

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nebraska Statehood Memorial

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Kennard (Thomas P.) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1627 "H" Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lincoln

STATE: Nebraska CODE: 26 COUNTY: Lancaster CODE: 109

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of Nebraska

STREET AND NUMBER:
1445 "K" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 26

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk, Lancaster County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
525 S. 10th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 26

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Nebraska
COUNTY: Lancaster
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		
			Moved <input type="checkbox"/>			Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Kennard property, encompassed about 1869 by a picket fence, comprised the north half of Block 153 in Lincoln. The house was built near the center of this property in 1869 as the residence of Thomas P. Kennard (1828-1920). In 1887 Kennard sold the house and moved into the second house built on Kennard property, a frame dwelling erected by him that year on the northeast corner of Block 153 and demolished in 1962. Our nomination of the 1869 Kennard House to the National Register includes our nomination of the entire north half of Block 153, owned since 1961 by the State of Nebraska.

In 1965 the State Legislature designated the Kennard House as the "Nebraska Statehood Memorial" and directed the Nebraska State Historical Society to restore and refurbish it. This work was carried out in 1967-68. Administered by the Historical Society, the house is now open to the public, although additional restoration work remains to be done. The house has been refurbished to represent the home of a moderately affluent Nebraska family in the late 1870's. Many furnishings associated with leading State officials have been used. The restoration has been designed as a memorial to statehood, rather than to a specific city or individual. In 1968 an official Nebraska Historical Marker was erected north of the house.

Many alterations have been made over the years. The house was originally built as a 2½ story brick dwelling crowned by a frame cupola. A low, two story brick wing was originally appended to the rear of the asymmetrical main block of the house. The brownstone of the entire foundation was quarried locally. The original Italianate styling of the exterior incorporated Renaissance and Gothic ornament, much of which had been removed and replaced with neo-Colonial ornament. Most of the original ornament has now been reconstructed. The cupola and the original north porch, both removed about 1900, have also been reconstructed. Fortunately, the three original bay windows remain intact. However, all exterior balustrades had been removed by 1923. These too have been reconstructed. Still to be rebuilt is the rear wing, razed in 1923. Intentionally left unrestored and uncovered is the cap above the north portal. This cap is formed of a composition material patented in 1868 as "Frear Stone," a pioneering form of modern concrete. All window caps and sills are formed of this material, installed in 1869 and covered about 1878 with the present molded sheets of galvanized iron. Interior door openings, partitions, fireplaces, and stairways have been added and subtracted over the years, necessitating additional restoration work. Fortunately, the fine principal interior staircase with its walnut balustrade has seen remarkably little change or damage since 1869. The entire restoration has been guided primarily by early photographs and careful examination of the structure itself.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1869

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

One of the first problems facing the State of Nebraska when established in 1867 was the selection of a state capital location. Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska's territorial capital (1854-1867), the State Legislature picked three men to make the decision: Governor David Butler, Secretary of the State, Thomas Perkins Kennard, and State Auditor John Gillespie. This Capital Commission, largely through Kennard's persuasion, selected the present site of Lincoln on July 29, 1867.

A few modest dwellings were soon built, but whether Lincoln would continue to exist as a settlement, let alone as Nebraska's capital, remained uncertain until after the depression years of the 1870's. In 1869 architect John Keys Winchell of Chicago designed three similar masonry dwellings in Lincoln, one for each of the Capital Commissioners. The construction of these three showplaces by Nebraska's first state officers did much to instill confidence in the future of Lincoln and to insure its continued existence.

Of these three structures, only the Kennard House stands today, 100 years later. It is believed to be the oldest house within the original 1867 plat of Lincoln and is perhaps the best of the few remaining Nebraska examples of Italianate domestic architecture, the leading American style from the mid-1850's to the mid-1870's, Nebraska's pioneer period. The house is the last remaining Lincoln structure linking the present to the important events of Nebraska's early Statehood period, events with which the house was intimately associated. The house stands today as a symbol of the confidence early Nebraskans had in their state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information taken primarily on early newspapers and archival records.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 48' 24 "	96 ° 41' 49 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John Q. Magie, Curator of History

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: 2-21-69

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 26

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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