**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Anheuser-Busch Beer Depot

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1207–1215 Jones Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
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<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
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<td>_OBJECT</td>
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**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska
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
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 opened 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 corbeled 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.
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.
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.
See continuation sheet

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME: Omaha North

UTM REFERENCES

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QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1:24,000

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

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<th>COUNTY</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Penelope Chatfield, Preservation Historian; D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION
Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER
1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN
Lincoln

STATE
Nebraska

DATE
December, 1978

TELEPHONE
402/432-2793

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___   STATE X   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

TITLE
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE
12/11/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Andreas, A. T. History of the State of Nebraska. (Chicago; Western Historical Co., 1882).


Lethem, John. Historical and Descriptive Review of Omaha (Omaha: John Lethem, n.d.).

Olson, James C. History of Nebraska (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press 1966).


Omaha City Building Permit #1509, Sept. 20, 1887, Anheuser Busch Brewing Ass'n., 1215 Jones Street. Filed at City Building Permits and Inspections, Douglas County Civic Center, Omaha.

Omaha City directories 1887-1977.


SITE PLAN

ANHEUSER-BUSCH BEER DEPOT
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
ADAPTED FROM SANBORN - PERRIS FIRE INSURANCE MAP OF 1890.
DRAWN BY S. RYAN, AUGUST 1978.
Photo 1 of 10 – office and stable, view to the southeast. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 (DM197805-D-04)
Photo 2 of 10 – courtyard with ice house at rear, view to the south. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 (DM197805-D-9)
Photo 4 of 10 – office, view to the south. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 (DM197805-D-25)
Photo 5 of 10 – office and stable, view to the southeast. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 (DM197805-D-3)
Photo 6 of 10 – stable, view to the south. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 DM197805-D-26)
Photo 7 of 10 – stable, view to the northeast. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 (DM197805-D-13)
Photo 9 of 10 – ice house/beer vault, view to the east. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 (DM197805-D-21)
Photo 10 of 10 – detail of ice house, view to the southeast. Photo by D. Murphy, Lincoln, NE, 1978 (DM197805-D-15)