

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

4. WOMEN'S HALL (now EDNA WORK HALL).

VBD: Beginning at the intersection of north-south half-section line of Section 20, Township 33 N, Range 48 W, with the corporation line of the City of Chadron, proceed south 200 feet, then west 600 feet to this building.

UTM: E66330 N4742600.

Acreage: less than one.

Brick wall material; rectangular form; three stories plus basement; flat roof; five-part front facade with slightly projecting end and center pavilions; center pavilion emphasized with gabled parapet, "1932" plaque, pilasters, and prominent stone entrance with "Women's Hall" above the door; three-story pilasters topped with palmettes highlight the end pavilions; nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows on first floor, six-over-six windows on upper ones; reticulated brickwork in the parapet; 1932; 1960 addition to the rear; P.W.A. Art Deco; Arthur D. Baker, Grand Island, architect.

Architectural Historian David Gebhard described this architectural style popular in the Great Plains and Midwest in the 1930's as an international stripped Classicism with Art Deco details, which is associated with P.W.A. buildings. The symmetrical brick buildings had a minimum of classical or Art Deco details, just enough to give a hint of historicism and familiarity to a modern building. Women's Hall (1932) and Crites Hall (1938) both closely follow this stylistic vocabulary. The five-part front facade, paired windows and slighted projecting end and center pavilions are decidedly classical in inspiration. The few details, such as the multi-story pilasters, are typical Art Deco motifs in this type of structure. The Art Deco details in the Women's Hall are the pilasters and the curved reeding flanking the entrance. The younger Crites Hall is more overtly Art Deco in the center pavilion details: multi-paned casement windows with extension above, fluted chevron extending above parapet, and wide fluted pilasters cut off bluntly at the top.

Edna E. Work (1881-1950) served as Dean of Women from 1916 until 1947. She was closely involved in the planning and interior design of Women's Hall, which was later named in her honor. She was born and raised in Hastings, Nebraska. Her A.B. degree was awarded from Doane College, Crete, and her master's degree from Columbia University, New York City. Advanced studies were also undertaken at the University of Chicago. Her teaching experience included the Hastings public schools and the American schools of Cananea Sonora, Mexico, where she served as elementary teacher and principal. She came to Chadron as the principal of Chadron Prep, but was immediately assigned to the position of

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Dean of Women. She saw the school grow from its early years to a well-established four-year college.

5. CRITES HALL.

VBD: Beginning at the intersection of north-south half-section line of Section 20, Township 33 N, Range 48 W, with the corporation line of the City of Chadron, proceed south 200 feet, then east 50 feet to the building.

UTM: E663470 N4742580.

Acreage: less than one.

Brick wall material; rectangular plan; three stories and raised basement; flat roof; five-part front facade with slightly projecting center and end pavilions; paired windows of six-over-six double-hung sash type; end pavilions with three-story fluted pilasters topped by palmettes; reticulated brickwork in the parapet; Art Deco windows, pilasters, chevron at parapet in the center pavilion; 1938; P.W.A. Art Deco; Gordon Shattuck, Grand Island, architect.

Crites Hall was the first dormitory built for men at Chadron. Today offices are housed on first floor and the residence hall is above. For a discussion of the architectural style, see above under #4 Edna Work Hall.

Edwin D. Crites (1884-1953) was a Chadron attorney who as a member of the State Normal Board from 1931 to 1953 contributed to the support of Chadron State College. Crites was part of the first generation raised in north-western Nebraska. Born in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, his family moved to the Chadron area in 1888 where his father worked in the land office and four years later, opened a law office. Crites was educated in Chadron and at the University of Nebraska, and was admitted to the bar in 1908. His entire career took place in Chadron. At various times he was in partnership with his father, his brother, and his nephew. From 1908-1918, he served as Dawes County Attorney. Crites also had many business and social associations in Chadron, and was instrumental in the organization and construction of Chadron Municipal Hospital. In 1931 he was appointed to the State Normal Board upon which he served for twenty-three years and as president for part of that time. His obituary described him as "one of Chadron's foremost business and professional men."