

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 18 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Conrad Luft, Sr. House
and/or common Conrad Luft, Sr. House

2. Location

street & number 1429 Highway 14 n/a not for publication
city, town Sterling, n/a vicinity of
state Colorado code 08 county Logan code 075

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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> n/a 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 J. Conrad Luft, Sr. Estate/Marie Luft, Administrator
street & number 1429 Highway 14
city, town Sterling n/a vicinity of state Colorado

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Logan County Courthouse
street & number
city, town Sterling state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date Ongoing federal state county local
depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway
city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved | date 1925 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Luft House typifies pattern book architectural design in the Queen Anne style which is distinguished by multigables, corner cutaways giving semi-octagonal ended rooms, and Colonial detailing. The house was moved on rollers from its original location in the 300 block of Poplar Street, directly west of the Post Office, to its present location of 1429 Highway 14, in 1925. The distance of 1½ miles between the two sites took ten days. All of the original materials, such as chimney bricks, foundation blocks, and the wood floor of the porch, were replaced at the new site. The front porch suggests a rebuilding but reflects the then current interest in neo-Colonial Revival complimenting the original detailing.

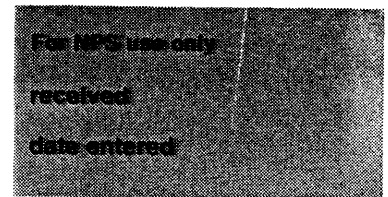
The house, measuring 47' by 25', is vertical in proportion incorporating the modified L-plan. The 2½ story residence has a steeply pitched roof with three main gables containing Palladian windows and one secondary gable above the north entrance with a lunette having fanned muntins. The exaggerated keystones of each semicircular arch form extends well into the apex of each fish-scale shingled gable tympanum of the equilateral pediments, enclosed with an imitation of late 17th century-early 18th century Colonial style. The wood shingled roof, painted dark green, is complete with crenulated ridge cresting and is carried on a fully molded entablature which is interrupted by the one-story rear wing's one-half hipped roof that extends to the main ridge. At the cutaway corners of the north facade projection and at the east elevation projection the square eaves are carried on diagonal brackets, with quatrefoil motifs, which meet at drop pendants. Narrow clapboarding, within corner boards, sheathes the frame structure on a stone foundation. Cornice caps trim the door and window openings. The latter are hung with one over one sash and with cottage type sash which lights the main rooms. Diamond and elongated hexagonal muntined sash decoratively fill various openings including the triple opening at the second floor level below lunette gable and above the entranceway and its adjacent single sash hall light.

Recessed back, the entrance wall is deeply sheltered by the one-story porch which extends across the facade, diagonally across the northeast cutaway, and terminates at the east projection. The porch, supported on tripled and single Tuscan columns infilled with plain balustrading, is characterized by a classically proportional pediment above the entrance steps and a shallower pediment in front of the facade projection. Tympanums are set with roundels.

Overall, the Luft House displays an architectural assuredness and retains much of that character through its irregular shaped plan; vertically, animated roofline; and revival detailing. The 1930 front porch respects the original design and detail as does a one-story shed back porch built onto the roofed rear wing, which was built in 1925. The interiors have no significant alteration and retain their original millwork, flooring and fireplace tiling. The staircase, lit with a stair landing window which is double hung below a diamond panel transom, has hardwood newels and turned balusters. The original light fixtures have been removed but are stored in the basement. There remains the original fireplace with a mottled pink and green tile and a decorative metal door. All bathroom fixtures are the originals also and the kitchen retains its 1925 placement of cupboards. The floors throughout the entire house are of a softwood while all the decorative wood is a hardwood and neither is readily identifiable as to wood type because of its heavy varnishing.

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The rarity of finding a complete house with its original interior and exterior still repeating the original colors used on the home make this an exceptional home in the Sterling community and is most worthy of designation in the National Register.

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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1902 **Builder/Architect** Builders: Hoffman Brothers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Luft House, located in the Plains community of Sterling in northeast Colorado, is one of the town's most significant historic residential buildings and the best example of Queen Anne in the area. The house has retained its original detailing and, regardless of its change in location, remains an important resource for the town.

The Luft House was constructed in 1902 in the 300 block of Poplar Street by the Hoffman brothers, local carpenters, for their own residence. The Hoffmans also built other large houses in Sterling, notably the Sherwin House, originally located at the corner of Second and Ash. (It was later moved to Eighth and Park streets.) In 1925, the Luft House was moved from Poplar Street to its present location at 1429 Highway 14. The association with the Luft family began after the house was moved.

Conrad Luft, Sr., of German heritage, was born in 1879 in Gnadenflor, Russia, located on the Volga River. In 1892, Conrad and his family moved to Konstantonowka. At the age of twenty, Conrad joined a large group headed for Flandero, Mexico to work clearing trees and brush. In the spring of 1900, he left Mexico for Lehigh, Kansas where he worked on a farm, returning to Russia in the fall of the same year.

In Russia, Luft married Barbara Schadt in 1902 and in 1907 made the decision to emigrate to America with his family. After a long and arduous journey, Luft, his wife and two children finally arrived in Sterling, Colorado in 1909.

The Lufts were among many German Russian immigrants who settled in the Sterling area in the early twentieth century. It was only after the construction of sugar beet refineries after the turn-of-the-century in Logan County that attracted large numbers of German Russians to Colorado. They established their communities wherever the sugar refineries were located. By 1910, the German Russians composed the largest labor force in the Colorado beet fields. Today, a large number of the descendants of these immigrants still live in the Sterling area.¹

Between 1909 and 1914, Conrad Luft worked at a variety of jobs: manual labor in the beet fields and as flumer for the Great Western Sugar Company. In the off season, he also found employment with the city of Sterling, Chapman's feed store and Watt's Lumber Company. By 1914, the family was prosperous enough to buy machinery and livestock -- which permitted Luft to fulfill his life-long dream of becoming a cattle producer and feeder.

With the support of his family and the use of unorthodox methods of feeding, Luft became a successful cattleman. By buying mixed breeds of cattle instead of purebreds and using all possible feed combinations, Luft was able to expand his cattle operations. In 1925

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wells, Dale, Logan County Ledger, Pub. by Logan County Historical Society, Sterling, Co, 1976.
Interview with Mrs. Conrad Luft, Sr., 1969.
Interview with Marie Luft, 1983.
Interviews with Anna Luft Miller and Pauline Luft Kautz, 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .6

Quadrangle name Sterling South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>3</u> | <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> | B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification An area lying in the northwest corner of E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ west of Stg. #1 Ditch, 31-8-53 between Hall Acres and a tract in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ more fully described in Torr. #10134 and cont 2 A M/L 31-8-52.

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

| state | N/A | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| state | | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See continuation sheet.

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/10/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/17/84

for Alloues Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

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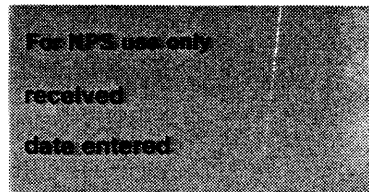
Luft bought the W. E. Damm farm on Highway 14. The concrete block farmhouse was replaced by the residence moved from Poplar Street that same year. The family, which consisted of twelve children, moved into the house the fall of 1925. Conrad Luft lived in the house until his death in 1971. It is still under family ownership.

The Luft House is uncommon among Sterling's residential buildings, which are modest in detail and lack the architectural distinction of this house. There is a great deal of individuality in the irregular plan, the Palladian gable windows and the bracketed cutaway corner windows which lend architectural interest to the building.

¹Dale Wells, Logan County Ledger, Sterling: Logan County Historical Society, 1976, p. 232.

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HEIRS TO THE ESTATE OF J. CONRAD LUFT, SR.

Marie Luft
1429 Highway 14
Sterling, Colorado 80751

Carl Luft
1228 Constitution
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Amelia Vendegna
1425 Highway 14
Sterling, Colorado 80751

August Luft
19477 County Road 24
Sterling, Colorado 80751

Bertha Luft
18060 County Road 26
Sterling, Colorado 80751

Randy Stolpe
P.O.Box 5
Kohler, Wisconsin 53044

Anna Miller
216 Delmar
Sterling, Colorado 80751

Bertha Marlatt
1004 Emerson
Alliance, Nebraska 69301

Melba Luft
322 Fairhurst
Sterling, Colorado 80751

Martha Quint
921 Sunset Drive
Akron, Colorado 80720

Pauline Kautz
Box 78
Hillrose, Colorado 80733

Frieda Black
Box 212
Strasburg, Colorado 80136

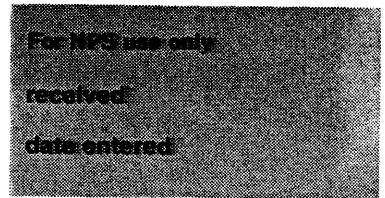
R. Bruce Luft
3712 E. Emile Zola
Phoenix, Arizona 85032

Carl Schad
3209 Raleigh Street
Denver, Colorado 80212

Joan Luft
5642 S. Woodlawn
Apt. 3-W
Chicago, Illinois 60615

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Lois B. Luft
736 Denver Street
Sterling, Colorado 80751

(303) 522-2054

Rodd Wheaton
Historical Architect
National Park Service
P.O.Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

(303) 234-2764

Barbara Norgren
Consultant
7453 E. Jefferson Drive
Denver, Colorado 80237

(303) 771-0124