

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name O.K. Market  
other names/site number NEHBS # SD16-124

2. Location

street & number 542 N. Linden N/A not for publication  
city, town Wahoo N/A vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Saunders code 155 zip code 68066

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
*James A. Hanson*, Director  
Signature of certifying official  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau  
Date May 17, 1991

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official  
Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
*Albena Byrum*  
Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action 7/3/91

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Commerce/Specialty Store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Commerce/Specialty Store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

No style.

foundation Brick  
walls Brick

roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The O.K. Market is a single-story brick commercial building located in the downtown business district of Wahoo, Nebraska (1990 population: 3555). Erected by John Linderkamp shortly after he purchased the property in August of 1907, the building housed a harness shop until 1919, at which time Linderkamp sold the property to Bartel E. Johnson who made it into a butcher shop. In January of 1926 Johnson leased the building to James Obrichta who entered into a partnership with Mr. Kirchman, hence the beginning of the O.K. Market. In August of 1927 Obrichta sold his business to Joe Beranek and Henry Leifheit, who continued to lease the building and operate the business as the O.K. Meat Market. They purchased the property from Johnson in October of 1929.

The exterior integrity of the building has been somewhat compromised due to storefront alterations, however, the interior integrity is exceptional, retaining its 1926 vintage appearance as a meat market. Some of the original equipment, made by the H. Erlich & Sons Manufacturing Company of St. Joseph, Missouri, is still used in the marketing operation today.

The main (west) facade is faced with brick, and displays a three bay parapet wall which incorporates stone coping, corbelling, and dentilling in its design. The original storefront has been modernized with new window and door openings and vertical siding, which also covers the original transom. Signage on the building includes a metal letter sign affixed to the front which reads "OK MARKET" and a free hanging neon sign which reads "MEATS". The sides and back of the building are double course of red brick. The roof is flat with a taper to the back.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Commerce

1926

1926

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The O.K. Market is architecturally significant (Criterion C) as a well-preserved example of a rather rare property type: an early twentieth-century meat market which retains its interior integrity. In many commercial buildings of this type the interior spaces have been severely compromised due to renovation and/or alteration. The O.K. Market becomes a notable example of a meat market due to the pristine condition of the interior, complete with many of the original fixtures and equipment used in the meat processing operations beginning in the 1920's. Due to the high level of interior integrity, the building becomes important as an excellent representation of the state's early twentieth-century meat markets, and serves as a visual record for future reference and comparison of this particular property type in the state. The property type is associated with the context "Retail Commerce: Towns in Southeast Nebraska."

Historically significant (Criterion A) in the area of commerce, the O.K. Market represents a continuous line of traditional marketing to the present, and is home and originator of the "Wahoo Wiener." Beginning in 1926, the O.K. Market played an important role in Wahoo's retail commerce, serving as an independent butcher shop. Today, the shop represents the old-country craft of traditional marketing, carrying on old family recipes in meat processing. The period of significance is derived from the year (1926) when Messrs. Obrichta and Kirchman began operation of the O.K. Market.

The O.K. Market began operation as the O.K. Meat Market in January of 1926 under the management of Obrichta and Kirchman (O.K.). In August of 1927 Obrichta sold his business to Joe Beranek and Henry Leifheit, both previously employed with the Fifth Street Market, owned by Beranek's uncle, John Gross. Beranek and Leifheit continued operation of the business under the name of the O.K. Meat Market. In the August 11, 1927 issue of the Wahoo Democrat it states:

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	4
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7	0	0	6	8	0
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4	5	6	4	6	7	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The West 32 feet of the South 44 feet of Lot 4, and the North 22 feet of the South 44 feet of Lots 5 and 6, all in Block 148, County Addition to Wahoo, Saunders County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Maxine Horak, Owner  
organization N/A date April 3, 1991  
street & number 8000 Davenport telephone (402) 397-7188  
city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68114

United States Department of the Interior  
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"The Linden avenue meat market opened under new management Wednesday morning with Joe Beranek and Henry Leifheit behind the counters...Both are experienced and competent men. Beranek was associated with John Gross, in the Fifth Street Market, for 21 years. Leifheit learned the art of handling and preserving meat in Germany. He came here 4 1/2 years ago and went into the Gross market where he has completed his education according to American methods.."

Beranek acquired family recipes while learning the butcher trade working for his uncle, who brought the recipes to Wahoo from his native homeland of Czechoslovakia. The Beranek's offered a variety of meat products, including summer sausage, Polish sausage, liver sausage, blood sausage, wieners, potato bologna, and special sausages for holidays. Today, the "Wahoo Wiener" and other sausages, are still being produced by the current owner in much the same manner. Some of the original equipment, including the handcranked stuffer and the cooker, are still being used, and the original brick smokehouse still stands to the rear of the building. The "Wahoo Wiener" is being shipped to individuals in every state of the U.S., including Puerto Rico.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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"James Obrichta Market Opening," Wahoo Democrat, January 28, 1926, Wahoo, Nebraska.

"Jim Obrichta Opens Market 30th," Wahoo Democrat, January 21, 1926, Wahoo, Nebraska.

"O.K. Market New Management," Wahoo Democrat, August 11, 1927, Wahoo, Nebraska.

"They're back, Wahoo Wieners get name back," Tribune, May 10, 1990, Fremont, Nebraska.

"Wahoo brothers' secret tasty one," Lincoln Journal, September 21, 1977, Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Wahoo's Beranek Brothers Masters In Making Sausage," Lincoln Journal, February 17, 1975, Lincoln, Nebraska.