

1001



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 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 Agriculture Hall  
Other names/site number Industrial Arts Building , LC13:D11-087

2. Location

Street & number N/A Not for publication   
City or town Lincoln Vicinity   
State Nebraska Code NE County Lancaster Code 109 Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Michael J. Am...  
Signature of certifying official  
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

OCT 13, 2010  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Elson H. Beall 12-10-10

[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**Agriculture Hall**

Name of Property

**Lancaster County, Nebraska**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing		Noncontributing	
1			Buildings
			Sites
			Structures
			Objects
1		0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/fair

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Concrete

Walls Brick

Roof Asphalt shingle

Other

**Narrative Description**

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

**Agriculture Hall**

Name of Property

**Lancaster County, Nebraska**

County and State

**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.)

- ARCHITECTURE
- AGRICULTURE
- INDUSTRY
- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

1913-1960

**Significant Dates**

1913

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Burd F. Miller, Architect

W. J. Assenmacher, Contractor

**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 for additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Agriculture Hall**

Name of Property

**Lancaster County, Nebraska**

County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of property** 1.55 acres

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>		<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1.	14	694586	4522399	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.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Laurie Richards of Heritage Nebraska, Dan Worth of Bahr Vermeer Haecker Architecture, and Jill Dolberg and David Murphy with the NSHS

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date May 20, 2010

street & number 1500 R Street/P.O. Box 82554 telephone (402) 471-4787

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68501-2554

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## Additional Documentation

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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.)

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## Property Owner

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

name/title Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska

street & number 1901 Y Street telephone (402) 472-7211

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68588

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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.



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**Agriculture Hall**

Name of Property

**Lancaster County, Nebraska**

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**SUMMARY**

Agriculture Hall, now the Industrial Arts Building in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, is a distinctively shaped, trapezoidal building on the south edge of Lincoln's State Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are located along the railroad tracks north and east of downtown and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln's city campus. The Nebraska State Fair is a summer institution that drew visitors from throughout the state to Lincoln for the eleven day event. In the early first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, attendance fell from a high of 350,000 in 2000 to a low of 238,000 in 2003.<sup>1</sup> Although numbers rallied slightly in the next few years, in 2008 the Nebraska State Legislature decided to move the State Fair to Grand Island, Nebraska in 2010. The fairgrounds were transferred to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Agriculture Hall is a trapezoidal, red brick arcaded building that originally was used to display innovations in agriculture, and later industrial marvels, to the visitors of the Nebraska State Fair.

**Exterior Systems**

Agriculture Hall's trapezoidal dimensions are 300 feet on the north, 300 feet on the west, 366 feet on the south, and 90 feet on the east. The long, angled south façade parallels the adjacent railroad tracks which form the south boundary of the fairgrounds. The exterior wall system is composed of brick masonry exterior bearing walls that are punctuated with semi-circular brick masonry arches. The brick used for the exterior is a pressed modular dark red brick. The brick arches are regularly spaced along the entire façade forming an impressive arcade assembly. Each arch contains a decorative architectural concrete keystone in the shape of a swagged volute. The arch spring line consists of horizontal concrete beams (a simulated flat arch) with slightly tapered bottom intrados resting on architectural concrete consoles or brackets. The wall areas above the beams are either in-filled with brick masonry in a solid panel or contain large wood window sashes. Areas below the concrete beams either form entrances into the building interior and are in-filled with small doors and windows or have been bricked up or enclosed with masonry.

Each arch is flanked by large engaged brick piers. At the top of each pier are remnants of a decorative shield or medallion constructed out of architectural concrete. The remaining substrate has been grouted and painted. Originally the shields were edged with a swagged border. The ornament has spalled or been chiseled away.

The base of the building is coated with a cement plaster or concrete parging approximately four feet in height. At the top of the exterior masonry wall and at the edge of the roof are remnants of sheet metal cornice work. The original cornice has been removed and the remaining top portion of the wall was enclosed with a Mapes-type panel. At the roof edge is a continuous rectangular gutter. Drainage from the gutters is provided via round corrugated downspouts spaced at approximately every other bay. The downspouts lead to underground drain pipes leading away from the building.

The building's hipped roof system is composed of three-tab asphalt shingles and rolled asphalt roofing. The roof covering has failed in three areas and the wood decking substrate has rotted allowing water to enter the building. These areas are mainly at the west and north roof slopes of the roof. The roof features small gabled dormers evenly spaced along each side.

The east façade of the building contains three large overhead doors. The central door has a large concrete ramp and flanking retaining walls which leads to the lower building level while the southern-most door has a concrete loading dock which serves the main level.

<sup>1</sup> *Lincoln Journal Star*, 31 August 2009.

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Agriculture Hall

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

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### Interior Systems

The interior of the Agriculture Hall is essentially one large volume measuring approximately forty feet to the underside of the roof deck and surrounded at the perimeter by a mezzanine with smaller rooms/spaces directly under the mezzanine. The principal structural system is a web of trusses designed to cover the large open area of the interior exhibition space. The nature of the exhibitions was such that the space did not need to be clear-span, as was most common in the predecessor buildings of this type. Such a requirement would have been very difficult to accomplish in this case given the unusual shape of the building site, which the fair board had apparently requested be used in its entirety.

The system is composed of common steel sections, assembled, as had been typical since the mid-nineteenth century, into composite structural members as required to carry the various load demands. Truss chords and webs, for example, are designed using steel angles, with all members connected by riveted plates; posts are spaced steel channels set back-to-back and connected with a lattice-work of riveted strap-iron.

The key to the whole structure is the post-and-truss system of the interior open space. This space has the same shape as the trapezoidal footprint of the building. The trapezoid is the result of the truncation of the lesser angle of a scalene right triangular shape, very near to what would have been the most acute point. The truncation wall is only 90 feet in length, compared to the 300 and 366-foot lengths of the remaining three walls of the building. The resulting interior space is essentially triangular.

The interior structure responds to this truncated triangle by roughly dividing the three angles in half by ridge lines, the three ridges meeting near the areal center of the open space, where a column is positioned. Additional widely-spaced, full-height, free-standing columns then radiate from this central post along the ridge lines. These posts support principal or ridge trusses, into which the interior ends of the main roof trusses are connected. The main trusses are aligned normal to the exterior walls, and meet the ridge trusses at angles.

Closely-spaced lattice columns at the edge of the mezzanine create an arcade around the perimeter of the open space. These are supported at mid-height by the steel and concrete mezzanine floors. A composite bolster at the top of the columns acts as a capital. The capitals support the outside vertical webs of the main trusses; these webs then perform as extensions of the columns up to the top chords, at the roof deck. The webs are cross-braced between columns, above the capitals. The capitals also support the interior end of the bottom, horizontal chord of the smaller trusses that span the mezzanine portion of the interior, between the open space and the exterior walls. The outside ends of these trusses are supported on pilasters integral to the exterior brick bearing walls.

The main trusses are essentially simple Pratt type trusses, while the mezzanine trusses feature integrated, single inverted (Howe) trusses into their profiles. The main roof trusses support a very low-pitched, nearly flat roof. A band of skylights that reflected the triangular shape of the interior space was formerly supported by the outside three panels of these trusses. The roof pitch steepens at the line of perimeter columns, above the mezzanine trusses.

The rather pragmatic structural response to covering the triangular space was elaborated in a very sophisticated way via the integration of the mezzanine into the exhibition structure. Here the architect and engineer introduced a pronounced curve into the bottom chord of the main trusses, giving the exhibition space the prominent character of a lacey, vaulted volume. The space appears sheltered with an arched-truss at the narrow end, expanding into a flattened arched-truss at the wide end of the space. There, the change in direction of the trusses to meet the other two ridge lines produce a vaulted end to the space. The overall character then provides a structurally and aesthetically festive interior space, and one that recalls the tradition of such spaces as it had developed from mid-nineteenth century England.

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**Agriculture Hall**

Name of Property

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The mezzanine floor is composed of concrete slabs resting on beams or bearing walls below. The main floor of the arena is also composed of a grade-supported concrete slab except at the northern portion of the space which is located over a partial basement/lower level. Concrete ramps located at the ends of the mezzanines provide access to upper levels. Wood-framed stairs also provide access from the main level to the mezzanine level at various locations around the perimeter of the area.

The mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in the Industrial Arts Building are limited to minimal electrical power and lighting, plumbing for restrooms and domestic water, and some mechanical ventilation systems. The building has no heat and was originally designed to be ventilated and lighted naturally. Two significant changes have occurred to the building – the skylights have been removed or covered with asphalt roofing material and electric ventilators have been installed in some of the roof dormers.

**Historic Integrity**

In general, the building retains its historic integrity. The decorative metal cornice that once ringed the building has been replaced with a modern flat metal cornice and the decorative borders of the shields atop the exterior piers have been removed. Other detriments to the condition of the structure or its historic integrity are the result of deferred maintenance.



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### SUMMARY

Agriculture Hall meets its significant on the state level under Criteria A and C in the areas of agriculture, industry, entertainment/recreation, and architecture/engineering. The building represents facility growth during the State Fair's expansion period. It has significance of the engineering of its structural system and for its association with the Nebraska State Fair, an event that brought entertainment opportunities, educational enrichment and the latest in agricultural technology to the lives of thousands of Nebraskans on an annual basis.

Before Nebraska was officially a state, there was a fair. A state fair is a competitive and recreational gathering of a state's population. It is a larger version of a county fair, often including only exhibits or competitors that have won in their categories at the local county fairs. Originally a state fair included a competitive exhibition of livestock in various competitions, the display of farm products which were not necessarily for sale, and competition among various fair participants in such categories as handicrafts, baked goods, jams and jellies, but has since been expanded to include carnival amusement rides and games, music, races, and tests of strength and skill. From the days of the first Nebraska Territorial Fair along the banks of the Missouri River at Nebraska City to the present 11-day show, the Fair has always been a joyful occasion.

The Nebraska State Fair has had a wide and varied influence in the State of Nebraska. During Nebraska's settlement period, the State Fair was used as an advertising tool for encouraging settlement within the state. The State Board of Agriculture, under the leadership of Robert W. Furnas, developed the Fair into an effective annual agricultural exposition. The Board of Agriculture and the State Horticultural Society cooperated to send exhibits of Nebraska fruit and grains to expositions throughout the East. Later, instead of drawing people from out of state, it concentrated it on drawing people from all over Nebraska to show their prize livestock, display their most impressive quilts and cake recipes, explore expanding agricultural technology and perhaps view impressive statues made of butter and other industry displays. For many, the State Fair was their only vacation of the year, making it their annual chance to meet old friends now distant, learn techniques from other regions of the state, and enjoy recreation and entertainment that was otherwise unavailable at home.

#### Agriculture Hall: History & Contribution to Nebraska Agriculture and Industry

After moving among Nebraska City, Brownville, Lincoln and Omaha, in 1901 the Nebraska Legislature selected the Lancaster County Fairgrounds as the permanent site for the annual Nebraska State Fair. During an early period of fair expansion and due to the great need for agricultural exhibits including horticulture and floriculture, a new Agricultural Hall (later renamed the Industrial Arts Building in 1948) was constructed in 1913 at a cost of \$100,000 complete with a green space and fountain at the interior. The building was designed to exhibit and display agricultural products from the state of Nebraska. After World War II, the building was used to exhibit agricultural and industrial technology produced in the state.

On January 16, 1913, a bill for \$108,000 was introduced to the Legislature by Michael Lee of Omaha and George Jackson of Nelson for the construction of an agricultural building at the State Fair Grounds. This bill passed on April 16, 1913 and was signed by Governor John H. Morehead. Of the \$108,000, \$100,000 was earmarked for the erection of Agriculture Hall on the State Fair Grounds and \$8,000 for the purchase of land. Architect Burd Miller of Omaha was hired to design the building, and contractor W. J. Assenmacher of Lincoln received the contract for the construction of the building.



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**Agriculture Hall**

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According to the Secretary's Report contained in the *1914 Annual Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture* "... we (Nebraskans) now have erected one of the best agriculture-horticulture buildings to be found on any state fairgrounds in the United States." The Secretary's Report in the *1915 Annual Report* stated that "this building caused wonderment and delight from not only the citizens of Nebraska but from those of other states as well. The unique display furnished... was something new in State Fair showing nationwide." Exhibits contained not only agricultural products from a wide range of climatic conditions around the state, but also displays instructive and educational in nature providing "information of such a varied character as would take a month of travel to gather from local growing sources."

Besides exhibits of Nebraska agriculture, Ag Hall also contained foreign displays and exhibits for homemakers, including the latest Singer sewing machine, innovations in food storage, cleaning equipment, and childcare. One interesting example was a popular wellness program called "Better Babies." The *1916 Annual Report* noted that the "...babies' health department has grown to be one of the standard departments of the Fair...and interest manifested by the mothers in the welfare of their children gives great pleasure to the members of the Board." The report also noted that "during the last two years we have conducted a children's nursery under the north balcony...where children were cared for under the direction of competent nurses during the days of the fair. It is a source of great convenience and help to mothers attending the Fair."

Agricultural Hall is significant for representing the breadth of change that occurred in agriculture during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although there is much debate regarding the circumstances of the invention of the first tractor, it is clear that tractors were not prevalent in the United States until the decade of the 1910s when the technology became more compact, reliable and affordable. Prior to this, plowing, planting and reaping were done through the use of horses and manpower. Farm families benefitted from having a large brood of children that would eventually be able to help with chores. Alternatively, they might hire men to work on the farm with them, providing rural employment for many.

The affordable internal combustion engine and affordable tractors made a huge difference in the way agricultural production was accomplished nationwide and in Nebraska. Socially speaking, fewer people and animals were required to do the work, which over time removed work horses from barns across the plains and moved hired men into the cities. Once tractors became the norm and not the exception, innovative farmers would make improvements to their designs, their accessories and additional machinery that would make agriculture easier. The decade of 1940 was pivotal in terms of nationwide changes in the mechanization of agriculture, and therefore the agricultural population, of the United States. At the beginning of the decade, 6.8 million families lived on farms, translating into 30 million people in these farming families. At the same time, there were 1.2 million tractors in the U.S. By 1950, the U.S. had 4 million tractors, and the population of Americans on farms had fallen to 23 million. At the same time, these farms were more productive than ever. It was true that, as tractor advertisements claimed, one man could do the work of many.

After World War II and with the construction of a new agriculture building, Ag Hall was converted for exhibiting industrial and technological products developed in the state and was renamed the Industrial Arts Building. One reference from the *1948 Annual Report* stated that "...prior to opening of the fair all available space for industrial space was sold out." That year, the Burlington Railroad exhibited the newest and most advanced refrigerated railroad car equipment. "This exhibit was highly educational...in how perishable products are transported." In addition, the fair visitor could see displays of new power steering motors for tractors purportedly easily installed by the average farmer, innovations in corn drying, grain storage, irrigation systems and on and on.

Ag Hall also played a role in the early years of aircraft manufacturing in Nebraska and the United States. In 1919 during the off season, the Lincoln Standard Aircraft Company (originally the Nebraska Aircraft Corporation) bought the entire stock of World War I surplus Standard airplanes as well as surplus 150 hp Hispano-Suiza engines. The company

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### Agriculture Hall

Name of Property

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proceeded to replace the Standard Hall-Scott engine, which was underpowered and prone to catch fire when the engine backfired, with the Hispano-Suiza engine in order to make a more powerful and reliable airplane. Nearly 200 planes were assembled in Lincoln, the first of which were assembled at the State Fairgrounds in Agriculture Hall. During his years in Lincoln, Charles Lindbergh learned to pilot one of these Lincoln Standard Planes. I.O. Biffle, who was Lindbergh's flight instructor, assisted in the assembly of the Lincoln Standard Aircraft in Agricultural Hall as well. Biffle and Lindbergh were two of the first pilots to transport airmail across the country. Barnstorming became the rage with the Lincoln Standard Aircraft because they were highly maneuverable and relatively inexpensive. Many pilots purchased these planes in Lincoln and some of them gave rides to visitors at the Nebraska State Fair. Later in its history, Agriculture Hall would continue to play a key role in industrial history with the assembly of the famous Cushman Scooter in the building.

#### Architecture

Agriculture Hall was designed by a noted Nebraska architect whose work has achieved some recognition in that many of his buildings are included in historic districts within Omaha and Lincoln. Burd F. Miller, a prominent architect from Omaha, Nebraska, contracted with the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture and prepared the design of the 1913 Agriculture Hall. Mr. Miller was also responsible for the design of the Arsenal Building (NRHP 9/17/1981), now a military museum on the former State Fair Park, and many other historically significant structures in Omaha and Lincoln. His work includes houses located in Omaha's Gold Coast Historic District (NRHP - 3/14/1997), Field Club Historic District (NRHP - 11/15/2000), Dundee-Happy Hollow Historic District (NRHP - 7/22/2005), and Lincoln's Boulevards Historic District (NRHP - 12/19/2008).

This 93,000 SF trapezoidal building rises to an open height of nearly forty feet at the interior and contains a thirty-six foot wide mezzanine around the perimeter of the interior. Perhaps of most significance is the interior spatial character of the building and its trapezoidal shape, which led to a unique structural system. It is reminiscent of exhibition halls that had a tradition of exhibition halls that used large, open, glazed spaces sheltered by iron, and later steel, truss systems. This tradition began with the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park (Joseph Paxton, 1851), followed by the Exposition universelle de 1855 in Paris (Palace of Industry, Max Barthelin), then the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia (Main Exhibition Hall, Henry Pettit and Joseph Wilson; Machinery Hall, Pettit and Wilson; Horticulture Hall, H.J. Schwarzmann; and Agriculture Hall, James Windrim), and finally to the Paris International Exposition of 1889 (Galerie des machines, Victor Contamin and Ferdinand Dutert; and the Eiffel Tower). When constructed in the early 1900s, exhibition buildings of this type of construction were built in several fairgrounds throughout the United States. The light steel trusses, laced columns and masonry exterior walls set them apart from later fair buildings.

Ag Hall's unique plan and immense skylit space imparted a sense of grandeur to visitors at the State Fair and reinforced the importance of agriculture to the State of Nebraska. Visitors to the fair could see a garden growing inside a building. It also gave exhibitors a special space to promote first the best agricultural products and later the technological breakthroughs of the time.

Since its formative years, the Nebraska State Fair has grown and continues to showcase the talent, products and people of Nebraska. To many, the Nebraska State Fair was the main social event of the year. It was a place to meet and learn from others, to enjoy entertainment and to celebrate. The Agricultural Hall/Industrial Arts Building played a major role in making the State Fair worth the long trip from outstate by providing a central place for all of these innovations to be viewed and potentially purchased for their own farms.

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Continuation Sheet**

**Agriculture Hall**

Name of Property

**Lancaster County, Nebraska**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*1914 Annual Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture*

*1915 Annual Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture*

*1916 Annual Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture*

*1948 Annual Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture*

*Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation* website. <http://www.statefair.org/1868/history/index.asp> Viewed May 21, 2010.

Olson, James C. and Ronald C. Naugle. *History of Nebraska*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1997.

Stevens, Betty. *Bright Lights and Blue Ribbons: 125 Years of the Nebraska State Fair*. Lincoln, NE: Lincoln Journal-Star Printing Company, 1994.

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**Agriculture Hall**

Name of Property

**Lancaster County, Nebraska**

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The Industrial Arts Building is located in the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 6 East. The nominated property consists of the building's footprint.

**Boundary Justification:**

The Nebraska State Fairgrounds is in the process of being converted to the Nebraska Innovation Campus of the University of Nebraska. Agriculture Hall does not have a current legal description or conventional address as it is part of a large, state-owned campus. The building's trapezoidal footprint encompasses the entire historic resource.



*Nebraska*  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



October 19, 2010

J. Paul Loether  
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Park Service  
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Agricultural Hall (Industrial Arts Building)  
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

  
L. Robert Puschendorf  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

1500 R Street  
PO Box 82554  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554  
p: (800) 833-6747  
(402) 471-3270  
f: (402) 471-3100  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Agricultural Hall  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Lancaster

DATE RECEIVED: 10/25/10      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/30/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/15/10      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/10/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001001

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT       RETURN       REJECT      12.10.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Agriculture Hall (Industrial Arts Bld.)  
State Fair Park  
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska  
Photo 1 of 6

Ne HRSI #:  
LC13:D11-087

"Southwest Corner with cornerstone, West and  
South Elevations"

Aspect: NE

Photographer: Jill Dolberg, NSHS

Date: 06/09/2010

NE - Lancaster County - Agriculture Hall - 0001





industrial  
arts

Agriculture Hall (Industrial Arts Bld.)  
State Fair Park  
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska  
Photo 2 of 6

NetPSI #: LC13:DI1-087

"South End of West Elevation"

Aspect: E

Photographer: Jill Daberg, NSHS

Date: 06/09/2010

NE-LancasterCounty-AgricultureHall-0002



industrial  
arts

industrial  
arts

Agriculture Hall (Industrial Arts Bld.) NeHSI #:  
State Fair Park CCB: D13-087  
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska  
Photos 3 of 6

"West and North Elevations at Northwest Corner"

Aspect: SE

Photographer: Jill Deberg, NSHS

Date: 06/09/2010

NE - Lancaster County - Agriculture Hall - 0003





Agriculture Hall (Industrial Arts Bld.) NeHRSI#  
State Fair Park LC13:D11-087  
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska  
Photo 4 of 6

"Detail of Keystone"

Aspect: NA

Photographer: Jill Dolberg, NSHS

Date: 06/09/2010

NE - Lancaster County - Agriculture Hall - 0004



Agriculture Hall (Industrial Arts Bld.) NEHRSI #:

State Fair Park

LC13:DI1-007

Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska

Photo 5 of 6

"Interior Toward Southwest Corner"

Aspect: SW

Photographer: Dan Worth, BVH Architecture

Date: 09/15/2009

NE - Lancaster County - Agriculture Hall - 0005





Agriculture Hall (Industrial Arts Bld.)

State Fair Park

Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska

Photo 6 of 6

"Detail of Truss and Post System"

Aspect: NA

Photographer: Dan Worth, BVH Architecture

Date: 09/15/2009

NetRSI #: LC13:D11-087

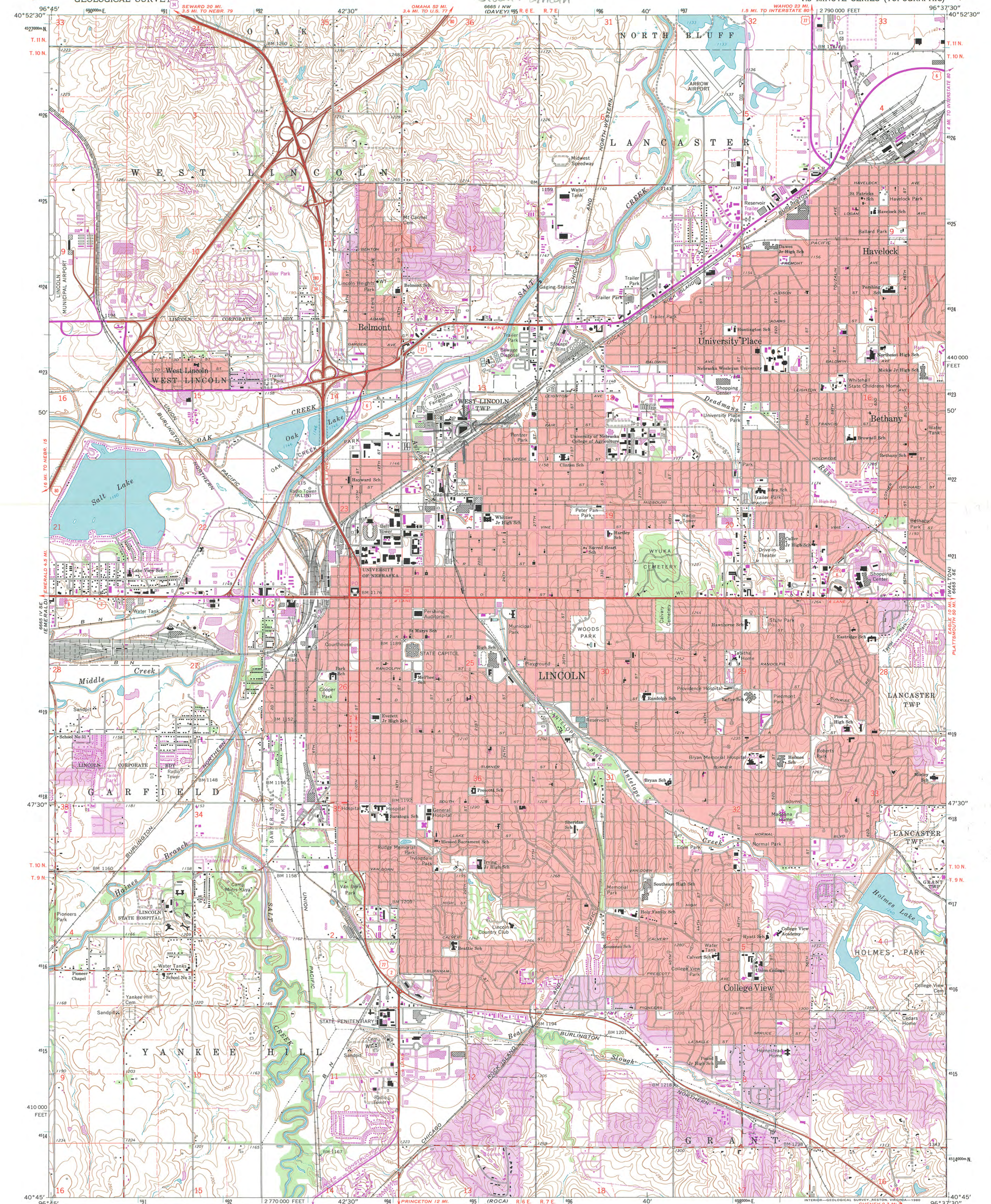
NE-Lancaster County-Agriculture Hall-0006



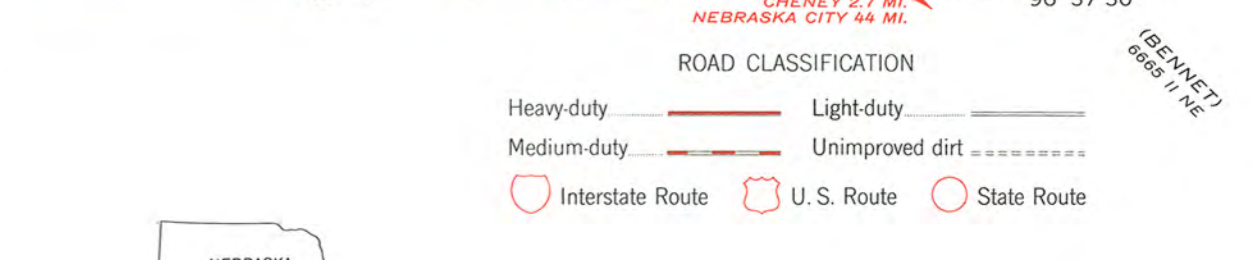
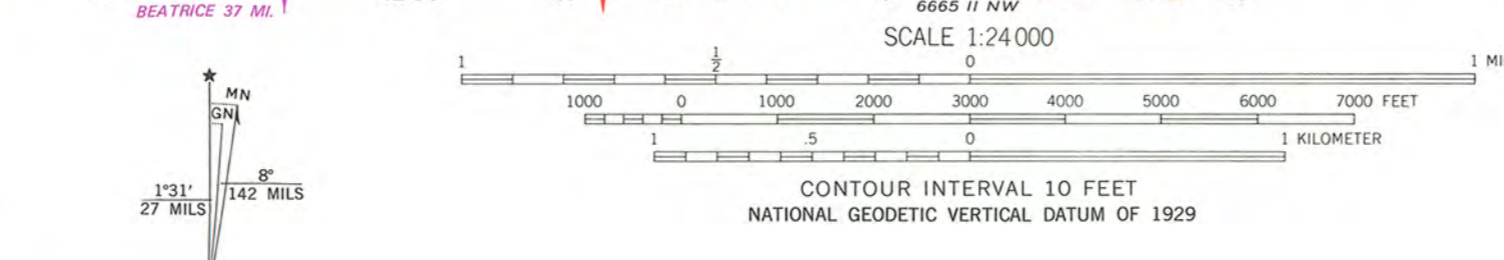
Agriculture Hall (Industrial Arts Bld.)  
 State Fair Park  
 Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska  
 UTM's: Zone 14  
 E 694586  
 N 4522399  
 Quad: Lincoln

UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LINCOLN QUADRANGLE  
 NEBRASKA-LANCASTER CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1961 and planetair surveys 1964  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone  
 100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 14, shown in blue  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
 move the projection lines 4 meters north and  
 26 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LINCOLN, NEBR.  
 N4045-W9637.5/7.5  
 1964  
 PHOTOREVISED 1972 AND 1980  
 DMA 6665 1 SW-SERIES V875






# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

December 10, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edson Beall   
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
Phone: 202-354-2255  
E-mail: [Edson\\_Beall@nps.gov](mailto:Edson_Beall@nps.gov)  
Web: [www.nps.gov/history/nr](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr)