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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.  

1. Name of Property  
historic name  Sudman, Fred and Minnie Meyer, House  
other names/site number  NEHBS # DUQ2-2  

2. Location  
street & number  490 Vincent Avenue  
city, town  Chappell  
state  Nebraska  
county  Deuel  
code  NE 049  
zip code  69129  

3. Classification  
Ownership of Property  
[X] private  
[ ] public-local  
[ ] public-State  
[ ] public-Federal  

Category of Property  
[X] building(s)  
[ ] district  
[ ] site  
[ ] structure  
[ ] object  

Number of Resources within Property  
Contributing  
[ ] buildings  
[ ] sites  
[ ] structures  
[ ] objects  
[ ] Total  

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
0  

4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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. [ ] See continuation sheet.  

[Signature of certifying official]  
Date  

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

[Signature of commenting or other official]  
Date  

5. 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 of the Keeper]  
Date of Action
6. Function or Use
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) | Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
--- | ---
Domestic: single dwelling | Recreation and culture; museum

7. Description
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)
Renaissance

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

| foundation | concrete |
| walls | wood; weatherboard |
| roof | asphalt |
| other | wood |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Constructed in 1911, the Fred and Minnie Meyer Sudman house is a large though simple two-story rectangular dwelling with a truncated hipped roof. Built on a concrete masonry foundation, the wood-frame walls are sheathed with narrow horizontal lap-siding while the roof material is asphalt composition shingles. Hip-roofed dormers light the attic. A one-story porch supported by Tuscan columns wraps around the north facade and west wall. The symmetrical three-bay facade features a central entrance with sidelights. The plan is a nearly-symmetrical six-room double-pile arrangement organized around a large central sitting-hall. Integrity is superb. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

The Sudman house occupies a prominent corner lot near Chappell's main business district. Built by contractor Henry Dickmeyer of Arapahoe between April and September of 1911, the foundation is rock-faced concrete masonry, while the main structure is light wood balloon-framing. Rectangular in plan, the house measures forty-two by thirty-six feet. The walls are finished in narrow horizontal lap siding, while the large truncated-hip roof is sheathed in asphalt composition shingles. A widows walk, originally located on the truncation of the hip roof, has been removed.

The long side of the house serves as facade, facing north to Vincent Avenue. Three-bays in composition, the facade features a central entrance flanked by sidelights. An impressive wrap-around porch shelters the main entrance as well as the west side door; the whole is supported by a Tuscan colonade. The porch gives the house a somewhat informal aspect which obscures the otherwise stark Classical formality of the overall design. Hip-roofed dormers light the attic on all sides except the east.

See continuation sheet.
The plan is a distinctive symmetrical six-room, double-pile arrangement organized around the large entrance sitting-hall, measuring twenty by over twelve feet in size. The room is actually an entrance parlor or sitting room in addition to passage. Focus is on the elaborate, paneled-pine, dog-leg stairway to second floor, under which access is gained to the dining room behind the hall. Large double-sliding pocket-doors provide access from the sitting-hall to the front parlor on the west and a study (currently a bedroom) on the east.

The western third of the plan is devoted to the front and rear parlors (now "living-room") which are connected by a wide opening enframed by a pine colonade. The west side door under the exterior porch enters directly into the rear parlor or living room. The rear parlor is connected by a wide opening, also enframed by a pine colonade, into the dining room, which shares the central third of the plan with the sitting-hall. The eastern third of the plan is composed of the front study and the large kitchen, which are divided by the back stair. The kitchen has been further divided (n.d.) to provide a small breakfast nook and a first floor water closet. A small back mud porch on the east provides entry into the kitchen.

The second floor houses five bedrooms, a bath, four closets, a hallway, and a sitting-room. The sitting-room occupies the space at the top of the stairway, serving also as circulation to the hallway and two of the bedrooms.

Formally the house is very simple. Its predominant associations are derived from Renaissance design: plan, massing, roof-form, stairway motives, and the Tuscan porch columns with Italianate brackets.

The house has been occupied as a single-family dwelling since its construction in 1911 until 1987; the entire period by the original owners or their descendants. Many original Sudman furnishings are located in the house. Vacant for the past three years, the house had been under the care of descendants and the Chappell Museum Association. The property is being preserved as the Sudman-Neumann Heritage House, a house museum.
The Fred and Minnie Meyer Sudman house is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C as a distinct vernacular product of house design, derived from principles of the European Renaissance which remained popular in all strata of society through the turn of the century. Known descriptively as a two-story, symmetrical, central hall, double-pile house, the Sudman house is a significant vernacular product whose plan incorporates spatial design usually reserved for high-style dwellings. The age and size of the Sudman house make it a prominent local landmark. The period of significance is 1911, the year the dwelling was constructed.

The Renaissance principles exhibited by the Sudman house penetrated vernacular traditions at different times among various peoples; these principles are responsible for the most dramatic transformation of traditional design worldwide in the past two centuries. The best-known example is the adoption of Georgian design by Anglo-Americans in the early 18th century, which influenced vernacular design in the development of the I-house late in the century. The resulting symmetrical, central-passage single- or double-pile dwelling remained popular in America through the Colonial Revival styles of the early 20th century.¹

The Sudman house represents a vernacular adaptation of more explicitly high-style planning in its incorporation of the central entrance sitting-hall. The large public sitting space which functioned beyond that of circulation. Specific sources of inspiration for the Sudman design, however, cannot be discerned with any degree of reliability. The plan bears only some resemblance to 18th century Georgian prototypes,² and it is just

¹ See continuation sheet
as likely that it was derived from continental manor house plans common to either Fred or Minnie Sudman's north German homeland of Hanover. A continental precedent may have been selected from available Colonial Revival period designs, though the dichotomy of design between the exterior and the interior suggests that contemporary American designs were not primary sources.

The exterior of the dwelling reveals the heavy massing typical of Germanic-influenced design in the new world, and its stark Classical simplicity speaks more to 19th century Classissimus than to the prevailing Anglo-American Classical or Colonial Revival styles of the period. A lack of associated stylistic influence on the exterior reinforces this notion; the exception is the Tuscan porch. The character is otherwise vernacular, including the incorporation of Italianate brackets into the porch frieze. In addition to the distinctiveness of the plan, the interior exhibits a quiet, tasteful Classicism in the elaborate paneled-pine stairway and the Tuscan colonades which divide the front parlor, rear parlor, and dining room spaces. Though clearly not of original design and construction, their selection and incorporation lends a distinct flavor to the interior which is not likewise exemplified on the outside. This inside-outside dichotomy is a general characteristic of ethnic vernacular architecture.


3. Neither of two excellent and recent studies of German Renaissance and Neo-Classical architecture include lesser buildings or discuss interior space planning to any extent.
4. Selection from contemporary American designs based upon traditional forms by ethnic groups has been noted in David Murphy and Kathleen Fimple. "South Bottoms Historic District, Lincoln, Nebraska," National Register of Historic Places: Inventory-Nomination Form. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1986, and by Thomas Carter, Utah State Historical Society, in a current research project.


10. Geographical Data
Acreage of property less than one

UTM References
A 11 3 7 1 2 3 6 5 4 5 2 2 2 5
Zone Easting Northing
C  D  B  See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
Described as all of Lots 5-6, Block 4, O'Neill Addition to the City of Chappell, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification
The nominated property includes all historically-associated real estate.

11. Form Prepared By
name/title David Murphy, Architect
organization Nebraska State Historical Society
date August, 1990
street & number 1500 R Street, P.O. Box 82554
state Nebraska
city or town Lincoln
telephone (402) 471-4774
zip code 68501
View looking southeast showing north and west facades
Photographer unknown, c1988
View looking southwest showing north and east facades
Photographer unknown, c1988