

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAY 27 1982

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name** Gottschalk, Frederick L. and L. Frederick, Houses

historic Frederick L. and L. Frederick Gottschalk houses (PT01-177)

and/or common Nielsen house

**2. Location**

street & number 2022 17th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Columbus N/A vicinity of congressional district Third

state Nebraska code 31 county Platte code 141

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Edward M. Nielsen, Jr.

street & number 2022 17th Street

city, town Columbus N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Platte County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Columbus state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Frederick L. and L. Frederick Gottschalk houses represent the history of the Gottschalk family residency in Columbus from 1857 through ca. 1969. The Frederick L. Gottschalk house was built in the second year of his occupation of the site and is the only extant structure associated with the founding of Columbus. Built in 1857, the house is a one-and-one-half story log structure with a nogged-frame outshut addition to the north, totaling four rooms in all. In 1911, L. Frederick Gottschalk, son of Frederick L., built a larger more commodious house to replace the earlier dwelling. Designed by architect Charles Wurdeman, the house is a large two-story frame dwelling, square in plan with a steeply-pitched hipped roof, enhanced by hipped dormers. A single story wing on the rear balances the single-story hip-roof porch across the front facade. Supported by paired columns, the porch is enlivened with a projecting pedimented pavilion in the center.

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The Gottschalk houses are located on an expansive suburban site which was once known as East Columbus, and prior to that was a rural area on the outskirts of town. The tranquilly landscaped yard is surrounded by an impressive stand of hackberry trees.

Upon locating in the Columbus area as a member of the Columbus Town Company, Frederick L. Gottschalk first built a sod house which he lived in for the first winter. The next year, 1857, Gottschalk built his first and only permanent home, the log house which is still located on the property. Built of cottonwood logs, the original section measures approximately five by seven meters and is a single room. A one-room loft space is located above, with access via boxed stair located in the corner opposite the front door. An early, perhaps original, brick-nogged-frame outshut addition to the north provides the remaining two rooms.

The entire structure is sheathed in clapboards--again either an original, or very early treatment. The roof is finished in wood shingles. The front facade is divided into two bays with a six-over-six double-hung window on the left, and the board-and-batten door on the right. Directly opposing the front door is the door entering the shed-roofed wing. Additional windows are centered in the gables of the log section, and on the north facade, while a single window opposes a door in the gables of the north wing. Board-and-batten shutters are still extant on the north and west facades.

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The interior is simply finished. Wood floors are utilized throughout, as are board ceilings. Walls are wall-papered over several layers of newspaper insulation. A board partition separates the two rooms of the north wing.

This distinguished log house was the residence of the Frederick Gottschalk family through and after his death in 1905 until his son built the new house in 1911.

The house built in that year by L. Frederick Gottschalk offers stark contrast to the previous dwelling. The two-story frame over raised brick basement is monumental in character and distinguished by its classical treatment. Designed by architect Charles Wurdeman, the symmetrical three-bay by two-bay, cubic or square-type house features a steeply-pitched hipped roof with symmetrically arranged hipped dormers. Both the roof and the dormers display the original impressed-metal roofing material with metal finials at each peak. Each dormer is trimmed with corner pilasters and all roofs are enlivened with modillion cornices.

The major facades are symmetrically arranged in two or three bays. The three-bay front facade features one-over-one double-hung windows on the second story over paired double-hung windows on the left and a single-pane picture window on the right of the ground story. This picture window is of original construction while four others on the side facades of the ground story are 1953 remodelings of original paired windows. The centrally located entrance is emphasized with the varnished oak Palladian opening composed of sidelights with fan-light over the door. Walls are covered with narrow beveled siding and are articulated with wooden cornice, watertable and interstitial string course. The second story walls flare slightly outward at this string course.

A single story, low-pitched wing at the north rear is part of the original construction, housing kitchen, breakfast nook and bedroom. To this, in 1953, was added a low, one story garage which is attached to the main house via a narrow enclosed entry. The walls are narrow beveled siding matching the original and the roof is a raised-seam metal material. The roof on another 1953 addition, the enclosed porch off the east facade, is also covered with raised-seam metal. All additions are compatible in scale and texture to the original and are models of contemporary sensitivity to historic fabric.

The final exterior feature of mention is the full frontal south entrance porch. The porch features paired Tuscan columns and a central projecting pedimented pavilion over the entry. The pediment features foliated relief in the tympanum.

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The interior arrangement is a modification of the traditional four over four room plan with central hall. A vestibule occupies space with the central hall, with a study and dining room on the west, and a large parlor on the east. Four bedrooms, two baths and a hall occupy the second floor. Modernization has occurred in the kitchen and bathrooms, and the 1953 remodeling widened the opening into the parlor, replacing the original stair railings with delicately designed wrought iron. Distinctive light oak woodwork and paneling are features of the first floor.

Also on the property, at the far eastern end, is the garden house which is a renovation of the old Gottschalk granary.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** c. 1857/1911      **Builder/Architect** Frederick Gottschalk/Charles Wurdeman

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Gottschalk houses are significant in the area of exploration and settlement for associations with Frederick L. Gottschalk, pioneer and one of the thirteen original founders of Columbus; in the area of engineering for associations with L. Frederick Gottschalk, long-time Platte County Surveyor (1916-1939) noted for his work in Columbus and for the Loup River Public Power District canal; in the area of architecture (log house) as a distinct product of pioneer German-American architecture and (frame house) as an exceptional free-Classical example of the ubiquitous, two-story cubic or square-type house.

Exploration/Settlement

Frederick L. Gottschalk was born in January of 1827 in Wimpfen in Thal Hessen, Darmstadt, Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1853. He came to Omaha, Nebraska early in 1856. Mr. Gottschalk was one of five men who set out to find a townsite in that year. In March of 1856, the party set up a marker to establish the location of a town on the Loup River near its confluence with the Platte.

Frederick Gottschalk was one of thirteen original members of the Columbus Town Company, the first such company to be organized in Platte County. They officially founded the town of Columbus on May 29, 1856. The company played an important role in the location of claims and in the protection of property rights for early Columbus immigrants. The names of the original thirteen founders, all but one natives of Germany or Switzerland, are memorialized in stone on the main facade of the Platte County Courthouse in Columbus.

In the year 1861, Frederick Gottschalk married Margaretha Loy Deuck. They had three children, only one of which, L. Frederick, lived beyond infancy. Gottschalk built his log house in 1857 and engaged in farming for his entire lifetime. His success in farming, which developed into an estate of 400 acres, did much to maintain his position of leadership in the community and to insure the successful and continued growth of Columbus. He died on August 18, 1905. His log house is the only extant structure associated with the founding of Columbus.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Columbus, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	4	6	3	7	6	7	0	4	5	8	7	9	4	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is located on lot 13, Block E, East Park Addition, measuring 168 by 271 feet, and constituting the only remaining lands associated with the site from the original claim (e, ne, 19, 17, 1E)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Survey Associate; D. Murphy, Architect

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date February, 1982

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-3850

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marian O'Connell date 5/13/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

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

Selma Byers Entered in the National Register date 6/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Engineering

L. Frederick Gottschalk, son of Frederick and Margaretha Gottschalk, was born in April of 1864 in the log house on the homestead. L. Frederick received his early education in the Columbus schools. Later, he attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he studied civil engineering. After graduating, Mr. Gottschalk worked in the office of the Ann Arbor city engineer for five years, then worked several years at his profession, surveying in various sections of the United States. In the mid 1890's, Gottschalk returned to Columbus where he continued in his profession until retiring.

For many years he was the only civil engineer in Columbus. In 1911 he was appointed Platte County Surveyor and was elected to that office in 1916, serving in that capacity until 1939. He made the original survey for the Loup River Public Power District canal, an important irrigation and power generating project. He also executed the 1925 map of Columbus, upon which he named streets in honor of early Columbus pioneers and businessmen.

L. Frederick Gottschalk was also active in other private and public affairs. Following his father's death in 1905 he assumed management of the Gottschalk properties. In 1909 he was elected director of the Columbus Land, Loan and Building Association, and in 1926 was elected vice-president, an office he held until 1941. In 1896 he became a member of the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department and served as chief for three years, from 1903-1905. He died on September 18, 1941.

Architecture

Architectural significance is associated with both dwellings. The log house is a clearly distinguishable entity, rare enough as an example of its technology, but even more so in its original site location, especially amidst the gradual urbanization of the setting. Rare too is its association with German-American culture in that the Gottschalk house is only the third pioneer log dwelling to be identified by the Survey to date<sup>1</sup>, and one of only six pioneer-era German structures to be recorded.<sup>2</sup> Significantly, all six of these structures remained in the ownership of the immigrant family until recent times.

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The frame Gottschalk house is an example of a type found in large numbers across the state, that is, basically, a two-story dwelling, square in plan and capped by a hipped or pyramidal roof. The type has also been built in Nebraska from the 1860's through the 1920's, the earliest examples being predominately Italianate in style. While many nineteenth century vernacular examples tended to be Classic in their extreme simplicity, it was around the turn of the century that more sophisticated Neo-Classical motifs began to develop. Like some of the finest turn-of-the-century examples, the Gottschalk house is distinguished by Neo-Palladian influences, including the projecting pedimented porch pavilion and the Venetian entry.

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1. In addition to the Gottschalk house, the John Henry Stork house (Burt County, NRHP) and the Blaser house (Platte County).
  2. In addition to those mentioned above, the Retzlaff house (Lancaster County, NRHP), the Witt fachwerkbau (Saline County, NRHP), and the Sautter house (Sarpy County, NRHP).



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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"Frederick Gottschalk" The Columbus Journal August 23, 1905, p. 2, c. 6.

Harris, Cyril M., Historic Architecture Sourcebook, McGraw-Hill Book Company. USA. 1977.

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Taylor, I. N. History of Platte County, Nebraska. Columbus Republican Print, Columbus, Nebraska 1876, pp. 2-5.

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