

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Douglas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The City National Bank Building and Creighton Orpheum Theater

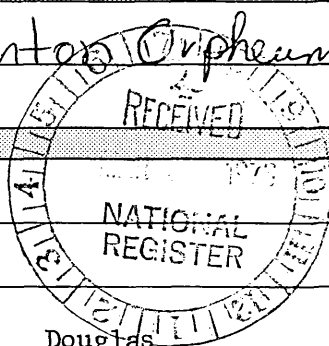
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
16th and Harney Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Omaha

STATE  
Nebraska      CODE 31      COUNTY:  
Douglas      CODE 055



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Maenner Co., Realtors

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1120 City National Bank Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Omaha,      STATE:  
Nebraska      CODE 31

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Register of Deeds, Douglas County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
18th and Farnam Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Omaha      STATE:  
Nebraska      CODE 31

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lincoln      STATE:  
Nebraska      CODE 31

STATE: Nebraska

COUNTY: Douglas

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

This nomination is located in the second Nebraska Congressional District.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The sixteen-story City National Bank Building stands at the southeast corner of 16th and Harney Streets. Erected in 1910, it was Omaha's first skyscraper. The bank building is typical of Holabird and Roche's standard skyscraper. Its riveted steel skeleton is clad in buff colored brick with granite detailing. Interior bays are formed by the continuous steel columns; This allows optimum office division and flexibility. Each bay is reflected on the exterior by two large double-hung windows. The main structural divisions and the continuous mullions regulate the facade and give it a vertical emphasis. Mechanical chases are integrated with the continuous structural elements and the sanitary units are stacked for plumbing efficiency.

The facade, relatively free of ornament, depends on its scale and proportion for visual impact. Italianate detailing is subdued and used mainly as a proportioning element.

The building was primarily designed for the legal, medical, and dental professions. Its "L" shaped plan provides all offices with a maximum exposure to light and natural ventilation. The offices are unpretentious, trimmed in mahogany. None of the interior walls are structural and can be altered or removed to accommodate varying tenant needs.

The current occupancy rate and low maintenance still make the bank building an economic asset. Its functional longevity attests to the foresight and practical planning of Holabird and Roche.

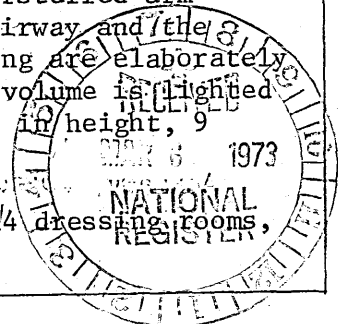
In 1927 the Creighton Orpheum Theater was renovated and expanded. Its entrance and main lobby were projected through the City National Bank Building to 16th Street. The new three-story buff brick volume butted against the bank building and the two structures became synonymous in the public mind.

The theater is a grand palace of a past era. Its highly pretentious Renaissance design is heightened with gold leaf and ivory. The lobby is wainscoted in rose cavernette and red laventi marble. The foyer walls are covered with mirrors and panels of gold leaf and inlaid ivory. These hard surfaces are interspersed with draperies of Vatican crimson broctelle, embellished with passementerie art. The decor is complete with Florentine drinking fountains and gilded, hand-carved furniture.

The three-story auditorium seats 2,877. The mezzanine level is composed of private loges, seating 360 in the comfort of overstuffed arm-chairs. The mezzanine foyer is reached by a circular stairway and the balcony by an elevator. The auditorium's walls and ceiling are elaborately embossed with gold and silver patterns. The three-story volume is lighted by a 250 lamp crystal chandelier. The fixture is 16 feet in height, 9 feet in diameter, and weighs 4,500 pounds.

Flanking the auditorium and stage on the north are 14 dressing rooms,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Douglas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <del>111</del> 35 1378	DATE <del>MAR 1 1973</del>

(Number all entries)

Description

Page 2 of 2 pages

two chorus rooms, and the green room. Stage curtains range from damasks to metallic fabrics, and one is covered with rhinestones.

An interesting feature of the theater is its air conditioning system. Air is forced up onto the truss cavity of the roof and allowed to drop into the auditorium. Return air vents under the seats then collect the air. In this manner a complete air change is accomplished every three minutes; a sophisticated system in 1927. In the summer months the auditorium is cooled by spraying water on the roof which in turn cools the air as it passes through the roof cavity.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

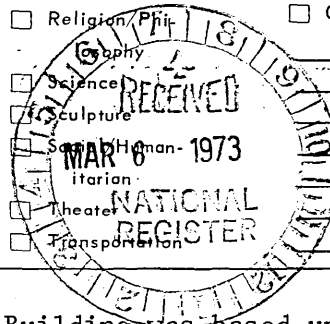
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The design for the National Bank Building was based upon Chicago School principles and executed by the prominent Chicago School architectural firm of Holabird and Roche. Construction was undertaken at a time when old world ideals were being combined with modern technology. Holabird and Roche had held strongly to the governing design factors of economy, structure, natural light, efficiency, and systems integration. These factors became primary in their solution to the high-rise office building in general. The City National Bank Building introduced Omaha to the 20th century. Its magnitude and simple steel skeleton must have had a great impact on Omaha's citizenry. In 1927 the newly expanded Orpheum Theater projected a lobby through to the bank building's 16th Street main facade. This unique utilization gave the theater an established and prestigious entrance.

The Creighton Orpheum Theater opened in 1892. It was originally a vaudeville house on a circuit originating in Chicago. It has always occupied its present site, but the original entrance was on 15th Street.

In 1927, the new two million dollar Orpheum was opened with a seating capacity of 2,877. It was Omaha's grandest theater, and its opening was the civic social event of the decade. It was built just before the advent of talking movies. Designed primarily for stage and musical productions, its performances have ranged from vaudeville to Lawrence Welk to Frank Sinatra. As the cost of live entertainment increased, the Orpheum shifted to a movie theater. Changing trends and competition from compact theaters with lower overhead forced the Orpheum to close in 1971.

Entertainment palaces of this size and elegance are fast becoming extinct. However, the Orpheum's acoustic qualifications and the potential of restoring its original grandeur has enhanced community interest in making it the home of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra.

The works of Holabird and Roche were described in one of the leading 1920 architectural publications as, "that which makes up the daily grist." This is an accurate summation of the bulk of the firms projects.

William Holabird (1845-1923), after two years at the U.S. Military Academy, moved to Chicago in 1875 to study architecture. He entered the office of William LeBaron Jenney as a draftsman where he received his fund-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Architecture Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore: Penquin Books, 1967).

Andrews, Wayne. Architecture, Ambition and Americans (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1955).

Files; Nebraska State Historical Society

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

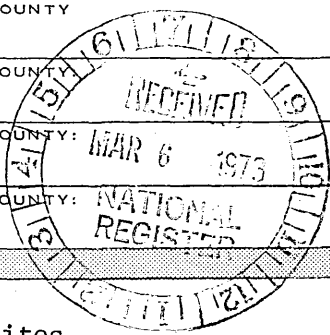
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		95° 56' 12"	41° 15' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
15/253900  
4571160  
60

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: 2/23/73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Martin E. Knott</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Nebraska State Historical Society</u></p> <p>Date <u>2/23/73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert J. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>3/26/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>3/21/73</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Nebraska
COUNTY	Douglas
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 28 1979	<del>1973</del>

(Number all entries)

Significance (continued)

Page 2 of 2 pages.

amental training in the use of modern techniques of iron and steel construction. At this time Jenney had already started to depart from the eclectic classicism of that period in his approach to a solution of the newly developing large commercial buildings of Chicago.

Martin Roche (1845-1927), after his public schooling, entered Jenney's office in 1872 where he met Holabird. In 1880, Holabird left Jenney's office and formed a partnership with Ossian C. Simonds. Roche joined the firm in 1881. In 1883 Simonds left and the firm became Holabird and Roche, one of the most productive participants in that Chicago School period. The firm survived until 1927.

Holabird and Roche drew heavily from their apprenticeships with the pre-Chicago School visionary, William LeBaron Jenney. The conceptualization of the "modern skyscraper" evolved through Jenney, Holabird, and Roche. Along with their skyscrapers came the urban concept of the high density business core and the engineering techniques in which the future cities were realized. As early as 1888 (Tacoma Building, Chicago; demolished, 1927) they had given expression to the architectural ideals of future decades. Although Holabird and Roche did not build the first steel skeleton skyscraper, they did introduce riveted steel construction. This technique greatly improved the speed and efficiency of the rising skyscrapers. The firm was also one of the first to set up along the lines of a modern architectural office, with personnel including not only architects, but also engineers, specification writers, superintendents, and accountants. Their modern office was equipped to handle confidently any project in that day, and as a result they made notable contributions in developing and integrating mechanical equipment and sanitary conveniences into their architectonic.

Holabird and Roche realized early the governing factors in the construction of the skyscraper. While their smaller projects took on the popular classical modes of the Neo-Academician movement, they freed themselves of irrational approaches in coming to a solution for the evolving skyscraper. The multiple complications in the design of skyscrapers produced in this firm an accepted architectural standard. This standard was based on sheer economics and an integration of the building's inherent systems. The result was a commercial expression of thin surfaces, restrained detailing, stereotype repetitions, and a character of subtle dominance. The logical consistency of their work developed out of a particular set of conditions and the solution was repeated where ever those conditions existed.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 73001061 Date Listed: 3/26/73

City Nat'l Bank Bldg & Creighton Orphem Theatre, Douglas Co, NE  
Property Name County State

Opera House Buildings in Nebraska 1867-1917  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Beck Boland*  
Signature of the Keeper

*7/7/88*  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Add to Historic Functions: "Commerce/Trade -- business" and "Commerce/Trade -- financial institution"

Add to Current Functions: "Commerce/Trade -- business" and "Commerce/Trade -- financial institution"

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Citi, National Bank Building and Creighton Orpheum Theatre  
historic name Creighton Theatre  
other names/site number Creighton Orpheum Theatre; NeHBS #D009:123-24; OHBIN #04-04-01

2. Location  
street & number 409 S. 16th N/A not for publication  
city, town Omaha N/A vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Douglas code 055 zip code 68101

3. Classification  
Ownership of Property  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal  
Category of Property  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object  
Number of Resources within Property  
Contributing Noncontributing  
1 0 buildings  
0 0 sites  
0 0 structures  
1 0 objects  
1 0 Total  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
Opera House Buildings in Nebraska 1867-1917  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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 May 16, 1988  
Signature of certifying official 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.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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:) additional information accepted  
Beth Roland 7/7/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action



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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture; Theatre;  
Music facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture; Theatre;  
Auditorium; Music facility

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (1910)  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Three-part vertical block

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Unknown

walls Brick

roof Unknown

other Granite detailing

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Creighton Theatre is unique among Nebraska opera houses included in this multiple property nomination, in that in 1927 the building was incorporated into Omaha's first skyscraper, the 1910 Holabird and Roche 16-story City National Bank Building. This structure, at the southeast corner of 16th and Harney streets, is of a riveted steel skeleton clad in buff colored brick with granite detailing. Interior bays are formed by the continuous steel columns. Each bay is reflected on the exterior by two large double-hung windows. The main structural divisions and the continuous mullions regulate the facade and give it a vertical emphasis. The facade, relatively free of ornament, depends on its scale and proportion for visual impact. Italianate detailing is subdued and used mainly as a proportioning element.

According to the *Omaha World Herald's* description when the theatre opened in February, 1895, it underwent considerable changes, even though it was regarded as "free from any and all unthinking copies of conventional dramatic architecture and appointments." Built on the former site of the *Herald*, the original Creighton exterior was Italian renaissance in style, constructed of buff brick, terra cotta, and gray stone, with square towers. The building was constructed with iron beams and with fireproofing for partitions and main floor, and with wire lath and hard plaster on all exposed and lower sides. The building itself measured 80 feet wide by 132 feet deep, with an annex on the west for heating plant, dressing rooms, and storage.

The ground-floor theatre was reached through one of four entrances: the main entrance, one into an arcade on the north side of the building, and one each to the balcony and gallery. The broad main entrance on 15th St. was sheltered by a porch, which extended to the curb. Three doors opened into the main vestibule, which measured 14 by 28 feet and housed the box office. From the 14-foot-wide foyer, stairways led to the balcony and gallery, with openings leading to two check rooms, a retiring room for ladies, and a smoking and toilet room for gentlemen.

The original auditorium contained a parquet holding 579 "broad and deep" leather opera seats, generously spaced; six loges with from four to ten chairs each; a balcony extending back to the east wall of the building with a total seating capacity of 625, sweeping from the front boxes in two graceful curves; and a gallery, seating 1000, similar in appearance to the balcony, with its own iron and slate staircase and a ticket office as well. Walls were finished in white oak. The general tone of the original frescoing was light brown, cream, and old

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   1  

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gold. The boxes were decorated in sage green, with fleur-de-lis in pale tints. Carpets were dark sage green with brown fleur-de-lis. Frescoing in the ceilings was of designs filled with tropical plants. Four circular domes aided in showing off this effect. Over the proscenium, the goddess of the muses was surrounded by poetry, comedy, tragedy, and love, with a portrait of John A. Creighton at the dome of the arch.

Today, the theatre's Renaissance design is heightened with gold leaf and ivory. The lobby is wainscoted in rose cavernette and red laventi marble. The foyer walls are covered with mirrors and panels of gold leaf and inlaid ivory, interspersed with draperies of Vatican crimson broctelle, embellished with passementerie art. The decor includes Florentine drinking fountains and gilded furniture. It now seats 2,877.

The proscenium opening is 36 feet wide by 33 feet high. The stage measures 41 feet from the footlights to the back wall, and 76 feet from wall to wall. The fly gallery was 25 feet above the stage, while the gridiron floor was fully 70 feet high. The structural and historical integrity of the building and theatre has been preserved, despite exterior modifications, since the City National Bank Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**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)

Performing Arts

Period of Significance

1895-1898

Significant Dates

1895

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lawrie, Harry (architect)

Holabird & Roche (builders)

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

The Creighton (later the Creighton Orpheum) Theatre is significant for its association with and in reference to the historic context "Aesthetic Systems: Itinerant and Local Performing Arts in Nebraska" and the property type of "Opera House Buildings in Nebraska, 1867 to 1917." Under Criterion A, this opera house is significant in the area of performing arts, on a state level, as a well preserved example of an opera house building in Nebraska. The building retains a high degree of historical integrity, possessing the physical and associative characteristics to make it an eligible member of its property type.

This opera house is significant in the area of performing arts for bringing a variety of entertainment to the community of Omaha. As a facility for the performing arts, it offered productions such as touring stock companies; minstrel shows; Shakespeare; classics such as *Charley's Aunt*, *Trilby*, *Thrilly*, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, *St. Elmo*, and *The Prisoner of Zenda*; dialect comedies; performers like Walker Whiteside, Joseph Jefferson, and Otis Skinner; and musical comedy. (See following table of Representative Entertainments 1895-1898.)

The period of significance derives from the original construction date of the building, 1895, when the *Omaha World Herald* touted it as "free from any and all unthinking copies of conentional dramatic architecture and appointments" (18 Feb. 1895:10). The period of significance continues through 1898, the year the theatre was sold to the Orpheum Vaudeville chain and ceased to function as an opera house.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Brown, Al. Telephone interview. Omaha: 3 Apr. 1987.  
Creighton Orpheum Theatre. Omaha site visit. 4 Apr. 1987.  
Forsberg, Terry. Letter to the author. Omaha: 1986.  
---. Telephone interview. Omaha: 2 Apr. 1987.  
Howe, G. Woodson. Letter to the author. Omaha: 16 Oct. 1986.  
*Morning [Omaha] World Herald*. 14 Feb. 1895 - 27 Oct. 1895.  
*Omaha Excelsior*. 16 Feb. 1895 - 10 Dec. 1898.  
Orpheum Theatre, 3 exteriors. Postcards. Andrea Paul Collection, Lincoln, NE.  
Orpheum Theatre, interior. Postcard. Andrea Paul Collection, Lincoln, NE.  
Rahder, Bobbi. Letter to the author. Omaha: 28 Jun. 1986.  
Uinoenek, Dennis. Letter to the author. Omaha: 5 Nov. 1986.  
Western Heritage Museum. Letter to the author. Omaha: 29 Aug. 1987.

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:

D. Layne Ehlers (see below)

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one [1] acre

UTM References

A 

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

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

This property is described as all of Lots 1 and 2 and the east 33' of Lot 3 of Block 147 in the Original City Lots of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire town lots that have been historically associated with this property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title D. Layne Ehlers, Principal Investigator

organization OHBIN Study date April, 1988

street & number 2302 South 11th telephone [402] 435-6946

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68502

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 24 1898

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Creighton Theatre, Omaha  
Representative Entertainments, 1895-1898

DATE	EVENT AND PERFORMERS
------	----------------------

**Performing Arts**

Aug 1895	Charles Frohman's Co. in <i>The Masqueraders</i> , <i>Liberty Hall</i> , and <i>Sowing the Wind</i> August Thomas' <i>Alabama</i> <i>The Wife</i>
Sep 1895	<i>A Fatted Calf</i> , directed by Eugene Robinson John Stapleton Co. in <i>Americans Abroad</i> and <i>The Charity Ball</i> - <i>The Derby Winner</i> A. M. Palmer's Stock Co. in <i>The Hustler</i> and <i>Trilby</i> Cleveland's Minstrels <i>The Cotton King</i>
Oct 1895	<i>Coon Hollow</i> <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> , <i>Beau Brummel</i> , <i>A Parisian Romance</i> , <i>King Richard III</i> , and <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> by the Garrick Theatre Stock Co. Edwin M. Royles' <i>Mexico and Friends</i> <i>Human Hearts</i> by Hal Reid <i>O'Flarity's Vacation</i> <i>Charley's Aunt</i> <i>The Defaulter</i> <i>Thrilby</i> , the burlesque Hanlon Brothers' <i>Superba</i> <i>The Prize Winner</i>
Nov 1895	<i>A Run on the Bank</i> by the Wareland Vokes <i>The Dazzler</i> with Cosgrove & Grant's Comedians Walker Whiteside's Company Tompkin's <i>Black Crook</i> <i>1492</i>
Dec 1895	<i>Down in Dixie</i> <i>Peasant's Carnival</i> <i>The Fast Mail</i> by Lincoln J. Carter <i>The New Dominion</i> <i>On the Mississippi</i> <i>Pudd'nhead Wilson</i> by Frank Mayo

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Continuation Sheet

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Creighton Theatre, Omaha  
Representative Entertainments, 1895-1898

DATE EVENT AND PERFORMERS

Performing Arts, cont'd.

Sep 1896 *Tennessee's Partner* by Scott Harvell  
Charles Frohman's Empire Stock Co. in *Bohemia*, *Liberty Hall*, and  
*The Benefit of the Doubt*  
The Columbia Opera Co. in *Said Pasha*, *The Black Hussar*, *Mikado*,  
*Mascotte*, *Erminie*, *H.M.S. Pinfore*  
Chauncey Olcott in *The Minister of Clare*, *Mavourneen*, and *The Irish*  
*Artist*

Oct 1896 W. E. Gorman's Comedians in *A Green Goods Man*  
Joseph Jefferson's *Rip Van Winkle*  
*Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Lady of Lyons*, and *A Soldier of*  
*Fortune* with Otis Skinner  
*Darkest Russia*  
A. M. Palmer's *Trilby*  
*An American Beauty* by Lillian Russell Opera Co.  
*Madam Sans Gene* starring Kathryn Kidder

Nov 1896 *In Grey New York*  
*Gathering of the Clans*, *Rob Roy*, and *A Pageant of Nations*, home  
talent  
Walker Whiteside in *Eugene Aram*, *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice*,  
and *Hamlet*  
Charles Frohman's Co. in *Thoroughbred*  
Daniel Frohman presents *The Prisoner of Zenda*  
Omaha Musical Society Concert  
Tompkin's Original Black Crook Co., Ballet  
Whitney Opera Co. in *Rob Roy*  
*The Girl I Left Behind Me*

Dec 1896 May Irwin & Co. in *The Widow Jones*

Sep 1897 Hoyt's *A Milk White Flag*

Oct 1897 *Miss Francis of Yale*  
*White Crook*  
Charles A. Yale's *Twelve Temptations*  
*At Gay Coney Island*  
*An Irish Gentleman*  
*Ole Olsen*, a dialect comedy  
*Sowing the Wind*

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Section number 8 Page 3

Creighton Theatre, Omaha  
Representative Entertainments, 1895-1898

DATE	EVENT AND PERFORMERS
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Performing Arts, cont'd.

Nov 1897	<i>A Secret Warrant</i> A. Y. Pearson's Stock Co. in <i>The White Squadron</i> and <i>Police Patrol</i> <i>The Woman in Black</i> Smith and Rice Comedy co. in <i>My Friend from India</i> <i>The Last Stroke ... For Free Cuba</i>
Dec 1897	J. J. McNally's adaptation of <i>The Widow Jones</i> Hogan's Alley Co. <i>The Broadway Girl</i> , a comedy <i>The Hoosier Doctor</i> presented by Digby Bell Hoyt's <i>A Bunch of Keys</i> Vaudeville stars <i>At Piney Ridge</i> starring Daniel Higgins Hoyt's <i>A Contented Woman</i> Donnelly & Girard in <i>The Geezer</i>
Jan 1898	Woodward Stock Co. in <i>Lynwood</i> , <i>Jim the Westerner</i> , <i>The Stolen King</i> , and <i>Forgiven</i> , plus vaudeville
Apr 1898	<i>The Fatal Card</i> Bartley Campbell's <i>My Partner</i>
May 1898	Woodward Stock Co. in <i>Camille</i>
Aug 1898	<i>Faust</i> <i>Captain Smith</i> Creighton Theatre Stock Co. in <i>Trilby</i> Woodward Stock Co. in <i>Esmeralda</i>
Sep 1898	Woodward Stock Co. in <i>Ferncliff</i> and <i>Men and Women</i>
Nov 1898	Julius Cahn's co. in <i>The Girl I Left Behind Me</i> <i>French Marriage</i> , <i>Ingomar</i> , and <i>The Gladiator</i>
Dec 1898	<i>Our Honeymoon</i> with John C. Rice and Sally Cohen Pauline Hall, "peerless operatic star", Beatrice Moreland, "society's favorite actress" and vaudeville acts

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Photographs

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The following information is the same for all Creighton photographs:

NAME OF PROPERTY: Creighton Theatre  
CITY, COUNTY, STATE: Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska  
NeHBS SITE No.: D009:123-24  
OHBIN SITE No.: 04-04-01  
NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: Christian H. Ehlers

PHOTO NUMBER: Omaha #1  
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH (and NEGATIVE NUMBER): 04-04-87 (8703/12:10)  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVE: Nebraska State Historical Society  
DESCRIPTION OF VIEW INDICATING DIRECTION OF CAMERA: Exterior view, looking north northeast at the south and the west (front) facades.

PHOTO NUMBER: Omaha #2  
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH (and NEGATIVE NUMBER): 04-04-87 (8703/12:7)  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVE: Nebraska State Historical Society  
DESCRIPTION OF VIEW INDICATING DIRECTION OF CAMERA: Interior view, looking east and down at the stage from the front of the top balcony.

PHOTO NUMBER: Omaha #3  
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH (and NEGATIVE NUMBER): 04-04-87 (8703/12:4)  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVE: Nebraska State Historical Society  
DESCRIPTION OF VIEW INDICATING DIRECTION OF CAMERA: Interior view, looking west at the north side of the auditorium area from the stage.

PHOTO NUMBER: Omaha #4  
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH (and NEGATIVE NUMBER): 04-04-87 (8703/12:6)  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVE: Nebraska State Historical Society  
DESCRIPTION OF VIEW INDICATING DIRECTION OF CAMERA: Interior view, near the street entrance, looking northeast at the box office.