "A Report On Fulfillment '68... As Hastings College Undertakes the Most Ambitious Program of Advance in its Eighty-Six Year History," *Hastings College Bulletin* 70, no. 3 (October 1968): 3-5.

**Hastings College Collegian Articles**

- "Plan Campus Improvements: Elm Avenue Closed as First Step in Beautifying Grounds," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 12, 1935.
- "HC Prepares For Veterans," *The Hastings Collegian*, November 15, 1944.
- "College Enters New Year With Record of Achievement: Post-war Planning Now In Progress," *The Hastings Collegian*, January 17, 1945.
- "Enrollment Goes Up," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 14, 1945.
- "Science Hall May Be Reality Soon: Building Fund Now Totals \$78,000; Near To Goal of Hall," *The Hastings Collegian*, October 3, 1945.
- "HC Has New Term For Veterans," *The Hastings Collegian*, October 31, 1945.
- "Three Buildings Goal of Campaign: Committee Hopes To Start All New Buildings At the Same Time," *The Hastings Collegian*, November 7, 1945.
- "Meet Our Veterans," *The Hastings Collegian*, December 12, 1945.
- "Enrollment Up Next Term," *The Hastings Collegian*, January 23, 1946.
- "Seven Women Veterans Enroll," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 6, 1946.
- "Second Semester Students Register: 113 Veterans Included In Enrollment of 350 Students," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 13, 1946.
- Editorial, "Veteran Voices Opinion of HC," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 20, 1946.
- Editorial, "Top Theme: Why I Returned To College," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 27, 1946.
- "HC Officials Receive Final Draft of Building Plans," *The Hastings Collegian*, April 17, 1946.
- "Sites for New Hastings College Buildings," *The Hastings Collegian*, May 31, 1946.
- "New Home For Vets: Barracks Will Be Relief for Acute Housing Shortage," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 18, 1946.
- "College Offers Added Courses," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 18, 1946.
- "Vets May Live Army Fashion: But Only Until Interior Remodeling is Completed, Says President French," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 25, 1946.
- "Enrollment Hits New High, 635; Includes 325 World War II Vets," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 25, 1946.
- "College to Receive Classroom Building: Second Barracks Will Be Moved To Campus Soon," *The Hastings Collegian*, October 2, 1946.
- "Barracks Dorm Nears Completion," *The Hastings Collegian*, November 14, 1946.
- "College To Be Full Next Fall: President French Says Only 150 New Students Will Be Admitted," *The Hastings Collegian*, November 20, 1946.



Hastings College Historic District

Adams County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

- "State Schools Are Crowded: Survey By Dr. French Shows College Will Limit New Students," *The Hastings Collegian*, November 27, 1946.
- "Occupancy of New Men's Dorm Will Begin Soon," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 5, 1947.
- "Registrar Reports 720 Enrolled, College Adds 18 Instructors," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 17, 1947.
- "New Chapel Work To Start Soon," *The Hastings Collegian*, May 27, 1948.
- "Enrollment Reaches 745, Add Seven Instructors," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 23, 1948.
- "Trustees Announce Plans For New Dorm: Builders Intend To Complete 47 Room Building By September," *The Hastings Collegian*, December 2, 1949.
- "HC Enrollment Shows Decrease," *The Hastings Collegian*, October 7, 1950.
- "Armed Forces Take Six HC Men," *The Hastings Collegian*, October 20, 1950.
- "Half Million Needed For New Buildings," *The Hastings Collegian*, October 20, 1950.
- "Vet Enrollment In All Nebraska Colleges Drops," *The Hastings Collegian*, November 17, 1950.
- "Enlistments Take Toll On HC Campus, Officials Caution Students: 'Consider Actions Carefully,'" *The Hastings Collegian*, January 12, 1951.
- "Vets Must Enroll In Spring Term To Meet Cut Off Date," *The Hastings Collegian*, January 12, 1951.
- "Dean Gets The Latest Word on Draft Situation," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 9, 1951.
- "Postponement Of Induction 'Regs' Altered," *The Hastings Collegian*, May 4, 1951.
- "Enrollment Equals 1950 Registration: Freshman Enrollment Large; Men's Women's Dormitories Filled," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 12, 1951.
- "Hastings College Goes To Hollywood: Movies Will Boost New Science, Music Buildings," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 21, 1951.
- "Hastings Citizens Begin Drive For Building Fund," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 8, 1952.
- "Hastings College In 19??," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 15, 1952.
- "HC Registration Hits 550 During the First Week," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 22, 1953.
- "Wages Don't Affect VA Aid," *The Hastings Collegian*, December 8, 1953.
- "HC Tops Building Fund Goal: Groundbreaking This Spring For Music, Science Halls," *The Hastings Collegian*, January 13, 1954.
- "Look Closely, It Will Change Soon," *The Hastings Collegian*, May 11, 1954.
- "News About Veterans," *The Hastings Collegian*, May 11, 1954.
- "HC Enrollment Up; Men Hold Lead," *The Hastings Collegian*, February 17, 1956.
- "New Buildings Being Planned For Campus," *The Hastings Collegian*, January 16, 1959.
- "Building Program In Full Swing," *The Hastings Collegian*, April 17, 1959.
- "Campus Of The Future," *The Hastings Collegian*, October 2, 1959.
- "Campus Of Future Being Planned," *The Hastings Collegian*, May 20, 1960.
- "Total Enrollment Reaches New High," *The Hastings Collegian*, September 20, 1962.
- "'Super Campus' Dream to Become Reality at Hastings College," *The Hastings Collegian*, November 22, 1963.

**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)  
Adams County Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Approximately 35 USGS Quadrangle Hastings East

Hastings College Historic District  
**Name of Property**

Adams County, Nebraska  
**County and State**

**(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)**

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

|    |          |                  |           |                   |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>40.593326</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.374829</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | <u>40.593333</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.373809</u> |
| 3. | Latitude | <u>40.594675</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.373758</u> |
| 4. | Latitude | <u>40.595297</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.371534</u> |
| 5. | Latitude | <u>40.591858</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.371718</u> |
| 6. | Latitude | <u>40.591868</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.372900</u> |
| 7. | Latitude | <u>40.589930</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.372934</u> |
| 8. | Latitude | <u>40.589923</u> | Longitude | <u>-98.374865</u> |

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

The boundary of the Hastings College Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Hastings College Historic District."

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary selected for the Hastings College Historic District encompasses those structures that were built as a direct result of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 and of the area of campus that retains the most integrity from its period of significance. The northern boundary of the site marks a differentiated pattern of historical development in the latter quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

|                 |                               |           |                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| name/title      | <u>Brian Whetstone</u>        | date      | <u>4/3/17</u>       |
| organization    | <u>Hastings College</u>       | telephone | <u>308-440-3854</u> |
| street & number | <u>710 N Turner Avenue</u>    | state     | <u>NE</u>           |
| city or town    | <u>Hastings, Nebraska</u>     | zip code  | <u>68901</u>        |
| email           | <u>briwhetstone@gmail.com</u> |           |                     |

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Hastings College Historic District

Adams County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property Hastings College

City or Vicinity Hastings County Adams State Nebraska

Photographer Brian Whetstone Date Photographed 12/8/16 and 4/11/17

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. McCormick Hall, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 4/11/17, view looking southeast
2. Taylor Hall, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 12/8/16, view looking northwest
3. Calvin H. French Memorial Chapel, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 4/11/17, view looking northeast
4. Calvin H. French Memorial Chapel, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 4/11/17, view looking east
5. Weyer Hall, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 4/11/17, view looking northeast
6. Fuhr Hall of Music, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone, 12/8/16, view looking east
7. Bronc Hall, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone, 12/8/16, view looking southeast
8. Former Maintenance Building, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 12/8/16, view looking southwest
9. Hazelrigg Student Union, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 12/8/16, view looking north
10. Hurley-MacDonald Hall, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 12/8/16, view looking east
11. Hurley-MacDonald Hall, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 12/8/16, view looking southwest
12. Perkins Library, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 12/8/16, view looking northwest
13. Perkins Library, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 4/11/17, view looking southwest
14. Altman Hall, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 4/11/17, view looking southwest
15. Former Art Center, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 4/11/17, view looking southeast
16. Kiewit Physical Education Building, Hastings College Historic District, Adams County, NE, photographed by Brian Whetstone 12/8/16, view looking northeast

Hastings College Historic District

Adams County, Nebraska

**Name of Property**

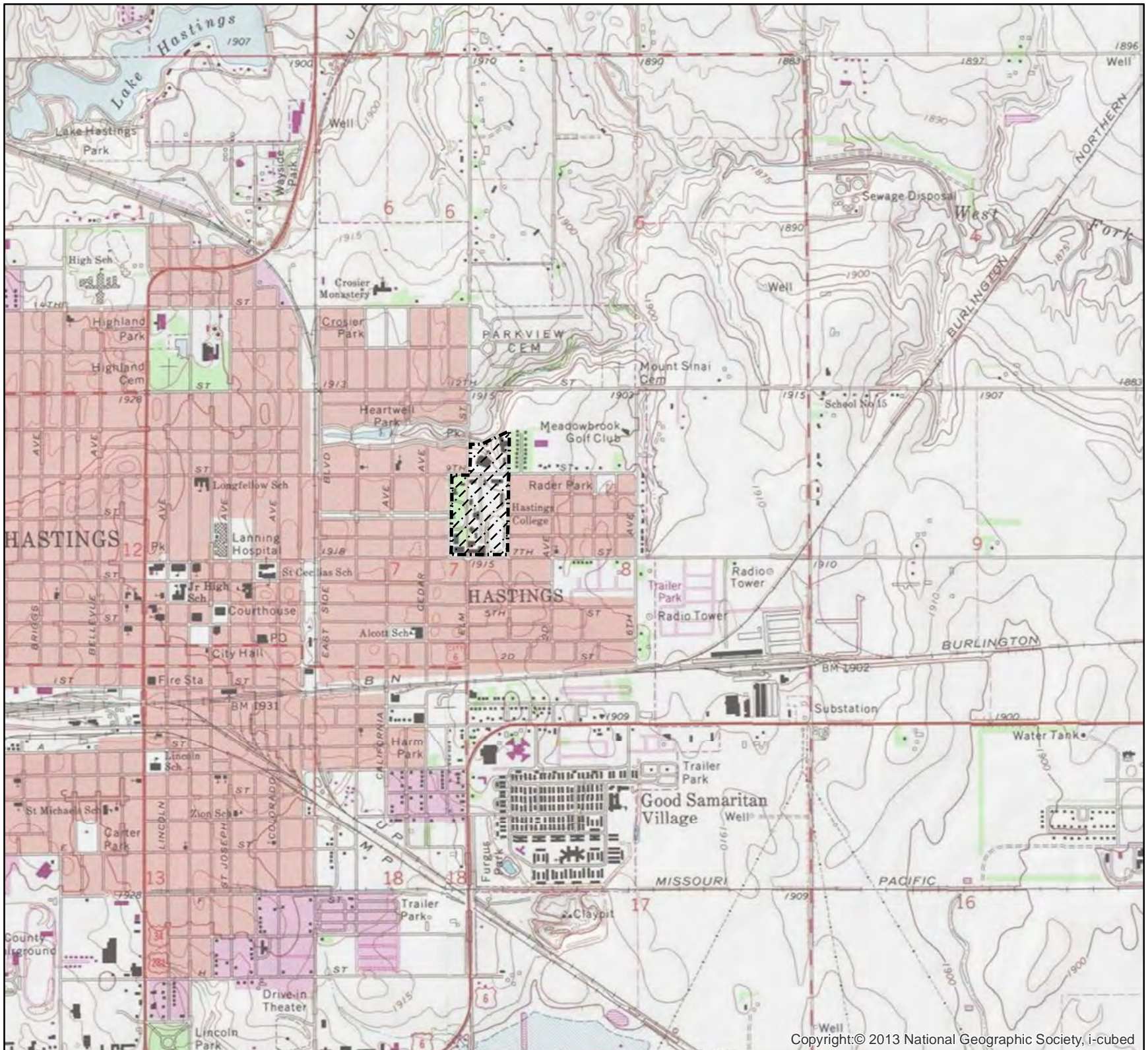
**County and State**

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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.

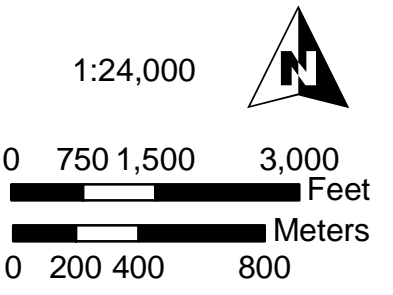
# Hastings College Historic District

Hastings, Adams Co.,  
Nebraska

USGS Quad: Hastings East



Legend  
[Hatched Box] Proposed NRHP Boundary




# Hastings College Historic District

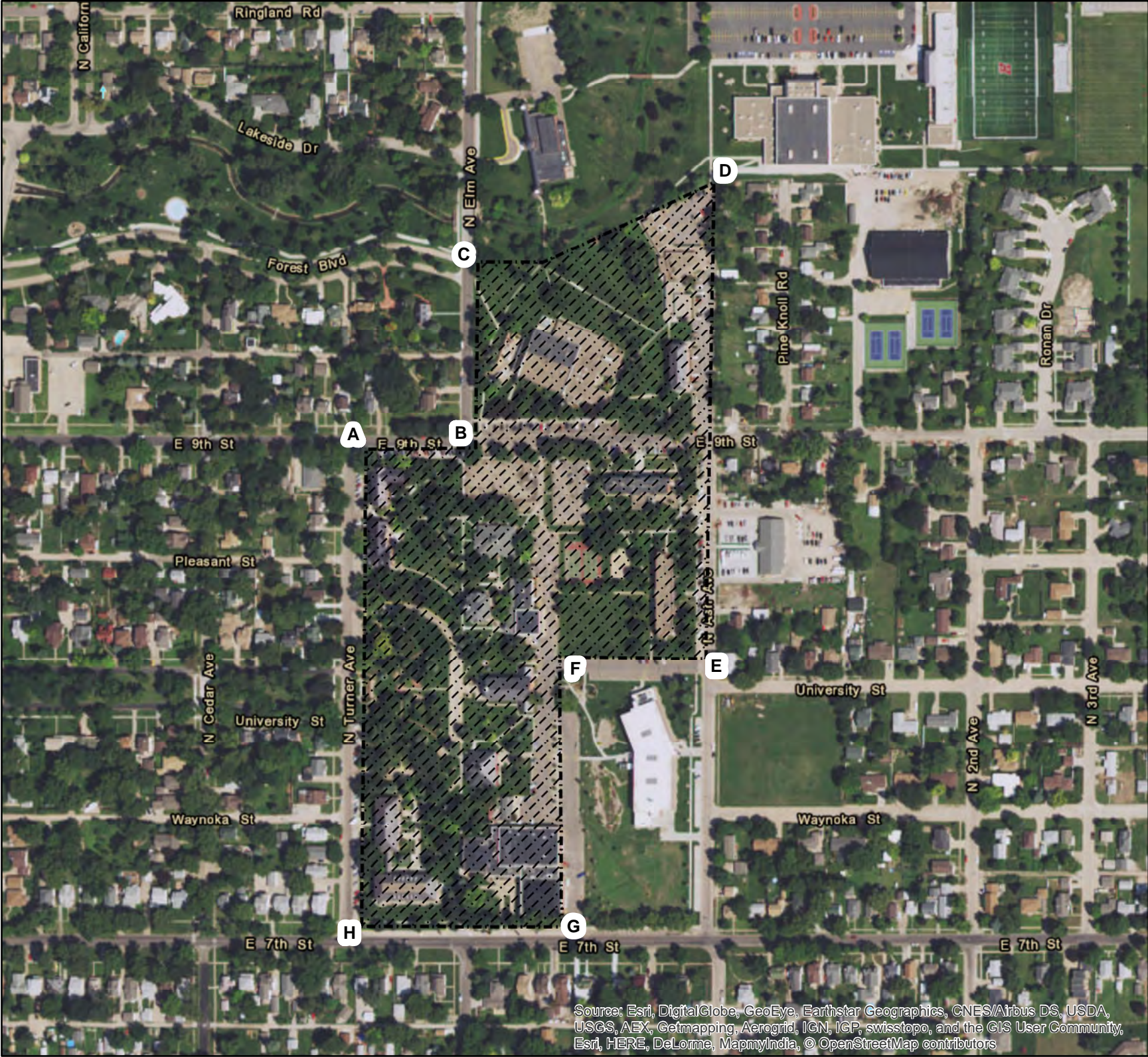
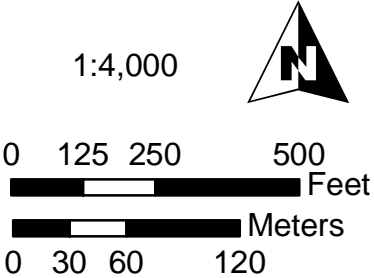
Hastings, Adams Co.,  
Nebraska

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

- A) 40.593326,-98.374829
- B) 40.593333,-98.373809
- C) 40.594675,-98.373758
- D) 40.595297,-98.371534
- E) 40.591858,-98.371718
- F) 40.591868,-98.372900
- G) 40.589930,-98.372934
- H) 40.589923,-98.374865

Datum:WGS84

Legend  
 Proposed NRHP Boundary



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors

# Hastings College Historic District

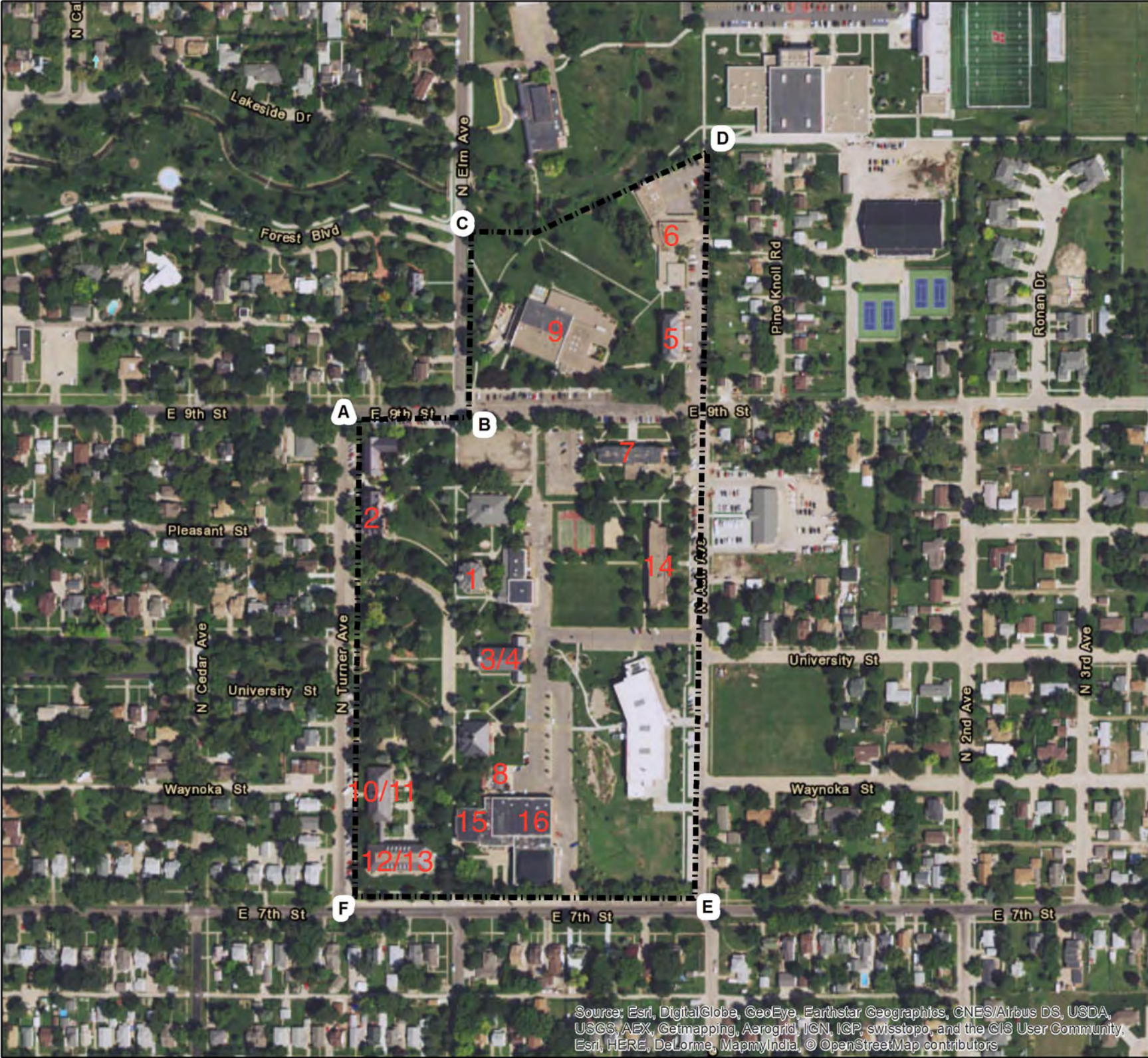
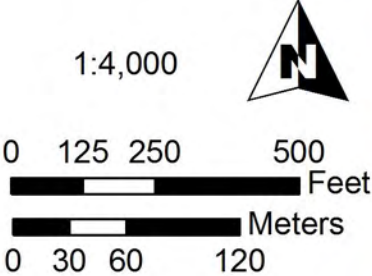
Hastings, Adams Co.,  
Nebraska

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

- A) 40.593326, -98.374829
- B) 40.593333, -98.373809
- C) 40.594675, -98.373758
- D) 40.595297, -98.371534
- E) 40.589932, -98.371722
- F) 40.589923, -98.374865

Datum: WGS84

Legend  
[Dashed Line Symbol] Proposed NRHP Boundary



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors



HASTINGS COLLEGE  
1863  
ANDRIMICK HALL







French Chapel  
800  
811-1111









BRONC  
HALL



NO  
PARKING  
ANYTIME



GREENHORN  
STUDENT UNION







Harley McDonald  
Administration





PERKINS LIBRARY







Hastings  
College

Hastings  
College

Informational sign

Informational sign



KEWITT  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Hastings College

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: NEBRASKA, Adams

Date Received: 6/16/2017      Date of Pending List: 7/18/2017      Date of 16th Day: 8/2/2017      Date of 45th Day: 7/31/2017      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100001393

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept       Return       Reject      7/31/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Relates explosive growth of school and its physical plant to the GI Bill and the proximity of the large naval ammunition plant

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





June 12, 2017

Ms. Alexis Abernathy  
NPS – National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Hastings College Historic District NRHP Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy,

Enclosed is the complete nomination packet for the Hastings College Historic District in Adams County, Nebraska. The enclosed contents are as follows:

1. The signed first page of the Hastings College Historic District nomination
2. One archival disk with the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Hastings College Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places in pdf format.
3. One archival disk with the photographs for the Hastings College Historic District nomination.

If you have any questions regarding the submitted materials, please feel free to contact me at the number of email address below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill E. Dolberg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jill E. Dolberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

Phone: (402) 471-4773  
Fax: (402) 471-3100  
[Jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov](mailto:Jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov)

Enclosures: 2 disks and one page

1500 R Street  
PO Box 82554  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554  
p: (800) 833-6747  
(402) 471-3270  
f: (402) 471-3100  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)