United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000793 Date Listed: 11/16/2015

Property Name: The Polish Home

County: Douglas State: NE

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper

11-16-2015
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significant Dates

1916 is hereby deleted as a significant date. Although the building was constructed in 1916, the period of significance is 1936 to 1965, the time the building was associated with the Polish community in south Omaha.

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

793

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name The Polish Home

Other names/site number South Central School, El Museo Latino, DO09-0183-007

Name of related multiple property listing n/a

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number 4701 South 25th Street

City or town Omaha State Nebraska County Douglas

Not for publication [] Vicinity []

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance: [ ] national [ ] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [x] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D

SHPO/Director 09-23-2015

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Nebraska State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official **Date**

Title **State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[✓] entered in the National Register.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain):

11-16-2015

Signature of Keeper **Date of Action**

The Polish Home
Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

[x] Private
[] Public-local
[] Public-state
[] Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box)

[x] Building(s)
[] District
[] Site
[] Structure
[] Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
EDUCATION/school
SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION/CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)
Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE/BRICK
Walls: BRICK
Roof: TERRA COTTA TILES

Description

Summary Paragraph

The Polish Home is a single-story, Romanesque Revival masonry building on a rusticated stone and brick basement foundation located on the southeast corner of L and South 25th Streets, approximately three miles south/southwest of downtown Omaha, Nebraska. The approximately 9,700 square foot, U-shaped brick building was constructed in 1916 as a primary school building, and retains many of its original exterior architectural features, such as the rusticated stone foundation and retaining walls, arched window openings (currently enclosed) and cross hip roof covered with terra cotta tiles.

Narrative Description

Site
The Polish Home is located in South Omaha, Nebraska. This area originally developed outside the corporate limits of Omaha in the late 19th century as the independent town of South Omaha. The area around the building has historically been urban, as 24th Street, one block east of the property, formed the commercial heart of South Omaha in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Originally more residential, the area immediately surrounding the property now has a more commercial character, with single- and two-story late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings and mid- to late 20th century surface parking lots, suburban-style late 20th century commercial buildings, and a 1947 fire station directly across 25th Street. The immediate setting has also been impacted by construction of the Kennedy Freeway, which includes exit ramps from and entrance ramps to L Street immediately west/northwest of the building. The building is positioned parallel to 25th Street , which extends north-south along the west side (or front) of the property, L Street, which extends east-west along the north side of the property, and an unnamed alley that extends north-south along the east side (or rear) of the property between L and M Streets. A surface parking lot extends along the south side of the property.

Exterior
The Polish Home is constructed of running bond, brick load-bearing walls atop a rusticated stone and brick basement foundation. The cross hip roof is covered with dark orange terra cotta tiles. A short (approximately 3 foot) retaining wall, interrupted only by a single set of stairs up to the fore court, extends north-south along the west side of the property (Figure 1) and extends around the south side of the property. The building consists of a central rectangular block extending north-south along the rear edge of the property, with rectangular northwest and southwest wings of the approximate same width and height as the central block extending at right angles from each end of the central block. The central block and wings form a U-shaped building with a semi-enclosed fore court between the central block and the two wings (Figure 2).

The rusticated stone veneer foundation is most prominent along the north side of the building, along L Street (Figure 3), and the façade (west) elevation of the wings, facing 25th Street. Projecting stone watertables extend along parts of the foundation, particularly those where the rusticated stone is visible above grade. The foundation is below grade along the interior of the fore court (Figure 3) and then reappears on the façade (west) elevation of the southwest façade wing, facing 25th Street (Figure 4). On the south side of the building, the stone foundation gives way to a brick foundation in the southeast corner (Figure 5). The stone foundation extends along the rear (east) side of the building (Figure 6). The exterior walls are punctuated by groups of tall, arched window openings on the east elevation of the central block, the north elevation of the northwest wing (Figure 7), the south elevation of the southwest wing, and west elevations of both wings. Many of these window openings are currently enclosed with brick (Figure 8). The windows of the central block and wings face the fore court and have been resized and filled with single-light casement replacement sashes.

The central block and the northwest and southwest wings each exhibit central, projecting entrances that open onto the fore court, with the most prominent being the main entrance in the center of the central block. It features an arched opening with three rowlock courses of brick. The other entrances and most of the windows throughout the building feature similar arches. The entrance is filled with a three-light replacement transom and double-leaf glass replacements doors. The doors open into a small vestibule. The projecting entrance vestibule pierces the eave extending along the west elevation of the central block. It originally exhibited a cast concrete or carved stone inscription above the door that read “South Central School.” A new sign reading “El Museo Latino” currently hangs over the original sign. The projecting vestibule has a flat roof

hidden by a short parapet wall (Figure 3). The secondary projecting entrances from the courtyard, in the south elevation of the northwest wing and the north elevation of the southwest wing, do not extend above the eaves, and feature a shallow shed roof extending from the main roof (Figure 2). These secondary entrances feature double-leaf replacement metal doors and original multi-light transoms.

The exterior walls of the central block and wings overlooking the fore court feature windows at regular intervals: three on each side of the main entrance, and two on each side of the secondary entrances. These windows originally contained eight-light, double-hung wood sashes, and retain their stone sills. All of these have been resized for smaller single-light casement replacement sashes. The west elevations of the both wings are mirror images of each other: originally, they featured a small, rectangular window with four-light, double-hung sashes and four larger arched windows with eight-light, double-hung sashes and multiple-light arched transoms. Similar arched windows appear to have originally been located along both the south and north elevations and would have corresponded to classrooms within the school (Figure 9).

The north elevation originally featured three sets of four large, arched windows similar to those on the west elevations of the wings. These groupings of four windows are separated by a pair of small, rectangular windows. Several of these windows have been enclosed with brick, and others have been resized with single light casement or double-hung sashes. The rear elevation features a small rectangular window near the northeast corner, nine larger arched windows, all filled with single-light double-hung original or historic sashes. Nine other windows have been enclosed with brick. Three windows have been resized with smaller, single-light, double-hung sashes. The basement level of the rear elevation features a large entrance filled with double-leaf metal doors. Five windows along the basement level are filled with six-over-one light, double-hung sashes, three are filled with six-light double-hung sashes, and one has been enclosed. Of the 18 windows along the south elevation, all have been enclosed with brick except for three that have been resized with single-light, double-hung sashes. A basement entrance in the south elevation near the southeast east corner is filled with double-leaf metal doors. An adjacent window is filled with single-light, double-hung sashes, and another is enclosed.

The building has projecting eaves with decorative, exposed rafter tails. The cross hip roof of the building is sheathed in terra cotta tiles. The large vents that originally projected from the roof at regular intervals have been removed. The fore court originally featured a central flagpole and may have served as a playground for the school. It is divided into quarters by the walkways leading from the steps from the street to the main and both secondary entrances. The flagpole has been removed. The rusticated stone retaining wall extends along the western edge of the courtyard, which slopes down to the capstones of the retaining wall. The rusticated cheek walls of the stairs step down from the fore court three times at regular intervals to street level. A contemporary chain-link fence extends along the west end of the fore court, and is open at the top of the stairs from the street. The retaining wall extends around the south side of the property, terminating at the southeastern corner of the property. At the southeast corner, an approximately 40-foot section between the foundation and retaining wall was excavated to create a narrow service area around the entrance door on the south elevation near the southeast corner. The rear (east) elevation extends along an unnamed alley that extends north-south down the middle of the block. From an historic photo (Figure 9), it is evident that the widening of 25th Street, and, to a lesser extent, L Street, circa 1967[1] led to losses of small grass medians between the property and the two streets.

Interior

The Polish Home's interior is accessed by the central entrance on the west elevation of the central block. From the small entrance vestibule, a long hallway extends north-south along the west exterior wall, which exhibits three windows on each side of the entrance. On one side of the entrance, the current building's owner, El Museo Latino, maintains a small gift shop and visitor information booth. A small seating area (small tables and chairs) is located along both sides of the south end of the hall. A kitchen, storage room, and male and female restrooms are located in the southeast corner of the building. The kitchen appears to be the "new kitchen" dedicated by the Polish Home in 1946 (see below), and appears to retain some historic fabric from this time period: general layout, wood storage cabinets, and square tile floors. A small pass-through in the western wall of this room provided access to the larger room in the southwest wing. The restrooms appear to retain some historic fabric, such as tile, toilets, sinks, and cubicle dividers. Neither bathroom is handicapped accessible.

[1] "'Without Bond Issue, No Money' – Korbitz," *Omaha World-Herald*, 5 Aug. 1966: 8.

A short hallway near the kitchen leads to a set of double-leaf doors that open into a large room that encompasses the entirety of the southwest wing. This was the large hall created by the American Legion during its initial remodel of the building in 1932 (see below) and was referred by the Polish Home as the "South Hall" (Figure 10). The room appears to retain little historic integrity from the period of significance, as it has been repeatedly renovated over the years by the Polish Home and El Museo Latino. All of the windows on the south and west walls have been enclosed, while those on the north wall have been resized. El Museo Latino currently uses the room for public performances and other community events.

In the north end of the north-south hallway extending along the west exterior wall of the central block, El Museo Latino has placed display cases as part of the exhibition space for the museum. The east partition wall of the north-south hallway delineates large square rooms along the east side of the building. One room retains some elements of the Polish Home's former members-only bar. The interior partition wall in the north end of the hallway retain windows filled with single-light, double-hung wood sashes. It is unknown if these windows are original to the school or were installed by the Polish Home, but they probably served to communicate with the windows on the exterior wall to provide light and air circulation in the rooms along the east side of the building. The northeast corner of the building has been subdivided to create a contemporary suite of administrative offices and a pair of handicapped-accessible restrooms. The northwest wing is similar to the southwest wing: the windows of the north and west exterior walls of this space have mostly been enclosed, and those on the south wall have been resized. The museum uses this room, the Polish Home's "Paderewski Hall" (see below) as its main exhibition space. The room currently retains the "knotty pine" paneling and stage visible in photographs when Paderewski Hall was dedicated in 1951 (Figure 11).

An elevator to the basement was installed by El Museo Latino near the modern restrooms and administrative suite. The partially-finished basement extends mainly along the east side of the central block. An entry to the basement from the alley along the east side of the building is filled with double-leaf metal doors. This entrance provides access to a small central basement room, which appears to have been subdivided by partition walls, with the elevator located at the northeastern end to provide access to the main floor for deliveries, moving exhibits, and providing access for handicapped visitors when required. In the northeast corner, approximately under the administrative suite, is an area for museum collection storage space. The space is partitioned from the central room with an entrance filled with a modern steel door. This space was formerly a crawlspace that has been excavated, and a concrete floor poured to create a level surface. This area is currently not ventilated, nor is it otherwise enclosed from the unimproved crawlspace extending to the west under the northwest wing, which exhibits the posts and footings that support the open floorplan of the northwest wing above.

In the southeast corner of the basement, immediately south of the central basement room is another room, currently used by the museum for general storage. During the tenure of the Polish Home, the room was known as "The Dugout," a bar open to the public.[2] It still retains the large, built-in refrigeration units used by the Polish Home for beer kegs used here and in the Home's members only bar immediately above on the ground floor. Heavy rains cause this area to flood periodically, and evidence of this flooding is visible on the floors and walls. Another door leads to a suite of smaller, unimproved rooms with bare brick, load-bearing walls. The original 1916 coal-burning heating plant is enclosed behind partitions along the south wall. A smaller, supplemental heating plant appears to have been added at some point later; neither system is currently used by the museum. The area below the southwest wing is inaccessible, but presumed to be crawlspace similar to the northwest wing.

Summary

The Polish Home building at 4701 South 25th Street in South Omaha retains a moderate amount of exterior integrity. The overall footprint of the building has remained static since it was constructed in 1916, and the fore court and retaining wall along the western end of the property has been retained since 1916 as well. Although many of the windows, particularly on the north, south and west elevations have been enclosed and others have been resized, the openings including the original sills have been retained and are still visible. The building still retains its cross hip roof sheathed in dark orange terra cotta tiles. The rear elevation appears to retain some original or historic wood sash windows, but many are in deteriorated condition. The interiors have been repeatedly renovated over the years and retain only traces or small pockets of original or historic materials from the period of significance.

[2] Jodlowski 2015

The Polish Home
Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska
County and State

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.

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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/European
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance
1936-1965

Significant Dates
1916
1936

Significant Person
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Duncan Finlayson

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Polish Home is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage and Criterion A: Social History due to the building's long association with civic life and the social history of the community of South Omaha generally, and the Polish-American community of South Omaha in particular. South Omaha has historically been home to Omaha's immigrant population who worked in the meat packing and railroad industries that dominated the socio-economic fabric of South Omaha through the 1960s and 1970s. From 1916 to 1930, the building was known locally as South Central School (Figure 12), a primary school located in South Omaha, the closure of which prompted protests from South Omaha citizens, merchants, and even the school children themselves. For six years after the school's closure, the building was known as the American Legion "Melting Pot" post, during which time local activities such as Boy Scout meetings, parent-teacher association meetings, and other community events continued to be held there. Starting in 1936 and continuing until 1998, it was known as the Polish Home, (Figure 13) a social and cultural club which was a center of Polish-American civic and social activities such as speeches, concerts, dances, plays, and other large-scale social events. The Home also hosted wedding receptions, political and labor rallies, as well as other community events for the general population throughout South Omaha. Since 1998, it has been home to El Museo Latino. The period of significance begins in 1936, when the Polish Home, Inc. purchased the building, and continues to 1965, the 50 year threshold for periods of significance, during which time the Polish Home continued to operate as a civic and social center for South Omaha generally and for Omaha's Polish-American community specifically.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/European

By the 1900s, Omaha was a city of over 100,000. Immigrants from Europe moved to the region early in its development to seek employment in industries such as meat packing and railroad construction. Many immigrants tended to settle in and around areas where earlier immigrants from their home country had already settled. Between 1900 and 1910, the foreign-born population of Omaha increased to 22% of the total population, with Germans (including Austro-Hungarians), Swedes, Danes, Russians, and Italians making up the largest groups. In South Omaha, foreign-born immigrants made up 31% of the total population before that city was annexed by Omaha in 1915, with Russians making up the largest block.[3] All of these groups founded businesses, churches, fraternal organizations, and similar institutions that conducted business in an immigrant's particular native language or customs in various parts of Omaha.

Polish immigrants began arriving in Omaha in the 1880s and settled predominantly in South Omaha near the packing houses; Polish-American social life began to revolve around churches and fraternal organizations located nearby.[4] "Sheeley Town," an area southwest of downtown Omaha and so named after its proximity to the Sheeley meat packing plant, was for a long time the main Polish residential district in the area, and Poles eventually moved into South Omaha itself. The area known as "Little Poland" was concentrated between 25th and 29th Streets and F and L Streets.[5] By the 1930s, it was estimated that nearly 10,000 Polish-Americans lived in and around Omaha and it was considered one of the largest concentrations of Polish-Americans west of Chicago.[6] Polish fraternal groups flourished throughout the Omaha area during the first decades of the 20th century: the Polish Roman Catholic Union, the Polish Union of the United States, the National Alliance, the Pulaski Club, the Polish Welfare Club, and the Polish Citizens' Club.[7] Various Polish-American groups formed to raise funds to either buy or build a "home" where Polish cultural activities and community events could be held. Omaha's Danes, for example, had previously constructed a four-story building at the corner of 18th and Harney Streets called "Washington Hall" in the 1880s.[8] The city's Germans, around the same time, presided over dances and social events at

[3] Larsen 2007: 205
[4] Larsen 2007: 209
[5] Mead & Hunt 2005: 5
[6] Wishart 2004: 243
[7] Larsen 2007: 209
[8] "The Danish Society's Building," *Omaha Daily World*, 13 Jul. 1888: 4.

"Germania Hall."[9] Many of these ethnic heritage groups survive to the present, as they merged with similar groups over time, to form groups such as the German American Society, the Scandinavian American Society, the Croatian Cultural Society, the American Italian Heritage Society, and the Polish Home.

After 1910, most immigrants settling in Omaha came from southern and eastern Europe, including Poland and Russia.[10] By the early 1900s, South Omaha's Polish-Americans were large enough to start raising funds for the construction or purchase of their own clubhouse. The Polish Home Association was founded in 1910[11] and held fundraising activities through the early 1910s.[12] By 1916, the Association had raised approximately $8,000. These efforts were championed by an active Polish-American citizenry, and also by the *Polish Western Star*, the only Polish-language newspaper west of Chicago.[13] After years of raising funds, buying property, and drawing up architectural plans for a new building, the advent of World War I meant an end to this local effort, and much of the money raised up to this point was eventually donated for the rebuilding of the Polish Republic, which had become an independent country again at the end of the war.[14] In 1924, the Polish Welfare Club again took up the challenge to build or buy a building for Omaha's Polish-American community,[15] and purchased two lots on the southwest corner of 38th and L streets, which the group eventually sold to the Polish Home, Inc. in 1934.[16] Eventually, the Polish Welfare Club determined to form a new group, The Polish Home, Inc., with the specific goal to buy or build a "Polish home." The Polish Home, Inc. was founded as a nonprofit in 1933, and with new funding and funds raised during previous attempts, the Polish Home, Inc. was finally able to purchase the former South Central School in 1936, which at the time housed South Omaha's "Melting Pot" Post of the American Legion. The formal property transfer occurred on March 20, 1937.[17]

The Polish Home became a center of Polish-American cultural activities in Omaha for the next 62 years. The Home hosted celebrations of the life of Casimir Pulaski, the Polish general who fought with Washington during the American Revolution, community-wide receptions and dinners for visiting Polish-American dignitaries and/or important Polish nationals, and special events, such as the raising of funds for the defense of the Poland leading up to the beginning of World War II in 1939, and again for Polish refugees during the war itself. The Home generally kept Polish traditions alive in South Omaha through its library and reading room (Figure 14), the staging of Polish lectures, plays and movies (Figures 15 and 16), the singing and playing of Polish songs and music, by hosting events that highlighted Polish folk dancing (Figures 17 and 18), and from the many social events that featured ordinary South Omahans dancing to polka bands, drinking beer, eating pierogis and kielbasa from a buffet dinner cooked in the Home's kitchen (Figure 19), and enjoying an evening of shared traditions.

As demographics have shifted, Omaha's Polish-American population moved, as did many Omahans generally, west to new suburbs. South Omaha became home to a new group of immigrants from Central and South America, especially after the 1990s. The building, now home to El Museo Latino, still promotes the ethnic heritage of the larger community around it by exhibiting artworks, hosting community celebrations, and staging cultural performances, such as costumed dancers.

For these reasons, the Polish Home is locally significant under Criterion A as an important center of Polish-American heritage in Omaha, Nebraska during the period of significance (1936-1965).

Criterion A: Social History

South Omaha was not platted until the mid-1880s, and the village grew steadily due to the growth of the nearby stockyards. Even with its relatively rapid growth – it was sometimes dubbed the "Magic City" in the late 19th and early 20th

[9] "The Knights of Labor Ball," *Omaha Daily World*, 3 Nov. 1885: 4.
[10] Mead & Hunt 2005: 5
[11] "Tradition Lives on at Polish Home," *Bellevue Leader*, 18 Jun. 2013.
[12] "To Build Polish Home," *Evening World-Herald*, 22 Jun. 1912: 2.
[13] "Picnic Nets $200 for New Polish Home," *Morning World-Herald*, 15 Aug. 1916: 2
[14] Polish Home 1937
[15] "Tradition Lives on at Polish Home," 18 Jun. 2013
[16] "Real Estate Transfers," *Omaha World-Herald*, 22 Feb. 1934:20.
[17] Polish Home 1937

centuries[18] – it was still a small town compared to Omaha itself: in the 1910 census, the last one before it was annexed by Omaha, South Omaha had 26,259 residents compared to just over 124,000 in Omaha.[19] South Omaha's civic and business leaders appeared to be more concerned with economic growth than with establishing and nurturing the town's social institutions in the early years. Even in Savage's *History of the City of Omaha, Nebraska*, the early social history of South Omaha is described as simply "chaotic." [20] In the entire section of Savage's book that discusses the assorted businesses in South Omaha in the mid-1890s, he includes only three venues that could potentially serve as the setting for large social events: two restaurants and the "Bohemian National Hall," on South Omaha's commercial corridor, 24th Street.[21]

Perhaps due to a combination of the private wishes and active, public encouragement of its capitalist-creators and from the insularity of its immigrant population, South Omaha defeated previous attempts by Omaha to annex it until annexation was approved in June, 1915. The city nonetheless retained a streak of independence and pride in its homegrown institutions. This local bias was evident when the Omaha Board of Education closed the South Central School, formerly South Omaha's Central School, which operated in the building from 1916 to 1929). Local merchants, citizens, and students – many with Polish names – fought to keep the school open, but to no avail.

For the six-year period the building was owned by the local American Legion post, the building served not only as a meeting place for South Omaha's World War I veterans, but also (due to special clauses in its deed) hosted some school events and community meetings, such as Boy Scout troops. The building did not truly take on its role as a social hub for South Omaha and the local Polish community generally until 1936. As the Polish Home, the building hosted dances almost every weekend through the 1940s (Figures 20 and 21) and was available for rental by the community in general. The Home's importance in the local Polish-American community is shown by the fact that by 1942, it had already paid off nearly all the $7,500 mortgage, when the Ciurej family lent the Home the final $1,700 to pay it off completely.[22] The Home was one of the main venues for large social events in South Omaha: the Home's financial director suggested in 2013 that the Home was the site of "hundreds" of wedding receptions and funeral luncheons between 1936 and 1998.[23] It also hosted numerous political rallies[24] and was often used as a "neutral" site for union and other labor meetings during the turbulent 1930s and 1940s.[25] It was the site of many union and other large community Christmas and holiday parties. The Polish Home itself hosted numerous events of a cultural or recreational nature. The Home had a bar that was open to the public, and was a popular destination for South Omahans generally, as well as the local Polish-American community.

The Polish Home is locally significant under Criterion A as an important venue in the social history of South Omaha generally, and in the social history of the Polish-American community of Omaha, Nebraska during the period of significance (1936-1965).

Property History

The Polish Home property, located at 4701 South 25th Street, is generally located in the north half of southwest quarter of Section 4 of Township 14 North, Range 13 East in Douglas County, Nebraska, and more specifically on Lots 10, 11, and 12 in Block 72 of the subdivision known as South Omaha City Lots.[26] The first recorded transaction involving the property, in August, 1861, was for a military warrant for land claimed by James Campbell, who had been a private "in Capt. McFallen's company" in the North Carolina militia during the War of 1812. Campbell sold his claim to Patrick McCarty, who in turn sold

[18] Mead & Hunt 2005: 2
[19] Larsen 2007: 205
[20] Savage, et. al. 1894: 664
[21] Savage, et. al. 1894: 642-644
[22] Polish Home 2008
[23] "Tradition Lives on at Polish Home," 18 Jun. 2013
[24] "Presidential Hopeful George McGovern Has Young Supporter in Omaha," Viewfinder, *www.omaha.com*, 17 Jun. 2015
[25] "Union Groups in Clash Here," *Evening World-Herald*, 24 Mar. 1938: 7.
[26] Douglas County Clerk 2015

it to "Terence Cassiday" (sic).[27] Savage lists "Terence Cassady" (sic) as one of several "purchasers of all the land by patents from the general government on which South Omaha is now located."[28]

The property was subject to speculation throughout the 1860s and 1870s, especially as the Union Stock Yards and a small, unincorporated settlement south of Omaha and east of the stock yards continued to grow until a survey was completed and a plat for the village of South Omaha was filed in July, 1884.[29] A formal declaration of the area as the "Village of South Omaha," however, was not made for another two years. During the interim, the population of the area had increased and, without the proper authority to develop an independent police force, the area was prone to "so much lawlessness" that many residents began agitating for the incorporation of a village to preserve basic law and order. A formal petition to that end was sent to the Douglas County Commission in July, 1886, and in October of that year, the commissioners voted to establish the Village of South Omaha[30] that included the Polish Home property.

Location of South Omaha High School

The property was owned by this time by a group that included Alexander H. Swan. Swan was a cattle rancher from Wyoming who determined in 1882 to establish a large stock yards in or near Omaha. With several other Omaha investors, Swan eventually purchased about 1,800 acres, including much of the property that later became the City of South Omaha. The Swan group had incorporated the "Union Stock Yards Company (Limited)" in December 1883, and on January 4, 1884, the 1,800 acres acquired on behalf of the Swan group, except for a nearly 200-acre parcel designated for the stock yards, was conveyed to the "South Omaha Land Company."[31] By 1887, Lot 10 of Block 72 of the South Omaha City Lots subdivision was owned by Isaac Reichenberg and his wife, and Lots 11 and 12 were owned by Mark L. Sheldon, et. al. In July of that year, all three lots were sold to the School District (No. 3) of South Omaha,[32] at a cost of $5,500, upon which was built a high school building that was finished in January, 1888 at a cost of just over $10,300.[33]

The building was centered on the three lots (Figure 1), with the bulk of the building on Lot 11. From a drawing of the building in Savage's *History of the City of Omaha, Nebraska and South Omaha* and from the Sanborn map (Figure 22) using the Sanborn diagram "key", certain conclusions can be made about the building: the roughly square-shaped building was two to three stories tall, had a Mansard roof covered in either slate or tin, was oriented to the west, and appears to have had a square tower on the center of the main or west façade. Two sets of stairs provide access to the main part of the school from the centers of the south and north side elevations.[34]

South Omaha's Central School

Beginning in the late 1890s and the early 1900s, arguments raged for and against the building of a new high school in South Omaha. After years of debate over the location and funding, a new high school was finally proposed and constructed starting in 1903 on 23rd Street between J and K Streets, northeast of the original high school.[35] For a time, the city of South Omaha briefly considered purchasing the old high school building and renovating it for its city hall,[36] but the high school activities were not moved to the new school until March, 1905.[37] It appears that crowded conditions in South Omaha schools prompted the building to be converted into a primary school, known as Central School, despite the fact that the building was thought be structurally weak and generally "unsafe."[38] Despite fears about the building's structural integrity, ,

[27] Bureau of Land Management/General Land Office 1861
[28] Savage, et. al. 1894: 648
[29] Mead & Hunt 2005: 2
[30] Savage, et. al. 1894: 645
[31] Savage, et. al. 1894: 596-599
[32] Douglas County Clerk
[33] Savage, et. al. 1894: 559-560
[34] Sanborn Map, 1901-1918, Vol. 3, Sheet 332
[35] "South Omaha School Building to be Grand," *Morning World-Herald*, 28 Sep. 1903:3
[36] "South Omaha High School and City Hall," *Morning World-Herald*, 4 May 1903:3
[37] "South Omaha Bids Old High School Good Bye," *Morning World-Herald*, 3 Mar. 1905:3
[38] "South Omaha Building Will be Investigated," *Morning World-Herald*, 10, May 1905:3

and with minor repairs and structural strengthening completed, the building continued to serve as South Omaha's "Central School" through the 1900s and 1910s.

Omaha's South Central School and Current Building

In June, 1915, the voters of Omaha, Benson and South Omaha voted in favor of the latter two towns being annexed by the former,[39] and this meant the merging of all city institutions including the school systems. It was soon determined to rename many South Omaha schools where an Omaha school had the same name, such that South Omaha's "Central School" became "South Central School."[40] Despite the well-known structural weakness of the building, it remained open to students for at least part of the school year of 1915-1916, when a report from the city building inspector issued in April, 1916 stated unequivocally that the building was structurally unsound, having been badly designed and poorly built. As Omaha schools were on spring break the week the report was issued, it was promptly determined by the Omaha Board of Education to close the building immediately, with its students "distributed among the other south side schools."[41] In June, 1916, it was announced that the South Central building was to be razed, and a new school building erected on the site, with "materials from the old to be used in the new building."[42]

Probably due to severe overcrowding in Omaha schools generally, the new South Central School was erected very quickly, and the recycling of building materials from the original high school building may have helped: by the first week of September, 1916, it was reported that half of the new South Central building was completed in time for the 1916-1917 school year, as had been promised by the Superintendent of Buildings for Omaha schools.[43] The U-shaped building enclosed the north, east, and south sides of the property, forming a fore court on the west side (Figure 23).

The new South Central School remained a fixture of South Omaha throughout the late 1910s and 1920s. In March, 1929, however, a committee appointed by the Omaha Board of Education to survey schools for attendance with the goal of closing schools as an economy measure issued its report, which recommended the closure of South Central and two other south side schools.[44] This prompted an immediate protest from the citizens of South Omaha generally and the South Omaha Merchants Association more specifically, which started a protest to keep the school open for the 1929-1930 school year and again to reopen it for the 1930-31 school year. The Board didn't officially act on the report until July, 1929, when it suddenly ordered the closure of South Central and two other schools, even though staff had been already been assigned to the schools for that upcoming school year.[45]

The citizens of South Omaha, led by its merchants association, fought hard to retain the school by arguing variously that the South Omahans identified strongly with their local schools, the school was in one of the city's poorest areas, and the additional distance to new schools would prove to be "a physical impossibility" to these poorer students in the winter due to the lack of proper clothing.[46] The merchants association voted to create a committee "to enjoin and prevent" the Board from closing the school. It argued that any savings accrued from the closures of three south side schools would instead negatively impact local real estate values of "adjoining property [that would] counterbalance any supposed savings" and that closures violated the 1915 annexation agreements to maintain South Omaha institutions as under the South Omaha city government.[47] The Board refused to reconsider its decision despite the repeated attempts by the merchants association and other groups to force it to reopen the school. These actions included submission of a petition with 1,300 signatures that protested the school's closure.[48] The students of South Central also got involved: one group publicly met at the school in late August, 1929, declaring their intention to "strike" and stand in front of the school doors until they were

[39] Morton 1918: 694
[40] "Euphony Cuts Figure in the Deliberations," *Morning World-Herald*, 31 Aug. 1915:3
[41] "South Central School Building Dangerous," *Morning World-Herald*, 7 Apr. 1916:7
[42] "Architects Selected for Four New Schools," *Morning World-Herald*, 6 Jun. 1916:7
[43] "Over 1,000 Teachers to Attend Meeting," *Sunday World-Herald*, 3 Sep. 1916:3
[44] "Survey Group to Urge Closing of 2 Schools," *Omaha World-Herald*, 28 Mar. 1929:10
[45] "3 Schools to Close, Buildings to be Sold," *Omaha World-Herald*, 16 Jul. 1929:7
[46] "Urge South Central School Be Retained," *Omaha World-Herald*, 24 Jul. 1929:7
[47] "South Siders Would Block School Closing," *Omaha World-Herald*, 18 Jul. 1929:4
[48] "South Omahans Lose Fight on School Closing," *Omaha World-Herald*, 20 Aug. 1929:1

opened for classes.[49] On September 3, 1929, a group of children estimated at more than 200, along with 100 adults, including parents and other representatives from South Omaha, "stormed" a Board of Education just before the start of the fall term. The students again demanded the board reverse its earlier decision, and indicated their strike against being transferred to any other school would continue indefinitely.[50] The next day, however, the strike collapsed, after fewer than 30 students showed up at South Central School and by that afternoon, even these stalwarts gave up and went to their new schools.[51]

American Legion Memorial Home

The building remained empty for more than a year, and it suffered from lack of maintenance: in April, 1930, it was reported that "hundreds of dollars" worth of damage was done when "every window of the U-shaped building was broken out." A door and a temporary partition between two rooms were also reported damaged. All entrances and windows were then boarded up to prevent future vandalism.[52] In July, the Board determined to seek a buyer for the property, and appointed a committee to appraise the value of the property, and a rumor circulated suggesting a possible buyer might be the South Omaha American Legion post. The South Omaha merchants vowed to renew their fight to have the school reopened for the new term in the fall of 1930.[53] They had successfully pressured would-be buyers of the property up to this point to reconsider their interest and continued throughout the summer to argue in favor of re-opening the school. By the fall semester of 1930, the school again remained closed, and the South Omaha American Legion broke ranks with the merchants and began officially discussing buying the school building as its new meeting hall; in November, 1930, it made an offer of $10,000 for the school property.[54] Although the South Omahans again fought the sale of the building to the Legion, in the end the sale was formally approved by the Board of Education on December 1, 1930. This action came despite opposition of three members of the board itself (after the South Omaha merchants' opposition to the sale was withdrawn earlier that day). The original $10,000 offer (with a $2,500 down payment) was accepted on the conditions that the board would not incur the cost of razing the building before selling the property, as it had to do in the cases of other closed schools, and that the local schools retained a right to use the building for parent-teacher association meetings, Boy Scout meetings, and similar community activities due to special clauses included in the deed.[55]

After taking possession of the building, the Legion's building committee met with Omaha architect Frank Latenser to draw up plans for changes to the building.[56] One of the post's first actions was to remove the boards across the windows and doors and to replace the broken glass,[57] but larger projects took longer to complete. On December 4, 1931, it was reported that partitions had been removed, steel supports were being installed, and the floor and heating systems were to follow later that month.[58] The new "American Legion Memorial Home," as the post was called, was not dedicated until early January, 1932, when a three-day celebration starting on December 31, 1931 was held to celebrate the opening of the post's new auditorium, which measured 96 feet by 34 feet, and was described as one of the largest halls in South Omaha save that of the Livestock Exchange Building. [59]

The Legion's larger plans for the building never fully materialized, probably due to budget constraints. The Legion apparently ran into financial problems early in its tenure in the building. As early as July, 1931, the Legion offered the Board of Education $3,750 in cash if the Board would cancel the remaining balance owed.[60] Again, in 1934, the Legion requested cancellation of the $7,500 balance it owed the Board of Education, and asked that the Legion be allowed to retain the

[49] "Children Would Defy Edict Closing School," *Omaha World-Herald*, 29 Aug. 1929:17
[50] "Children Storm Board Meeting; Demand 'Rights,'" *Omaha World-Herald*, (morning edition) 4 Sep. 1929:1
[51] "Leader Calls Off Strike," *Omaha World-Herald*, (evening edition) 4 Sep. 1929:1
[52] "South Central School Guarded From Vandals," *Omaha World-Herald*, 12 Apr. 1930:3
[53] "Hint Legion May Buy South Side School," *Omaha World-Herald*, 9 Jul. 1930:3
[54] "$10,000 Offered by Legion Post for Old School," *Omaha World-Herald*, 18 Nov. 1930:1
[55] "Legion Purchase of South Central Voted by Board," *Omaha World-Herald*, 2 Dec. 1930:1
[56] "South Side Vets Favor Payment of Bonus in Cash," *Omaha World-Herald*, 31 Jan. 1931:2
[57] "At Work on Legion Home" (photo with caption), *Omaha World-Herald*, 9 Dec. 1930:10
[58] "Legion Remodeling Old South Central," *Omaha World-Herald*, 4 Dec. 1931:33
[59] "Three-Day Fete Will Open Legion Home," *Omaha World-Herald*, 30 Dec. 1931:23
[60] "Board Declines Cash Offer on South Central," *Omaha World-Herald*, 16 Jun. 1931:3

building under a "trusteeship" due to the building's role as a center for community activities. At the time, the post admitted it was "broke," that the prospects of raising funds in the near future was unlikely, and that the Legion was behind in paying both the principal and interest on its deferred payments to the Board of Education.[61] In August, 1934, representatives of the Polish Home, Inc. made an offer to purchase the building from the Legion after Legion had defaulted on three annual payments to the Board of Education of $1,000 each and interest. A moratorium on foreclosure was granted by the Board of Education due to the building's role in the South Omaha community.[62] The Legion, however, was never able to come to terms with Board of Education on refinancing the property, nor could it raise sufficient funds to start repaying its mortgage, and in December, 1936, the Legion reached an agreement to sell the property to the Polish Home, Inc.[63]

"The Polish Home"

The efforts of Omaha's Polish-American community to find a suitable "home" over the preceding 20 years culminated in the purchase of the old South Central School building from the local American Legion post in December, 1936.

For the next 62 years, the Polish Home served as a center of civic and social life in South Omaha. In March, 1937, the final obstacle to the Polish Home's unencumbered ownership of the building was removed when the Board of Education voted to remove the previous deed restrictions that had required the Legion to host certain community events (Boy Scout meetings and parent-teacher association meetings, for example) at the building. The new deed required a payment of $8,721 by March 21, 1937.[64] The Polish Home wasted little time establishing itself as a social center in South Omaha: in April, 1937, the home was approved for an "on-site" beer license.[65]

The Polish Home quickly became a fixture of South Omaha civic and social life. Events held there in the first year included benefits for the Home itself, Polish Home and women's auxiliary committee meetings, American Legion post and auxiliary meetings, local school events, labor group and garden club meetings. The wedding reception of Margaret Kanger and Girard Peers on May 9, 1937, was described in the announcement as the first held at the Home.[66] A celebration honoring Revolutionary War hero General Casimir Pulaski attracted 500 people to the Home on October 11, 1937, including the wife of the Polish consul-general from Chicago.[67] Employees of South Omaha's Armour packing plant held their Christmas party at the Home in December, 1937, attended by approximately 2,300 people.[68]

The Home continued to host civic and social events throughout the late 1930s and during World War II. Dances were advertised throughout the 1930s and 1940s (Figure 20)[69] and the Home was advertised as available for political rallies, dances, club meetings and banquets, and these advertisements touted its bar open daily to the public (Figure 21).[70] Throughout the summer and fall of 1939, the Home hosted events to raise funds for the defense of Poland and awareness of the threat to Polish democracy generally. During World War II, the Home served as the center around which local Polish-Americans raised funds for the American war effort and to benefit Polish refugees and similar causes.[71] After the war, the Home celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1946, and dedicated a newly remodeled kitchen from the Polish Ladies Auxiliary.[72]

The Home continued to host civic and private events throughout the postwar period. The Home renovated its north wing with the removal of partitions to create another large hall, which was dedicated in June, 1951 as "Paderewski Hall. It was named in honor of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, a Polish nationalist, politician, and composer, and who, it was said, "brought

[61] "South Side Post Asks Building Under Trusteeship," *Omaha World-Herald*, 22 May, 1934:6
[62] "Would Buy Old School," *Omaha World-Herald*, 21 Aug. 1934: 8/21/1934
[63] "Legion Hall Sold to Poles," *Omaha World-Herald*, 21 Dec. 1936:11
[64] "Legion Hall Sale Gets Board's Aid," *Omaha World-Herald*, 16 Mar. 1937:4
[65] "Council O.K. to 122 Liquor, Beer Sellers," *Omaha World-Herald*, 14 Apr. 1937:6
[66] "Kanger-Peers Rites are Held," *Omaha World-Herald*, 10 May, 1937:2
[67] "500 Attend Pulaski Fete," *Evening World-Herald*, 11 Oct. 1937:6
[68] "Employees at Armour's Hold Christmas Party," *Morning World-Herald*, 24 Dec. 1937:6
[69] "Dance Every Saturday Night… Polish Home Ballroom" (advertisement), *Evening World-Herald*, 8 Jan. 1938:11
[70] "Polish Home: Accommodations For…." (advertisement), *Sunday World-Herald*, 26 Mar. 1939:12
[71] "Polish Relief Heads Named," *Evening World-Herald*, 23 Jan. 1940:2
[72] "New Kitchen at Polish Home," *Evening World-Herald*, 9 May 1946:8

liberty and independence to nation which had been oppressed for 300 years."[73] By the mid-1950s, the Home's central block included the kitchen, storage, and restrooms at the south end, the members-only bar, office, storage, and Pulaski Room (used for small meetings and classes) in the middle, and the library/reading room, smaller Kosciusko Room (currently the museum's office suite) and restrooms on the north end. The Dugout, a bar in the basement level, was located approximately under the members-only bar in the basement. Horseshoe pits were created in the basement level of the north wing in 1960s. The windows of the larger halls were enclosed starting in the late 1960s after air conditioning was installed.[74] The Polish Home remained a fixture in South Omaha throughout the 1950s (Figure 24) and into the 1980s, when changes in demographics, the need for expensive repairs and renovations, and declining membership lead the Polish Home, Inc. leadership to sell the building outright to El Museo Latino in 1998 after a brief period during which the two groups shared the building under a "lease-to-buy" arrangement.[75] Omaha's Polish-American community later reopened a new facility, Belvedere Hall in Papillion, Nebraska, west of the old location.

Architect

The architect of the Polish Home building was Duncan Finlayson.[76] Finlayson was not an active or well-known architect even in his own time (1890 – 1930), and many of his designs were commissioned by the Omaha Board of Education, [77] by whom Finlayson was employed for several decades. He was born in Canada in 1850 to parents who emigrated from Scotland. Finlayson immigrated to the United States, with either his parents or other family, and was naturalized in 1860. Census records suggest Finlayson and his wife lived in California in the mid-1880s, where their daughter was born, and had moved to Nebraska at least by 1887, by which time there son was born.[78] In 1891, a newspaper article portrays Finlayson as an independent architect/contractor in Omaha, competing with others for various design/construction projects from the Omaha Board of Education.[79] After 1900, Finlayson was employed by the Board of Education and eventually rose to the position of Superintendent of Buildings, which he held from approximately 1915 to 1930, after which he was demoted to "Custodian of Supplies."[80] He retired from the school system in 1935, and died in Omaha, Nebraska in February, 1949.[81]

[73] "Poles Dedicate Paderewski Hall," *Evening World-Herald*, 4 Jun. 1951:6
[74] Jodlowski 2015
[75] "Polish Community Packs Up Hearts, Home," *Omaha World-Herald*, 30 Jun. 1998:12
[76] City of Omaha 2015
[77] American Contractor 1916
[78] U.S. Census 1900
[79] "Working for More Room," *Morning World-Herald*, 16 Sep. 1891:4
[80] "Give George Adwers Merged School Posts," *Omaha World-Herald*, 5 Aug. 1930:1
[81] "Deaths and Funerals," *Evening World-Herald*, 28 Feb. 1949:22

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Maps

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The Polish Home — **Name of Property**

Douglas County, Nebraska — **County and State**

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 #
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

x State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
x Federal agency
x Local government
____ University
____ Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DO09-0183-007

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one. USGS Quadrangle Omaha South

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Latitude 41.211920 Longitude -95.948144
2. Latitude _____ Longitude _____
3. Latitude _____ Longitude _____
4. Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located at 4701 South 25th Street, Omaha, Nebraska. The legal description is: Lots 10 to and including 12 of Block 72, 180 feet x 150 feet, in the subdivision "South Omaha City Lots."

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the South Central School/Polish Home building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Thompson, Architectural Historian
organization Restoration Exchange Omaha date 9/9/2015
street & number 2003 Harlan Drive, #31 telephone 859-537-2563
city or town Bellevue state NE zip code 68005
email dpatrickthompson@gmail.com

The Polish Home
Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items: (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)**

The Polish Home

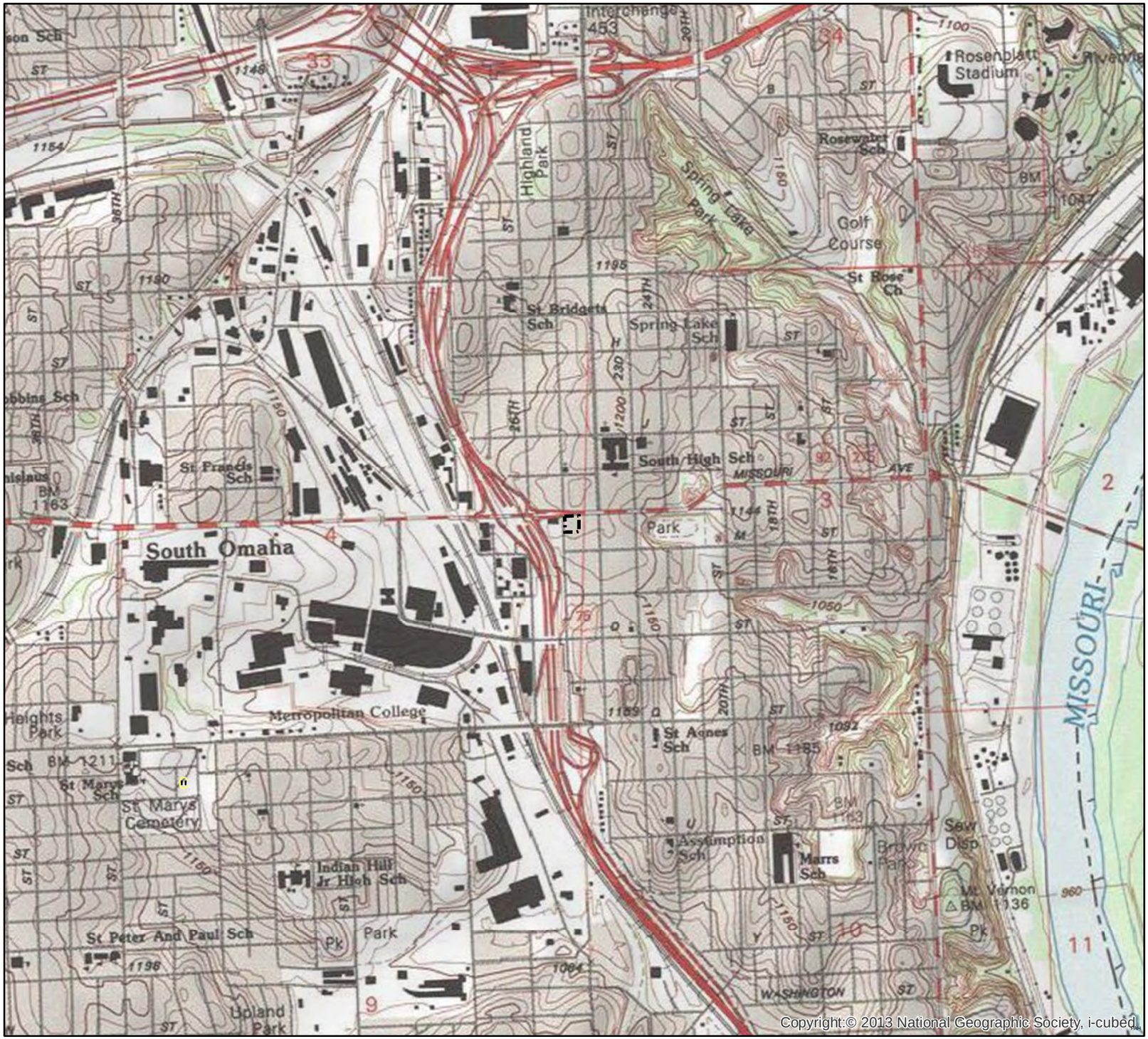
4701 South 25th Street
Omaha, Douglas County
Nebraska

USGS Quadrangle: Omaha South

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

41.211920, -95.948144

Datum: WGS84



Legend

Proposed NRHP Boundary

1:18,000

0 495 990 1,980 2,970 Feet

The Polish Home

4701 South 25th Street
Omaha, Douglas County
Nebraska

USGS Quadrangle: Omaha South

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

41.211920, -95.948144

Datum: WGS84

Legend

Proposed NRHP Boundary

1:1,000

0 20 40 80 120 160 Feet

Figures

Figure 1 of 24. Polish Home, looking east from across 25th Street, circa 1990s. Note the windows have been resized in the south elevation of the north wing, and all the windows on the west elevation of the north wing have been enclosed with brick. The "Polish Home" sign is still visible above the main entrance. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

Figure 2 of 24. Polish Home, looking east across fore court to entrance, circa 1980s. Note original windows in the main block and wings. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

Figure 3 of 24. Polish Home, entrance looking east from fore court, circa 2000s. Note the resized windows. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

Figure 4 of 24. Polish Home, looking northeast from the southwest corner, circa 2000s. Note the loss of the old metal chimney in the southeast corner (rear) of the building. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

Figure 5 of 24. Polish Home, looking northeast from the southwest corner, circa 1980s. Note the original windows visible on the south and west elevations of the north wing. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

Figure 6 of 24. Polish Home, looking west at rear elevation, circa 1980s. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

Figure 7 of 24. Polish Home, looking southeast from the northwest corner, circa 1980s. Note the original windows in the north and west elevations of the north wing. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

Figure 8 of 24. Polish Home, looking southeast from the northwest corner, circa 2000s. Note the enclosure of original windows that previously contained original or historic double-hung sashes. Available from the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

Figure 9 of 24. Undated photograph (damaged negative) of South Central School, circa 1925. From Durham Museum Collection.

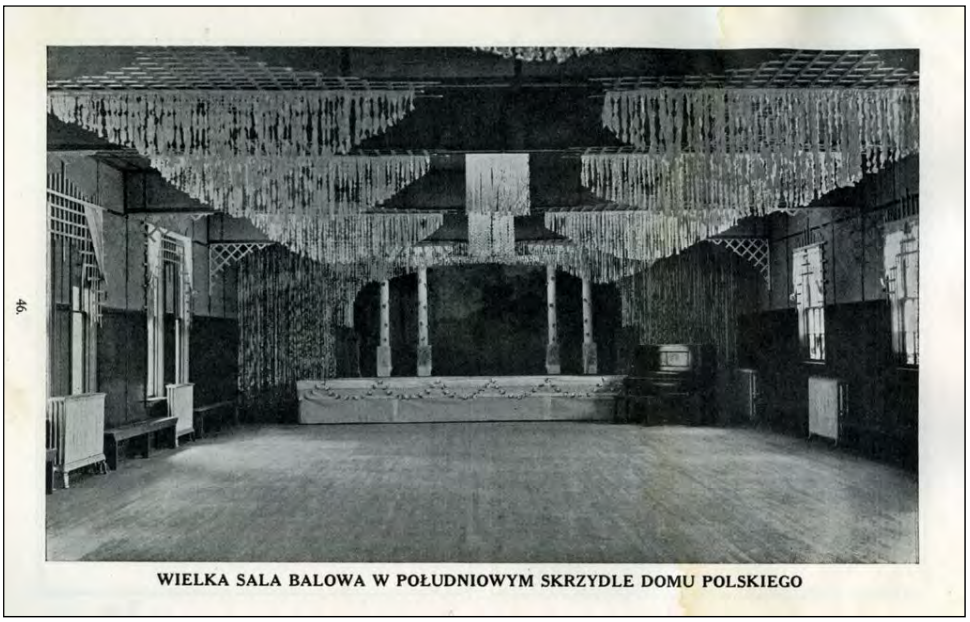


Figure 10 of 24. South hall inside the south wing of the Polish Home, circa 1930s. The caption translates to "Grand Ballroom in south wing of the Polish Home." From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 11 of 24. Paderewski Hall inside the north wing of the Polish Home, at the time of its dedication in 1951. From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 12 of 24. South Central School/American Legion "Melting Pot" post in 1936. From *Omaha World-Herald* archives.

Figure 13 of 24. Exterior of Polish Home, circa 1930s. The caption, translated from Polish, reads "External Appearance of the Polish Home from the Street." Note the large roof vents are still visible. From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 14 of 24. Photo from the opening of the Polish Home library/reading room, 1939. Note newspapers behind the dignitaries, who include the local Polish Roman Catholic priest. From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 15 of 24. Photo of a class or lecture in the Pulaski Room, 1956. From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 16 of 24. Undated photo of a Polish drama group in costume, circa 1930s. The translation indicates the amateur club was performing a play called "Rural Wedding." From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 17 of 24. Undated photo of women in Polish costume, circa 1950s. From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 18 of 24. Undated photo of a musical presentation at the Polish Home, circa 1980s. From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 19 of 24. Undated photo of a dinner at the Polish Home, circa 1950s. From the Polish Home Collection.

Figure 20 of 24. Advertisement from *Omaha World-Herald*, January 8, 1938 for Saturday night dances at the "Polish Home Ballroom" featuring Georgie Gloeb and His Orchestra.

POLISH HOME . . .
Accommodations for . . .
Political Rallies, Dances, Club Meetings, Banquets, Etc. Public Address System. Open to the public. BAR OPEN EVERY DAY. 25th and L Sts.
Located in the Heart of South Omaha

Figure 21 of 24. . Advertisement from *Omaha World-Herald*, March 28, 1939 soliciting hall rentals for political rallies, dances, club meetings, banquets, and related events, and informing the public that the Home's bar was open daily.

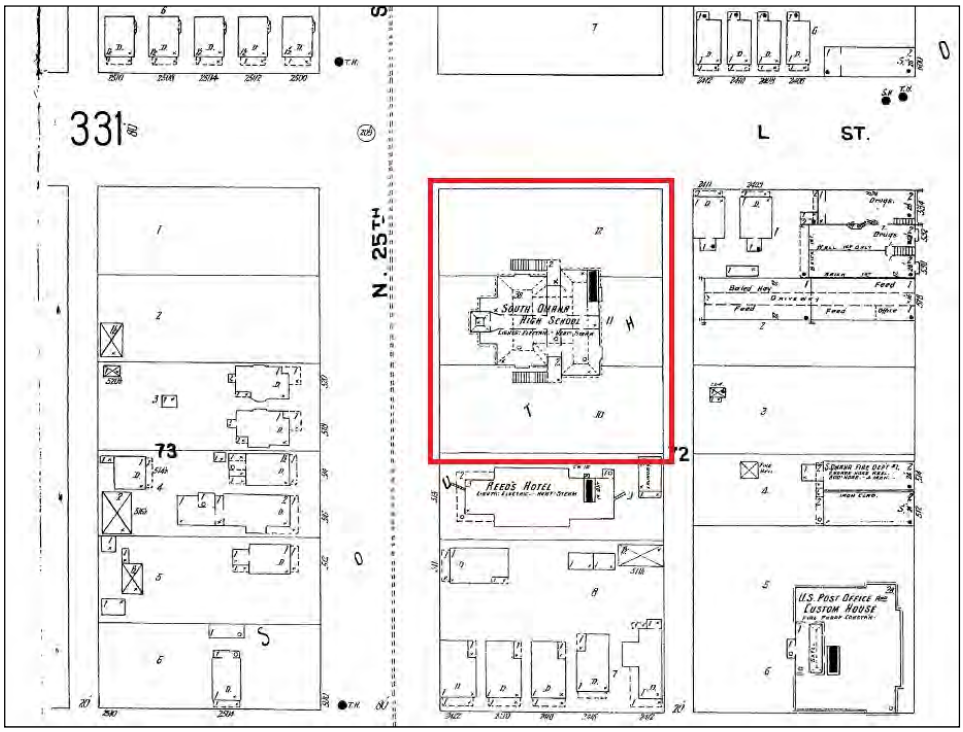


Figure 22 of 24. Detail of 1901 Sanborn map (Volume 3, Sheet 332), showing footprint of "South Omaha High School" on Lots 10, 11, and 12 (indicated in red) of Block 72, South Omaha.

The Polish Home | Douglas County, Nebraska
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Figure 23 of 24. Detail of Baist's 1918 Atlas of Omaha, Plate 24, showing the location of the "new' South Central School (indicated in red) on Lots 10, 11, and 12 of Block 72.

Figure 24 of 24. Undated photograph of Polish Home circa 1950s. Note the "Polish Home" sign partially-visible in background, and that the large roof vents have been removed. From Durham Museum Collection.

The Polish Home — Douglas County, Nebraska
Name of Property — **County and State**

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property **South Central School**

City or Vicinity Omaha County Douglas State Nebraska

Photographer Ruben Acosta Date Photographed December, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

Photo 1 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_001
West façade. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 2 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_002
North side of southwest wing and west side of central block. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 3 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_003
South side of northwest wing and west side of central block. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 4 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_004
Detail of main entrance in center of central block. Camera facing east.

Photo 5 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_005
Detail of a resized window, with decorative exposed rafter tails and water table. Camera facing north.

Photo 6 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_006
Detail of one of the side entrance from the fore court, on south side of northwest wing. Camera facing north.

Photo 7 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_007
West façade. Camera facing northest.

Photo 8 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_008
South façade, west end. Camera facing west/northwest.

Photo 9 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_009
South façade, east end. Camera facing west/northwest.

Photo 10 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_010
East façade, south end. Camera facing south/southwest.

Photo 11 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_011
East façade, north end. Camera facing south/southwest.

Photo 12 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_012
North façade. Camera facing south/southwest.

Photo 13 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_013
Interior cross hall of central block. Camera facing south.

Photo 14 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_014
Interior cross hall of central block, south of entrance. Camera facing south/southwest.

Photo 15 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_015
Interior of classroom along east side of central block. Camera facing east/southeast.

Photo 16 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_016
Interior of southwest wing, showing detail around stage at west end. Camera facing west.

Photo 17 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_017
Interior of northwest wing, showing detail around stage at west end. Camera facing west.

Photo 18 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_018
Interior of basement/crawlspace under northwest wing. Camera facing west.

Photo 19 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_019
Interior of basement/crawlspace under northwest wing. Detail of foundation along northwest corner/north side. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 20 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_20
Rusticated stone retaining wall and cheek wall of stairs leading to fore court. Camera facing north/northeast.

Photo 21 of 21. NE_DouglasCounty_Polish_Home_21
Detail of rusticated stone retaining wall and stone cheek wall of stairs leading to fore court. Camera facing south/southeast.

The Polish Home | Douglas County, Nebraska
Name of Property | **County and State**

Photo 1

Photo 2

The Polish Home
Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska
County and State

Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 5

Photo 6

Photo 7

Photo 8

Photo 9

Photo 10

Photo 11

Photo 12

Photo 13

Photo 14

Photo 15

Photo 16

Photo 17

Photo 18

Photo 19

Photo 20

Photo 21

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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