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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How S to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.

<b>1. Name of Property</b>	, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructional
Historic name The Nottingham Apartments	S
Other names/site number DO09:0216-047	
Name of related multiple property listing N/	/A
	nter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
2. Location	
Street & Number 3304 Burt Street	
City or town Omaha	State Nebraska County Douglas
Not for publication [] Vicinity []	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
<b>[X]</b> nomination <b>[]</b> request for determination of elig the National Register of Historic Places and meets t	toric Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this igibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property <b>[X]</b> meets <b>[]</b> does not considered significant at the following level(s) of significant a	ot meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be ignificance: [] national [] statewide [X] local
Applicable National Register Criteria: [X] A [] B	[X] C [] D
Miler O four	SHPO/Director 03-02-2012
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Nebraska State Historical Society	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Gover	ernment
In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not m	neet the National Register criteria.
Signature of Commenting Official	Date
Title	State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	
entered in the National Register.	
[] determined eligible for the National Regist	ster.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National R	Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.	
[ ] other, (explain):	
lar E	Edson Nr. Beall 4.23.1

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

NPS Form 10	I Park Service / Na 0-900	0			OMB No. 1024-0018
The Nottingham Apartments			Dougla		
Name of Property			County	1	
5. Class	sification				
Owne	ership of Property (	(Check as many boxes as apply)	Categ	ory of Property (Check	conly <b>one</b> box)
[X]	Private		[X]	Building(s)	
[]	Public-local		[]	District	
[]	Public-state		[]	Site	
Ö	Public-federal		[]	Structure	
			[]	Object	
lumber	of Resources with	in Property (Do not include previo Contributing N	ously listed resourc loncontributing		
		1	0	Buildings	
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				Structures	
				Objects	
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	of contributing res	sources previously listed in th	e National Reg		
5. Funct Historic	tion or Use	tegories from instructions.)	Current Fu		from instructions.)
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<ol> <li>Funct</li> <li>Historic</li> <li>Domestic</li> <li>7. Desc</li> </ol>	tion or Use Functions (Enter ca c – Multiple Dwelling	tegories from instructions.)	Current Fui Domestic – M Vacant	ister 0	from instructions.)
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### Description

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Nottingham is a Tudor Revival style, three-story, 32-unit multi-family apartment building located at the northwest corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Burt Streets, just to the west of downtown Omaha, Nebraska. The 34,072 sq. ft. concrete and brick building was constructed in 1925 and consists of two contiguous, connected wings situated at right angles, forming a single 'L' shaped building plan. The building is typical of builder/developer apartments of the era with generally compartmentalized interior living spaces and simpler finishes, as expected for the working middle class demographic of the period and neighborhood.

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

#### Site

The Nottingham Apartment building is located in the historic Gifford Park neighborhood of Omaha, an area that developed among a network of streetcar lines as the city expanded westward from its original plat. Over time, the area grew from predominately single-family residences to more 2-plex, 4-plex, and multi-family dwellings with a small commercial core for neighborhood support located one block to the south of the subject property. The site is surrounded by single-family and 4-plex properties to the north, single-family residences to the west and across Burt Street to the south, and the Omaha Public Schools District Offices (formerly Omaha Technical High School built in 1923) across 33<sup>rd</sup> street to the east. The site enjoys a strong connection to Mid-town Crossing, a master-planned mixed-use development and destination center located just 5 blocks south of the subject property.

The building is positioned closest to the tree-lined street frontages with the inside of the 'L' oriented toward the interior of the parcel that encompasses the on-site parking surface. A single driveway positioned off the west side of the Burt Street frontage provides vehicular access for fourteen (14) on-site resident parking spaces. Originally, there were 18 garage spaces; however, these were demolished c. 1960. According to a 1960 Omaha World Herald article, the garages were to be torn down because they were "too small for modern cars."<sup>1</sup>

#### Construction

The building is constructed of poured in place concrete slab and upper level decks and load bearing exterior and interior masonry walls separating the common stairwells and units. The roof structure is conventionally framed. The apartment units are accessed from five (5) separate entrances leading to interior stairways that access the garden level and upper level apartments positioned on both sides of the stair landings.

#### **Exterior Finish Elements**

The exterior architectural elements exhibit a high degree of integrity and remain virtually unchanged since completion of the building in 1925, including the precast concrete medallion accents, window planter boxes, and roof materials and detailing. The original casement windows however, were removed several years prior and were replaced with double glazed, double hung windows set in anodized bronze frames. The original false window shutters were also previously removed from the facades.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Nottingham Sale Listed." Omaha World Herald, August 9, 1960, pg. 9.

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Exterior finishes are consistent with the Tudor Revival style of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and feature brown brick with false half-timbering at the third floor gables and dormers. Exterior accents include gable tiled terra cotta mansard roof sections, and open timbered end gables over each walk-up entrance leading to the interior stairways. The north and west (rear) elevations change to secondary, less ornate construction with common brick and non-scored mortar joints, typical of similar period construction employed throughout Omaha during this era. Exterior wood framed stairs are featured from ground level to the third level providing rear exiting from each apartment unit.

#### Interior

Three different floor plans are featured at the Nottingham and include efficiency/1-bath and two variations of 1 bedroom/1-bath unit types. Each unit type is compartmentalized, compact, and efficient, typical of the design style employed during this period. All interior finishes are in excellent, well-preserved condition considering age and wear. Unit interiors are finished in similar painted plaster walls and feature picture-rail, dark oak stained base, doors, and door casing. 1½" oak plank flooring remains intact in the living rooms, hallways, and bedrooms and is in good restorable condition. Original marble hexagon tile is featured in the kitchens and baths. The cabinets appear original along with most of the cast iron porcelain coated tubs, interior doors, door casing, base, and oak wood flooring. The cast iron coal chute doors located in the dinette areas also remain in place.

Each unit provides for a rear entrance off the kitchen that leads directly outside to wood framed stairs to grade level. Originally, the garden level basement included two apartment units; however, these were previously removed at an unknown time.

#### Integrity

Overall, the property, most notably the exterior façade and interior common areas, have retained substantial integrity since completion in 1925. The original building plans included 34 apartment units; however, with the loss of the two units in the basement level, the current count is 32.

The apartment is being nominated under Criterion C, thus the historic integrity of design, materials, feeling, and workmanship are crucial. On the exterior, the overall form, massing scale and proportions of the structure have not been altered, and materials and features such as the false half-timbering and decorative features remain. The removal of the original single-glazed casement windows and false shutters are the only noteworthy alternations to the exterior of the building. The windows were replaced over 15 years ago with more efficient double-glazed single hung aluminum framed windows. Interior common area stairwells remain intact with the original terrazzo flooring and wood craftsmen style stair details in very good, well-preserved condition. The unit configurations remain unchanged since completion and only a select few units have been updated with newer appliances, hardware, plumbing fixtures, and trim. Most interior wood base, trim, and doors remain unaltered and are in good, well-preserved condition.

#### **Future Plans**

The Nottingham Apartments are currently vacant, and the owner plans to utilize the 20% Federal Tax Credit to rehabilitate the property.

The architectural integrity of the Nottingham will be preserved with the intent to maintain all of the exterior finish elements incorporated into the design of the structure when built. The wood detailing at the gable entrances, existing half timbers at the dormers, all plaster finishes, terra cotta roof tile, exterior period light fixtures at the building entrances, all precast planter boxes and medallions, brick finish and metal railings with

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their distinctive "N" detailing will remain in place and be restored as needed. The two pre-existing apartment units located in the garden (subgrade) level of the building will be rebuilt.

All interior common areas including the existing terrazzo flooring, oak stair rails, and wood benches at the midlevel landings will remain in place and refinished as needed. The non-functioning cast iron radiators, originally a component of the central boiler system, will also be retained for aesthetic purposes. United States Department of the Interior

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### 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.)

- X 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.
- X 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.
  - A reconstructed building, object, or
- E structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- **G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

**Community Planning and Development** 

Period of Significance

1925

# Significant Dates

1925

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** 

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Lahr, M.J. – Architect

Skogman, N.J. and Sons – Builder

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Nottingham is eligible under Criterion A at the local level for its association with Community Planning and Development. As Omaha's apartment building stock grew, so did the diversity of its planning and final form. The Nottingham is an excellent example of an apartment building that used iconic details and modern conveniences to appeal to its target audience. Under Criterion C, the Nottingham is also eligible at the local level for its distinctive Tudor Revival characteristics. It is the only recorded Tudor Revival, "L" Court Garden

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Apartment in Omaha. The period of significance lasts just one year, 1925, the year in which the Nottingham Apartments were constructed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### Criterion A: Community Planning and Development

#### A Need for Housing

As immigration and industrialization fueled a significant population increase in large cities, the need for housing became urgent. New York City, the most populous city in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century, was the first to experience the population boom and address this new demand for housing. The majority of those moving to New York City either did not have relatives to live with or could not afford to stay long-term in hotels. The immediate solution came in the form of subdivided single-family homes. However, this solution could not keep up with the influx of people, and soon buildings were constructed specifically to house multiple families under one roof. These first buildings, called tenements, were simply a series of bedrooms with shared restrooms; no privacy was provided for in this early design.<sup>2</sup>

Populations continued to increase and more tenements were built and occupied. As these housing units filled up, health officials and reformers began to raise the issue of their unsanitary and unsafe nature. Most tenements of the time did not afford for proper air ventilation, adequate-sized living spaces, or, with shared bathrooms and kitchen spaces, privacy. The landmark publication *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis brought to light the horrendous living conditions of New York City tenements, and soon changes were made to provide for safer multi-family housing.<sup>3</sup>

The first changes were in the form of alterations to the shape and layout of tenement buildings, which resulted in little improvement for the wellbeing of the inhabitants. By 1901, legislation was passed in New York to focus not just on building codes, but also living conditions. The new law provided for private bathrooms, more windows, and other health and safety measures. A national movement began in which other cities passed similar laws. As the new rules spread across the United States, architects began designing new multi-family housing that reflected the changes to provide safe living environments.<sup>4</sup>

At the same time as tenements were being constructed, another type of multi-family housing, the flat, was also built. Constructed on the edges of fashionable neighborhoods, flats catered to a wealthier clientele. While flats were not criticized for their living conditions, they still benefited from the new emphasis on improving lighting, ventilation, and health. Both housing types evolved with the changes in laws, but eventually, multi-family housing became synonymous with various forms of the flat and later, the apartment.<sup>5</sup>

The construction of tenements and flats began in Omaha in the late 1800s. Omaha's population was quickly growing as it became the center of a large jobbing industry; the population increased by 754% between 1880 and 1890.<sup>6</sup> Buildings similar to those of New York City were constructed to fill the need for housing. As

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Honebrink, Jennifer. Apartments, Flats and Tenements in Omaha, Nebraska, 1880-1962. Draft Multiple Property Document. 2009. Section E, Pg. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid., Section E, Pg. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid., Section E, Pg. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> U.S. Census figures as published by Wikipedia.org "Omaha, Nebraska"

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tenements were phased out, flats evolved into other forms, including the row flat, the house flat, four-plexes, and apartment buildings.<sup>7</sup>

#### **The Apartment Building**

Differing from the tenement or flat, the apartment building developed at the same time as the streetcar system developed across the mid-west. With the coming of the streetcar, it was no longer necessary to live in the heart of the city. While those of lower income continued to live in the crowded city, the wealthy could construct housing outside of the city center and take advantage of the streetcar. By the time the streetcar lines developed, multi-family housing had evolved into something where even the wealthy could reside. The first true apartment buildings were vastly different from the tenement or basic flat. These new housing units catered to the wealthy class. Often built with luxurious detail, such as grand lobbies and gilded fireplaces, the apartment building was designed to be as self-contained as a single-family house. However, the appeal of apartments grew as architects began to design buildings that were more affordable for the middle class. While leaving the grand exteriors and lobbies, the individual units became more commonplace. Apartment living became very desirable, as occupants could ride the streetcar into the city and save money renting, which allowed them the opportunity to save for a single-family home, the American Dream. The apartment also gave occupants the luxury of many modern technologies, such as electric lights and telephone lines, which may have been too costly for the individual homeowner.<sup>8</sup>

As the popularity of apartments grew, architects began to experiment with different styles and variations. Apartment construction began around the turn of the century in Omaha, and by this time, the stigma of the multi-family houses as only for the lower income was gone. Architects designed many variations of apartment buildings in Omaha, such as the rectangular, block, 'U', and 'L' shapes. Also at this time in Omaha, the streetcar line was expanding across the city, with many apartments constructed nearby. The years 1909 to 1930 marked a boom for apartment construction in Omaha, with an average of six built each year. At first, apartments were constructed along the lines, but by the early 1920s, lots within one or two blocks of the line were constructed upon as well. The development and sale of the automobile also led builders to construct on these lots, as many were no longer reliant on the streetcar lines for transportation.<sup>9</sup> Constructed at the tail end of the apartment boom, the Nottingham Apartments is a prime example this. Its typical 'L' shaped configuration is reversed, placing emphasis on the street frontage rather than interior courtyards. This is significant because the Nottingham provided on-site parking and garage structures behind the building, within the 'L'.

Omaha's apartment building styles built during this period generally fell into three types: Eastern Flats, typical Apartment buildings (such as the Nottingham's 'L' shaped configuration), and Commercial Apartment Buildings. These three types, which account for 17% of all apartments constructed in Omaha, were mainly constructed between 1880 and 1940.<sup>10</sup> With the exception of the WWI years, all three apartment types were popular from 1910 to 1930, and together represented different approaches to the planning of larger multi-family rental units in Omaha. Ranging from three to four stories in height, each incorporated interior corridors to provide access to the individual apartment units.<sup>11</sup> Eastern flats and typical apartment buildings varied their layouts sometimes forming an 'L' or 'U' shaped courtyard, such is the case represented in the 'L' shaped Nottingham design.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Honebrink. Section E, Pg. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ibid., Section E, Pg. 6-8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid., Section E, Pg. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Honebrink, Section E, Pg. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> lbid., Section E, Pg. 9-10.

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### **Apartment Construction in the Early 1920s**

An era of prosperity began after WWI and continued throughout the 1920s. The rise of industrialization, mass production, availability of funding, and a new public attitude toward consumption created many successful entrepreneurs. Those with the capitol often chose to diversify their investments by purchasing real estate, and apartment buildings, which were as easy to fund as single-family homes, were prime investments. However, because many of the popular funding methods used today – tax incentives, energy grants, etc. – were not available at the time, most developments were relatively small, consisting of only one or two buildings.<sup>12</sup>

In general, apartment construction is typically more expensive than single-family home construction. It combines the cost of separate dwelling units under one common roof and building envelope. Although there are some cost-saving benefits associated with the exterior shell, the structure required to support a larger number of dwellings, combined with the expense of multiple kitchens and bathrooms, adds to the cost of construction. Apartments are also considered a commercial grade investment and often require larger amounts of capital to fund the interim construction costs, followed by conversion to a permanent loan or mortgage as a method to repay the construction loan and to operate and lease the building.

Architectural magazines, local news articles and books featuring the history of apartment construction in the early part of the twentieth century in the United States revealed that apartments were designed by a wide variety of architects, builders, and developers in a range of styles consistent with projects built during this Eclectic or Revival Period in American architecture. Many individuals who designed and constructed apartment buildings were recognized for their work throughout their community, region or even nationally. However, there were also numerous architects and builders who, either by choice or chance, did not establish a name for themselves in apartment construction.<sup>13</sup> A combination of the two appears to be the case with M. J. Lahr, the project architect and developer/contractor for the Nottingham. Lahr completed a number of notable commissions in the Omaha metropolitan area, including a few apartments, between 1919 and 1930; however, he had only just begun his architectural practice during this period. He went on to design several apartment buildings in the Omaha area before his death in 1960. N.J. Skogman and Sons, the Nottingham builder, was more known for duplex construction throughout Omaha. However, they ventured into apartment development with the investment opportunity of the Nottingham.

The Nottingham Apartments is a solid representative of both the work of a typical builder/developer in Omaha in the mid-1920s and an apartment building constructed for white-collar workers at the end of Omaha's first apartment building boom. A January 4, 1925 article featured in the Omaha World Herald described the Nottingham as "another step in the development of the Bemis Park District" following the construction of the neighboring Omaha Technical High School completed in 1923.<sup>14</sup> In 1983, the Bemis Park Landmark Heritage District was designated as a local landmark in Omaha.<sup>15</sup> This neighborhood, with its curvilinear street pattern, was platted as a "retreat for wealthy Omaha residents..."<sup>16</sup> and contains many fine examples of Colonial and Neo-Classical revival style homes. The Nottingham Apartments sit one block directly south of this landmark district. Also, just three blocks to the west of the Nottingham Apartments, is the National Register-listed Gold Coast Historic District. Historically, this area housed the upper classes of Omaha. According to the National

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ibid., Section E, Pg. 24 – 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ibid., Section E, Pg. 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "New Apartment for Burt Street." Omaha World Herald 4 January 1925: Pg. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> "Bemis Park Landmark Heritage District." City of Omaha Historic Landmarks. Available at:

http://www.cityofomaha.org/planning/landmarks/alphabetical-listing/bemis-park-landmark-heritage-district. <sup>16</sup> Mead & Hunt. Reconnaissance Survey of Selected Neighborhoods in Central Omaha, Nebraska, Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. 2003, Pg. 4.

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Register of Historic Places registration form, "The Gold Coast District developed quickly in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, becoming a showcase of unique residences enjoyed by some of Omaha's most successful and influential citizens....<sup>17</sup> However, by the 1920s improvements in transportation made the area accessible to more than just the upper class. This change allowed for more middle-class buildings, such as smaller single-family homes, duplexes, and apartments. The Nottingham serves as a fine example of this trend, for while its stylish exterior fit nicely with the high style architecture of the Gold Coast and Bemis Park neighborhoods, its more modest interior served the newer occupants of this section of Omaha.

#### "Beauty, Convenience in a Modern Apartment"

The Nottingham Apartment was well received in its location. Just one year after construction was complete, annual rent was reported at \$26,000, and its value was estimated at \$235,000.<sup>18</sup> After nearly a decade of service, the Nottingham continued to receive praise. As noted in an Omaha World Herald advertisement/article of 1933, "although the exterior is very lovely, just as a miniature castle, one is compelled to gasp in admiration when entering the beautiful Nottingham apartments." The article continues:

"The living room was all done in lovely tones of amber, and seemed to exude a spirit of welcome....And the kitchenette is a dream! Cool and inviting, with all the most modern necessary equipment....The apartment has all the requirements for beautiful, yet comfortable, living quarters, and includes garage, too." <sup>19</sup>

The Nottingham Apartments were truly a representation of apartment construction in Omaha in the 1920s. Apartments were no longer associated with tenements and filth, but rather comfortable, attractive living spaces. Those living in the Nottingham could enjoy modern home conveniences, be close to the streetcar line, or garage their car on site; all expectations of modern apartment living were met with the Nottingham Apartments.

#### **Criterion C: Architecture**

#### **Tudor Revival**

The Nottingham was designed and constructed in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, during the revival period known as the Eclectic movement. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, "unlike the free stylistic mixtures that dominated the preceding Victorian era, the Eclectic movement stresses relatively pure copies of these traditions as originally built in different European countries and their New World colonies."<sup>20</sup> From the architect-designed "landmark" homes built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Tudor Revival style soon evolved into the less pretentious home common in the 1920s and 1930s. The early Tudor Revival examples, or "Jacobethan" style homes, were modeled after late Medieval buildings and often exhibited Renaissance detailing. After World War I, however, a more modest Tudor Revival style flourished with the establishment of masonry veneering techniques; now, small apartment buildings and modest homes could mimic the massive masonry of their English prototypes.<sup>21</sup>

During the 1920s and 1930s, Tudor Revival was the second most popular style for residential building, with Colonial Revival taking the lead.<sup>22</sup> The most common characteristics of the Tudor Revival style include steeply pitched rooflines, decorative half-timbering, grouped casement windows with multi-pane glazing, facades

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> "Gold Coast Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1997.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> "Nebraska Ranch Deal Involves Half A Million." Omaha World Herald. October 16, 1926, Pg. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> "Beauty, Convenience in Modern Apartment." Omaha World Herald. August 25, 1933, Pg. 12.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003, Pg. 319.
 <sup>21</sup> Ibid., 358.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> "Tudor Revival Style 1890-1920." Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission . Available at

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/late\_19th\_\_\_early\_20th\_century\_revival\_period/2390/tudor\_r evival\_style/294788.

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dominated by one or more cross gables, prominent chimneys, gabled entries, and patterned stone and brickwork. Brick was the most common cladding material, with false half-timbering integrated into roughly half of these buildings.<sup>23</sup>

The architectural details found on the Nottingham are clearly consistent with the Tudor Revival Style, including the preserved overhanging gables, decorative half-timbered wall surfaces, stucco with masonry veneered construction and ornamental stonework in select locations along the facades. According to survey files of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, The Nottingham Apartments is the only recorded Tudor Revival style 'L' Court Garden Apartment in Omaha. Only three other Tudor Revival apartments are recorded in Omaha: Tudor Arms (131 S. 39<sup>th</sup>, 'U' Court Garden Apartment), Arlington Manor (4907 Davenport, Apartment Building), and Wilshire (4910 Capitol Avenue, Row Flat). The Nottingham is considered a significant contribution to Omaha's rich architectural history, as very few Tudor Revival Style multi-family dwellings of this size and significance remain in Omaha.

# A New Material: "Cinder Blox"

The Nottingham was among the first projects in Omaha to feature a new fire-resistant construction material called "cinder blox." Cinder blox are composed of a combination of cinder and cement, and there were many different variations of the product, which came into production c. 1920. The Ideal Cement Stone Company of Omaha began manufacturing cinder blox c. 1925. Unlike the earlier cement block, cinder blox were lighter, and according to a 1926 Omaha World Herald article, "nails can be driven into the blocks in much the same way that they are used in wood construction."<sup>24</sup> In the early to mid 1920s, cinder blox were touted as the non-combustible, lightweight, and economical alternative to conventional wood framed structures built up to this point.

# The Architect

Matthew J. Lahr was the architect of record for the Nottingham. Mr. Lahr designed a number of notable buildings in Omaha, some of which include:

- St. Bridget's Church, 4112 S. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, 1920
- St. Rose School, 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Mid City Avenue, 1923
- Kay Apartments, 118 N. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, 1924
- Notre Dame Academy, 3501 State Street, 1925 (NRHP listed)
- Father Flanagan's Boy's Home Gym and Trade School, 132nd Street and West Dodge Road, 1929-30 (Complex NRHP/NHL listed)
- Rorick Apartments, 604 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, 1950-51

Lahr studied architecture at Chicago Technical College followed by two years at Columbia University in New York. He worked for Pond and Pond Architects in Chicago from 1909 to 1915. After moving to Omaha, he worked with Frank J. Ellert (Ellert & Lahr) from 1919-1921, and had his own practice (M.J. Lahr) from 1921 to 1927. Lahr then partnered with Carl Stangel (Lahr & Stangel) from 1927 to 1940. After 1940, Lahr continued to design under his own practice until at least 1956, passing away in 1960.<sup>25</sup> Lahr, either on his own or within his partnerships with Ellert and Stangel, designed a variety of buildings, ranging from schools and churches to

http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/1956%20American%20Architects%20Directory.aspx.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> McAlester, Pg. 355.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "New 'Blox' is Popular." *Omaha World Herald* 19 July 1926: Pg. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Koyl, George S., Ed. American Architects Directory First edition, 1956. New York: R.R. Bowker Company, December 1955, Pg. 315. The American Institute of Architects Archives. Available at

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The Nottingham Apartments
Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska County and State

apartments and office buildings. Of the 19 projects he reported on the Architect's Roster of the American Institute of Architects in 1953, seven included apartment buildings.<sup>26</sup>

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here - cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

1923 Sanborn Map of Omaha, Nebraska.

"Beauty, Convenience in Modern Apartment." Omaha World Herald. August 25, 1933, Pg. 12.

"Cinder Concrete Block Tested by Fire at Warren, O." *Concrete Products*, Chicago, December 1921, Volume 21, Number 6, Pg. 59-61.

Honebrink, Jennifer. *Apartments, Flats and Tenements in Omaha, Nebraska, 1880-1962.* Draft Multiple Property Document. 2009.

Koyl, George S., Ed. American Architects Directory First edition, 1956. New York: R.R. Bowker Company, December 1955, Pg. 315. The American Institute of Architects Archives. Available at http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/1956%20American%20Architects%20Directory.asp x. Accessed November 16, 2012. Last updated November 12, 2009.

"Make Record Time in Building Bungalows, Use of New Cinder Blox Aids in Speeding Operations." *The Delmarvia Star*, Wilmington, Delaware. September 3, 1922, Pg. 11.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.

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M.J. Lahr Architects' Roster Questionnaire, 1953. The American Institute of Architects Archives. *The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*, s.v. "M.J. Lahr," (ahd4003203). Available at http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/rosterold.aspx. Accessed November 16, 2012. Last updated February 25, 2011.

Multiple Dwelling Study. Available at the Omaha City Planning Department.

"Nebraska Ranch Deal Involves Half A Million." Omaha World Herald. October 16, 1926, Pg. 1.

"New Apartment for Burt Street." Omaha World Herald. January 4, 1925, Pg. 15.

"New 'Blox' is Popular." Omaha World Herald. July 19, 1926, Pg. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> M.J. Lahr Architects' Roster Questionnaire, 1953. The American Institute of Architects Archives. *The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*, s.v. "M.J. Lahr," (ahd4003203). Available at http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/rosterold.aspx.

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"Nottingham Apartments." Omaha World Herald. February 26, 1931, Pg. 35.

"Nottingham Sale Listed." Omaha World Herald. August 9, 1960, Pg. 9.

"Omaha, Nebraska." Available at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha,\_Nebraska. Accessed November 2012, last updated October 23, 2012.

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"Tudor Revival Style 1890-1920." Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission . Available at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/late\_19th\_\_\_early\_20th\_century\_revival\_period/23 90/tudor\_revival\_style/294788. Accessed 14 November 2012, last update unknown.

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X State Historic Preservation Office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	X Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	University
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Other (Name of repository)
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DO09:0216-047	

10. Geographical Data	

Acreage of property Less than one

USGS Quadrangle Omaha North Quadrangle

Primary location of additional data:

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

# Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if ot	her than WGS84: _			
Latitude	41.267086	Longitude	-95.961749	
Latitude		Longitude		
Latitude		Longitude		
Latitude		Longitude		
	Latitude Latitude Latitude	Latitude	Latitude 41.267086 Longitude Latitude Longitude Latitude Longitude	Latitude41.267086Longitude-95.961749LatitudeLongitudeLongitudeLatitudeLongitudeLongitude

# Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is located at 3304 Burt Street, Omaha, Nebraska. The legal description is as follows: The East 109-7/8 feet of Lot 4, the North 33 feet of the West 40 feet of Lot 4, and the North 39 feet of the East 44 feet of the West 84 feet of Lot 4, all in Block 5, Lowe's Second Addition to the City of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.

## Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all of the extant property historically associated with the Nottingham Apartments. The area includes all historically associated property.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

The Nottingham Apartments	Douglas County, Nebraska		
Name of Property	County and State		
11. Form Prepared By			

name/title Daniel Fox	
organization Realty Asset Advisors SW, Inc.	date 11-13-12
street & number 7956 East Montebello Avenue	telephone 402-708-2121
city or town Scottsdale	state AZ zip code 85250
email realty asset advisors@gmail.com	

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

#### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

#### **Photo Log**

Name of Property	The Nottingham Apartments	5			
City or Vicinity	Omaha	County	Douglas	State	Nebraska
Photographer	Audrey Mohr, NSHS		Date Photographed	11-6-12	

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

Photo 1 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_001) Nottingham Apartments, south and east facades. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 2 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_002) Nottingham Apartments, west and south facades. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 3 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_003) Nottingham Apartments, west facade (rear). Camera facing southeast.

Photo 4 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_004) Concrete planter on southern facade. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 5 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_005) Decorative "N" railing on southern facade. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 6 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_006)

OMB No. 1024-0018

The Nottingham Apartments

#### Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska County and State

Built-in drawers in bedroom closest of a first floor unit.

Photo 7 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_007) Corridor in a first floor unit.

Photo 6 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_008) Stairwell, second floor looking down to landing between first and second floors.

Photo 7 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_009) Corridor in a second floor unit.

Photo 8 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_010) Bedroom with living room in background of a second floor unit.

Photo 9 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_011) Corridor of corner unit on second floor.

Photo 10 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_012) Living room of corner unit on third floor.

Photo 11 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_013) Kitchen in third floor corner unit.

Photo 12 of 14 (NE\_DouglasCounty\_NottinghamApartments\_014) View from inside third floor corner unit looking into hallway.

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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Nottingham A	Apartments
Name of Property	
Douglas County, 1	Nebraska
County and State	

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number <u>Additional Information</u> Page <u>1</u>



Figure 1: Nottingham Apartments, northwest corner of 33rd Street and Burt Street, Omaha. Boundary outlined in red. Google Maps.

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Nottingham Apartments Name of Property Douglas County, Nebraska County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

2

Page

Section number <u>Additional Information</u>

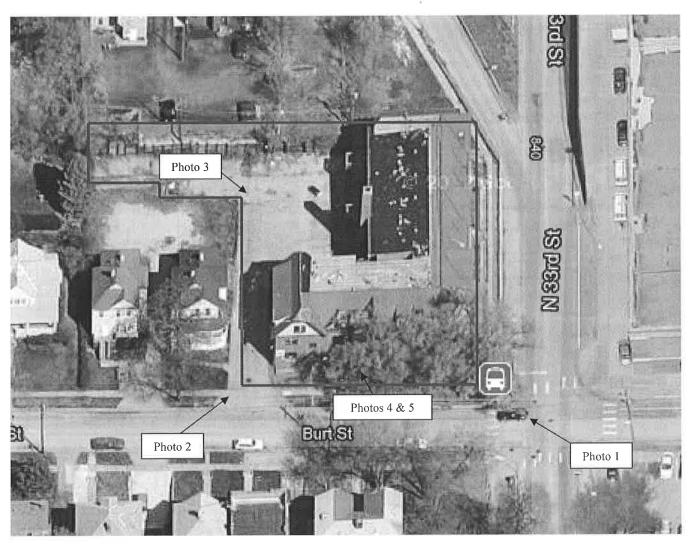


Figure 2: Nottingham Apartments, exterior photo key. Google Maps.

NPS Form 10-900-a United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Douglas County, Nebraska
County and State

Section number Additional Information

Page 3



Figure 3: Rendering of the Nottingham Apartments. "New Apartment for Burt Street." *Omaha World Herald.* January 4, 1925, Pg. 15.

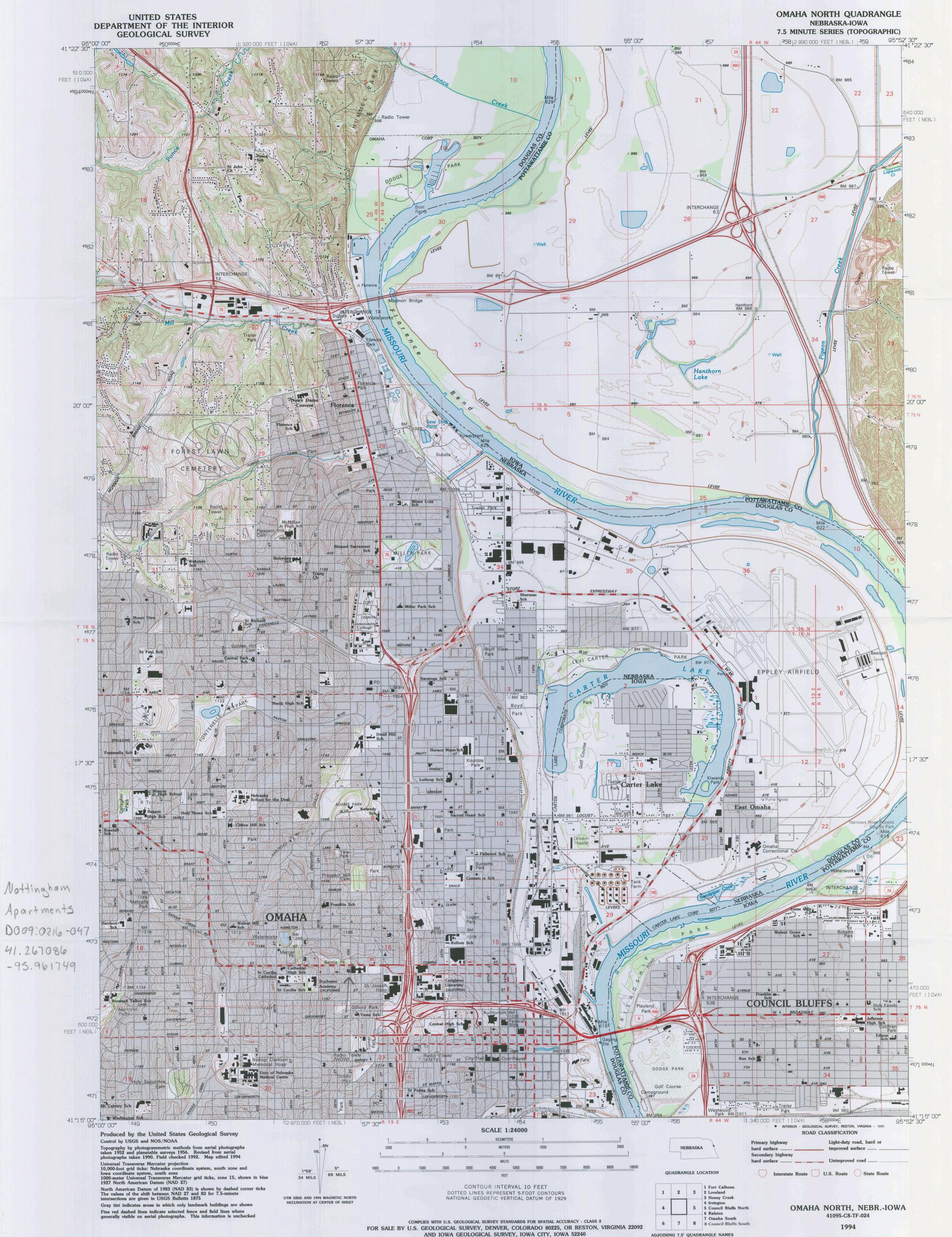
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Figure 4: The image provided is under copyright protection and has been purged from the nomination.



A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DMA 6866 IV SW - SERIES V875





























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Nottingham Apartments, The NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Douglas

DATE RECEIVED: 3/08/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/03/13 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/18/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/24/13 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000195

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

\_\_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_\_C3 · 13 DATE **V**ACCEPT

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

RECOM./	CRITERIA	

REVIEWR \_\_\_\_\_ 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.





March 4, 2013

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

RE: The Nottingham Apartments Omaha, Douglas 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, usu

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



Joeckel, Jeffery <jeff\_joeckel@nps.gov>

# **RE: Recent National Register Listings**

1 message

**Mohr, Audrey** <audrey.mohr@nebraska.gov> To: "Joeckel, Jeffery" <jeff\_joeckel@nps.gov> Tue, May 21, 2013 at 9:42 AM

Hi Jeff,

I suggested just removing the continuation sheets so it would be less work on your part, but if you're willing to go in and remove specific images, that would be great! Here is what needs to be removed:

Nottingham Apartments: Figure 4

Ottawa Block: Figures 10-12

Lincoln Highway – Grand Island Seedling Mile: Figure 3

Citizens State Bank: Figures 4-7

All of the images for Omaha Park & Boulevard System and Bethphage Mission are owned by the property owners, and we have full permission to use them online.

Thank you for doing this, and I promise that I'll have the images removed before I send them to you next time!

#### Audrey

From: Joeckel, Jeffery [mailto:jeff\_joeckel@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 8:04 AM
To: Mohr, Audrey
Subject: Re: Recent National Register Listings

Thank you for letting us know. The most recent listings we have from Nebraska are:

NEBRASKA, DOUGLAS COUNTY, Nottingham Apartments, The, 3304 Burt St., Omaha, 13000195, LISTED, 4/23/13

## NEBRASKA, DOUGLAS COUNTY,

#### Omaha Park and Boulevard System,

20 city parks, 4 golf courses & 19 connecting blvds. including Riverview, Hanscom & Fontenelle Parks., & Blvds., Omaha, 13000196, LISTED, 4/23/13

NEBRASKA, DOUGLAS COUNTY, Ottawa Block, The, 2401 Farnam St., Omaha, 13000197, LISTED, 4/22/13

NEBRASKA, HALL COUNTY, Lincoln Highway–Grand Island Seedling Mile, Seedling Mile Rd., Grand Island, 13000198, LISTED, 4/24/13 (Lincoln Highway in Nebraska MPS)

NEBRASKA, KEARNEY COUNTY, Bethphage Mission, 1044 23rd Rd., Axtell vicinity, 13000199, LISTED, 4/24/13

NEBRASKA, PLATTE COUNTY, Citizens State Bank, 204 Pine St., Creston, 13000200, LISTED, 4/24/13

Do you need the embedded images from the continuation sheets for all of these removed? (For example on the Nottingham Apts, pages pdf pages 18 and 19 (figures 3 and 4) are of an old newspaper advertisement and a 1925 photo?

Please let me know, if you need all of these types of images removed from all of these files. I can remove them, then send copies to you and Jim to ensure that everyone knows what is for public accessibility.

Thank you,

jeff\_joeckel@nps.gov 202-354-2225 Website: www.nps.gov/history/nr Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalRegisterNPS Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/nationalregister/

On Tue, May 21, 2013 at 8:13 AM, Gabbert, James <james\_gabbert@nps.gov> wrote:

Audrey:

I am copying this to Jeff Joeckel, our archivist, scanning dude, and all-around-good egg. He can take care of the problem and will contact you if he has questions about what needs to be removed.

On Mon, May 20, 2013 at 11:05 AM, Mohr, Audrey <audrey.mohr@nebraska.gov> wrote:

Hi Jim,

I just realized that the nominations that were just listed are now available on the NPS website (even though my computer is not letting me download them). We had a few photos that we are removing from the nominations when we put them on our website because we only received "academic" permission to use the photos, not internet permission. Could you please remove the continuation sheets from what you have posted so that the permission is not violated? We will not include these photos in future submissions, but will rather simply reference them in the bibliography.

Thanks,

Audrey

Audrey Mohr National Register & CLG Coordinator Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Nebraska State Historical Society 1500 R Street PO Box 82554 Lincoln, NE 68501-2554

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audrey.mohr@nebraska.gov



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Join us for the first Nebraska Preservation Conference on June 14!

Jim Gabbert

Historian

National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks

(202) 354-2275