United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS	use only
received	OCT 2 8 1980
date enter	ed APR 20 1981

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Third

code 003

congressional district

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

1. Name

state

Gates College Gymnasium - (Antelope County Jail) (AP04-2) historic and/or common Antelope County Museum

Location 2.

509 L Street (Hiway 275) street & number not for publication

031

code

Neligh city, town

Nebraska

county Antelope

vicinity of

3. **Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	_
district	<u>X</u> public	\underline{X} occupied	agriculture	<u> </u>
building(s)	private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	<u>A</u> yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
		no	military	other:

4. Owner of Property

name	Antelope County	Commissioners	<u> </u>	
street & nur	mber Antelope (County Courthouse	•	
city, town	Neligh	vicinity of	state	Nebraska
5. Lo	ocation of L	egal Description		
courthouse	, registry of deeds, etc.	Antelope County Courthouse		
street & nur	nber	·		
city, town	Neligh		state	Nebraska
6. Re	epresentati	on in Existing Surv	reys	
title		has this property be	en determined e	legible? yes no
date			federal sta	te county loca
depository	for survey records			
city, town			state	

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated across from the northeast corner of the Courthouse square, the Gates College Gymnasium is a two-story brick building. It measures thirty feet wide and fifty feet long, with a hip roof. Windows are found on each side with two windows closely set on each floor on the west side (toward the courthouse). On the south side, two entrance doors are located, one door leading into the first floor area, and the other leads to the stairway up to the second floor. When the building was used as a gymnasium, the first floor was the men's gym area and the ladies used the second floor, hence the two entrances. Gymnasium equipment included chest weights, Indian clubs, dumb bells, rowing machines, striking bag, horizontal bars, and other apparatus to measure strength and endurance. A small basement room is below the building and it is unsure to whether it was original to the structure or added when it was converted to a county jail facility.

In the spring of 1901, the gymnasium building became the Antelope County Jail. A cell block of three cells was removed from the county courthouse and installed in the first floor. The only other room on the first floor was utilized as the sheriff's office. In the northeast corner, a confinement room for females was constructed of 2×4 lumber laid on their sides in cribbing fashion. The second floor was partitioned off into five rooms for living quarters for the sheriff's family. A window on the east side was changed into an entrance door and a landing and stairway to the ground level constructed. A larger chimney was built on the north side, probably for a steam heating furnace installed in the basement room.

In 1964, a new jail and sheriff's office was built just to the east and the old gymnasium was then turned over to the Antelope County Historical Society for use as a museum. It presently houses the collections of the Historical Society and is open during the summer months as a museum. Shortly after this, a ca. 1920 log cabin was moved next to the gym on the north side, and furnished by the Historical Society as an exhibit of a frontier period cabin.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications			_ landscape architectu _ law _ literature _ military _ music _ philosophy _ politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian
Specific dates	1892-1964	Builder/Architect T.	н.	Brenton & C. E.	Spaulding

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gates College Gymnasium is the last remaining building of Gates College, an educational institute located in Neligh during the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. After the college gave the building up, it was utilized by the county was a combination sheriffs office and jail. This unique building served those purposes in the county for seventy-five years.

In 1881, Neligh was selected over northeastern Nebraska towns by the Congregational Church as the location of a church-affiliated college. A classroom building was constructed and classes convened in 1882. The college was named 'Gates College' in honor of N. H. Gates, then superintendent of missions. Gates College was the first institute of higher learning, private or public, established north of the Platte River in Nebraska. The location of the college in Neligh had an intellectual, social, and economic impact on the town during its period of service. In 1887, Gaylord Hall was erected as a residence and dining hall. William C. Galloway, proprietor of the Neligh Mill, was an important supporter of the college and did much for its successful operation.

The college took interest in the health of the students and in September 1892, a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of erecting a gymnasium building. An athletic organization was formed consisting of both students and local citizens, to operate the gym when completed. Construction of the building began in October with college students digging the foundation ditches. The contract for the brick work was let to T. H. Brenton, and the carpentry work was done by C. E. Spaulding, both men from Neligh. Mr. Brenton later did the brick work for the county courthouse. Throughout the construction period, various entertainments and social functions were held to raise funds for the building and equipment. The gymnasium was completed late in December, 1892.

For the next half dozen years, the gymnasium was used for that purpose by the college. In the later 1890's Gates lost its college status, but remained open as an academy, and the gymnasium building was closed for a period of time. In 1900, the county board, looking for a building to use as a jail, purchased the gym for \$800 and converted it into the county jail. Cells were moved from the courthouse and installed on the first floor, and quarters for the sheriff were built on the second. For the next 64 years, the gymnasium served as the Antelope County jail.

In 1964, a new jail building was built just east of the gymnasium. Desiring to preserve the old building, the county board turned it over to the Antelope County Historical Society to use as a county museum, which it is used for today.

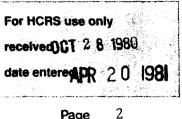
9. Major Bibliographical References

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Continuation sheet **Bibliography** Item number 9 Page

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