UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1. NAME
HISTORIC
The Standard Oil Co. Building of Nebraska

AND/OR COMMON
The Law Building

2. LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
500 South 18th Street

CITY, TOWN
Omaha

STATE
Nebraska

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
__DISTRICT
X BUILDING
__STRUCTURE
__SITE
__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
__PUBLIC
X PRIVATE
__BOOTH

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
__UNOCCUPIED
__WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
__YES: RESTRICTED
X YES: UNRESTRICTED
__NO

PRESENT USE
__AGRICULTURE
X COMMERCIAL
__EDUCATIONAL
__ENTERTAINMENT
__GOVERNMENT
__INDUSTRIAL
__MILITARY
__OTHER:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
The Law Building, a partnership

STREET & NUMBER
500 South 18th Street

CITY, TOWN
Omaha

STATE
Nebraska

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas Civic Center

STREET & NUMBER
1819 Farnam Street

CITY, TOWN
Omaha

STATE
Nebraska

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL  __STATE  __COUNTRY  __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCELLENT</strong></td>
<td>_<strong>UNALTED</strong></td>
<td><strong>ORIGINAL SITE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><strong>GOOD</strong></em></td>
<td><em><strong>RUINS</strong></em></td>
<td><em><strong>ALTERED</strong></em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><strong>FAIR</strong></em></td>
<td>___UNEXPOSED</td>
<td><em><strong>MOVED</strong></em> DATE___</td>
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The six-story brick and limestone Law Building, formerly the Standard Oil Building, at 500 South 18th Street, in Omaha, Nebraska, was designed in 1919 and constructed in 1920-22. The intricate exterior detailing is typical of an innovation era in Omaha architecture and is confined to very few buildings presently standing.

The detailing enhances the building's inherent interest and brings a scale to the structure that in its time was one of the tallest buildings in the city's central business district. The significant fascia, soffit, and cornice detailing at the top of the building is reminiscent of Romanesque stone detailing, carried out in formed metal and very sensitively handled. The original storefront at grade is steel construction set in the limestone-faced concrete structure. Windows have largely remained unchanged since installation except for those at the main entrance. Alteration of the main entrance was executed to its original appearance. The vestibule and lobby surface are sheathed in marble, as is a vaulted ceiling in each space that has since been covered over with an acoustical ceiling to accommodate ductwork additions. The owner intends to remove the ceiling and restore the lobby to its original condition.

Treatment of the elevation makes it clear that the building was designed to be observed from most directions at a considerable distance, while most urban buildings of the period were designed with limited exterior viewing potential. Since adjacent properties to the south and west currently are being returned to open landscape space, this building will continue to play an important and distinctive role in its immediate physical surroundings.

General condition of the building is excellent. Exterior finishes and interior systems have been well maintained. The original owner occupied the space for many years and the building has had few owners.

The building, undisturbed structurally since construction, is reinforced concrete with brick and limestone facing. Floors are reinforced concrete supported by columns of the same composition. The building plan is a modified L-shaped with main facades on the north, east and the south-east short leg of the L.

The original layout of rooms and corridors provide both large open spaces and a number of smaller offices or working space. See attached layouts for the 1st, 5th and 6th floors. These three floors have remained basically unchanged from the original construction.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
| PREHISTORIC | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | COMMUNITY PLANNING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | RELIGION |
| 1400-1499   | ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | CONSERVATION      | LAW                    | SCIENCE  |
| 1500-1599   | AGRICULTURE            | ECONOMICS         | LITERATURE             | SCULPTURE|
| 1600-1699   | ARCHITECTURE           | EDUCATION         | MILITARY               | SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 1700-1799   | ART                    | ENGINEERING       | MUSIC                  | THEATER  |
| 1800-1899   | COMMERCE               | EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | PHILOSOPHY         | TRANSPORTATION |
| 1900-       | COMMUNICATIONS         | INDUSTRY          | POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | OTHER (SPECIFY) |

SPECIFIC DATES 1919, 1920-1922

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Law Building at 500 South 18th Street stands in an Omaha neighborhood currently experiencing a revival of interest in the architecture of the early 1920s. Designed in 1919 and constructed from 1920-1922, the former Standard Oil Building represents no single school of architecture but employs many details significant to the development of the Midwestern scene.

The building was designed by John and Allen McDonald, a local father-and-son team who enjoyed an excellent reputation and obtained several significant commissions in the Omaha area. The majority of their buildings were constructed before 1930 and few of them remain. Three of the more important works still standing are:

- The Elks Building at 18th and Dodge, since used as an interim City Hall.
- The Joslyn Museum at 24th and Dodge, a building known throughout the country and of significant design importance in Omaha.
- Unitarian First Church of Omaha, 3114 Harney Street, Omaha.

Buildings of consequence must be constructed at every stage of a community's development, but it is equally as important to retain examples of the work of recognized artists of each period. The Law Building represents a level of achievement by the Architects McDonald that was recognized as outstanding in its time and deserves to be respected and preserved in our time.

The Standard Oil Company established a branch in Omaha in the early 1880's with offices in the Merchants National Bank Building. This branch, with storehouses at 14th and Locust controlled the company's operations and sales in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas and Missouri. The sales were mainly in illuminating oils and lubricants and by 1897 had reached over 16,000 barrels per month, a very significant amount considering the population and the fact that there were no automobiles.

Standard Oil's operations and sales increased tremendously both locally and nationally with the advent of the internal combustion engine and by 1919 larger facilities were needed. This necessitated the division of operations and sales in the United States into four regional areas, Western, Southern, Eastern and Central with Omaha as its central headquarters. The decision had also been made to build rather than rent and designs were submitted for four headquarters buildings, the only remaining example of which is described in this application.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Omaha World Herald - February 21, 1921, pg. 16; October 9, 1921, section W, pg. 5 article and architects rendering; October 12, 1922, section N, pg. 1 photo; April 30, 1925, pg. 27; May 18, 1925, pg. 10.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .3 acre

Quad. Name Omaha North, Nebr. - Iowa

Quad. Scale 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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<th>COUNTY</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Harry J. Crook, John T. Carpenter
Carpenter, Fitzgerald & Coe, P.C.

ORGANIZATION DATE

500 South 18th Street Telephone

STEET & NUMBER 402/341-0994

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Omaha Nebraska

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

DEFINITION

TITLE Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE 7/3/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OPO 892-459