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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* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Paul Fitzgerald House

Other names/site number CC07-025

2. Location

Street & number 513 East 2nd Street

Not for publication

City or town Louisville

Vicinity

State Nebraska Code NE County Cass Code 025 Zip code 68037

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

4/17/06
Date

Deputy SHPO, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

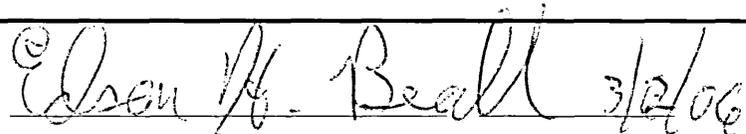
determined eligible for the National Register.

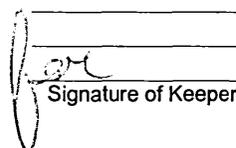
see continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

 3/12/06


Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Paul Fitzgerald House

Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
4		Structures
2		Objects
7	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Sandstone

Walls Sandstone veneer

Roof Asphalt shingle

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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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.)

- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914

Significant Dates

1914 - Original construction date

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	739180	4542575	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill E. Dolberg/Historic Buildings Survey Coordinator

organization Nebraska State Historical Society – SHPO

date 31 October 2005

street & number 1420 P Street

telephone (402) 471-4773

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska zip code 68501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title John and Marilyn Healey

street & number 513 East 2nd Street/ P. O. Box 431

telephone (402) 234-2308

city or town Louisville

state Nebraska zip code 68037

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Paul Fitzgerald house is sited at the top of a hill on a spacious property that encompasses three and one half lots. The house sits close to the street, but is obscured by a hedge that also hides the arced driveway from the street. The house is banked into the hill, allowing an entrance directly into the basement of the house from the back yard, as well as a long narrow garage that lies under the house and is open to the basement. This Craftsman bungalow residence is a rectangular shaped, one and a half story, sandstone veneer structure with an asphalt shingled cross-jerkinhead roof with exposed rafter ends. The roof is low-pitched and broad enough to make the house look as though it sits quite low to the ground. It has a sandstone foundation and walls, and decorative tuck-pointing in the mortar joints. A broad sandstone chimney is located slightly off center on the main façade, and is stuccoed above the roofline.

The dominant features in this house are the broad, low-pitched roof and the copious number and sizes of windows. Windows vary in size and number throughout the house, but include single or paired double-hung windows with either six, eight, or twelve divided lights in both the upper and lower sashes. A set of three double casement windows is located in the dining room. The windows all have cast concrete sills and stone lintels and storm windows, and all are original. The basement also has three fixed twelve-light windows to allow for light.

Unlike most Craftsman bungalows, there is no porch. It is unclear why the builder would forego the more typical inclusion of a porch which would provide a transitional space between home and nature, but in this case perhaps the lack of porch is accommodated by the addition instead of two sets of French doors on the east façade which could be opened to allow the breeze to come into the home. The French doors open out to an area that looks like it should have had a porch, but apparently never did. One could not comfortably step from the French doors to the ground without making a jump. At one time there was a rather small, perhaps eight foot by fourteen foot porch on the back of the building near the kitchen, but it was enclosed approximately thirty years ago.

The formal entrance into the Fitzgerald house is a small vestibule entry on the west side of the house. The offset entrance has a 24-light door, and the steps leading to the entry are concrete with a five-pointed star pressed into the concrete as it dried. The vestibule has an additional door directly across from the entrance that served to provide additional ventilation. It opens to the back yard, but is not an accessible doorway as it opens into bushes and the family insists there has never been steps, stoop or porch in that location. A turn to the right allows entrance into the living room, a large room dominated on one end by a ceramic tiled fireplace with a substantial mantle and on the other end by eighteen-light French doors that lead into the dining room. The living room also has a wide window seat whose window overlooks the side yard.

The dining room leads to a butler's pantry through a swinging door. The large butler's pantry is narrow and filled with cabinets and drawers for the storage of china, silver, and linens. A small kitchen is situated through the next door, with windows overlooking the back yard and access to the porch that has been enclosed. This room also has a door that leads to the east side of the house, and is the entrance most used by the family. The enclosed room may be slightly wider than the porch was originally. From the back of the house, its foundation is visible, and is constructed of concrete block. Directly underneath this porch is the garage. Upon opening the modern garage door, a pair of two narrow tire-width concrete tracks is visible, as well as hinges and scrapes in the floor that indicate that the original garage door was probably a pair of bi-fold doors that latched in the center. A door that originally was outside and led to the basement is also found inside the space between the old and new garage door openings. It is now contained within the foundation for the enclosed room above that was bumped out an additional three or four feet. A set of stairs in the basement leads to a door in the kitchen.

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After leaving the kitchen, a turn to the right leads to a hallway, the three main-floor bedrooms and the bathroom. The bedroom nearest the kitchen had a window that overlooked the small porch, but has been enclosed to provide a bookshelf in the bedroom and to ensure a little privacy from the room created by enclosing the porch. The room has one of the two sets of French doors, whose purpose appears to be to provide ventilation. The next bedroom is smaller, and has the second set of French doors. The house's only bathroom is at the end of the hallway. It has aqua colored plastic tile on the bottom five feet of the wall, with plaster above. The bathroom boasts a handsome curved porcelain bathtub and a large pedestal sink. A third bedroom is located opposite the second bedroom, and has access to the living room as well. A hallway connects the living room to the hallway for the bedrooms, as well as a stair that leads to two bedrooms upstairs, which are situated under the cross jerkinhead roof.

The Fitzgerald house has vertical grain red pine floors throughout each room. Much of the woodwork, including door frames and baseboards, are painted white. Crown moldings are finished wood. Many of the light fixtures are original, while those that have been replaced are appropriate to the age and style of the house. The house has a boiler that provides heat through radiators in each room. The house has never been altered to provide air conditioning, but its site at the top of the hill to catch breezes through the great number of windows and the French doors ensure that it is comfortable all year.

The landscaping of the property appears to be largely intact as well. The property has a large collection of mature trees, which makes the property feel quite isolated from the neighbors. A black raspberry patch lies along the north property line. An old cistern is located near the entrance to the garage. The same sandstone used in the construction of the house was used to build two birdbaths and a fish pond, as well as three small retaining walls that create terraces along the east side of the house, all of which are counted as contributing structures or objects due to their compatibility with the house and their contemporaneous construction.

The Paul Fitzgerald house has excellent integrity. The only change is the small porch that has been enclosed and the garage bumped out a few feet to provide more support for the enclosed room. As a result, a new garage door is in place, but the original opening to the garage is still visible inside the slightly broadened garage. A formerly exterior door and a window have become part of the interior of the house. The change was not insensitively done, and is on the non-primary façade invisible from the street. In all other ways, the integrity of the property is intact.

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The Paul Fitzgerald house is significant under criterion C for its architectural significance. It is a lovely example of a Craftsman bungalow, although it is rather larger than the typical example and, unusually, lacks a porch. It is also a rare example that includes a built-in, basement level garage.

Craftsman houses were inspired by the work of two brothers in California, Charles Greene and Henry Greene, who practiced together in Pasadena from 1893 to 1914.¹ Around 1903, they began to design simple bungalows, elaborating their style by 1909 after creating several landmark examples that became widely publicized in magazines such as *Good Housekeeping*, *House Beautiful*, *The Architect*, and *the Ladies' Home Journal*. The style spread throughout the United States, and numerous pattern books began offering plans for Craftsman bungalows. The Craftsman movement was also strongly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement that had begun in England and emphasized simplicity of design and integrity of materials.²

The popular, and most typical, Craftsman bungalow was a small one-story house dominated by a half-or full-width front porch which acted as a transitional space between the home and nature. The porch typically had low piers without columns. Roofs were low pitched with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. Windows often were placed in sets of two or three windows with multi-light sashes above. Materials tended to be natural, often wood frame, but stone was not uncommon, particularly in details like chimneys and porch supports. The Fitzgerald house was constructed on a far larger scale than most, containing five bedrooms, a sizable living room, dining room and kitchen with a large butler's pantry. Bungalows typically have only two or three bedrooms and more modestly sized rooms.

The lack of a porch is a surprising aspect of the Fitzgerald house, considering how commonly porches were featured in the designs of bungalows of every size and variation. The porch was thought to tie the house to the natural world. One architect called the bungalow the "ideal home for the lover of the out-of-doors... a house whose atmosphere is, as far as possible, that of the woods and fields."³ Although the Fitzgerald house does not have a porch to create that tie, one could argue that this ideal is fulfilled with the setting of the property at the top of the hill surrounded by trees and hedges that not only represent nature but also provide a barrier between the home and the properties of the neighbors. This principle is reinforced by the inclusion of many features such as the horseshoe pitch, the fish pond, and the sculptured terraced lawn, which draw the occupants out of the house and into the yard. Katharine C. Budd stated in a 1905 article, "We need space around our homes so that we may live free from observation, away from the turmoil of the world, with time to think, to loaf and invite our souls."⁴ The setting of the Fitzgerald house seems to do just that.

In addition to being sited within a natural setting, the ideal bungalow was also supposed to be constructed of "natural" materials, as opposed to the artistry of faux-painted walls and complicated exterior finishes of the Victorian era. Bungalows should be comprised of natural materials left in the rough, which help it blend into the site.⁵ Materials varied regionally, depending on the different "natural materials" available in the area. The Paul Fitzgerald house is located in Louisville, Nebraska, forty miles east of Lincoln and twenty-seven miles south of Omaha, and very near the Platte River, which is a fine regional source for dark brown native sandstone. The extensive use of this material in the construction of this house not only adhered to the bungalows' precept of using natural materials, but also made use of an inexpensive

¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 454.

² Clifford Edward Clark, Jr., *The American Family Home, 1800-1960* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 185.

³ Clark, 173.

⁴ Clark, 153.

⁵ Clark, 173.

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local resource. Indeed, the quarry lay just north of the property. It is perhaps a testament to the affordability of the house style and the locally quarried stone that such a spacious and beautifully sited bungalow could be constructed by Paul Fitzgerald, a bachelor and a cashier at a local bank.

A fascinating feature of this particular bungalow is the inclusion of a long tandem garage in the original construction of the house, and situated at the back of the house in the banked portion of the house on the basement level. This garage is clearly an original feature, based on the twin concrete tire tracks set in dirt and the remnants of the original paired bi-fold doors. This garage is also interesting in that it places the garage within the basement, with no wall to separate the two, and thus keep exhaust, gasoline and oil smells from contaminating anything he might be storing in the basement. Typically, if a bungalow had an associated garage, it was usually a detached freestanding building that was set back on a property near an alley. A bungalow with a built-in garage is rare indeed. The existence of this one speaks volumes about the growing importance of the automobile during this time period, and the particular importance of the automobile to the original owner. The first car in Nebraska reportedly drove down the streets of Lincoln in 1902. By 1910, records indicate that 11,339 cars were licensed in the state of Nebraska. Within nine more years, that number had swelled to 211,750. During this period, the nation's system of roads was just beginning to develop beyond a random system of unimproved dirt roads to a network of named highways. The first three of these highways were established and marked by 1913, the year before the Fitzgerald house was built, and included the Lincoln Highway, the Meridian Highway and the Omaha-Lincoln-Denver Highway, two of which would have been relatively handy to Louisville.⁶ It does not seem baseless to assume that Paul Fitzgerald was fond of these popular new machines based on the construction of his own enclosed, basement level, garage.

The Paul Fitzgerald house is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its architectural significance and is locally significant. Although the house is rather larger than was typical and included a rare built-in, basement-level garage, the house is a fine example of a Craftsman bungalow with excellent historic integrity. The use of locally quarried sandstone illustrates the designer's adherence to the bungalow ideal of using natural materials. The property includes two minor sandstone objects, the two birdbaths, and four sandstone structures, the fish pond and three small retaining walls/terraces.

⁶ Mead & Hunt, Inc., 10.

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Clark, Clifford Edward, Jr. *The American Family Home, 1800-1960*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Mead & Hunt, Inc. "Nebraska Historic Highway Survey." Funded by the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Department of Roads. Self-published, August 2002.

Olson, James C., and Ronald C. Naugle. *History of Nebraska, 3rd Edition*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

West ½ of lot 781 and all of lots 782 to 784, Louisville, Cass County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification:

The property includes all of the lots historically associated with the Fitzgerald House.