

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Nebraska</b>
COUNTY: <b>Douglas</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>10-1-77</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON: *Cornish, Joel N., House*  
**Cornish Apartments**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Joel N. Cornish Residence**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1404 South 10th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Omaha** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Second**

STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31** COUNTY: **Douglas** CODE: **055**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: **Grace Bible Institute**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1515 South 10th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Omaha** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Register of Deeds, Douglas County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **18th and Farnam Streets**

CITY OR TOWN: **Omaha** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic Preservation in Nebraska**

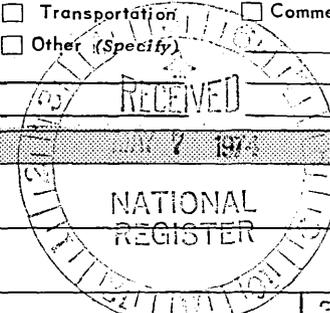
DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Nebraska State Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1500 "R" Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lincoln** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: <b>Nebraska</b>
COUNTY: <b>Douglas</b>
ENTRY NUMBER: <b>10610</b>
DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cornish House has a symmetrical facade. An elaborate cupola is directly above the entrance of the three-story brick structure. Windows on the first two levels are tall, arched, and have white circular labels. The third level has a mansard roof and dormer windows. The mansard roof is asphalt-tiled and the roof-ribs are defined by white trimmings. Wood trims on the front veranda carry on the shape of the arched labels. The south porch, however, has gingerbread trimming of the Eastlake style.

There are a total of fifteen rooms in the house. The ceiling on the first floor is thirteen feet high. Floors are bordered with parquet woodwork. There are four fireplaces, one of pink marble being especially obtained for the house. The Cornish family occupied the house until 1911, after which the house was converted into apartments and the interior extensively remodeled. A three-story addition was built on the west over the years. No effort was made, however, to carry over the same architectural style of the mansion. The property is now owned by the Grace Bible Institute and rented out to students. The building is in good physical condition.



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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **built in 1886**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Cornish family may be traced back to Cornwall, England. In 1692 Samuel Cornish came to Plymouth Massachusetts, and married Susannah Clark, granddaughter of Thoams Clark, mate of the Mayflower. Joel N. Cornish was born May 28, 1828. He graduated at the State Normal School at Albany and studied law at Utica and Rome, New York, in the office of Roscoe Conkling. He was admitted to the bar and began practice at Iowa City, Iowa, in 1855. In 1859 he settled at Sidney, Iowa, and soon established a reputation as a successful lawyer. In 1862 he was appointed draft commissioner for his congressional district, with the rank of lieutenant colonel of calvary. Later he was commissioned by Abraham Lincoln as colonel of Iowa cavalry. In 1877 he organized the First National Bank of Hamburg, Iowa.

Colonel Cornish moved to Omaha in 1886 and became president of the National Bank of Commerce and became associated with other business enterprises as well. He was self-reliant, independent in thought and character, and successful in his undertakings. Colonel Cornish married Miss Virginia Raymond, of Cuba, New York. Their children were Ada, who married Mr. J. H. Hertsche; Anna, who married Mr. J. M. Metcalf, of Lininger & Metcalf Company, Omaha; Albert J., of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Edward J., of Omaha. Joel N. Cornish died June 7, 1908.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Files; Nebraska State Historical Society  
 Watkins, Albert. History of Nebraska.  
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Architecture - Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

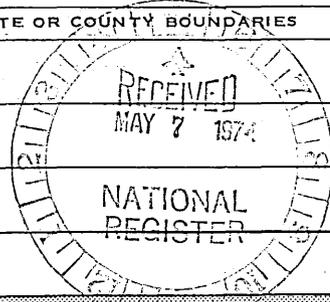
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		41° 14' 43"	95° 55' 46"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

UTM  
 15/251550  
 4569920

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites  
 ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: 3/19/74  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Merrin O'Knecht</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Nebraska State Historical Society</u></p> <p>Date <u>4/18/74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. Mortenson</u>                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>8/13/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. Somerville</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>8.1.74</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Douglas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
105 13 072	

(Number all entries)

Significance (cont'd)

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The Cornish house was built in a period when Omaha was witnessing an influx of cultured Eastern families, who brought with them wealth, professional skills, and business acumen. Homes in this period were compact and solidly constructed. They were often designed by Eastern architects who transplanted literally design forms of European origins but used exterior detailing of somewhat more elaborate millwork. The Cornish House displays an almost pure French Second Empire style. The front veranda was the first manifestation of American taste in residential architecture. There is a lack of classical detail from the chimney, as differed from the French tradition.

Few American cities are without houses in the Second Empire style, which got a hold in domestic architecture in the mid 1850's. Most are Americanized in a sense similar to the Cornish House. Many, as a consequence of the architect's deference to practical requirements or to a taste for the picturesque (or both), are asymmetric in their massing.

