

PH 0668 885

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	OCT 19 1978

DATA SHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Chautauqua Pavilion

(AD04-154)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Chautauqua Park (Old Prospect Park)

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Hastings

— VICINITY OF

3rd.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Nebraska

31

Adams

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Hastings

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hastings

— VICINITY OF

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Adams County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hastings

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hastings Chautauqua Pavilion is located near the center of Chautauqua (old Prospect) Park in the west residential section of the city (Photo #'s 1-3). Oriented along a north-south axis, this unique structure is octagonal in plan and measures 18.4 m along each side except the eastern and western sides which measure 11 m (see Photocopy #4). The structure is basically open except at the three southern-most sides where walls enclose the space behind the stage and the choirs to provide an interior back-drop and storage space beneath the choir.

The stage is a slightly raised platform set between the two choir sections at the southern end of the axis (Photo #5). An orchestra pit is depressed below the main floor level in the space in front of the stage and the choir. The remainder of the concrete floor space is open, allowing room for movable seating to accommodate crowds for the many varied activities held in the pavilion.

Structurally the pavilion is quite unique and nearly indescribable.<sup>1</sup> The roof is carried on lattice-braced channel columns located around the perimeter of the building at the intersections and in the center of each side and by columns set just inside the perimeter of the building along the ridge lines of the pyramidally hipped roof (see diagram, Photocopy #5). These columns support the lower end of an unusual triangular shaped truss which runs along the ridge lines of the roof and which acts as the superstructure for the entire building (Photo #7). The upper ends of these trusses are supported by the geometry of the Howe trusses which shape and support the large vent at the apex of the roof. Two tiers of single span Howe trusses frame into the triangular trusses supporting the roof rafters while two-span Howe trusses support the rafters near the eave line (Photo #8).

A subsidiary purlin circumscribes the building and supports the rafters at a point between the two tiers of columns. These purlins are supported by two subsidiary triangular trusses which run between the interior ridge columns and the column at the center of each side of the perimeter (see Photo #7). This holds true for every segment of the structure except the three southern-most segments above the stage and the choir where the purlin is supported by braced timber columns. The purlin over the stage (which required a wider spacing between columns to avoid disruption of the stage) is reinforced with a steel rod utilizing an inverted Queen Post truss configuration.

---

1. Donald Jackson of the Historic American Engineering Record has stated that HAER has never seen a structure like this one nor do they have a name for some of the constituent elements of the structure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	5/78

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Formally, the result of this complex structural system is a bi-laterally symmetrical, pyramidally hipped roof of rather massive proportions. An elongated octagonal vent caps the roof providing excellent ventilation on hot summer days while small wall gablets enhance the cardinal sides of the building.

The building remains fundamentally unchanged. The original walling material was clapboard and remained that through a WPA refurbishing of the building in the 1930's. Today, vertical grooved paneling has replaced the older clapboard but does not substantially lessen the character of the structure. The diamond-shaped windows which formerly enhanced the gablets have been closed off, however, the framing for these windows can still be seen from the interior.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In November of 1905, Georgia Evangelist Lincoln McConnell conducted a series of revival meetings in Hastings. Speakers on Gladstone and puritanism, musical programs and religious exercises made up the week long revival that was highly successful. The Hastings community was so inspired by this educational phenomenon that a group of local businessmen and the Rev. Hiram B. Harrison of the First Congregational Church formed the Hastings Chautauqua Association.

On January 13, 1906, the group elected a board of directors and began to plan a summer assembly. A large tent, 80 x 120 feet, with a seating capacity of 2,000 was purchased as were 150 smaller, family-sized tents. This first regular assembly was widely accepted with 8,000 people in attendance. Families who could afford to rent tents and camped on the grounds for the entire eight days. Some came to town in specially chartered trains from outstate communities.

The success of this first assembly resulted in a decision to build a permanent pavilion before the next assembly. A large, trussed pavilion measuring 121 x 151 feet was erected at a cost of \$5,000. Capable of seating 3,500 people, the pavilion was dedicated on July 19, 1907. It was purportedly the finest and largest pavilion in the state. Several tents were still used to house some of the activities and as temporary homes for visitors.

The Chautauqua movement began in 1874 with a summer training program for Sunday School teachers in Chautauqua, New York. Two men of the Methodist faith founded what came to be known as the Chautauqua Institution on the shores of Lake Chautauqua. Soon programs were expanded to include more than religious topics. Visitors came from various parts of the country and were so inspired by the program, that many organized their own summer assembly.

Though many Chautauqua organizations were part of the National Lyceum Circuit, the Hastings Chautauqua was locally controlled until 1913, when due to waning interest, the association found itself in financial difficulties and was forced to join the national system.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 4	5 4 9 7 5 0	4 4 9 2 9 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Prospect Park, City of Hastings

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries Spencer, Preservation Historian; D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Nebraska State Historical Society

April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1500 R Street

402-432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lincoln

Nebraska

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Margaret W. Kinnett

5/2/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/19/78

ATTEST:

Bill Lebovich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Oct 16, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 15 1976
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Serving as the community's educational stimulus, these summer assemblies brought music, religious and philosophical discussions, and literary readings to people who were relatively isolated from such cultural advantages. The latest news of the nation was transmitted by these traveling Chautauqua performers and lecturers. The Chautauqua movement played perhaps an even more significant role on the plains than in the east in bringing people together in more sparsely populated areas. Chautauqua programs played a significant role in the educational, philosophical, musical and entertainment lives of the community.

Chautauqua remained alive in Hastings until the early 1920's, when improved communications, movies and radio replaced it as a cultural and educational diversion.

As an engineering structure, this unique building represents a significant solution to a major engineering problem--that is, to cover a large space without interfering interior columns. Based on a somewhat eclectic (and perhaps original) approach to the problem, the major constituent elements include the large triangular trusses and the interdependent Howe trusses. The triangular trusses give form to the roof and support the Howe trusses which play a major esthetic as well as structural role. Patented in 1840 by William Howe, the Howe truss with its vertical iron tension and diagonal wood compression members is one of the earliest wood-iron truss designs to be developed in the United States. This truss type saw widespread use in this country during the 19th and early 20th centuries for bridge and roof superstructures.

Architecturally the structure has significance, not only as a fine example of a particular and rare building type, but also because of the esthetic distinction achieved through its form and subtle structural modulations. The modifications to the pure geometry of the building, seen in the walling of the sides at the south end and the modification of the structure over the stage and choirs, combine to focus attention on the stage end of the building. This effect is considerably enhanced with the white painted walls and ceiling which accent the structure above the stage. The lowest tier of Howe trusses play a textural role at the back of the stage. Their exposure around the perimeter of the building lends credence to the floating form while establishing a strong visual image to the structure from the exterior.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

OCT 19 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Adams County Historical Society. Historical News, Vol. 9 No. 6,  
"Chautauqua through the Years" Hastings, Nebraska, June, 1976.

American Association for State and Local History Technical Leaflet  
95, History News 32:5 (May, 1977). "Bridge Truss Types:  
A guide to dating and identifying" by T. Allan Comp and Donald  
Jackson.

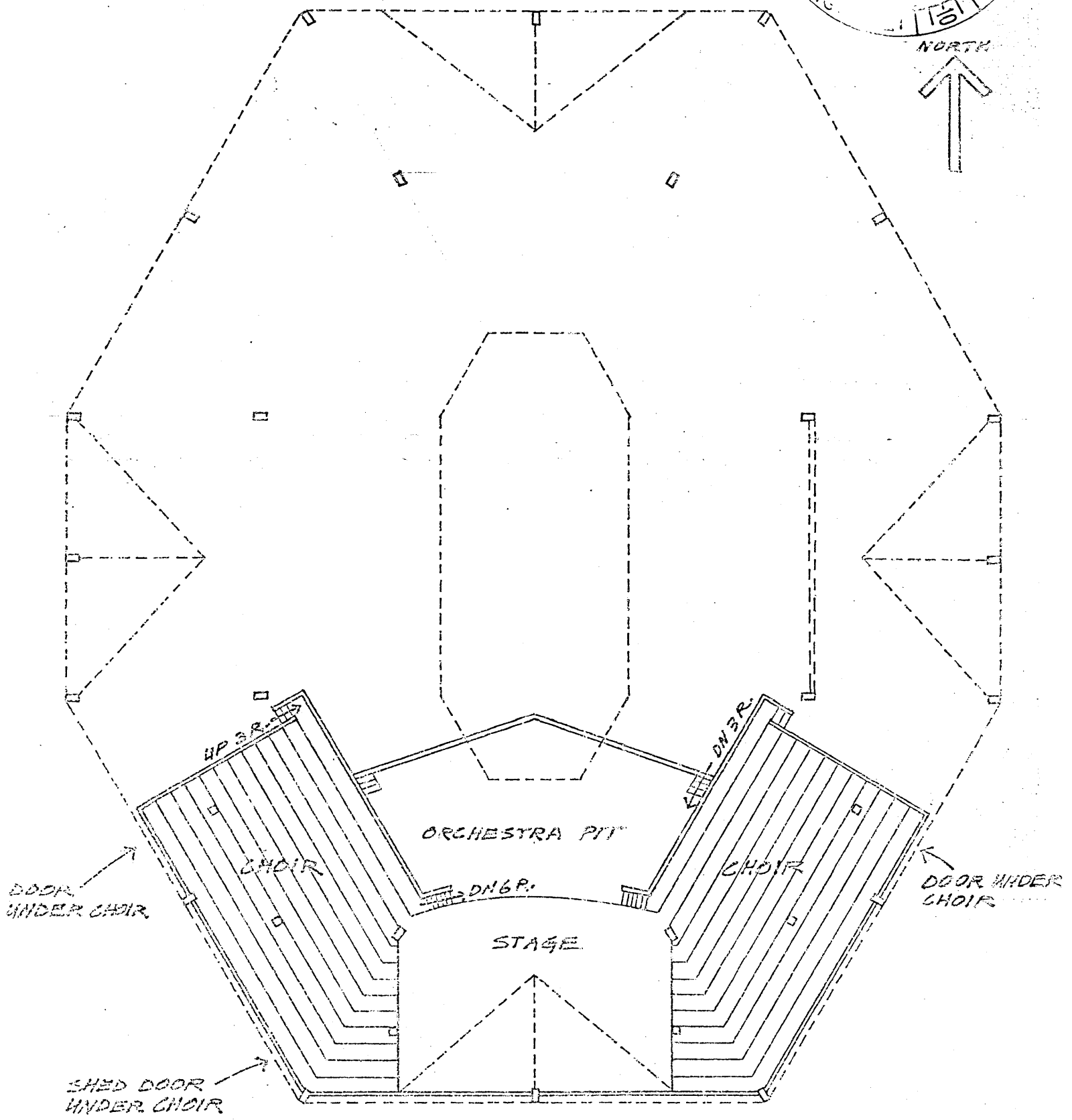
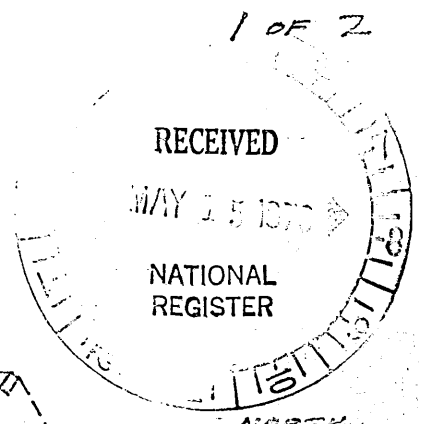
Burton, Judge W. R. and Lewis, David J., editors, Past and Present  
of Adams County Nebraska. Vol. I, Chicago: S. J. Clarke  
Publishing Company, 1916.

Creigh, Dorothy Weyer, Adams County: The Story 1872-1972, Hastings  
Centennial Commission, Hastings, Nebraska 1972.

Horner, Charles F., Strike the Tents, the Story of Chautauqua,  
Dorrance & Company, Philadelphia, 1954.

CHAUTAUQUA PAVILION (1907)  
HASTINGS, NE (ADO4-154)

FLOOR PLAN DIAGRAM  
NO SCALE  
JUNE 15, 1978



DRAWN BY S. RYAN FROM FIELD NOTES OF D. MURPHY, N.S.H.S.



Photo Copy #4  
Chautauqua Pavilion, Hastings, Nebraska  
D. Murphy, NSHS, June, 1976  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
Floor plan diagram (no scale)

OCT 19 1978

# CHAUTAUQUA PAVILION (1907)

HASTINGS, NE (ADO 4-154)

## STRUCTURAL DIAGRAM

(REFLECTED CEILING PLAN)

NO SCALE

JUNE 15, 1978

RECEIVED

MAY 15 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER

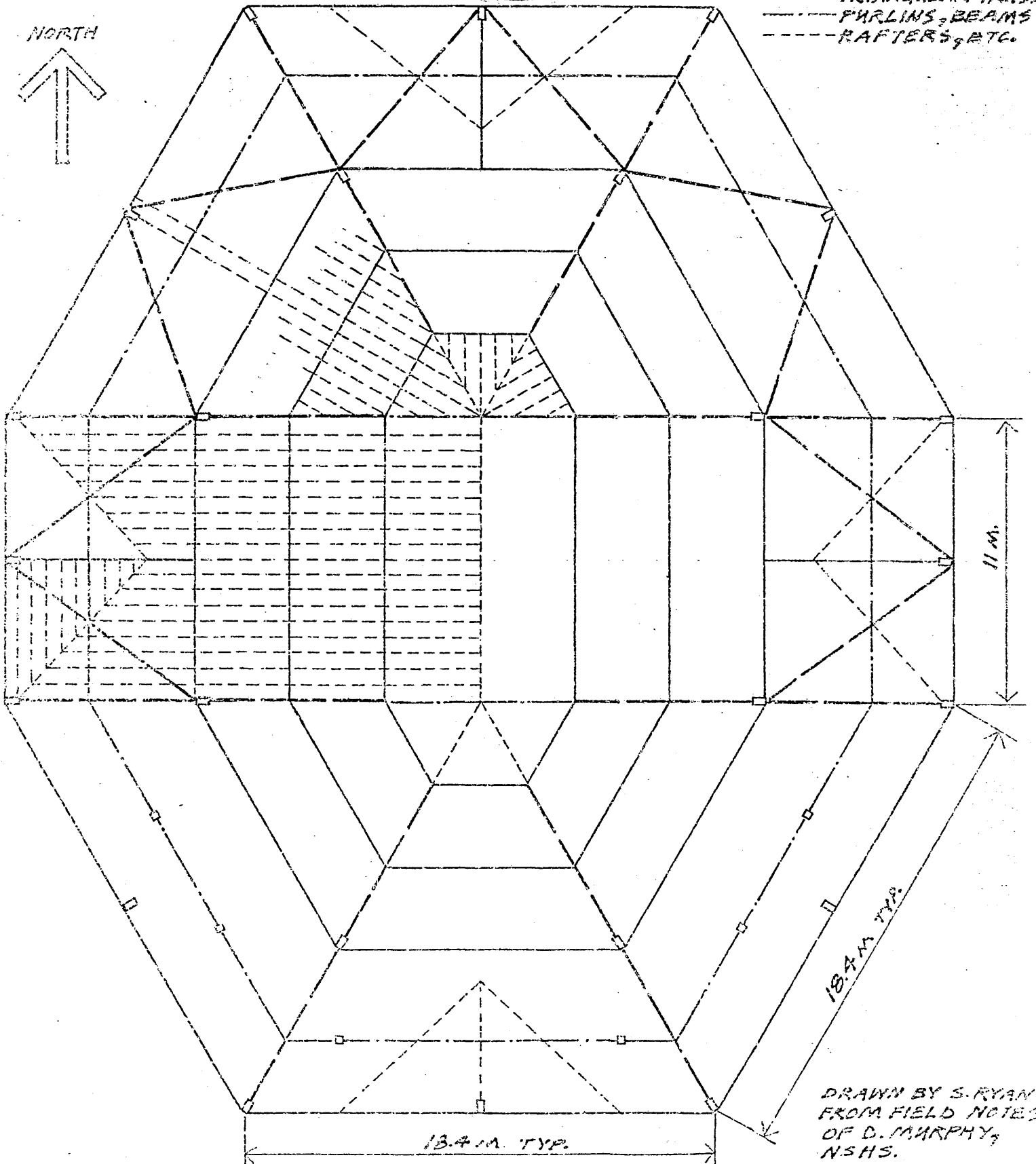
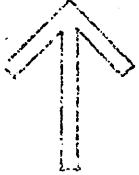


ELEVATION, PURLIN BEAM ABOVE STAGE.

### KEY

- HOWE TRUSS.
- TRIANGULAR TRUSS.
- - - PURLINS, BEAMS.
- - - RAFTERS, ETC.

NORTH



DRAWN BY S. RYAN  
FROM FIELD NOTES  
OF D. MURPHY,  
NSHS.

Photo Copy #6  
Chautauqua Pavilion, Hastings, Nebraska  
D. Murphy, NSHS, June 1976  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
Structural diagram-reflected ceiling  
plan (no scale).

OCT 19 1978