

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received AUG 18 1981

Date entered SEP 17 1981

**1. Name**

historic State Arsenal (LC13:D11-17)

and/or common The Nebraska National Guard Arsenal Building

**2. Location**

street & number 17th and Court Streets \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lincoln \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Nebraska code 31 county Lancaster code 109

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                  | Status  | Present Use   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture ___ museum               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial ___ park                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational ___ private residence    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment ___ religious          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process        | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government ___ scientific |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial ___ transportation        |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military ___ other:                  |

**4. Owner of Property**

name State of Nebraska, c/o State Fair Board

street & number State Fairgrounds

city, town Lincoln \_\_\_ vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Lancaster County

street & number 555 South 10th Street

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

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

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

Situated just to the west of the south entrance to the Nebraska State Fair Grounds, the State Arsenal is a three-story rectangular building of reinforced concrete construction, with clay tile-lined red brick exterior walls. The original building was built in 1913, 30' x 52' in size, but was almost immediately added-to to increase the size to 30' x 93'. The original building and the addition each have a single stack red brick chimney of approximate ridge height.

The roof is of hip design and covered with the original diamond pattern gray asbestos roof shingles.

All exterior windows and doors, except for one recently added exterior door, are barred with the originally installed iron grillwork.

The basement is connected to the main and second floors by plank staircases, and by a Kimball Number 2 antifriction, quick-rising elevator, installed by the Otis Elevator Company as original equipment.

The original 1913 building contains the Kimball elevator, roughly centered, the stairs in the southwest corner, and the only two original interior rooms in the southeast corner of the second floor. The 1915 addition is entirely open on all three floors. Built originally as a warehouse, it was an entirely open floor plan except for the two second floor rooms which served as the Caretaker's quarters. As originally built, these two rooms were accessible by exterior stairs to a dock at the second floor level on the east side of the building. At ground level, an L-shaped dock connected the south and west doors, providing access to a rail siding just to the west of the building.

The docks, rail siding, and second floor exterior doors have since all been removed and several interior partitions have been added to enclose one room at the south end of the main floor and two additional rooms on the second floor east side. The 1915 addition remains open floor plan on all three levels. Our intent is to rebuild the dock (wood construction) on the east side of this building to original size and shape.

Plans are underway for the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society to convert the building into a museum of the Nebraska Guard.

# 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military    | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1913 ~~Builder~~ Architect Burd F. Miller, Omaha

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The State Arsenal is significant as the first structural manifestation of the Nebraska National Guard's presence in the State until after World War II. The building stands as a physical reminder of the changing nature of the guard from the Nebraska Volunteer Militia to the present Nebraska National Guard and serves as a fitting landmark for the guard's activities in the State as part of America's major reserve force.

The recruiting and retention of personnel in the Nebraska National Guard is based on heritage, mission accomplishment, and dedicated individuals. This building will display all that heritage, history, and persons in a living memorial for all to visit and to reflect with great pride on all our accomplishments, both individually and collectively.

The Nebraska National Guard, though Federally equipped since the passage of the Dick Act in 1903, remains, as successor to the Nebraska Volunteer Militia, a State force responsive to the Governor as Commander-in-Chief for use in quelling civil disorder and protecting persons and property during natural disasters. It is composed of Nebraskans who choose voluntarily to serve their fellow Nebraskans while simultaneously maintaining a ready defense posture for the United States as the major reserve force of the Army and the Air Force.

The State Arsenal was the first permanent facility provided by the Nebraska Legislature from tax funds for support of the Nebraska National Guard. Prior to completion of this building, the Federal properties issued for accomplishment of the State and Federal missions, were stored in rented or leased quarters that were generally very inadequate. It remained in use by the Guard as a warehouse for storage of unused supplies and equipment until 1963, when it was transferred to the State Fair Board, although for some brief periods it also served to provide temporary office space. From 1963 until mid-1980, it was used by the State Fair Board for storage and security services.

The quantity and complexity of equipment issued to the Nebraska National Guard after World War II created a need for far more space for storage and maintenance than was available in the Arsenal, and it was relegated to a place for storage of little-used equipment until declared surplus in 1963.

The building today is essentially the same as when constructed except for some necessary modifications to plumbing and electrical services.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Nebraska, 1913-1914, pp. 11-12; 1911-12, p. 121; 1915-16 pp. 6-8.

Legislative Journal of the State of Nebraska, 1963, p. 1740.

# 10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre. **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
Quadrangle name Lincoln, NE Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

|   |            |                  |                    |   |      |         |          |
|---|------------|------------------|--------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>114</u> | <u>691421410</u> | <u>41521211510</u> | B |      |         |          |
|   | Zone       | Easting          | Northing           |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C |            |                  |                    | D |      |         |          |
| E |            |                  |                    | F |      |         |          |
| G |            |                  |                    | H |      |         |          |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies a part of a larger parcel deeded to the State for use as a fair grounds, 50 x 93 feet in size, located just to the southeast of the new Bob Devaney Sports Complex of the University of Nebraska.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laurence G. Lade, Vice-Chairman/Curator  
Nebraska National Guard

organization Historical Society date July, 1981

street & number 1300 Military Road telephone (Home) 402/488-4281

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Morris J. Kineth 7/28/81

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NCRS use only

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

William H. Brauman date 9.17.81  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration