

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | 10 15 1979  |
| DATE ENTERED     | FEB 11 1979 |

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Anheuser-Busch Beer Depot

(D009:1-12)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1207-1215 Jones Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Nebraska

— VICINITY OF

CODE

031

COUNTY

Douglas

CODE

055

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

STREET & NUMBER

1819 Farnam Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

## 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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

The three buildings of the Anheuser Busch beer depot are located in an industrial/warehouse section of downtown Omaha, one block from the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The office, stable, and beer vault/ice house were designed in 1887 by architect Henry Voss as the beer distribution center in the Omaha area for the Anheuser Busch Brewing Association of St. Louis. The beer was shipped to Omaha by rail and unloaded at the rail siding located in the alley at the rear of the beer vault, where it was stored for later distribution. Each of the buildings open onto a private cobblestone alley which created an off-street loading area. A metal gate with brick posts (one post and gate remains) separated the private alley from the street (see site plan).

All three of the major structures are of masonry bearing wall construction. A wood-frame wagon shed is still extant and connects the three-story beer vault at the rear of the property to the two-story stable which fronts on Jones Street. Originally this shed extended to the east, rear wall of the office building where it protected the side entrance to that building. This shed then extended the length of the beer vault's west wall where it covered a portion of the private alley and the ice run which ran from the second story down to grade level. A two-story wood shed along the south wall (at the rail siding) of the beer vault has been removed where presently a simple marquee protects the one-story space above a modern concrete block loading dock.

The entire complex is designed in what may most appropriately be called the Victorian Romanesque style of architecture (Blumenson 1977, page 44). The structures are related to each other through the exclusive use of red brick and the repetition of certain details, most notably the round and jack arched window and door openings, and the corbelled brick articulation of the walls. Emphasis is given to the Jones Street facades of the stable and office buildings through the use of red pressed-brick walls with stone trim. Brick with rounded corners are also used along this front for the building corners, the heads and jambs of both windows and doors, and the brick pilasters of the office building.

The focal point of the complex is the one-story office building whose high ceilings, raised basement and design articulation give it somewhat of a height advantage over the neighboring stable. Design sophistication and elaboration of detail set it apart from the other buildings within the complex. The rich variety, color and texture of the front (north) facade of this building is visible in the photographs (see No.'s 1, 4, 5). Particularly notable features include the cut stone trim and the (probably) copper coping, finials and wall cornice.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The office building housed other functions as well. The front third of the building was set aside for office space--the two easternmost bays for reception and general offices, the west bay probably for executive offices. The two are divided by a wood frame partition which features large double-hung borrow lights. The office spaces are further distinguished by the paneled wainscot which features simple rosettes in the chair-rail. The large open space at the rear was used for storage and, possibly, barrel repair. A wide ramp connects with the basement (and the side door to the private alley) where bottling functions took place. Notable features here include the cast iron columns which support the longitudinal timber beam and the brick-walled cellar in the northwest corner.

Several alterations have occurred to the complex. Among those not already mentioned are the shed addition to the west of the office building (utilizing a pier from the now demolished rental property to the west), the garage door cut into the north wall of the stable, and the brick enclosing and other modifications of window openings--probably most apparent on the ice house at the rear of the complex.

The beer depot was operated by Anheuser Busch until prohibition was approved in Nebraska in 1916. Since then, it has been used by a number of companies as warehouse and office space.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE     | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |  |
| <input 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               |   |  |  |  |

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|                |           |                   |  |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|--|
| SPECIFIC DATES | 1887-1916 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Henry Voss, Omaha Architect<br>Bailey & Olsen, Omaha Builder |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|--|

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Anheuser Busch Beer Depot is architecturally and historically significant to Omaha as a well-preserved example of a 19th century distributing complex and the office is one of the most elaborate examples of the Victorian Romanesque style in the city. Each major component of the beer depot remains extant - the office, stable, beer vault/ice house, and cobblestone alley. The beer depot is the only known example of a beer distribution or manufacturing center extant in downtown Omaha. As a complex, the components of the depot demonstrate the versatility of brick as a construction material. Appropriately, the most elaborate brickwork appears on the office building's facade which, despite its relatively small size, achieves an obvious dignity. Architect Henry Voss of Omaha designed the complex as well as a number of Omaha breweries.

The Anheuser Busch Brewing Association of St. Louis had a branch agency in Omaha from about 1874 until prohibition was approved in 1916. The beer was shipped from St. Louis to Omaha by rail and then bottled and distributed from the agency. The Omaha branch was the largest of 28 agencies in the state. Breweries were one of the ten major manufacturing industries in Omaha (Omaha Board of Trade, 1891, no page, and Wakeley, 1917, p. 228) and Anheuser Busch was one of several beer suppliers in town. Besides being the distribution center for the Omaha area, this agency was also the Anheuser Busch distributor for Nebraska, western Iowa, and adjacent areas of Wyoming and South Dakota (The Leading Industries of the West, ca. 1885, p. 163.)

A native of Germany, architect Henry Voss was trained in Germany and Switzerland and practiced in his native country for several years. After serving in the Prussian army during the Franco-Prussian war, he immigrated to America in 1871. Voss arrived in Omaha two years later and started his own firm. He was particularly noted for designing breweries and completed plans for all of Omaha's major ones, i.e. Metz Brothers, Fred Krug, Storz and Jetter. At the time of Voss' retirement in 1907, he was the oldest architect in point of service to the city.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Omaha North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2 and north half of lot 3, Block 194 of Original City Plat, Omaha, NE

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Penelope Chatfield, Preservation Historian; D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

December, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

402/432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

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

Marion E. Knott

12/11/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-1-79

ATTEST:

William H. Brasham  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1-31-79

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Owner of Property ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

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Office:  
John T. Ruggiero ✓  
504 N. 73rd Street  
Omaha, NE

Stable and Ice House:  
Denny's Inc. ✓  
c/o William J. Lindsay  
4727 Center Street  
Omaha, NE

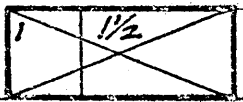
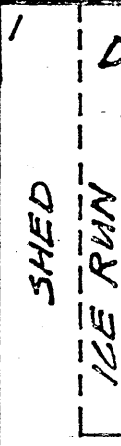
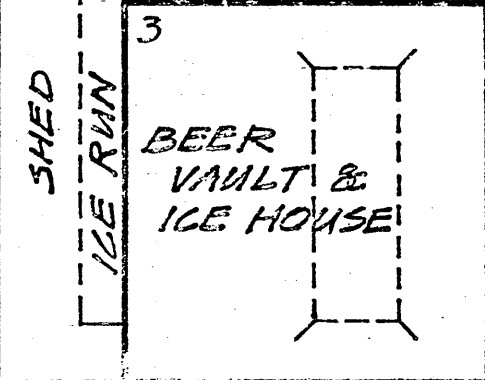
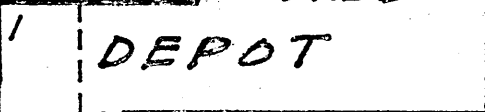
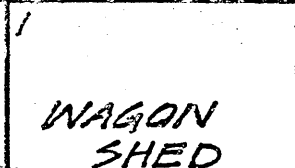
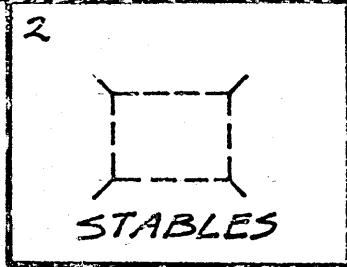
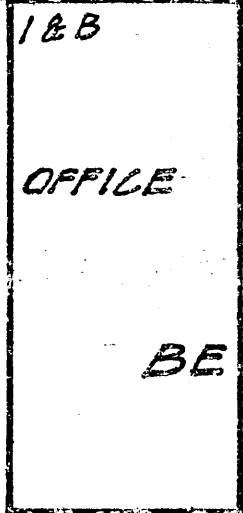
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NATIONAL REGISTER

JONES STREET

1213

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R.R. SIDING

SITE PLAN  
ANHEUSER-BUSCH  
BEER DEPOT  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA  
ADAPTED FROM SANBORN -  
PERRIS FIRE INSURANCE  
MAP OF 1890.  
DRAWN BY S. RYAN, AUGUST 1973.



