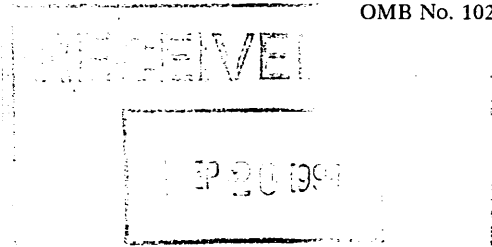


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### 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 Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters

other names/site number Western Nebraska Community College Fire Station; NeHBS #CN00-046.001

#### 2. Location

street & number 1st Avenue & Military Road, Western Nebraska Community College not for publication [n/a]

city or town Sidney vicinity [x]

state Nebraska code NE county Cheyenne code 033 zip code 69162

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [x] statewide [ ] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Wendee Sommer*  
Signature of certifying official

9/15/94  
Date

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
  - entered in the National Register.
    - [ ] See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.
    - [ ] See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Lynnda M. Cleveland*

10/24/94

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters  
Name of Property

Cheyenne 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
1		structures
		objects
2		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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/fire station

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/fire station

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls asbestos shingles  
roof asphalt shingles  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters  
Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska  
County and State

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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#### 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.)

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Period of Significance

1942-1945  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Dates

1942  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Architect/Builder

U.S. Engineers Office/Deleuw, Charles, & Company  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters  
Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	13	658960	4564100	3.			
2.				4.			

[ ] See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Robert Hurst

organization N/A

date July 1, 1994

street & number 1952 Independence Court

telephone (402) 476-4719

city or town Lincoln

state NE

zip code 68521

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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 Western Nebraska Community College

street & number Rt. 1, Box 300

telephone (308) 254-5450

city or town Sidney

state NE

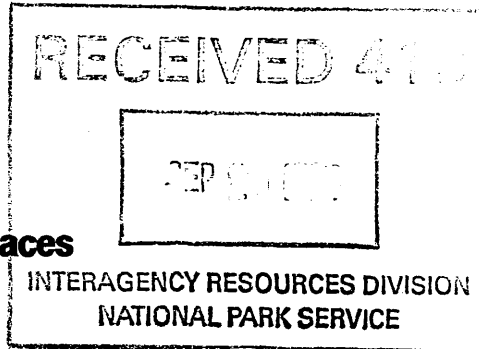
zip code 69162

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**



Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters  
Name of Property  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska  
County and State

Section 7 Page 1

**Description**

The Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters, constructed in 1942, is located on the grounds of a former World War II U. S. Army munitions depot nine miles northwest of Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska. The depot property consists of 19,771 acres of land bordered on the north, east, and west by gentle rolling tableland, and on the south by steep hills leading to the Lodgepole Valley. The fire & guard headquarters building is located in the depot's administration area facing west on A Street near the main security gate. Major depot structures in close proximity of the building included the bachelor officer quarters to the north, storehouses to the east, and mess hall on the south. The nomination includes one contributing building: the Fire & Guard Headquarters; and one contributing structure: vintage cedar tree plantings that border the property on the east and south.

The fire & guard headquarters building is a two-story wood frame structure with concrete basement and foundation. The building is rectangular shaped with asbestos shingle siding. The hip roof has a 6/12 pitch and is covered with asphalt shingles. Dormers are located on the north, south, and east roof elevations. A three bay garage for fire trucks is attached to the right side of the main building. The rectangular shaped garage is wood frame with a concrete foundation, asbestos siding and a flat composition roof. The second story of the main building extends over the first bay of the garage. Exterior measurements of the building including garage are 124' X 38'. Attached to the back of the garage is a 38' X 14' dining room. The dining room is wood frame with a concrete foundation, asbestos siding, and a 4/12 pitch shed roof covered with asphalt shingles. Fenestration for the main building, garage, and dining room are wood frame double hung 2 over 2 windows. All walk-in doors are wood with three horizontal panes of glass. Wood sectional overhead garage doors have six horizontal panes of glass each. Concrete steps and landings lead to walk-in doors. Concrete bump curbs flank the garage doors. An exterior "FIRE HOUSE" sign is located above the middle door of the garage.

The basement level of the building includes a boiler room, coal room, ammunition storage room, and two utility storage rooms. Access to this area is by an interior stairway from the first floor. Located on the first floor is a security detention cell, chief guard office, telephone equipment room, latrines, and offices. Entry to this level is from exterior doors on the north and east, and an interior door from the garage level. The second floor includes the security guard's dormitory, fireman's dormitory, radio communications room, telephone exchange, emergency power room, storage room, and latrines. Access to this level is by an interior stairway from the first floor. On the garage level is the fire alarm room, fire chief office, work room, and the fire truck garage. Entry to this area is from exterior doors on the east and west, and an interior door from the first floor of the main building. The interior retains its original wood doors, wood floors, gypsum board walls, and mechanical systems.

Constructed and operation in 1942, the depot was deactivated by the government in 1967. Western Nebraska Vocational Technical School acquired the depot utilities area, housing area, and administration area including the fire & guard headquarters building. A Street was renamed 1st Avenue by the school administration. A number of the depot buildings are extant, but they have been severely altered. The fire & guard headquarters building remains on its original site and retains a high degree of structural and historic integrity. The building currently owned and maintained by Western Nebraska Community College and serves as the fire station for the college volunteer fire department.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

### Statement of Significance

The Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters is significant on a state level under Criterion A for its association with World War II and the construction of Sioux Ordnance Depot. The property is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent representation of building technology used in World War II military mobilization construction. The building exhibits a high degree of architectural integrity. The period of significance is derived from the year of construction (1942), through the end of World War II (1945). Because the Fire & Guard Headquarters was constructed over fifty years ago (1942), and the majority of the period of significance occurred more than fifty years ago, Criterion Consideration "G" is not applicable.

On September 1, 1939 Germany invaded Poland and within 10 months occupied Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. Japan was also waging war in China and southeast Asia. Although the United States had not entered the World War II at this time, President Roosevelt proclaimed a "limited national emergency" for military defense expansion. On June 30, 1940, Congress appropriated over 3 billion dollars to the U.S. Army's Ordnance Department for construction of 16 field service ammunition depots, and 76 government owned, contractor operated ordnance plants.

The Ordnance Department's ammunition depots were constructed in two stages at a cost of 367 million dollars. The first 8 depots were built in 1941 prior to the United States' entry into World War II (December 7, 1941), and was referred to as the "Permanent 'A' Depot Program". Construction of the remaining 8 depots started in early 1942, and was known as the "Mobilization 'B' Depot Program".

Mobilization buildings selected for the "B" program were designed for rapid construction utilizing standardized building plans and materials, specialized assembly crews, and prefabricated mechanical components. They were defined by the U.S. Corps of Engineers as "temporary" construction, lasting 5 to 20 years. The War Department's Directive for War-Time Construction, 1 June 1942 states, "In general, all construction shall be of the cheapest, temporary character with structural stability only sufficient to meet the needs of the service which the structure is intended to fulfill during the period of its contemplated war use". Property types of the "B" program included warehouses, workshops, office buildings, barracks, mess halls, infirmaries, theaters, chapels and a fire & guard headquarters building.

On March 3, 1942, less than three months after the United States entered World War II, the War Department announced that a U.S. Army ammunition storage depot would be constructed northwest of Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska. The 19,771 acre site was selected because of its rural mid-continent location, close proximity to two major railroads, flat terrain, and mild climate. Construction crews arrived at the site on March 20, 1942 and by December 28, 1942 the 27 million dollar Sioux Ordnance Depot was operational. Within nine months several hundred ammunition storage igloos and over 300 mobilization buildings were constructed at the site. The depot's primary mission was receipt, storage, and issue of U.S. Army ammunition, components, and general supplies. In 1943, a temporary prisoner of war camp was also constructed on the property.

There were four distinct areas within the depot boundaries: administration, utilities, combat equipment storage, and the magazine. The administration area buildings included administration headquarters, dispensary, mess hall, chapel, theater, barracks, officer quarters, civilian houses, telephone exchange, main gate guard house, and a fire & guard headquarters building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

### Statement of Significance (continued)

The fire & guard headquarters building was constructed during the summer and fall of 1942 by government contractor Charles DeLeuw & Company utilizing U.S. Corps of Engineers standard plot plan #7334-275. The purpose of the building was to provide a center of operations for the depot security force and fire department. The building housed equipment essential for surveillance of sensitive areas within the depot perimeter. The building also provided facilities for monitoring depot fire control. In an effort to conserve critical war materials, primarily steel, the construction elements of the building consisted of wood, concrete, brick, gypsum board, and cement asbestos. Metal components were only used in the building's mechanical systems and assembly fasteners.

The Department of Defense closed the depot on June 30, 1967 after 25 years of service. With the exception of the ammunition storage igloos and the fire & guard headquarters building most of the World War II buildings have been razed or severely altered. The United State Air Force, Western Nebraska Community College, High Plains Agricultural Laboratory, and private businesses currently occupy the depot property.

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

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

The fire & guard headquarters building was initially recorded in a 1990-92 Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey of World War II military sites in Nebraska, which included Cornhusker Ordnance Plant (Grand Island), Nebraska Ordnance Plant (Mead), Naval Ammunition Depot (Hastings), and Sioux Ordnance Depot (Sidney). No buildings of similar function and comparable integrity remain from these facilities, making the fire & guard headquarters building a significant property type, both historically and architecturally. The building was recorded and determined eligible for National Register listing in the 1993 Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey of Cheyenne County, .

The building remains on its original site, and retains both structural and historic integrity. Remarkably intact, the building is outstanding due to the pristine condition of exterior and interior spaces. The building is significant to Nebraska's military history for its important association with World War II, a major international conflict. Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of military mobilization construction used in World War II.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9, 10 Page 4

**Bibliography**

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Sioux Ordnance Depot, Progress Plan. U.S. Engineer Office. 7 July 1942.

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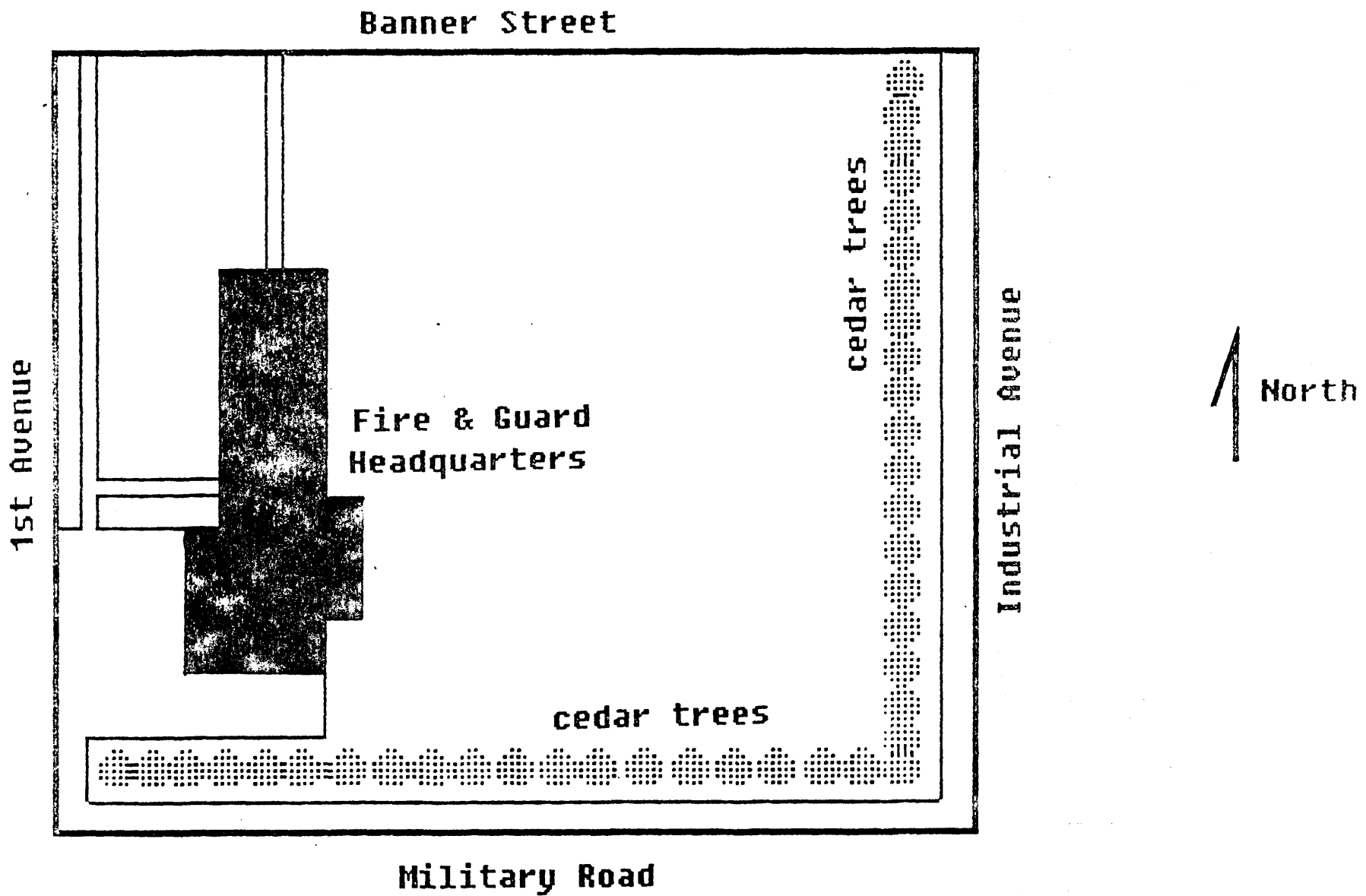
**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters is located on part of Western Nebraska Community College, Northwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 14 North, Range 50 West. The property is bordered to the west by 1st Avenue, to the south by Military Road, to the east by Industrial Avenue, and to the north by Banner Street, measuring 64,800 square feet more or less, or approximately 1.5 acres.

**Boundary Justification**

The area within the boundary includes the fire and guard headquarters building and contributing landscape feature. The boundary is bordered on all sides by modern streets. The property within the boundary retains an extremely high degree of historic integrity associated with Sioux Ordnance Depot and the event of World War II.





Site Plan
Sioux Ordnance Depot
Fire & Guard Headquarters
Cheyenne County, Nebraska
1 July 1994