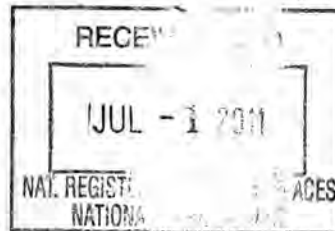


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



528

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Charles T. Durkee House

other names/site number DD05:A-075

2. Location

street & number 1125 N. Broad Street



not for publication

city or town Fremont

vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Dodge code 053 zip code 68025

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official Michael J. Hall

Date

07-06-2011

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper For Edison H. Beall

Date of Action 8.10.11

Charles T. Durkee House
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Bungalow / Craftsman

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Prairie

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: WOOD: Clapboard

WOOD: Cedar Shingle (Dormers)

roof: ASPHALT: Asphalt Shingle

other: BRICK (Chimney)

METAL (Gutters and Porch Ceiling)

Charles T. Durkee House
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Charles T. Durkee House is located at 1125 N. Broad Street in Fremont, the county seat of Dodge County, Nebraska. With an estimated population of 25,007 in 2009, Fremont is currently Nebraska's seventh largest city.¹ Broad Street runs parallel to Main Street and perpendicular to Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and currently serves as the business route for U.S. Highway 77. Between the Union Pacific tracks and West 6th Street, Broad Street is built up with commercial buildings. North of West 6th Street, it moves through a zone of important public buildings, including the former Post Office, High School and City Auditorium before transitioning into a residential street north of West 10th Street. Historically, some of Fremont's most prominent families lived on Broad Street between West 10th and 20th Streets. The nominated property sits on the north half of lots 7 & 8 of Block 53, on the northern edge of Fremont's original plat. It is flanked by other houses. There are two contributing properties, the Charles T. Durkee House, a Craftsman / Prairie bungalow completed in 1913, and a stylistically similar detached, one-car garage built around the same time.

Narrative Description

Charles T. Durkee House

The Durkee House was constructed in 1912-1913 and is a 1½ story Craftsman bungalow that also displays characteristics of the contemporary Prairie Style and American Foursquare form. It has a rectangular footprint measuring 36 feet wide and 55 feet long (on its east and west sides). On the façade, a full width porch is recessed approximately nine feet under the house's hipped roof. The porch wraps around the southwest corner of the house and runs along the eastern 25 feet of the south elevation. Here the porch is only recessed four feet. The brick foundation is laid in a running bond and is highly visible on all elevations. The entire house is clad in original clapboard with mitered corners, except the dormers which are covered in original cedar shingles. A horizontal emphasis is created by using much wider siding on the lower portion of the house than that found above the porch railing, which continues around the house as a stringcourse. Windows are typically located between this and a second stringcourse located just above the capital of the porch supports, which also transitions into a stringcourse. A strip of clapboard is found between the top stringcourse and the soffit. The hipped roof has wide overhanging eaves with exposed, stylized Craftsman rafter tails. A "secret" double lined cornice gutter system, patented by Durkee himself, runs around the entire house. Matching hipped-roofed dormers, of various sizes, are found on all four elevations. The yellow color was selected from historic Craftsman Style paint choices. Contrasting white trim accentuates many of horizontal architectural details including the two stringcourses, the soffit and the eaves.

The east-facing façade (Photo 1) is nearly symmetrical, except the main entrance is offset to the north and the porch wraps around the south side of the house. In line with the front entrance is a short flight of concrete steps flanked by low, concrete-capped, brick cheek walls that lead to the elevated porch. The entirety of the porch, except at the entrances, is enclosed by a knee wall capped with flat protruding wood trim that continues around the house in a string course. On top of this is another strip of trim that is slender and higher in profile. Slender rounded cutouts at the bottom of the knee wall allow water to run off the porch floor. Between the roof and the knee wall are four porch supports, with one being on the side porch. These are slightly battered and are clad in slender, mitered siding that matches the upper portion of the main house. Porch supports have slender, heavily stylized Craftsman capitals (Photo 2) that evoke a broad arch. Matching brackets decorate the two junctions between the porch and the main body of the house. The porch flooring is original wide plank that has been painted a soft green. Charles T. Durkee's own Globe Cornice Works provided the pressed tin ceiling for the porch, a major departure from the typical beadboard. Currently painted white, the body of the tin ceiling is decorated with a repeating pattern of 1' coffered square panels while the boarder has a floral pattern (Photo 2).

Recessed under the porch roof is the main entrance, which still contains the original door and sidelights. The door has a classic Craftsman design with beveled glass divided into vertical lights by slender wood muntins (Photo 5). The sidelights are of a similar, if less elaborate, design. A modern metal and glass storm door has been installed for energy conservation, but the sidelights are still protected by their original wood storm system. To the south of the main entrance is a large, single-hung picture window with a transom containing leaded, beveled glass arranged in a Craftsman or Prairie style geometric pattern. The dormer on the façade contains a ribbon of four single-hung windows (Photo 2). Here, the upper sash contains a spoke pattern suggesting a Neoclassical influence. The dormer lights the front second-story bedroom.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "American Factfinder" website. Accessed 18 Feb. 2011.

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The north elevation of the house (Photo 1) contains four original double-hung windows with wood sashes. With the exception of the raised bathroom widow (second from the back), all utilize the bottom lower stringcourse as a sash and the upper stringcourse as a lintel. All but the easternmost window are protected by their original wood storms. These widows light main level bedrooms located on the north side of the house. Four basement windows are punched into the brick foundation. Bedroom dormers on both side elevations contain paired single-hung windows with leaded glass transoms divided into 16 lights. The house's brick chimney is located just behind and to the west of the dormer.

On the south elevation, the recessed porch continues around to corner for another 25 feet. A secondary entrance to the dining room, which still contains its original Craftsman door (Photo 8), is located on the back (west) wall of the porch. Here the porch is reached by a set of stairs similar in design to those found on the façade. A single double-hung window lighting the living room is located on the recessed north wall. West of the porch, on the main body of the house, there is a ribbon of three windows lighting the dining room and a pair of windows lighting the breakfast nook. Like on the other elevations, all windows on this side of the house are located between the stringcourses, contain their original double hung wood sashes, and are protected by their original wood storm units.

The rear elevation contains a third entrance to the house that, unlike the elevated public entrances, is at grade (Photo 3). Slightly offset to the north, it enters the house at a landing with stairs down to the basement and up to the kitchen. This entrance contains a modern replacement door and a metal and glass storm door similar to the one on the façade. A single window to the north lights the rear main story bedroom, while a pair of raised widows light the kitchen. All are original double hung stashes protected by their original storms. Two basement windows are punched into the foundation under the kitchen. The small dormer on this elevation contains only one window, which lights the house's main stair.

Interior

The main floor of the house contains public spaces (the living room, dining room and breakfast nook) to the south of the foyer and hall, and more private spaces (two bedrooms and a bath) to the north. The kitchen is located in the back of the house. The upper story contains three irregular bedrooms and a large storage area. A full unfinished basement with some historic doors, shelving and cabinetry is accessible from the stairs off the kitchen. Oak woodwork (crown molding, baseboards, window and door surrounds) is found throughout the house, but the public spaces on the main floor also feature elaborate Craftsman style built-in oak furnishings including a fireplace, colonnade and buffet. In addition to the oak woodwork, the house also retains approximately 95% of its original plaster walls and all of its original wood plank floors, except for in the kitchen where linoleum was installed during the 1940s or 1950s. Also at this time the ceiling in living room and dining room was covered with large particleboard tile paneling. Despite its overall adherence to the Craftsman style, there is no evidence that these rooms ever had exposed ceilings beams and the panels cover a plain plaster ceiling. Mid-20th century pedant light fixtures are found throughout the house. In some rooms, including the foyer and dining room, there are still original push button switches and radiators (Photos 5 and 8). Some radiators are covered with slated oak boxes that create benches, which are either original to the house or early installations.

The main entrance to the house opens into a small foyer. A coat closet is located behind an oak door with a large leaded mirror to the north (Photo 5.) From the foyer, the 14.5 feet x 13.5 feet living room is accessed through a wide passage framed with heavy oak Neo-Classical / Craftsman piers and pediment. A Craftsman style colonnade with built-in bookcases separates the living room from the dining room. The heavy beam of the colonnade is supported by one full and one engage battered square pier with simplistic Prairie style ornament at the capitals. Bookcases face the living room and are enclosed with oak-framed glass doors with rows of square lights at the top and squared wood knobs (Photo 6).

The 14' x 17' dining room is the house's largest and most elaborate room. Along the north wall is a brick fireplace with an elaborate oak mantle with a leaded mirror and heavy pediment supported by pilasters. With its pediment, pilasters and keystone the fireplace mantle is heavily influenced by classical architecture, but its decorative features are Craftsman (or Prairie), particularly at the capitals. On either side of the fireplace are solid oak doors with four square lights at their top, while the main section is inlaid with a Craftsman/Prairie design (Photo 7). The west door leads to the mail hall/stair, while the east door leads to a bedroom. A built-in buffet dominates the west wall between the dining room and the kitchen (Photo 9). The buffet features several Craftsman/Prairie design features including leaded glass in the upper cupboards with a diamond and square design, outside lower doors with four square lights of beveled glass, inner doors with elongated leaded glass lights capped by a spoke design. Two varieties of Craftsman style wood pulls (square knobs on cabinet doors and handles on drawers) are also used. An exit to the side porch containing a Craftsman Style door with three elongated rectangular lights is located in the southwest corner of the dining room (Photo 8).

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The kitchen is accessed through a small (14' x 7') breakfast nook at the southwest corner of the house. There is a pass through between these rooms above built-in shelving, all of which is framed by the same trim used for door surrounds throughout the house. More recent shelving, contemporary with the mid-20th century kitchen remodel, has been installed in the opening. The kitchen was updated in the 1940s or 1950s and contains large double sinks and streamlined counters and shelving on the south wall and large cabinetry with round chrome pulls on the east wall. The floor is covered with linoleum in a simple black and white checkerboard pattern. Two oak doors in the northwest corner of the kitchen inlaid with the same decorative motif as those flanking the fireplace (but without the lights) lead to hall and to a pantry. An identical door opens to stairs that lead to the house's rear entrance and the basement. All oak trim in the kitchen has been painted white, but the doors retain their original finish.

The hall is accessible from the public portion of the house through the foyer, dining room and kitchen. Two bedrooms and a bathroom are located to the north and the stair to the upper story is located at the end of the hall. All rooms and the stair have oak doors identical to those found in the kitchen. The removal of wall paper in the hall has revealed an original plaster finish that features Arts and Crafts stenciling at the chair rail and frieze levels (Photo 10). Original stenciling has also been uncovered at the frieze in both downstairs bedrooms. In the front bedroom the frieze motif is identical to that found in the hall (Photo 11), but the rear bedroom features a wreath pattern (Photo 12). Bedrooms have large closets with inlaid oak doors. The bathroom retains its original hexagonal tile, clawfoot bathtub and medicine cabinet. A period pedestal sink has also been installed.

A narrow wood stair with a simple railing leads to an upstairs hall that features wide baseboards (Photo 13). The hall narrows toward the front (east) upstairs bedroom after offering access to two irregular bedrooms and a storage space. All four rooms are entered through solid oak two panel doors. Bedrooms feature irregular walls created by the dormers, wide baseboards and closets (Photo 14).

Garage

A paved drive to the north of the house leads to a small (16x18 foot), hip-roofed, detached, one-car garage located behind the northwest corner of the house (Photo 4). Built at the same time as the house, the garage also exhibits Craftsman and Prairie influences. It has a low pitched roof with a wide overhanging eave and exposed rafter tails. The siding treatment matches the main house with wide horizontal clapboard below a stringcourse and slender clapboard above. The original garage door, which operates horizontally on a rolling track, also displays a Craftsman influence. Each of the five sections contains two rectangular glass lights over an elongated recessed panel. While a few of the lights are cracked, the garage door is still fully operational and in relatively good repair considering its age. On the south elevation there is an original single walkout door with two elongated rectangular panels over two shorter panels. The south elevation contains an original one-over one double hung window, and the rear (west) elevation has two identical windows.

Integrity and Condition

The most obvious integrity issue is the loss of the house's original rounded metal roof tiles, which were made at Durkee's Globe Iron Works. These would have further linked the house to Prairie Style and strengthened the association with Durkee's significance in the area of industry. However, despite this loss the house still retains its original pressed tin porch ceiling and cornice gutter system, the latter of which was patented by Durkee in 1911. Therefore, the house retains sufficient integrity of materials to attach it to Durkee's productive life. Outside of the roof, the house and garage retain excellent exterior integrity of design, workmanship and materials, including original siding, windows, wood storm units and doors. It remains an excellent example of a bungalow that exhibits characteristics of the Craftsman and Prairie styles.

The interior has been altered slightly with the installation of ceiling tile in the living and dining room, the remodeling of the kitchen and the replacement of original light fixtures, all of which appear to have occurred in the mid-20th century. These changes, however, do not overshadow the house's exceptional interior integrity. The house retains its original floor plan and finishes. Plaster walls, wood flooring, door and window trim and built-in furnishings are all intact. The presence of original Arts and Crafts stenciling in the downstairs hall and bedrooms is particularly significant.

Charles T. Durkee House
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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1913-1919

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Charles T. Durkee

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance lasts from the completion of the house in 1913 through 1919, when Charles T. Durkee and his wife Jennie sold the house and retired to California. The year 1913 represents the house's architectural significance.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): NA

Charles T. Durkee House

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Charles T. Durkee House is significant at the local level under National Register Criteria B and C. As owner and manager of the Globe Cornice Works, Durkee was an important figure in Fremont's early industrial development. More broadly, he was only one of only a handful of artisan businessmen providing sheet metal and associated building materials outside of Omaha and Lincoln between 1885 and 1919. He also contributed to his field with patented improvements to cornice gutter systems in 1911. This fashionable bungalow, constructed on one of Fremont's most fashionable streets in early 1913, was the embodiment of his legacy and included many special features related to his business. In addition to its association with Durkee, this house also illustrates the successful blending of Craftsman and Prairie styles in a modest home and serves as an important transitional property in the evolution of residential architecture in Fremont.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion B: Charles T. Durkee, Globe Cornice Works and Industrial Development of Fremont

Charles T. Durkee was born in New York State in 1854 and spent his childhood there before moving to Indiana. It was here that he began his vocational life in the sheet metal trade. In 1884 he moved to Fremont, Nebraska, with his wife Jennie and five year old son, William.² Positioned along the Platte River and a number of rail lines including the Union Pacific, the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley and the Sioux City & Pacific, Fremont was a good place to settle for an enterprising young man like Durkee. Platted in 1857, Fremont really began to thrive upon the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1866. By 1882, Fremont had become, "one of the most important business points outside of Omaha," and was a "great shipping point," on its way to, "becoming quite a manufacturing center in many lines."³ Some of those "lines" were being produced at the Fremont Creamery, the Fremont Foundry, Lowry and Mackey's Carriage Works and the Fremont Brewery. However, a sheet metal works was conspicuously absent from the list of leading manufactures.

Durkee would not wait long before setting up his sheet metal business. After one year with a local wholesale hardware firm, Heutte, Son & Co., the thirty-one year old established Globe Cornice Works.⁴ By 1890, his business was listed in the *Nebraska State Gazetteer*, as "GLOBE CORNICE WORKS, Charles Durkee prop, iron and copper cornices, metallic sky lights, tin and slate roofing, 330 Main."⁵ His "cornice shop" at 330 Main was located in a one story building across from the European Hotel that had most recently been a meat shop.⁶ Interestingly, Globe Cornice Works was one of the few manufacturing concerns in Fremont located on Main Street and not along rail lines.

Charles T. Durkee and Globe Cornice Works, 1890 – 1910

As early as 1892, Durkee was already supplying sheet metal products to building projects as far west as Grand Island, Nebraska. Here Durkee, along with the Fremont Manufacturing Company, became embroiled in a legal battle to secure payment for services. Eventually reaching the Nebraska Supreme Court, the case gives great insight into Durkee and the extent of his early business in Nebraska:

Charles T. Durkee alleged that on October 10, 1892, he entered into a written contract...to furnish the tin roofing, steel ceilings, cooper and iron cornices, bay-window trimmings, copper finials, crestings, galvanized iron cornices, gutters and conductors that should be necessary in and about the construction and completion of [a] hotel building.⁷

Globe Cornice Works was obviously doing well enough to supply a whole myriad of sheet metal products to builders on projects as large as a downtown hotel. One of the sticking points in case, however, was whether Globe Cornice Works was a factory (which added value to raw materials) or a wholesaler. Durkee insisted the products he provided were custom-made from raw material and not suitable for any other building. The court did not agree, claiming that, "strictly

² *History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska, and Their Peoples*, edited by William H. Buss and Thomas T. Osterman. Volume II, Chicago: American History Society, 1921, 729; US Census, 1900.

³ Andreas, A. T., *History of the State of Nebraska*, Volume I. Chicago: The Western Historical Society, 1882, 638.

⁴ *History of Dodge and Washington Counties*, 729. Here, it is called Hetty & Son, but the 1890-91 list a Huette Son & Co., who deal in hardware, stoves, furnaces and cornices. This must be the same firm, as Hetty does not show up again in the literature.

⁵ "Dodge County Business List" in *Nebraska State Gazetteer for 1890-1891*, Omaha, NE: J.M. Wolfe & Co., 1890. Accessed online.

⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., "Fremont, Nebraska," 1888 Map.

⁷ "Grand Island Banking Co. v. Koeler et al. (Supreme Court of Nebraska. Feb. 9, 1899)," printed in *Northwestern Reporter*, V. 78. 265.

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speaking," the metal, "ceased to be raw material when it was removed from its bed."⁸ Despite the denial of raw industrial status in court, it is clear Durkee considered himself and his employees to be artisans engaged in manufacturing, and not simply moving product from factory to consumer. The case also reveals the contrast between Globe Cornice Works and one of Fremont's other leading industrial works, the Fremont Manufacturing Company. Durkee acted as the sole appellant, suggesting he was much more heavily involved in his company than the owner/executives of the Fremont Manufacturing Company. Moreover, the businesses were clearly filling different niches in the building trades.

Globe Cornice Works continued to grow over the next decade. It was listed among "Fremont's most important manufacturing plants," and as a firm that employed, "a large number of men, and turned out well known products," in the 1890-1891 *Nebraska State Gazetteer*.⁹ His former employer, in comparison, was listed as an "extensive mercantile house," despite also manufacturing cornices. This suggests Durkee and Globe Cornice Works had quickly surpassed Huette Son & Co. as a true manufacturer of sheet metal products. Durkee and his company made a mark on the building environment of Fremont, and eventually a large portion of the central Great Plains.¹⁰ With good rail connections, well known products and little competition to the west or to the north, Globe Cornice Works was able to create a regional market. The aesthetic values of the time also proved favorable for decorative metal and cornice makers. Alongside "easy money," the exuberant architectural ornamentation of the late 1880s helped give the Gilded Age its name.

Even as Globe Cornice Works thrived, the Durkee family could not find stability in their living situation. Between 1888 and 1910, Charles, Jennie and their only son, William, lived in at least five different homes, all of which they rented. Durkee stayed close to his business between 1890 and 1905, with the family living just blocks away from downtown on East 6th and then East 3rd Streets. Unlike many of Fremont's other successful businessmen and professionals, Durkee did not build a grand Victorian during late 1890s. Instead, he invested in his business, building a large one story "sheet metal works" at 229-231 E. 4th Street (now 233 E. 4th Street), just around the corner from his old shop. At least for the time being, Durkee appears to have been far more concerned with business success than social status.

Charles T. Durkee and the Globe Cornice Works, 1910 – 1920

In 1911, Durkee had a breakthrough that shifted the focus of his business from cornices and other decorative features to gutters. On August 8th of that year he received a patent on, "certain new and useful Improvements in Cornice-Gutters...more particularly to the means for connecting the gutter with the cornice or fascia."¹¹ Basically, the system had two advantages: "the parts may be easily manufactured; skilled labor is not particularly required for mounting the parts upon the building...and the fascia and gutter co-act in a manner, when they move in contact, to sustain each other and to form a desired firm and durable connection."¹² Thereafter, Durkee's "prefect secret" cornice gutter was prominently highlighted in Globe Cornice Works catalogs with ads asking potential customers, "Do YOU Want the Best?"¹³ (See Supplementary Materials, Figure 1-2). It is unclear how the patent affected sales, but the invention does indicate that Durkee remained fully involved in his business through the 1900s and 1910s. Limited correspondence from the era held by the Nebraska State Historical Society supports this claim. For instance, in a letter dated August 25, 1915, Durkee explained to a potential customer how fluctuating metal prices make it almost impossible to provide a decent quote.¹⁴

Durkee likely kept track of prices in publications like the weekly *American Artisan and Hardware Record* out of Chicago. In March of 1915, he advertised therein for a "first class sheet metal worker" to act as foreman at Globe Cornice Works.¹⁵ Provisions like "no Boozer need apply," and "married man," suggest Durkee was a discriminating employer, and that the type of men he wanted were not always available in Fremont. On the other hand, Durkee was one of only two proprietors advertizing in *American Artisan* during 1915 to explicitly offer an eight hour work day, well before the Fair Labor Standards

⁸ Ibid, 267.

⁹ "Dodge County Business List" in *Nebraska State Gazetteer*.

¹⁰ Emanuel-Vaughn, Pattie. "From Streetcars to a City Hall: Fremont was Growing in the 1890s," in *Fremont Tribune*, 13 March 2006. accessed online at http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/article_dfb22914-c016-5204-97b1-ee0959f4927d.html?print=1.

¹¹ United States Patent Office, "Charles T. Durkee of Fremont, Nebraska. Cornice-Gutter, Patent # 1,000,080" 8 August 1911.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Globe Cornice Works. "Net Price List, Sept. 1st, 1915." Available at Nebraska State Historical Society Library.

¹⁴ Ibid. Correspondence is held with Price Lists in Library, and not in Archives.

¹⁵ *American Artisan and Hardware Record*, March 20, 1915 (V. 69, no. 12), page 54. Available online at <http://books.google.com/books?id=4JVUAAAAYAAJ>. Durkee was not the only one who blatantly discriminated base on social and ethic factors. One ad for a tinner in Minnesota reads, "German preferred...booze fighter or cigarette fiend need not apply."

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Act of 1937 made it mandatory. He also appears to have allowed employees (at least upper-level employees) to negotiate their wage. Durkee was clearly sympathetic to the cause of labor, although there is currently no evidence that he belonged to a union or that Globe Cornice Works was a union shop.

A commitment to customer service and craftsmanship was probably one reason Durkee wanted dependable employees. The 1913 Globe Cornice Works catalog, for instance, offered:

Let us figure your special work. We manufacture anything in Sheet Metal. We do not use Standard Gage. Nothing lighter than No. 28 Gauge is used in our factory. If you have plans of building, forward them at our expense. We will return them promptly with as low figures as is consistent with good honest work and materials... We try to please. If we don't, tell us.

The reference to "good honest work and materials" seems particularly illustrative of Durkee's vision of himself as an artisan. Between his legal battle in Grand Island, his advertisement in the *American Artisan and Hardware Record* and various Globe Cornice Works publications, it is clear Durkee was committed to quality work and quality products.

Between 1910 and 1920, Globe Cornice Works remained one of the leading sheet metal manufactures in Nebraska (outside of Omaha and Lincoln), but competition was growing. According to the Nebraska Bureau of Labor, in 1912 Globe Cornice Works was one of only three Nebraska businesses outside of Lincoln and Omaha in the sheet metal industry.¹⁶ The others were F.M. Smith & Sons in Fremont and Newberry's Hardware Co. in Alliance. Just two years later, ten more businesses outside of Omaha and Lincoln were listed as trading in sheet metal including F.M. Smith and Metal Shingles and Machine Co. in Fremont, and Arndt Hardware and Nebraska Culvert & Manufacturing Co. in nearby Blair and Wahoo. Farther afield companies in Columbus, Beatrice, Polk, West Point, Alliance and Lexington were also dealing in sheet metal in 1914.¹⁷ Even so, most of these companies were not likely to match Globe Cornice Works in sheet metal products or services. Unlike Charles T. Durkee, neither F.M. Smith or the Metals Shingles and Machine Company are mentioned in the 1921 *History of Dodge and Washington Counties*. The success of F. W. Arndt in Washington County is well documented, but it seems he left the sheet metal industry to establish a more diversified wholesale business after only nine years. By 1921 he was even selling Dodge and Nash automobiles.¹⁸

A Bungalow on Broad Street

In November of 1912 Charles T. Durkee bought portions of Lots 7 and 8 on the west side of Broad Street between East 11th and 12th Streets for \$1,000.¹⁹ After twenty-seven years in Fremont, the Durkee family, which now included William's wife Eva, would finally have a fashionable home of their own on Broad Street. The *Fremont Evening Tribune* kept readers updated on the progress of the Durkee residence, first mentioning it on January 2, 1913:

Building A New Home—Work on the new residence being built by C. T. Durkee at 1121 No. Broad is being pushed forward rapidly. It is to be of the bungalow type with five rooms on the first floor and four rooms upstairs. Mr. Durkee is erecting it for his own use."

The very nice, but not too large or flashy, bungalow type was probably a natural fit for the Durkee family, who had long avoided any sign of wealth. The design of the house, with its large overhanging eaves, also let Durkee prominently display his patented "perfect" gutter system.²⁰ Other products from Globe Cornice Works, including metal shingles and a pressed tin porch ceiling were also incorporated into the house.

Today the 1913 Charles T. Durkee House stands as the embodiment of his contributions to the sheet metal industry in Fremont and beyond. Durkee remained innovative and engaged throughout his career and improved cornice lines across the central Great Plains. According to a 2006 *Fremont Tribune* article published during the city's Sesquicentennial, Globe Cornice Works was among the important business ventures of its day, responsible for "many of the tin decorative

¹⁶ Nebraska Bureau of Labor. "Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics for the State of Nebraska, 1911-1912." Lincoln, NE, 1912, 165. There were 12 in Omaha and 8 in Lincoln, bringing the total to 23.

¹⁷ Nebraska Bureau of Labor. "Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics for the State of Nebraska, 1911-1912." Lincoln, NE, 1914, 65. There were 13 in Omaha and 6 in Lincoln, bringing the total to 32.

¹⁸ *History of Dodge and Washington Counties*, 812-813.

¹⁹ "Numerical Index, Dodge County: Block 53, Fremont." Available at Dodge County Courthouse, Fremont.

²⁰ Unfortunately, the architect or contractor responsible for the design and/or construction of the Durkee House is unknown, but it seems very likely that Durkee was personally involved.

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elements (cornices) you see on downtown buildings...as well as a variety of sheet metal products...including tin ceilings, gutters, skylights and finials. Its products were sold in Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado.²¹ While he obviously had assistance, by and large, Charles T. Durkee was Globe Cornice Works from its founding in 1885 through his retirement in 1919. In addition to his significance in the sheet metal industry, Durkee is also importantly associated with early industrial development in Fremont.

Criterion B: Contemporaries of Charles T. Durkee in Fremont's Industrial Development

In addition to those already mentioned in the sheet metal trades (Huetten & Sons, F.E. Smith, F.W. Arndt), Durkee had several other local contemporaries in the area of industry. These individuals can be usefully divided into two camps: (1) Artisan proprietors like Durkee, who built up a successful business in a particular trade; and (2) Entrepreneurs who participated and invested broadly in Fremont's industrial development.

Ross Hammond, Charles C. and Charles J. Marr (father and son), E. H. Barnard, Ray Nye and R. B. Schneider were among the most prolific executives and investors in Fremont's industry. Together, they founded and/or were executives for eight of Fremont's most prominent manufacturing and wholesale companies, including Nye-Schneider-Fowler Co., Hammond Printing Co., Hammond and Stephens Co., Fremont Foundry & Machine Co, Fremont Broom Manufacturing Factory, the Fremont Hemp & Twin Factory and the Fremont Bottling Works.²² Industry at this level also often mixed with banking and real estate interests. For instance, L. M. Keene of the investment firm Keene, Richards & Company was serving as treasurer of the Fremont Stock Yards and Land Company, president of Fremont National Bank and vice president of the Fremont Carriage Manufacturing Company in 1890. A step below on socio-economic ladder was W. E. Smalls, who as treasurer of the Fremont Hemp & Twine Factory, cashier of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and certified notary, could still report an impressive list of titles and responsibilities.²³

There were clearly opportunities to participate in Fremont's burgeoning corporate complex for those who had capital or were skilled in its management, especially prior to the economic depression of the mid-1890s that effectively ended the Gilded Age. Yet, for whatever reason, several individuals involved in Fremont's industrial development did not become entangled in a web investments and executive posts at multiple companies. Instead, they followed a particular trade to relative prosperity. Charles T. Durkee, along with a handful of others, exemplifies the successful artisan owner in Fremont between the mid-1880s and World War I. These successful artisan proprietors were almost exclusively men, although several independent milliners and dressmakers were operating in Fremont during Durkee's period of significance.²⁴ Mrs. J. F. Kendrick, a milliner, or Mrs. Vigil Meyer, a dressmaker, were likely equally skilled in their craft as their male counterparts and certainly contributed significantly to small scale manufacturing and merchandising in Fremont, but unfortunately their stories are not well told in the historical literature. No matter gender or ethnic origin—at least two artisan proprietors were recent immigrants, while others like Durkee were born in the United States—all were capable of making what they were selling with their own hands. Those that—according to secondary sources—found the greatest success were Henry and William Saeger (cigars), John Petrow (candy) and Henry W. Rogers (tents and awnings).

Henry Saeger is probably Durkee's closest contemporary. Emigrating from Germany in 1887, he came directly to Fremont and worked briefly in a cigar factory. By the early 1890s he had established his own cigar manufacturing company, Seager & Sons, with his son William.²⁵ He first set up shop in previously-constructed buildings on Main Street before building to his own factory on the southwest corner of Main and E. 4th Street in about 1905—only a block away from Durkee's new Globe Cornice Works. Petrow, who emigrated from Greece in 1899, and Rodgers, who returned to Fremont after twelve years with the Omaha Tent and Awning Company, also found success in their prospective trades; however, not until well after Durkee and Saeger were established.²⁶ While it would be difficult to say Durkee is more significant than Saegar in Fremont's early industrial development, they are at least on equal footing. Save for references to their particular trades and family lives, their biographical in the 1921 *History of Dodge and Washington Counties*, are virtually interchangeable.

²¹ "From Streetcars to a City Hall: Fremont was Growing in the 1890s," in *Fremont Tribune*, 13 March 2006.

²² Information on individuals involved in industrial development compiled from "Dodge County Business List" in *Nebraska State Gazetteer, History of Dodge and Washington Counties*; "From Streetcars to a City Hall: Fremont was Growing in the 1890s."

²³ "Dodge County Business List" in *Nebraska State Gazetteer*.

²⁴ "Dodge County Business List" in *Nebraska State Gazetteer*, 1890-1891. Four milliners and three dressmakers were listed.

²⁵ *History of Dodge and Washington Counties*, Volume II, 592.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 462, 631, 797.

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Finally, comparing one type of industrialists against the other is an unjust approach. Inevitably, entrepreneurs like Ray Nye and L. M. Keene will rise above the rest in historical significance because their investments, and thereby their influence, were much broader than artisan owners like Durkee or Saegar. However, both routes to industrial success were significant in Fremont, particularly during the transformative period leading up to World War I. Despite their differences approaches, both groups were considered "home capital." This was in contrast to outside "trusts" and "eastern" capital, which in the Fremont area took control of—and by 1921 had completely destroyed—the once thriving sugar beet and hemp industries.²⁷ All the individuals mentioned above lived in Fremont. Whether a corporate executive or artisan owner, each invested their own time, skill and money in Fremont's expanding industrial base.

Criterion B: Other Properties Associated with Charles T. Durkee in Fremont

During the period of dedication to the development of his business and before building the nominated property, Charles T. Durkee lived in at least five different residences along with his wife Jennie and their only child, William. In chronological order, these were located at: 414 E. 14th Street (1888-89); 323 E. 6th Street (1891-92); 429 E. 3rd Street (1901-02); 352 E. 3rd Street (c. 1905) and 407 E. 10th Street (c. 1910).²⁸ Due to shifting addresses in Fremont, it is somewhat difficult to determine if any of these houses are still extant. However, it appears that Durkee's earliest documented home in Fremont and the two the family lived immediately before moving to 1125 Broad Street are still standing with various levels of integrity. Both frame residences at 414 E. 14th and 352 E. 3rd have been covered with non-historic siding, and the brick house at 407 E. 10th Street has an altered porch. None are architecturally significant, and none seem to retain sufficient integrity to merit individual listing under Criterion C. It is also worth noting that all of the houses, with the exception of the 10th Street house, were simple 1 or 1½ story frame residences that might be categorized as "workers cottages."²⁹ Three of them (on E. 3rd and E. 6th Streets) were located just off Fremont's downtown commercial district and very near Durkee's Globe Cornice Works. The 2 story brick upright-and-wing at 407 E. 10th Street, where the Durkees lived right before building their Broad Street bungalow, revealed the family's upward mobility. While still vernacular in design, the house was larger than their previous homes and farther removed from the downtown area. Still, it does not compare favorably to the nominated property in style or clear association with Charles T. Durkee.

The one story building at 330 Main Street (now 424 Main Street) where Durkee moved his "cornice works" in the about 1888 had already been replaced by the two-story commercial block currently at this address by 1914. However, his second building at 231 E. 4th Street (now 233 E. 4th Street) is still extant. This concrete block building has, appropriately enough, an ornate cornice that was most likely designed by Durkee himself. Unfortunately, the rest of the building has been severely altered and no longer retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register. Originally, the storefront was almost entirely open with glass windows, transoms and doors, but most openings had been infilled with concrete block by 1994.³⁰ (See Supplementary Materials, Figures 3-5).

Despite the presence of other extant properties in Fremont associated with Charles T. Durkee, his 1913 bungalow at 1125 Broad Street is the *best* representative of Charles T. Durkee's *productive* life that is currently *eligible* for the National Register. With its location on Broad Street, its stylish design and the incorporation of products from his own Globe Cornice Works, the house marks the culmination of Durkee's success as a man of industry in Fremont.

Criterion C: A Craftsman-Style, Prairie-Influenced, Bungalow Type with Special Features

Craftsman-Style Bungalows

Like most cities and towns across the United States, Fremont saw an explosion of new Craftsman style "bungalows" along its residential streets during the 1910s and 1920s. The year the nominated property was completed (1913) seems to have been particularly profitable for builders and architects working in the popular Craftsman style. The *Fremont Evening Tribune* could report in March of that year, "C.T. Durkee's new bungalow...will take its place among the conspicuously attractive little homes completed during the year."³¹ No doubt, most of those "little homes" were also of the "bungalow type."³² For instance, Dr. D.G. Goulding was planning a "handsome modern bungalow" for the lot adjacent to the just

²⁷ *History of Dodge and Washington Counties*, Volume I, 229.

²⁸ Fremont City Directories, 1888-89, 1891-92; 1901-02; 1905 and 1910.

²⁹ For non-extant houses, this is based on Sanborn Maps and extant houses in the immediate area.

³⁰ Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Nebraska Historic Resources Survey and Inventory photos of NeHRSI #: DD05:E-014 (233 E. 4th Street) from 1976 and 1994.

³¹ *Fremont Evening Tribune*, 18 March 1913.

³² "Local Brevities," *Fremont Evening Tribune*, 2 Jan 1913. The C.T. Durkee house is first identified as a "bungalow type," here.

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completed Durkee bungalow. Instead of mimicking his new neighbor, Goulding was apparently more interested in keeping up with Fremont's medical circle, and, "in a general way," intended to, "follow the line of construction used by Dr. E.W. Martin in his new Military Avenue Bungalow."³³ It is possible that Dr. J.T. Young, who had recently moved into the c.1900 Free-Classical Queen Anne across from Durkee and Goulding at 1150 Broad Street, already felt a step behind in residential fashion.³⁴

As the adjacent Durkee and Goulding residences suggest, there was great diversity in the design of "bungalows" in Fremont, even when they were built simultaneously. The Dr. D.G. Goulding House is a 2½ story, gable-fronted residence with a protruding shed-roofed porch and matching shed-roofed wall dormers on the façade. (See Supplementary Materials, Figure 14). In contrast, the Charles T. Durkee House is a 1½ story, hipped-roof residence with a wrap-around recessed porch and hipped-roofed dormers on all four façades. The design of the Goulding House emphasizes verticality, while the Durkee House places a much greater emphasis on the horizontal, linking it to the contemporary Prairie style. However, the *Fremont Evening Tribune* was correct in calling both bungalows. Revealing the influence of Gustav Stickley and his journal *The Craftsman* (1901-1916), both middle-class homes explicitly express (even glorify) their wooden structural systems and the craftsmanship necessary to their construction.³⁵ It is the open eaves and exposed rafter tails—seen plainly on both the Durkee and Goulding Houses—that gives away the Craftsman style. And while some high style Craftsman homes were constructed in the United States, it was the more modest, "conspicuously attractive little homes" or "bungalows" that shaped many American neighborhoods during the early 20th century.

The Prairie Style

While Stickley was busy bringing the high ideals of the British Arts and Crafts Movement to the American middle class in *The Craftsman*, a group of loosely associated architects in the American Midwest (later dubbed the Prairie School) were creating their own architectural style. Building upon Stickley's love of craftsmanship and, more importantly, Frank Lloyd Wright's ongoing search for an "organic architecture," the Prairie School looked to revolutionize residential architecture in a number of ways, including: (1) integration with site by emphasizing horizontal lines; (2) rising the main floor up one story, "for a better view of the landscape;" (3) integration of furnishings and systems and (4) simplification through reducing ornamentation and the number of "parts."³⁶ The Prairie style, along with the Craftsman style, was a direct attack on the elaborate Queen Anne homes of the Victorian era, as well as the impulse to copy history seen in various revivalist styles. Both the Craftsman and Prairie styles, however, called for their own particular revival: a reemergence of artistry and a return to the land. As such, they were "modernist" without abandoning (at least the appearance of) craftsmanship or an appreciation for natural settings. Those tasks would be left to the International and Modern Styles, which were just beginning to take hold in Europe.

The *Fremont Evening Tribune* could confidently label the C.T. Durkee House a "bungalow," in 1913, but staff reporters would have been less apt to link it to the Prairie School. The term Prairie was not widespread, and a house designed under the tenants of the Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School was often described as a "Midwest Bungalow" or "Chicago-type Bungalow."³⁷ Nevertheless, the Charles T. Durkee House does express a remarkable amount of Prairie style influence, most obviously in its horizontality. In *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Virginia and Lee McAlester list five techniques employed in Prairie Style houses to emphasize the horizontal: "(1) contrasting caps on porch and balcony railings, (2) contrasting wood trim between stories, (3) horizontal board-and-batten siding, (4) contrasting colors on eave and cornice, and (5) selective recessing of only the horizontal masonry joints."³⁸ The Durkee House currently employs numbers 1, 2 and 4 to great effect. Adding to the houses horizontal emphasis is the low-pitched hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and matching dormers. The low roof and wide overhanging eaves are character defining features of high style examples of the Prairie Style, but the dormers are much more typical of the style's most common vernacular manifestation, the American Foursquare.

During the early 20th Century, the American Foursquare was nearly as ubiquitous as the "bungalow type." Despite Frank Lloyd Wright's famous claim that, "democracy needed something basically better than a box," the American Foursquare

³³ *Fremont Evening Tribune*, 26 May 1913. Dr. D. G. Goulding's "bungalow" is still extant (NeHRSI #: DD05:A-074).

³⁴ History of Dodge and Washington Counties, 774. "Getting There from Here," [unpublished history of Broad Street] compiled by Loretta L. Meeistrell, 2004.

³⁵ Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2001, 299-300.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 308. This list is simplified from nine principles outlined by Frank Lloyd Wright in his *Autobiography* and elsewhere.

³⁷ Poore, Patricia. "The Bungalow, and Why We Love It So," in *The Old-House Journal*, V. XIII, no. 4, May 1985, 90.

³⁸ McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006, 440.

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was often just that.³⁹ In reality, few prospective homebuilders had the wide lots (or the money) required to build Wright's elongated asymmetrical rectangles. The basic Foursquare design took many Prairie-esque characteristics (low-pitched, hipped-roofs, wide eaves, one-story porches), but instead of sprawling out, they climbed up. Roof dormers facilitated this climb, allowing most Foursquares to reach 2½ stories in height. The Charles T. Durkee House employs the basic footprint, roof shape and dormer arrangement of a Foursquare without reaching its typical height. According to McAlester and McAlester, 1 or 1½ story examples of Prairie Style houses, whether Foursquares or not, are extremely rare. Interestingly, Fremont has two examples of this manifestation of the Prairie Foursquare / Midwest Bungalow type: the Durkee House and a similar house at 1521 North Broad Street (Supplemental Materials, Figures 6-7). This shingle-clad house, however, lacks both the dormers and the well-defined horizontality of the nominated property.

Craftsman and Prairie Interiors

Craftsman and Prairie style interiors were also meant to deviate from the living spaces of earlier eras. Gustav Stickley was not an architect but a furniture maker, and the homes he promoted in *The Craftsman*, "were designed as unified wholes, including furniture and fittings."⁴⁰ As discussed above, Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School also recommended that furnishings and systems be "integrated" into the overall design of the house. While in High Style examples this idea may have been treated in different ways, in bungalows and Foursquares the integration of furnishings was, in practice, often very similar. The C.T. Durkee House includes two of the most common integrated furnishings utilized in both house types: the colonnade with built-in bookcases and the built-in buffet. In both cases, the built-in furnishing also acts as a division between spaces, which follows the Prairie Style principle calling for an end to the "room as a box...in favor of spaces defined by screens and panels."⁴¹ In the Durkee House, the colonnade is particularly successful in meeting the goals of both integration and screening.

In his 1909 publication *Craftsman Homes*, Stickley notes, "When the walls are rightly treated, it is amazing how little furniture and how few ornaments and pictures are required to make a room seem comfortable and homelike."⁴² Though text and illustrations, he suggests three wall treatments considered "right" for the Craftsman style home: (1) built-in furnishings; (2) wood wainscoting and beams, and; (3) stenciling. The Durkee House, as previously mentioned, contains examples of built-in furnishings, but the Durkees did not adhere to Stickley's second recommendation. The lack of wood paneling and exposed ceiling beams suggest either a reluctance to completely abandon the Victorian plaster wall with its baseboards and crown molding or a lack of funds necessary to more fully realize the Craftsman interior. Interestingly, while the public spaces have a more traditional trim motif, the first floor private spaces (hall and bedrooms) are more representative of the Craftsman wall treatment. Here, Arts and Crafts stenciling based on the stylized organic forms of Art Nouveau was utilized for ornamental effect.

Finally, both Craftsman and Prairie interiors utilized decorative motifs that set them apart from more traditional or classical ornamentation. For example, instead of Ionic or Corinthian columns, these styles often used squared, tapered piers with geometric or organic ornamentation. McAlester and McAlester divide Prairie and Craftsman decorative motifs into the Sullivan-esque (organic) and the Wrightian (angular and geometric).⁴³ These motifs might also show up in glass patterns and furnishings. The Durkee House has many examples of a simplified Wrightian motif including the columns on the fireplace mantle and colonnade, the glass doors on the buffet and the inlay pattern on the interior doors. The Arts and Crafts stenciling, however, would be more closely linked to Sullivan-esque. All and all, the melding of various interior designs in the Durkee House lends itself to a prosperous family with diverse tastes.

"Special Features"

During the construction of the Durkee Residence, the *Fremont Tribune* was intrigued by some of what they saw, reporting, "the metal roof, a new departure in lining, replacing the usual building paper, and several other special features have found place in the scheme."⁴⁴ This was more than just another bungalow; it was the home of Charles T. Durkee, artisan proprietor of the Globe Cornice Works. It made sense that he would incorporate his own products in the design of his home. Not only would the metal roof, pressed tin porch ceiling and gutter system display his accomplishments, they might also drum up business by illustrating the use of metal in residential construction. Unfortunately the metal roof has been

³⁹ Ibid. Quoted extensively elsewhere. Apparently he said this early in his architectural career, and continued to affirm his commitment to the statement.

⁴⁰ Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture*, 299.

⁴¹ Ibid., 309.

⁴² Stickley, Gustav. *Craftsman Homes*, New York: The Craftsman Publishing Company, 1909, 144.

⁴³ McAlester and McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Homes*, 142.

⁴⁴ *Fremont Evening Tribune*, 18 March 1913.

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removed, but the house's other "special features" remain intact.⁴⁵ Most important of these is the gutter system, which Durkee patented in 1911 (See Criterion B and Supplementary Materials, Figures 1-2).

Criterion C: Comparative Properties in Fremont

Fremont is one of Nebraska's larger and historically prosperous cities, and therefore, contains an excellent stock of historic residential properties. Almost one hundred of Fremont's houses are already recognized as contributing features in the Barnard Park Historic District and another five are listed in the National Register individually. Few of these, however, are classified as Craftsman or Prairie style homes, and those that are apparently lack individual distinction. This not to say that Fremont has a scarcity of potentially-eligible single family homes designed in these styles. A 1994 reconnaissance-level survey of historic resources in Dodge County identified approximately 33 Craftsman/Bungalow and Prairie/Foursquare homes in Fremont that were considered potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register, including the Charles T. Durkee House.⁴⁶ The variety of overall design among these houses extends well beyond the contrast between the Durkee and Goulding bungalows. In fact, these houses can be divided into at least six subfamilies (Supplementary Materials, Figures 6-18):

- (1) 1 or 1½ Story, Hipped Roof
- (2) 1 ½ Eave Front
- (3) 1 or 1½ Story, Gable Front
- (4) 2 or 2 ½ Story, Gable Front
- (5) Foursquare
- (6) Pre-Bungalow

Of these, eave-fronted bungalows and Foursquares are the most numerous with 10 and 8 houses recommended as eligible, respectively (Supplementary Materials, Figures 8-10 and 15-16). The first subfamily is the rarest and includes only the Charles T. Durkee House and its aforementioned "lesser" twin at 1521 North Broad Street (Supplementary Photos 6-7). Other subfamilies are represented by between 3 and 5 recommended properties. The dearth of houses similar in overall design to the Durkee House results from its somewhat eclectic and transitional character. Positioned between Craftsman and Prairie, Bungalow and Foursquare, and with echoes of Classical and Victorian architecture, (not to mention its special features) the nominated property stands largely alone in Fremont. Of course, not every unique property should be considered eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C. The Charles T. Durkee House however, marvelously displays the range of styles and types popular at the time of its construction and is certainly worthy of recognition at the local level for its architectural significance.

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⁴⁵ The current property owner does retain some metal shingles from the original roof, and the Nebraska SHPO has photographs of it in place. While it seems unlikely that it will be restored, the possibility does at least exist.

⁴⁶ Save America's Heritage, *Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Dodge County*, 1994.

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Fremont Evening Tribune

2 January 1913

18 March 1913

26 May 1913

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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Fremont Public Library; NSHS Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DD05:A-075

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 709024 4590423
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Approximately the north 1/3 of lots 7 and 8, Block 53 (N'32; S28' N'60' E80') and Tax Lot 76, Original Town, Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Charles T. Durkee House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Carson / Property Owner and Jessie Nunn / National Register Coordinator

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date April 20, 2011

street & number 1500 "R" Street

telephone 402-471-4775

city or town Lincoln

State NE

zip code 68501

e-mail jessie.nunn@nebraska.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Charles T. Durkee House
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Charles T. Durkee House
City or Vicinity: Fremont
County: Dodge
State: Nebraska
Photographer: Jessie Nunn, NSHS
Date Photographed: September 10, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 01 of 14.** East Façade, South Elevation and Garage, Aspect: SW
02 of 14. Detail of Porch Support, Pressed Tin Porch Ceiling, Exposed Rafters and Dormer on East Façade, Aspect: W
03 of 14. Rear Elevation, Aspect: E
04 of 14. Garage, East Façade and South Elevation, Aspect: NW
05 of 14. Interior: Front Door and Sidelights in Foyer, Aspect: NE
06 of 14. Interior: Craftsman Colonnade with Bookcases between Living and Dining Rooms, Aspect: SW
07 of 14. Interior: Fireplace with Craftsman/Neo-Classical Mantle flanked by Craftsman-style Doors, Aspect: N
08 of 14. Interior: Door to Side Porch from Dining Room with Push Button Switch, Aspect: SE
09 of 14. Interior: Built-in Buffett with Wrightian Decorative Features in Dining Room, Aspect: W
10 of 14. Interior: Downstairs Hall and Stair with Original Plate Rail and Frieze Stenciling, Aspect: E
11 of 14. Interior: Stenciling uncovered in East Bedroom. Design matches Hall Frieze, Aspect: W
12 of 14. Interior: Arts and Crafts Wreath Design in West (rear) Bedroom, Aspect: W
13 of 14. Interior: Upstairs Hall and Stair Rail, Aspect: W
14 of 14. Interior: Upstairs Bedroom, Aspect: N

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

name Carolyn Carlson
street & number 543 E. Military telephone 402-658-3969
city or town Fremont state NE zip code 68025

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Charles T. Durkee House
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

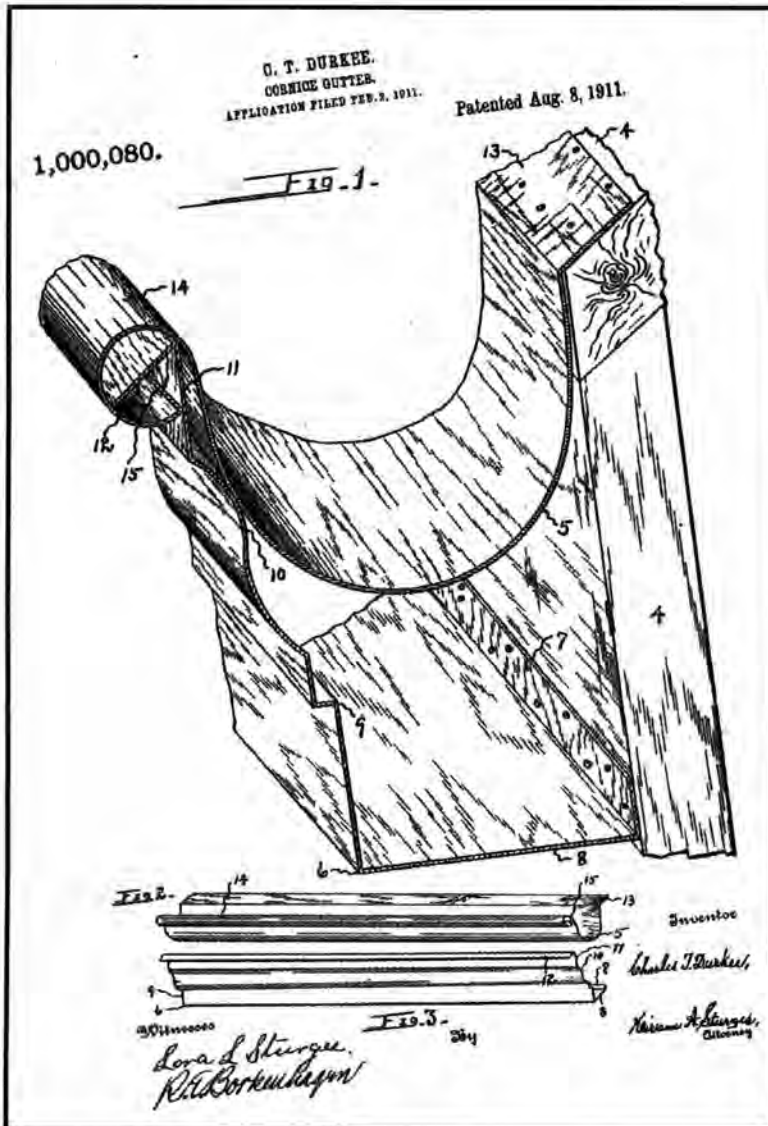



Figure 1. Patent Drawing of Charles T. Durkee's "Improvements to Cornice Gutters," 1911.

Figure 2. Advertisement for Durkee's Patented Cornice Gutter System, *Globe Cornice Works Price List*, Sept. 1915

Charles T. Durkee House
Name of Property

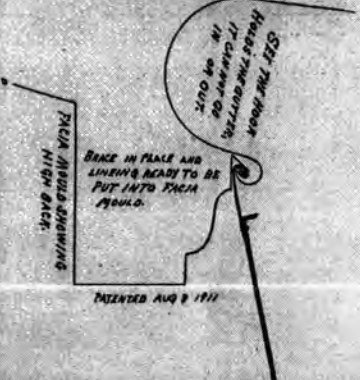
Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State

EAVE TROUGHS—Lap or Slip Joint



Size	4 in.	4½ in.	5 in.
Lap Joint	\$3.04	\$3.42	\$3.61
Slip Joint	3.23	3.61	3.86

Do YOU Want the Best?
If so, insist on the
—PERFECT—
Secret Gutter and
Facia Mould



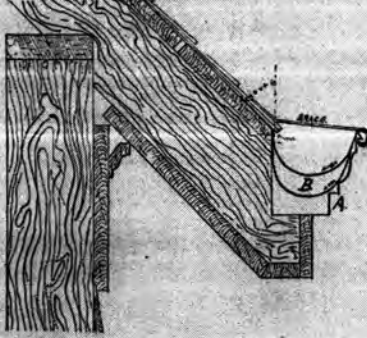
SEE THE BOOK
HEAD THE CUTTING
IT OUT OF
IN AN OUT

BECAUSE IN PLACE AND
LINED UP READY TO BE
PUT INTO THEM
MOULD.

FACIA MOULD SHOWING
HIGH BACK.

PATENTED AUG 9 1911

PERFECT, NO. 3



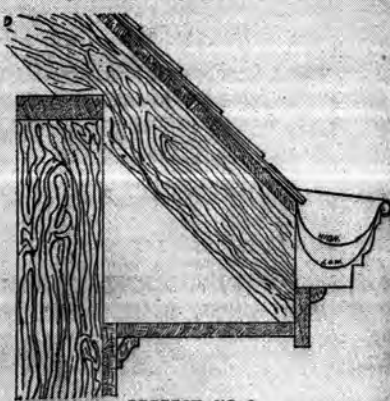
FACIA MOLD, A
MADE IN TEN FOOT LENGTHS OF COPPER OR
GALVANIZED IRON

SQUARE AND OCTAGON MITERS

GUTTER LINING, B
MADE IN TEN-FOOT LENGTHS OF COPPER, GAL-
VANIZED IRON TONGAN METAL OR
CHARCOAL TIN

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PERFECT, NO. 3



For
RESIDENCES AND PORCHES
IF YOU
USE ROUND BOTTOM
THERE IS NO DANGER OF SEAMS BREAKING
BY ICE OR CONTRACTION AND
EXPANSION

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR PRICES

Figures 3-5. Globe Cornice Works, c. 1905 (223 E. 4th Street, Fremont)



Charles T. Durkee House
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State

(Figures 6-7) Subfamily 1: 1 or 1 ½ Story, Hipped Roof



DD05:A-075 (Charles
T. Durkee Residence)

DD05:A-213

(Figures 8-10) Subfamily 2: 1 ½ Story, Eave Front



DD05:C-111



DD05:A-017



DD05:A-301

(Figures 11-12) Subfamily 3: 1 or 1½ Story, Gable Front



DD05:A-214

DD05:A-201

(Figures 13-14) Subfamily 4: 2 or 2½ Story, Gable Front

Charles T. Durkee House
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State



DD05:A-066

DD05:A-074
Goulding House

(Figures 15-16) Subfamily 5: Foursquare



DD05:A-212

DD05:D-031

(Figures 17-18) Subfamily 6: Pre-Bungalow



DD05:A-215

DD05:D-142

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Durkee, Charles T., House

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Dodge

DATE RECEIVED: 7/01/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/22/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/08/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/16/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000528

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8.10.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Charles T. Durkee House

1125 Broad Street

Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska

Photo 1 of 14

NetHSI #: DD05:A-075

NE-DodgeCounty-DurkeeHouse-0001



1125

Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 2 of 14

NEHRS1 #: DDO5-A-075

NEH Dodge County - Durkee House - 0002



Charles T. Durkee House

1125 Broad Street

Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska

photo 3 of 14

Ne HRS1 #2 DDOS-A-075

NE-Dodge County-Durkee House-0003



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Freemont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 4 of 14

Ne HRS1 #: DDOS:A-075

NE-DodgeCounty-DurkeeHouse-0004



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 5 of 14

NetHSI #: DD05:A-075

NE-Dodge County-DurkeeHouse-0005



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street

Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 6 of 14

NeHRSI #: DDOS:A-075

NE-DodgeCounty-DurkeeHouse-0006



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
photo 7 of 14

Ne 14281 #: DDOS:A-075

NE-Dodge County-Durkee House-0007



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 8 of 14

NEHRSI #: DDOS:A-075

NE-DodgeCounty-Durkeehouse-0000



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 9 of 14

NetHSI #: DD05:A-075

NE_DodgeCounty-DurkeeHouse-009



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 10 of 14

NEHRS1 #: DD05:A-075

NE Dodge County - Durkee House - 0010



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 11 of 14

Ne HRSI #: DD05:A-075

NE-Dodge County-Durkee House-0011



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 12 of 14

NEHRSI #: DD05:A-075

NE-DodgeCounty-DurkeeHouse-0012



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 13 of 14

NEHRSI #: DD052A-075

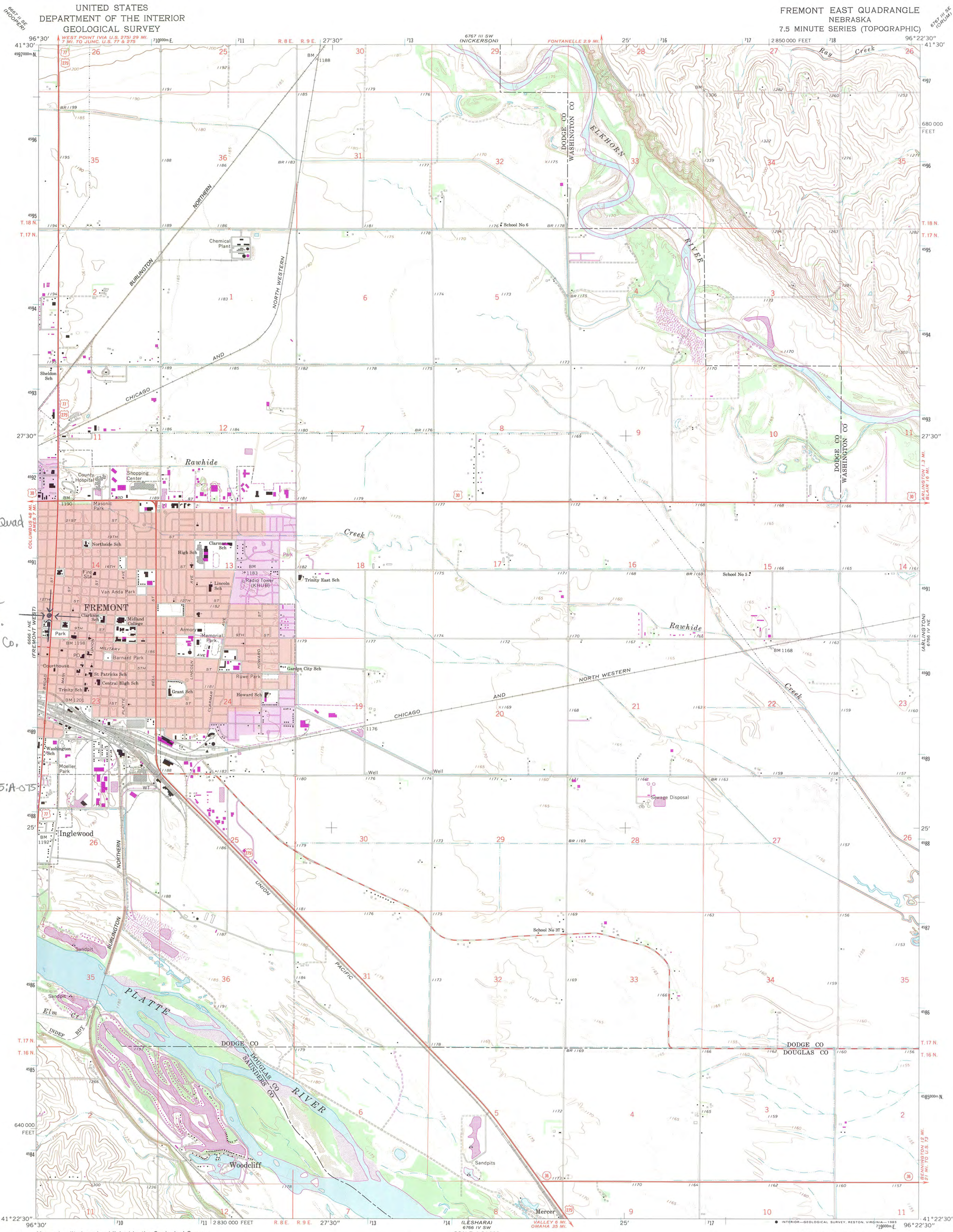
NE-DodgeCounty-DurkeeHouse-0013



Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad Street
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska
Photo 13 of 14

NetHSI #: DD05; A-075

NE-DodgeCounty-DurkeeHouse-0014



Fremont East Quad

Charles T. Durkee House
1125 Broad St.
Fremont, Dodge Co.

UTMs:
Zone 14
E 709024
N 4590423

NetRSI # DD05:A-05

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin

Control by USGS and USC&GS

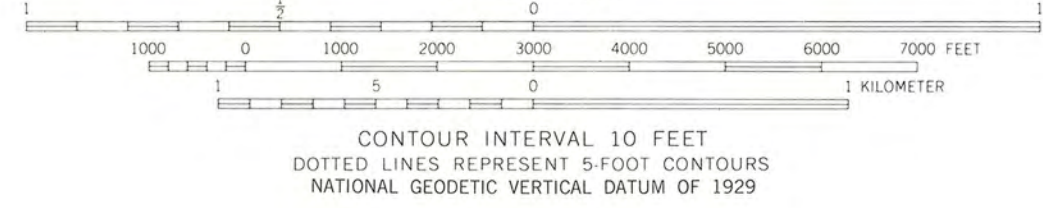
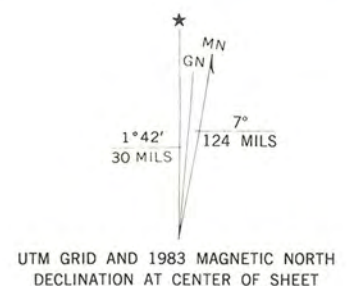
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 4 meters north and 25 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U.S. Route	State Route

FREMONT EAST, NEBR.
N4122.5—W9622.5/7.5

1968
PHOTOREVISED 1983
DMA 6766 IV NW—SERIES V875

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources

This information is not field checked. Map edited 1983

Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



June 27, 2011

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Charles T. Durkee House
Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bob Puschendorf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
p: (800) 833-6747
(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100
www.nebraskahistory.org