

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 10 1978

DATE ENTERED

JUN 15 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Thomas J Majors Farmstead (NH09-10)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Peru
800 Mulberry Street

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Peru *mic.*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

31

COUNTY

Nemaha

CODE

127

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Ross B. Adams

STREET & NUMBER

800 Mulberry Street

CITY, TOWN

Peru

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office, Nemaha County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas J. Majors house, located in the Missouri River town of Peru, is a large two-story brick structure nestled into the bank of a gradually sloping hill. The house, which faces east, has a full frontal porch surrounded by a spindlework rail. A small second story walkout sets atop the first floor porch roof. This walkout features a gable roof and spindlework rail. The house has over 35 window openings which break up the otherwise unadorned facades. All door and window openings excluding those of the walkout basement are topped with jack arches. The basement lintels are segmentally arched. A three-quarter length closed-in porch skirts the west or rear facade of the house and overlooks the farmyard area. A kitchen wing projecting from the north facade provides the only irregularity in the otherwise rectangular building. Five chimneys and two dormer windows penetrate the truncated hip roof, which is covered with pressed metal shingles. A corbeled brick cornice provides simple relief under the eaves.

The interior plan of the house is six over six rooms. A wide central stairhall runs from the front of the house to the rear (east to west) dividing the house in half with three rooms per side on each floor. An open stairway rises along the north wall of this hallway. The interior of the house retains much of its historical character.

The grounds around the house are nicely landscaped with mature trees and shrubs. The entire house-yard is surrounded by a white three-board fence.

Also on the Majors property is a gable-roofed barn of timber construction, sheathed with board and batten. Banked into the side of a hill, the barn rests on a limestone foundation. Doors in both gable ends provide access to the first floor central aisle which allows passage through the barn. This ground level floor was designed to house grain and tack along with implement storage. A small loft provides hay storage above this ground level floor. Entry to the basement level is on the south side only. This level is divided into stalls for cattle and horses. A chute from a first floor grain bin carries feed down to the lower level.

Three other frame buildings occupy the area near the house and barn: these are a small corn crib, a shed and a garage. The barnyard area is enclosed with a board fence.

The present owners operate a cattle raising business on the property.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

late 1890's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thomas Jefferson Majors was born June 25, 1841 in Jefferson County, Iowa. His parents, Sterling P. and Ann Majors were Kentucky natives who in 1837 migrated to Iowa and established a general store. Thomas was educated in public schools in Iowa and apprenticed in his father's store. In 1859, he packed a supply of goods and set out for Nebraska Territory, where he founded a general merchandise business in Peru, a tiny Missouri River settlement known only for its trading post. Majors operated his store until 1861 when he enlisted in the First Nebraska Infantry. He served until the end of the war and was mustered out in 1866 in Omaha after which he returned to Peru.

In the fall of 1866, Majors' political career began to develop with his election to the Nebraska Territorial Council. While holding this office, Majors was very active in promoting the idea of using Old Mount Vernon College (1863) in Peru as a State Normal School. His endeavors were successful in 1867 when the property was given to the State and subsequently became what is now known as Peru State Teachers College. One of the recently constructed buildings on campus bears his name.

During his lengthy political career he served several terms as a State senator, two terms as lieutenant governor (1891-1895), was an unsuccessful Republican candidate for governor and served as U.S. Congressman from 1878-79. Other positions held by Majors throughout his life were: assessor for the Internal Revenue Service for the Nebraska District, a director of the Citizen's State Bank of Peru and president of the State Normal Board.

Besides his political and commercial interests, T.J. Majors had a very successful farming and stock raising operation on his vast estate adjoining the town of Peru. He was also active in the Grand Army of the Republic and built his home large enough to accommodate meetings of the organization.

In 1870, Majors married Isabelle Bushong and raised a family of five children. He purchased the portion of land on which this house and barn stand in 1872, and probably built a house and this barn on the property soon after. The present brick house was built in the 1890's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	135	2618120	44849125	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Thomas J. Majors Farmstead is shown in red on the sketch map (1977).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries Spencer, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

January 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

402-432-2793

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Martin O'Knecht

1/24/78

TITLE Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Smith

DATE

6/5/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Watson B. Cole

DATE

6-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Thomas J. Majors Farmstead

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUN 15 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Thomas J. Majors did much for the growth and development of Peru and the State of Nebraska. Immediately after he was discharged from his Civil War service he became very influential in Nebraska politics and government. His home in Peru serves as a reminder to the citizens of this State of this greatly respected, early pioneer-politician.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Thomas J. Majors Farmstead

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 10 1978

DATE ENTERED JUN 13 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Andreas, A.T., History of Nebraska, Western Historical Company,
Chicago: 1882.

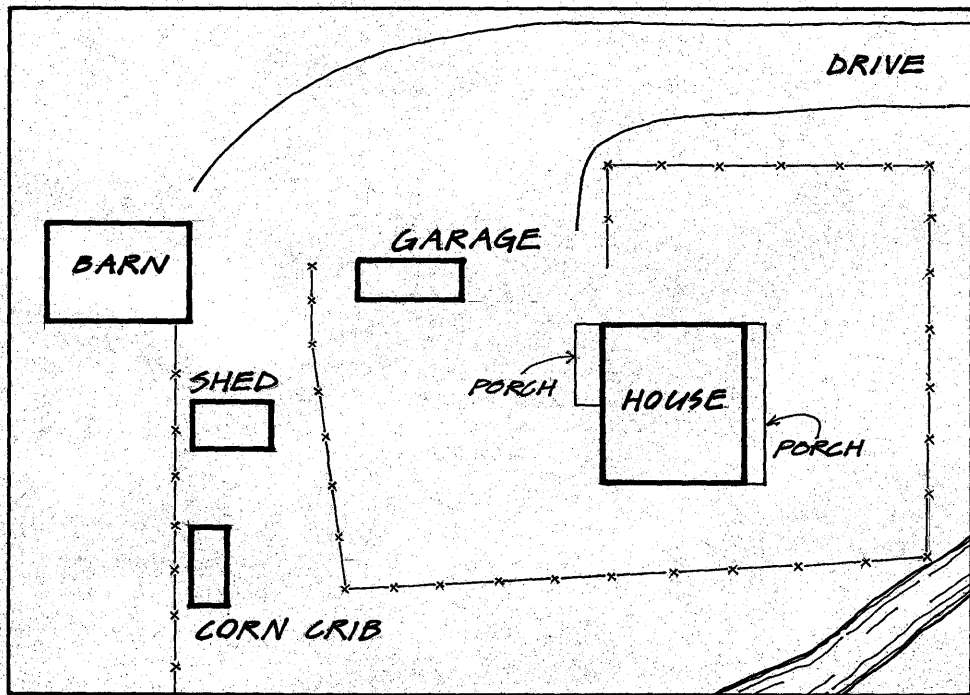
Biographical and Genealogical History of Southeastern Nebraska,
Vol. I, Lewis Publishing Company, New York: 1904.

Morton, J. Sterling and Watkins, Albert, Illustrated History of
Nebraska, Vol. I, Jacob North Company, Lincoln: 1905.

Nemaha County, Nebraska census records

Nemaha County, Nebraska land records

Newspaper files, Nebraska State Historical Society



NOT TO SCALE

THOMAS J. MAJORS FARMSTEAD
PERU, NEBRASKA (NH09-10)

SKETCH MAP BY STEVE RYAN
TAKEN FROM NOTES OF JANET
JEFFRIES. NOVEMBER 1977.

WAND

SHED

COOK HOUSE

CARPORT

HOUSE

DAIRY

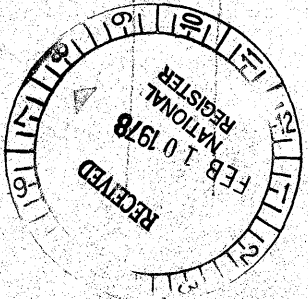
ROAD

ROAD

ROAD



RECEIVED: NOVEMBER 1977
MOUNTAIN VIEW STATE
RECORDS BY DEBRA KIMM
PERRY MORGAN (MCD-10)
TOWN OF MOUNTAIN VIEW



JUN 15 1978