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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 Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House

Other names/site number WN05-010

2. Location

Street & number 220 South 15th Street

Not for publication

City or town Fort Calhoun

Vicinity

State Nebraska

Code NE

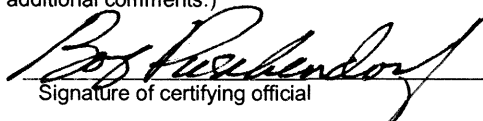
County Washington

Code 177

Zip code 68023

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

1/17/06
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.

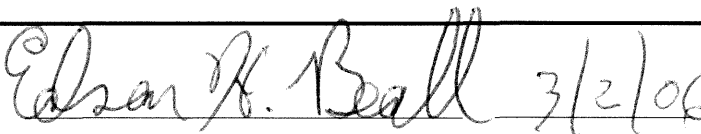
determined eligible for the National Register.

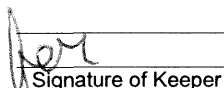
see continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

 3/2/06


Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House

Name of Property

Washington County, Nebraska

County and State

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	
3		Buildings
		Sites
3		Structures
		Objects
6	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.)

OTHER/house museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Brick

Walls Frame

Roof Wood Shingle

Other _____

Narrative Description

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

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.
X 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

1905

Significant Dates

1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Fisher and Lawrie architects, Omaha, Nebraska

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
X Other Washington County
Name of repository: Historical Association

Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House

Name of Property

Washington County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2

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

Table with 7 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Rows 1-4 and a note: [] 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 Stacy Stupka-Burda / National Register Coordinator

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date 11/17/05

street & number 1500 R St PO Box 82554

telephone 402-471-4770

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska zip code 68501-2554

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 Washington County Historical Association / Diane Jensen - Director

street & number P. O. Box 25

telephone (402) 468-5740

city or town Fort Calhoun

state Nebraska zip code 68023

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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Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House

Name of Property

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The Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House is located in Fort Calhoun, Washington County, Nebraska, seventeen miles north of Omaha. As the crow flies, Fort Calhoun is situated approximately 5 miles from the Missouri River and according to the 2000 census has 856 residents. The house is situated upon a hillside, which looks down upon both the Missouri River valley and the city center. Before houses were constructed on the lots just east of the Frahm property in the 1950s and 1960s, occupants had an unobstructed view of the town, and Mr. Frahm could keep an eye on his general mercantile store down the hill.

This eclectic residence is an irregularly shaped, two-story, wood frame structure. The asymmetrical massing and hipped portions of the roof with lower cross gables resemble the Queen Anne style. The architectural details of this house, however, are Colonial Revival.

The house is clad in wooden clapboard siding that is painted white. The foundation is brick. A large porch featuring Tuscan columns, a turn-post balustrade, and dentil molding wraps around the eastern and southern façades. The formal entrance is located at the northeastern corner of the house, and features a decorative wooden door with four panels and a glass window. A canted bay with double hung windows is located just to the left of this entrance. A second entrance located on the southeast corner of the porch also allows access to the interior of the house.

The roof configuration of the Frahm house is complex, featuring cross-gable, as well as hipped elements. The roof is wood shingle. A large gable is positioned immediately above the canted bay of the first floor. Double-hung windows are centered on this gable face. Dentil molding and large eave returns complete this gable face. A smaller, gabled wall dormer positioned above the front entrance mimics the large eave returns and dentil molding of the larger gable above the canted bay.

The north façade is broken up by a two story canted bay, the hipped portion of the roof, and a medium sized protruding gable. A double hung, leaded glass, arched window is prominently located next to the canted bay, and provides natural light for the interior staircase. A small rectangular shaped fixed window is centered on the lower level of the canted bay. The remaining windows are double hung and are evenly spaced on the broken planes of the canted bay. The south façade features the cross gable portion of the roof, and once more, the large gable end features exaggerated eave returns and dentil molding. All windows on this façade are double hung. The kitchen is located in a small one-story extension at the rear of the house that features another porch. Though originally screened, this porch has been enclosed to form a modern kitchenette that can be accessed through the historic kitchen. This constitutes the only physical change to the house.

The interior of the Frahm house is in pristine condition. Visitors to this comfortable house undoubtedly notice that while this house is comfortably appointed, the Frahms kept the interior millwork and other details to a minimum. The floors are wooden throughout the house, and the woodwork, though usually simple, fairly glows and contributes a feeling of richness.

The main entrance opens into a small foyer, the staircase leading to the second floor is visible from this foyer. The parlor is located to the left of the entrance foyer and is set off by a large square opening and two columns that flow from the wood trim of the square opening to chair rail height wood paneled column support. The canted bay window to the east and a large entrance into the dining room give the parlor an expansive feel. Wooden pocket doors separate the parlor from the dining room. The dining room features a lovely tile fireplace with a mantel made of oak.

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The kitchen is conveniently located just off the dining room to the west. While little has changed throughout the entire Frahm house, it is perhaps most noticeable that time has literally stood still upon entering this room. The most modern fixture is the 1930's sink; otherwise this kitchen is original in layout and in furnishings. A butler's pantry is accessed through a door in the north wall of the kitchen. Original to the house, the bathroom is situated just off the kitchen, but can also be accessed from the sitting room. The sitting room is located to the right of the dining room, and it is this first floor room that enjoys the benefit of the second canted bay window. A small door in the east wall of the sitting room leads back into the entrance foyer via a short hallway.

The second floor contains three bedrooms that are accessed from a central hallway. The bedroom located immediately to the right at the top of the stairs features the canted bay window. The second bedroom is immediately opposite the staircase, and the third bedroom is located down the hall and to the left. While each of these bedrooms is nearly the same size, the third bedroom also has an alcove or a sitting room. All of these bedrooms were constructed with built in closets.

The Frahm property also includes a wood frame, cross-gabled carriage house; a car garage with an arched roof and tin siding; a wood frame outhouse; a clay-tile firewood shed and a springhouse that has been excavated into the side of the hill behind the Frahm house. All of these buildings and structures are counted as contributing. Two cisterns on the property, one west of the house on top of the hill and one just north of the house are minor objects and are not counted in the resource count. Water from the cistern on top of the hill was piped into the kitchen where it ran through the oven to be warmed, and then into the bathroom. The exterior pipe system from the cistern to the house is still in place, though it is no longer functioning. This resource is also considered minor and is not counted in the resource count.

Overall, the integrity of the Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House is exceptional. The seven aspects of integrity, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, location, setting and association are very strong and are well represented. The Frahm family could return to their house today, and without a doubt, would recognize their home and would be quite comfortable with their surroundings.

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Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House

Name of Property

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The Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House is eligible at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Designed by noted Omaha architects Fisher and Lawrie, this house incorporates Queen Anne massing with Classic Revival details. Constructed in 1905, it embodies design elements of a transitional period in American architecture at the turn of the century.

Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm

Alfred (Fred) Henry Frahm purchased the six blocks in Block 73 on October 23, 1903, from his brother-in-law, Henry Rix, at a cost of \$850. Frahm built the house as a gift to his new bride, Sarah (Sade) Case Beales, whom he married in 1905. Fred Frahm worked in his brother-in-law's general merchandise store (Rix Store) before building his own store on Fort Calhoun's main street in 1905. Only three people ever lived in the house, Mr. and Mrs. Frahm, and their daughter, Catharine Comly Frahm. Catharine Frahm bequeathed the property to the Washington County Historical Association upon her death in 1994.

Fred Frahm was born on a farm near Fort Calhoun on June 3, 1871. Fred sold his general merchandise store in the 1920's and sold insurance before he retired while in his 40's. He was a long time member of the local school board, served as mayor and as a city councilman. He died on January 3, 1949¹. Sarah (Sade) Frahm was born on October 29, 1874 and graduated from the Fort Calhoun High School in 1894. Throughout her life, Sade enjoyed keeping house and needlework arts. She was outspoken and was also involved in her community through the Fort Calhoun Woman's Club and her membership in the Naomi Chapter of Eastern Star².

Fisher and Lawrie

Fisher and Lawrie, noted architects based in Omaha, designed the Frahm house. Michigan-born George Fisher (1856-1931) graduated from the University of Michigan in 1880 with a degree in civil engineering. Harry Lawrie (ca. 1858-1935) had nine years of professional experience in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland, before immigrating to Chicago in 1883 to enter the office of Burham and Root. He moved to Omaha in 1887³.

Fisher and Lawrie was a prestigious firm that designed a variety of prominent buildings in Omaha's building boom of the 1880's and early 1890's. The partnership of Fisher and Lawrie continued until 1913. The partners were agile designers working in a variety of building types and styles. Their buildings include the Old University Library in Lincoln (aka Architecture Hall, NRHP 1975), the Storz House (NRHP 1974) in Omaha and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Complex (NRHP 1983) also located in Omaha⁴.

Writing of Fisher and Lawrie in 1906, the Omaha Daily Bee, stated "this firm is one of the largest in the state in point of the importance and volume of work turned out."⁵ A search of the Nebraska Historic Building Survey indicates that at least 31 buildings designed by Fisher and Lawrie are individually listed in the NRHP or are contributing buildings within a National Register listed historic district. Fisher and Lawrie designed private homes, commercial buildings, warehouses and public

¹ Washington County Historical Association pamphlet dated 2004.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Omaha Landmarks Commission webpage http://www.ci.omaha.ne.us/landmarks/designated_landmarks/architects/MenFisLaw.htm

⁵ Omaha Daily Bee, January 1, 1906, page 7.

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buildings. "The creative work of the company may be found all over the west where architectural beauty and substantial construction are appreciated."⁶

Colonial Revival

Colonial Revival architecture in the United States grew out of the public's desire to simplify their world, to return to a time when the pace of life was less hectic. According to James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "As their nation matured, Victorian Americans began to take an interest in their past, particularly in the 'good old days' before the fast-moving Industrial Revolution had wrought its scary mix of technological wonders and horrors. National pride mixed with a feeling that things seemed to be moving a little too fast for comfort at the end of the nation's first century."⁷ This desire to simplify is reflected in the Colonial Revival style, which began around 1880 and continued into the 1950's. Late Victorian architecture seemed too over decorated and too busy when viewed in this milieu. But according to Massey and Maxwell, while Americans admired colonial houses and were ready for a change, colonial homes were usually too small and too plain by Victorian standards.⁸

At the turn of the century then, this led to combining those features of Queen Anne architecture that were still desirable, such as expansive interiors, flexible floor plans and big porches with colonial style ornamentation. As the Colonial Revival style evolved, the house shape itself became more rectangular, and the façade became more symmetrically balanced. This resulted in features that are readily identifiable today as Colonial Revival.

The Alfred H. and Sarah Frahm House is eligible under Criterion C for significance in architecture. As discussed in Section 7, the Frahm House combines elements from both the Queen Anne style and the emerging Colonial Revival style. The design of this house reflects that period in our architectural history where less was becoming more. While we have no way to know whether this was due to the influence of Fisher and Lawrie, or due to Mr. Frahm's penchant for saving money, this house falls very clearly into what is now a small percentage of Colonial Revival houses that were constructed with asymmetrical facades around the turn of the century⁹. The design of this house is a superb example of the desire to minimize exterior ornamentation while still maintaining the look and feel of a grand house.

⁶ Ibid.
⁷ Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America The Old-House Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes*.
⁸ Ibid.
⁹ McAlester, Virginia and Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

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Name of Property

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Bibliography

1996 Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America The Old-House Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes*. Dovetale Publishers.

2000 McAlester, Virginia and Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Omaha Landmarks Commission webpage visited on November 21, 2005.

http://www.ci.omaha.ne.us/landmarks/designated_landmarks/architects/MenFisLaw.htm

Omaha Daily Bee, January 1, 1906, page 7.

Washington County Historical Association pamphlet dated 2004.

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Name of Property

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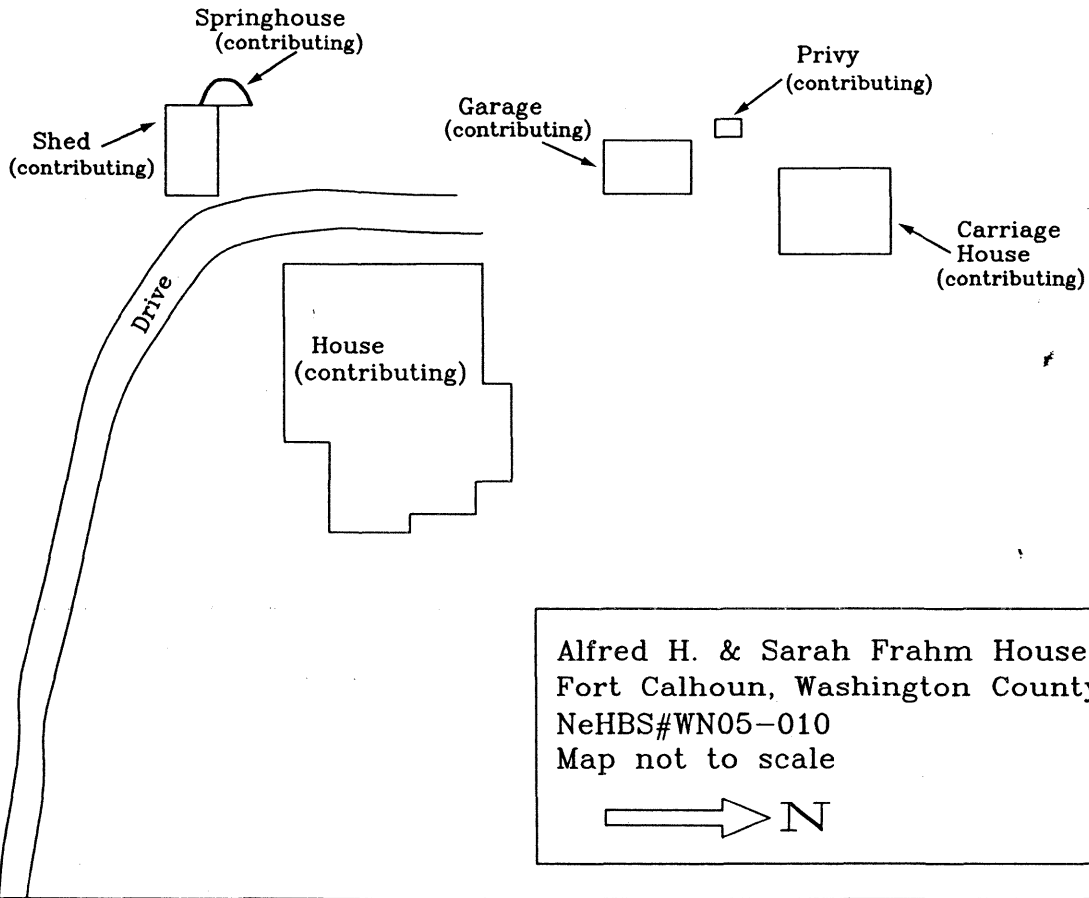
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Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 3-8, Block 73, including the north 33 feet of vacated Madison Street and the south 20 feet of Lots 1 and 2, Original Town, Fort Calhoun, Washington County.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the land originally associated with the property.



Alfred H. & Sarah Frahm House
Fort Calhoun, Washington County Nebraska
NeHBS#WN05-010
Map not to scale
→ N

Fifteenth Street