

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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MAY 18 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel

other names/site number Immanuel Temple Apostolic Holiness Church; NeHBS #LC13:B15W-001

2. Location

street & number 4601 NW 48th Street not for publication [N/A]

city or town Lincoln vicinity [N/A]

state Nebraska code NE county Lancaster code 109 zip code 68524

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Samuel Sommer
Signature of certifying official

May 10, 1993
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Beth Boland

4/17/93

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel
Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religious facility

Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

foundation concrete
walls wood

roof asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Architecture

Period of Significance

1941-1945

Significant Dates

March 22, 1942

May 1942

December 15, 1945

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Office of Quartermaster General, US Army

Howard R. Greene Company

Borchman & Gillmore Construction Company

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	686505	4525410	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Hurst
organization N/A date March 1993
street & number 1952 Independence Court telephone (402) 476-9719
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68521

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lincoln Housing Authority/City of Lincoln
street & number 5700 R Street telephone (402) 467-2371
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68505

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 7, 8 Page 1

Description

The Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel was constructed in May 1942 on a 3,000 acre army air field five miles northwest of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. The World War II air field was bordered on the east and west by low rolling hills, and on the north and south by a broad plain. Oak Creek flowed through the cantonment section on the west side of the air field providing natural drainage for the surrounding area. The front of the chapel faced east on B Avenue overlooking the cantonment section. Buildings in close proximity to the chapel included a fire station to the south, and a hospital on the north. 500 yards in back of the chapel was the airfield's west perimeter fence.

The 362 seat chapel is a one-story Colonial Revival wood framed structure measuring 81' X 36'. The building rests on a concrete block foundation. The front entrance features a small enclosed portico. Exterior siding is wood clapboard painted white. The gabled roofs of the chapel and portico have a 6.5/12 pitch and are covered with black asphalt shingles. Windows in the nave are double hung 16 over 16. Windows in the chaplain office, nursery, and cloak room are double hung 6 over 6. The front entrance has a double set of three panel doors. The chapel's back entrance has a single six panel door. Wood steps lead to both entrance landings. A four sided belfry and steeple extend above the gable ridge on the front of the chapel. The belfry has louvered ventilators on the front and back sides. The steeple is covered with black asphalt shingles. At its point there is a cross and lightning rod. A lantern style light fixture mounted above the portico entrance illuminates the front facade of the chapel. A 19' X 14' boiler room was constructed on the back of the chapel and is part of the original structure. The room has a 5/12 pitch shed roof covered with black asphalt shingles. Windows are double hung 6 over 6, and a service entrance door is on the back side. A brick chimney extends above the boiler room roof.

The central room in the front entrance of the chapel is the narthex. To the right of the narthex is the nursery room, on the left is the cloak room. A stairway in the cloak room leads to a small balcony over the narthex, cloak room, and nursery. Beyond the narthex is the chapel nave, the main room of the building. Significant features of the nave include pine wood floors, pine pews, exposed roof trusses, and a raised chancel which contains the chancel rail, lectern, and altar. Wood light fixtures are suspended from ceiling beams by black iron chain. On the left and right of the chancel area are offices. All interior walls in the chapel have pine wainscotting with horizontal beaded celotex on the upper portion. Six panel pine doors are used throughout the interior of the building.

Lincoln Army Air Field closed in 1945. The City of Lincoln acquired the air field property including the chapel in 1966. B Avenue was renamed NW 48th Street. The cantonment section, fire station, and hospital have been razed. The chapel remains on its original site. Modern building developments in the vicinity of the chapel are the Lincoln Housing Authority's maintenance shops to the north, the Lincoln Air Park industrial complex to the east, and the Arnold Heights residential housing area on the south and west. The chapel property is under the administration of the Lincoln Housing Authority and serves a civilian religious congregation. The chapel is in excellent condition and has not been altered from its original configuration.

Statement of Significance

The Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel is significant on a state level under Criterion A for its association with World War II and the construction of Lincoln Army Air Field. The property is also

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
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Section 8 Page 2

Statement of Significance (continued)

significant under Criterion C as an excellent representation of building technology used in World War II military mobilization construction. The chapel exhibits an extremely high degree of architectural and historical integrity, and represents the best example of a World War II air field chapel in the state. The period of significance is derived from the year (1941) when architectural plans for the chapel were designed, through the end of World War II (1945). Criterion Consideration "A" is applicable and is met through the property deriving primary significance from its association with World War II, and from architectural distinction. Because the chapel was built over fifty years ago (1942), and the majority of the period of significance occurred more than fifty years ago, Criteria Consideration G is not applicable.

On September 1, 1939 Germany invaded Poland and within 10 months occupied Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. Japan was also waging war in China and southeast Asia. Although the United States had not entered the Second World War at this time, President Roosevelt proclaimed a "limited national emergency" for military defense expansion. In June 1940 Congress appropriated 217 million dollars for military mobilization construction on Army posts and air fields. Buildings selected for the mobilization program were designed for rapid construction utilizing standardized building plans and materials, specialized assembly crews, and prefabricated mechanical components.

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers prefix designations for mobilization buildings were Series 700, Series 800, and Modified Theater of Operation Series. Mission support buildings for each series included barracks, warehouses, mess halls, infirmaries, theaters, and recreation halls. Religious services for soldiers were to be held in mobilization theaters and recreation halls, therefore plans for mobilization chapels were not designed. President Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, felt soldiers would gain a boost in morale if they could attend religious services in a military chapel. In 1941 under pressure from Mrs. Roosevelt standardized architectural drawings for army chapels were developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The army chapel's architecture resembled Colonial Revival style churches found in the New England area. The new chapel design (Regimental Chapel, Series 800-550) was immediately implemented into the mobilization construction program for army posts and air fields.

In December 1941 the United States entered World War II and the following year eleven army air fields were constructed in Nebraska using army mobilization plans. Construction of the air field five miles northwest of Lincoln started on March 22, 1942. The 3,000 acre site was operational 150 days later at a cost of fifteen million dollars. In the next three years over 25,000 military aircraft mechanics were trained at the field, and an additional 40,000 aviators were processed there for overseas combat duty. A total of 1016 mobilization buildings were erected on the field including the regimental chapel, which was constructed in May 1942 by government contractor Borchman & Gillmore Construction Company. The building was completed in twenty-one days at a cost of \$28,427, and served military religious purposes throughout World War II.

The air field closed on December 15, 1945 three months after the end of WWII, but was reactivated in 1952 as an air force base. Most of the World War II buildings were removed from the field and replaced with new construction. The base permanently closed on June 25, 1966 and was turned over to the City of Lincoln for use as a municipal airport and industrial park.

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Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
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Statement of Significance (continued)

World War II resources, by their very nature, were designed as temporary, mobile units, capable of rapid deployment. Longevity and permanence were not major design factors for these mobilization structures. In the 1988 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)/Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Report: World War II Temporary Structures: The U.S. Army it states: "With its eye on the immediate crisis, the army built its mobilization structures with the expectation that they would be "temporary," lasting 5 to 20 years." As a result, the survival rate of buildings such as regimental chapels is very low. In most cases, intermittent or discontinued use and eventual abandonment of the air fields led to the demise of these military structures.

The HABS/HAER Report presents a sound argument as to the importance of these buildings: "These buildings, however, have gained historical significance, and therefore merit study and documentation before they are razed. These World War II mobilization buildings sheltered few celebrities, and their architecture is straightforward, based on simple calculations of cost, efficiency, and speed of construction..... From an architectural history perspective, the war mobilization buildings are significant in terms of the new construction technology employed in their erection. Techniques such as the standardization of plans, prefabrication of units, and assembly-line approach to construction were largely pioneered in the construction of the mobilization structures."

In 1991 a reconnaissance level survey was conducted as part of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) to identify World War II army air fields in the state. The survey recorded the original location and present condition of the eight World War II mobilization chapels constructed in Nebraska. Air field chapels at Alliance, Grand Island, Harvard, and McCook have been razed. Chapels at Fairmont and Kearney have been moved to private property and altered. The Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel is the only mobilization chapel that remains on its original site, and retains both its structural and historical integrity. Remarkably intact, the chapel is outstanding due to the pristine condition of both the exterior and especially the interior spaces. Not only is the original fabric of the building intact, but also the original furnishings, such as the pews, chancel rail, lecturn, sanctuary chairs, and hanging light fixtures. As such, the building gains significance in Nebraska's military history for its important association with World War II, a major international conflict. Architecturally, the chapel is an excellent representation of military mobilization construction used during World War II, and more specifically, the best example of a World War II regimental chapel in the state.

Bibliography

"10 millions in contracts for air base". Nebraska State Journal. 3 May 1942. Page 1.

City Shapers: Five Events That Defined Lincoln. Lincoln-Lancaster StarVenture. November 1987.

Construction Division Office of the Quartermaster General. Mobilization Buildings Regimental Chapel Type CH-1. 3 September 1941

Information Office Army Air Forces Technical School Army Air Base. Their Skill - Your Security. Lincoln, Nebraska. February 1943.

Jameson, Kevin. "The Nebraska Air Bases of World War Two". 4 December 1990. Pages 14, 16, & 17.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lincoln Army Air Field Regimental Chapel
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 9, 10 Page 4

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Nebraska Aeronautics Commission. Nebraska Airport Directory. Nebraska Department of Aeronautics. 1991-1992.

"Omaha firm low bidder on 22 buildings". Nebraska State Journal. 2 May 1942. Page 1.

U.S. Army Air Forces. Airport Directory Continental United States Volume 2. Washington, D.C.: Aeronautical Chart Service. March 1945. Page 36.

War Department Office of the Post Engineer. Lincoln Army Air Field Building Plan. 27 January 1943.

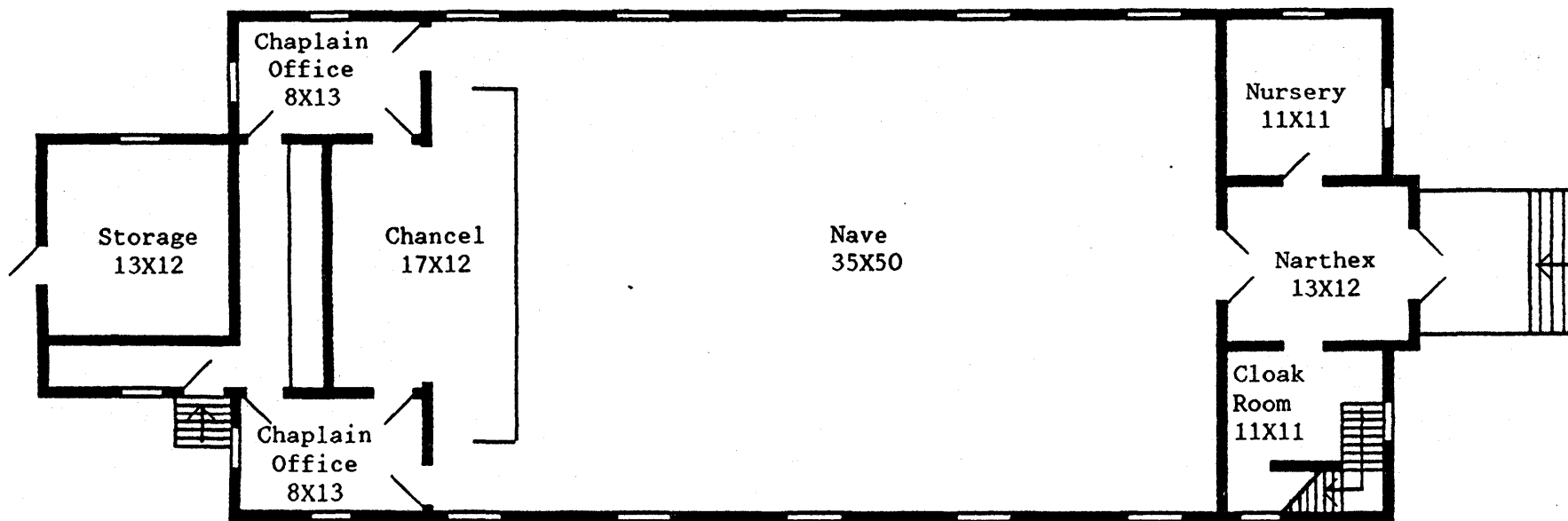
Wasch, Diane, and Perry Busch. World War II Temporary Structures: The U.S. Army. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service. June - September, 1988.

Verbal Boundary Description

The chapel is located on part of Lot 17 (irregular tract) of Section 6, Township 10 North, Range 6 East. It occupies the particular portion of that 93.38 acre lot beginning at a point at the southeast corner of Lot 17, running north 220 feet on the west side of NW 48th Street, then running west 200 feet, then running south 220 feet, then running east 200 feet on the south line of Lot 17 to the point of beginning, being a portion of Lot 17 measuring 44,000 square feet more or less, or approximately 1 (one) acre.

Boundary Justification

The area within the boundary includes the air field chapel building and the chapel parking lot. The boundary is bordered by modern streets on the north and east, and by a modern city housing development on the south and west. The property within the boundary retains historic integrity associated with Lincoln Army Air Field and the event of World War II.



↑
NORTH

FLOOR PLAN
LINCOLN AAF CHAPEL
LANCASTER COUNTY, NE.
16 NOVEMBER 1992

Lincoln Housing Authority

5th Street

Arnold Heights
Garden Area



Chapel

NW 48th
Street

Lincoln Air Park

Arnold Heights Housing Development



SITE PLAN
LINCOLN AAF CHAPEL
LANCASTER COUNTY, NE.
16 NOVEMBER 1992