

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska  
 COUNTY: Adams  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: MAY 12 1975

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: McCormick Hall

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Hastings College Campus (800 North Turner Avenue)  
 CITY OR TOWN: Hastings CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third  
 STATE: Nebraska CODE: 031 COUNTY: Adams CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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: Hastings College  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 800 North Turner Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Hastings STATE: Nebraska CODE: 031

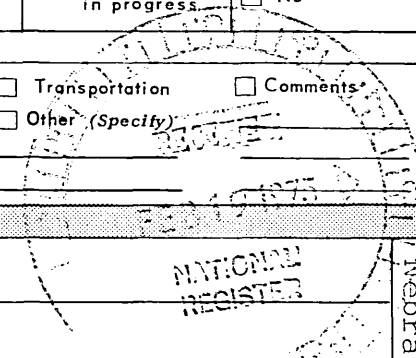
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Adams County Courthouse, County Clerk  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Hastings STATE: Nebraska CODE: 031

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

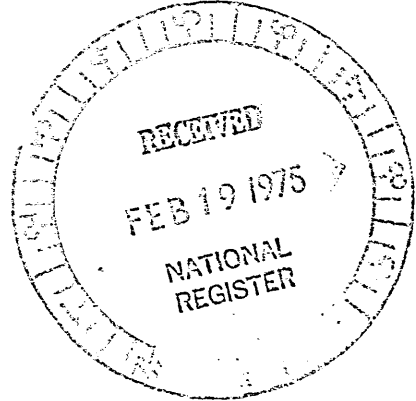
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

McCormick Hall

McCormick Hall is a two story, basically Italianate brick structure with a three story entrance tower topped with a pyramidal roof. The tower has dormers on each face for ventilation. The whole building is surmounted with a bracketed cornice. The windows are segmentally arched on the first floor and jack-arched on the second with brick string courses along the springing lines of the arches at each floor level. The main entrance has an elaborate pressed metal hood and a large sign at the top of the tower identifying the building.

Erected in 1883-1884 as the first building on campus at a cost of \$14,703.81, it is unaltered and maintains its original structural and architectural integrity.



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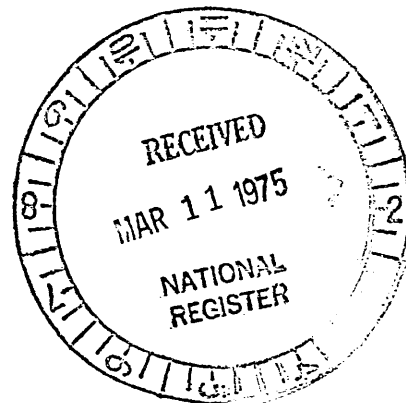
*(Continuation Sheet)*

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7. (McCormick Hall)

The building still rests on its original limestone foundation. Aside from some minor settlement in the tower above the door and the need for some basic maintenance, the present condition of the structure is stable and well preserved with the interiors in fair condition.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The idea for a college in Hastings, Nebraska was conceived by a Mr. A. L. Wigton, editor of the "Hastings Journal", who published an editorial in his newspaper on August 19, 1873, expressing his desire that a college be located in the growing frontier community. The townspeople were soon very excited about the idea and presented a proposal to the Kearney, Nebraska Presbytery at the November, 1873, meeting. There a planning committee was appointed, but nine years passed before definite steps could be taken. The delay was caused by the drought, grasshoppers and economic problems of the time.

During the winter and spring of 1881-1882, 93 men contributed \$11,050 to the fund to be used for purchase of a site, construction of buildings and cost of maintenance for the first year. A tract of 100 acres was acquired one mile east of the center of town; and since financial support was assured, the college was incorporated May 10, 1882.

The college opened formally September 13, 1882 with a chapel service in the 1st Presbyterian Church. This first year there was a student body of 44 and three full-time and two part-time faculty members. After the chapel services, the students went to their classes above the post office in downtown Hastings.

Ground was broken April 25, 1883 for McCormick Hall, the first building erected on the campus. It was named after Cyrus H. McCormick who contributed the initial \$5,000 for the building. Construction began in the summer of 1883 and the building was completed and dedicated in October, 1884 at a total cost of \$14,703.00. It has remained in daily use since that time.

From 1884 to the mid 1950's, McCormick Hall was the principle classroom building with the departments of English, mathematics, speech, drama and chemistry inhabiting the structure. A large room on second floor, which originally housed the college chapel, was later converted into a little theatre. Today McCormick Hall is used by the English, journalism and speech/drama departments for their classrooms and offices.

Nearly every student who has attended Hastings College since 1884 has had at least one class in this building. Consequently, it is closely associated in the minds of former students, as well as the townspeople, and serves as a link to their pioneer forebearers on campus.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Anonymous, Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Adams, Clay, Webster and Nuckolls Counties, Nebraska, Chicago: Goodspeed Publishings Co., 1890.  
 Creigh, Dorothy W., Adams County: The Story 1872-1972.  
 Historical records in Hastings College archives  
 Informants from Hastings College:  
 Donald B. Mathews, Director of Public Relations  
 Frank E. Weyer, Historian

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

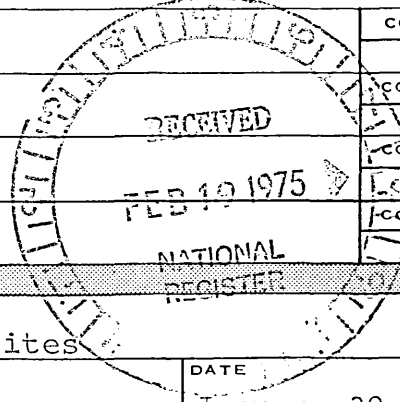
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		40 0 35	98 22 24	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

14/553000  
 4493480  
 60

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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: Janet Jeffries, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: January 30, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 031

**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>Merrin O. Kruett</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director</u></p> <p>Date <u>2/3/75</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Cannally</u>                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/12/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Ronald M. Humberg</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>5/19/75</u></p>
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8. Significance (McCormick Hall)

McCormick Hall along with its sister structure, Ringland Hall, is a fine example of a building type closely associated with educational architecture during the late 19th century. Its basic form, consisting of a two or three story block with an entrance tower, could be seen in many communities as a high school or grammar school structure. Details varied, as some would be quite simple structures with no distinguishing architectural features while others, like McKinley High School in Lincoln, Nebr. (recorded by HABS in 1934-5), were more complex in form and quite lavish in architectural detail. McCormick and Ringland Halls are exceptional examples of the building type as well as being two of a very few, and perhaps only, remaining examples of the type in the state.

