

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 20 1986

date entered MAR 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Johnston Memorial Building

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication

city, town Wallace N/A vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Lincoln code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Village of Wallace, c.o Warren D. Smith

street & number N/A

city, town Wallace n/a vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number N/A

city, town North Platte state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date       N/A      

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

The Johnston Memorial building is a one-story structure of stucco-faced frame construction, situated in the rural western Nebraska village of Wallace, (1980 population: 349). This 1921 hall is located on several tree shaded lots at the northern edge of the town's business district. The symmetrical building measures 55 x 60 feet and features a parapeted gable roof flanked by arcaded entry porches.

The front facade of the building is a pavilion-like element giving the appearance of one-and-one-half stories in height, featuring an enlivened parapeted gable. Arcaded entrance porches flank the pavilion, whose corners are strengthened with buttress-like appendages. Originally the facade featured a lattice grid over sections of the wall. The facade is pierced by a large rectangular art glass window divided into sections by substantial frame mullions. Directly below this window is a black carrara polished glass plate which measures 7'4" by 2' and carries a gold-lettered memorial inscription to J. R. Johnston (see photo #4). Above this window is a logo formed by the artistic placement of Johnston's initials. Placed high in the front gable is a deeply set arched window (see photo #3). Behind this frontal gable the structure has a lower roof line; a gabled section in the center which covers the dance floor area and a flat section which surrounds the gabled portion on three sides. A brick chimney penetrates the roof from the kitchen area. The roof is covered with "French Method" style shingles which give a tile-like appearance.

The interior of the Memorial building consists of a large dance floor in the center of the building; kitchen, storage room and restrooms along the eastern side of the structure, a stage on the north and an area on the west for expanded dancing or seating space.

The interior is in excellent and original condition. The woodwork throughout the structure is oak in the broad simplistic mode of the Craftsman style. The hall has a partial basement under the northeastern part of the building. This area houses the original coal stoker heating system which is still operational.

The Memorial building is in good condition, maintains its historical and architectural integrity and is kept in constant use by area residents.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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** 1921 **Builder/Architect** McMichael Bros.; F. W. Fitzpatrick

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Johnston Memorial Hall in Wallace is significant in the areas of social/humanitarianism and architecture. The hall, built in 1921, has become significant socially for its symbolization of fellowship and unity during the last 65 years. It is significant in architecture for its association with nationally prominent architect F. W. Fitzpatrick of Chicago and also for its unique vernacular design combining the Prairie and Craftsman styles.

On October 25, 1921, the Johnston Memorial Hall was dedicated in Wallace, Nebraska. This hall was built in memory of Pennsylvania resident John R. Johnston (1867-1920), a nationally known figure in the glass industry, who for 24 years came to this Lincoln County community to hunt and fish. Johnston's doctors encouraged him to spend time in this healthful rural climate as he suffered from tuberculosis.

Johnston was an Ohio native who had resided in Indiana and Kansas before settling permanently in Pennsylvania.

Johnston founded the Johnston Brokerage Company in Pittsburgh in the early 20th century. In 1921, Johnston set out to revolutionize the window glass industry. His brokerage firm provided a "balance wheel" which kept the glass manufacturing business in even motion.

When Johnston organized his company, window glass manufacturers were working individually and did not pay strict attention to consumer needs. Johnston's Brokerage Company brought order to the industry. He unified the manufacturers and made attempts to adjust supply to demand. The brokerage firm also helped market the products at a reasonable profit while keeping workers' wages up.

Johnston was instrumental in organizing the National Association of Window Glass Manufacturers' 7th Annual Meeting at the Hotel Astor in New York City, July 1917.

Johnston was recognized in the National Glass Budget, a weekly review of the American Glass Industry in the July 28, 1917 issue as being a very powerful national figure in the business.

J. R. Johnston died of tuberculosis in 1920 at the age of 53. His family and friends decided that a memorial to him in Wallace would be more fitting than one constructed on the east coast so a committee was formed to organize and expedite the project.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wallace, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is described as all of lots 7, 8, 9 and 10 in block 10, Original Town of Wallace, Nebraska, and includes all of the historically associated property.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date January, 1986

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

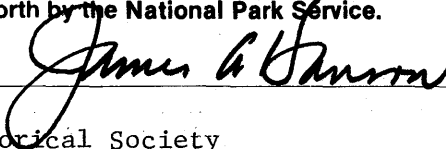
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 2-11-86

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/20/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The design for the Johnston Memorial Hall was executed by F. W. Fitzpatrick a renowned architect, whose career included his serving as a government architect in Washington, D.C. during the Roosevelt and McKinley administrations, managing private practices in Duluth, Minnesota and Chicago and being in charge of the Architectural Department of the Bankers' Realty Investment Company in Omaha, Nebraska. Fitzpatrick designed many well-known buildings including the post office, public library and Newberry Library all in Chicago. In Nebraska, Fitzpatrick is most famous for his designs for the Blackstone Hotel in Omaha and the Hotel Yancey in Grand Island both listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Fitzpatrick wrote many articles for architectural journals on steel construction and the fireproofing of buildings. He was involved in developing methods for fireproofing steel. Fitzpatrick died in 1931 at the age of 67 after being struck by a car in Evanston, Illinois.

Johnston Memorial Hall is significant socially for its symbolization of fellowship and unity during the past 65 years. Though the property was built to commemorate J. R. Johnston, it has achieved social significance on its own. The tradition of fellowship began by Johnston and his hunting club friends at the turn of the century has been perpetuated through the years and the hall has traditionally become the most popular gathering place for residents in Wallace, southwestern Lincoln County and other nearby counties. The many social and community events held annually in the building have given the hall great symbolic value for residents and visitors in this somewhat remote southern "sandhills" region.

Architecturally, the Memorial Hall is significant for exhibiting an unusual though pleasing vernacular combination of the Prairie and Craftsman styles of architecture. Its unique, bold design features make the hall an architectural landmark in this small community. The town is comprised primarily of modest frame houses of no particular architectural interest and a few altered, one-story commercial buildings of brick and frame. One small simple frame church (ca. 1900) with Gothic windows remains though altered slightly. The hall is also significant in that it was designed by nationally known architect F. W. Fitzpatrick.

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Continuation sheet

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