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 "NA" 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 10-903a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Petersburg Jail

Other names/site number NEHBS #BO07-013

2. Location

Street & number Main Street and Second Street

City or town Petersburg

State Nebraska Code NE County Boone Code 011 Zip code 68652

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 [ ] state wide [x] locally. [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

[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]
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):

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

[Date]
Date of Action
**5. Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Building(s)</td>
<td>Building(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Public-local</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public-state</td>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public-federal</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Objects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Name of related multiple property listing**
(Enter "NA" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
<th>Current Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT: correctional facility</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**7. Description**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification</th>
<th>Materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO STYLE</td>
<td>Foundation BRICK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walls BRICK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roof METAL: Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property   Less than one acre.

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>576415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>4633790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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   Greg Miller, Preservation Historian
organization  Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office
street & number  1500 "R" Street
city or town   Lincoln

date   December 2004
telephone   (402) 471-4787
state   NE   zip code   68508

Additional Documentation
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.)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title   Village of Petersburg
street & number  Main Street
city or town   Petersburg

telephone   (402) 386-5368
state   NE   zip code   68652

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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.
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.
___ 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance
1902-1945

Significant Dates
1902

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

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

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

Primary location for additional data:
___ State Historic Preservation Office
X ___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local Government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: ________________________________
Petersburg is a small community (pop. 388, 2000) in Boone County in eastern central Nebraska. The Petersburg Jail is located on a one-half block site immediately behind (north) of the town's commercial district. The east end of the block is partially developed, and vacant on the south and west sides. Across the street from the west end of the block is the raised bed of the abandoned railroad tracks.

Built in 1902, the one-story jail measures approximately 24 by 16 feet, and is constructed of locally manufactured brick. The original wooden shingles covering the gabled-roof have been replaced with tin sheeting. The entrance (with a non-original) is located on the main (east) façade. A window on the south side is boarded over, but the original segmented window frame remains intact. A window opening on the north side has been bricked in. An arched lintel is above the former and current window openings.

The interior is a single room. The floor is dirt and the ceiling is bead-board. Originally, the jail occupied the entire room. In 1926, metal bars were installed dividing the space in half. Behind the bars was a bunk bed while the marshal had his desk on the other (east) half. The bars have since been removed returning the jail to its single room configuration.
Established in 1887, Petersburg is located in eastern central Nebraska. Although the community never attained a large population, it had, until recently, maintained a relatively consistent populace. In 1900 Petersburg consisted of 478 residents with this number rising to 533 in 1910. The town reached its peak population of 657 in 1940.

As Petersburg grew from its founding in 1887 to a modest population in 1900, village officials became more concerned with law and order in the community. As a consequence a decision was made to erect a jail. The material needed to build the jail was readily available. The Petersburg Brick Yard, established in 1900 on the northwest side of town, provided the bricks necessary for the jail’s construction. Completed in 1902 the jail was situated just behind Main Street and near the railroad tracks and station. This convenient location allowed for the incarceration of troublemakers from town and for those coming by rail. Although not overly utilized, the jail did serve its purpose in the community.

In 1926 metal bars were added to the interior of the jail at a cost of one hundred-fifty dollars. After the bars were installed, one-half of the building was used as a holding cell while the other portion was employed as the marshal’s office.

The Petersburg Jail is significant because it represents a period in the community’s history when the local officials thought the town required such a facility. Since the village offices were housed in the bank there was no marshal’s office or city hall in which the jail could be located. For this reason the Village Board decided to have a free standing structure built. The establishment of the jail as the only municipal building reinforces the Village Board’s concern for public safety. According to the Nebraska State Historic Building Survey, the single-room, free standing Petersburg Jail is the only one of its type in Boone County. Only two other jails are documented in the county. They are both located in the multi-use City Hall offices in St. Edward and Cedar Rapids. For these reasons the Petersburg Jail is significant at the local level under Criterion A as an excellent example of a jail designed for a small community. The period of significance is from 1902, when the jail was constructed to 1945 when it was last used.
Bibliography


Petersburg Index
Verbal Boundary Description

Described as lots 3-6, block 4, Original Town of Petersburg, Boone County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes all historically associated real estate.
Petersburg Jail
(NEHBS # B007-013)
Petersburg, Boone County, Nebraska
Photo by Greg Miller
November 2004 (NPSHS 041101:4)
Looking Northwest
Photo #1 of 3

Petersburg Jail
(NEHBS # B007-013)
Petersburg, Boone County, Nebraska
Photo by Greg Miller
November 2004 (NPSHS 041101:14)
Looking Northeast
Photo #2 of 3
Petersburg Jail
(NEHBS # B007-018)
Petersburg, Boone County, Nebraska
Photo by Greg Miller
November 2004 (NSHS 0411/01:8)
Looking South
Photo #3 of 3