

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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received MAY 27 1982  
date entered

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

**1. Name**

historic Chauncey S. Taylor House

and/or common Richard Zeilinger House (BU05-12)

**2. Location**

street & number 715 Fourth Street N/A not for publication

city, town David City N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Nebraska code 31 county Butler code 023

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 David Wiebe

street & number 715 Fourth Street

city, town David City N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Butler County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town David City state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes  no

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Richard Zeilinger house is a two-story frame structure built in 1888 in an eclectic mixture of the Queen Anne and French Second Empire architectural styles, with emphasis given to a large, three-story corner tower.

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Situated on a tree-shaded corner lot in David City (1980 pop. 2492), the most prominent feature of the house is a colossal three-story square corner tower capped with a mansard roof. The tower roof is covered with fish-scale shingles, penetrated by hooded dormer windows, and topped with iron cresting. The roof line on the remainder of the house is irregular, made up of a number of gables. Decorative ridgecapping adorns the roof which is covered with wooden shingles.

A one story bay window topped with iron cresting projects from the south facade of the house. An Eastlake porch with an ornamented gablet shelters the front entrance to the house, while a wrap-around porch is located at the southwest corner of the structure (see photo #3).

The interior floor plan of the house is basically a four over four room plan with a rear kitchen wing. The front stairhall features a colored-glass window and a tastefully designed stairrail (see photo #5). Two fireplaces with decorative, mirrored mantels also enhance the decor of the house (see photo #6). A built-in cupboard and a window seat constructed in the bay are decorative features in the dining room.

The Zeilinger house is being restored by the owner who cut 1800 new fish scale shingles to replace the deteriorated ones on the tower roof.

The setting has been altered by the workshop recently constructed behind the house by the owner who is self-employed. This workshop was designed with the owner's specific needs in mind (i.e. the large south windows), yet care was taken to make the structure compatible with the house.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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** 1888                      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Zeilinger House is significant for its 60 year association with the Zeilinger family. The Zeilingers were founders of a successful hardware business created in 1892 and still operating at present. Architecturally, the house is a unique example of Victorian building style in that it is an eclectic composite of the Queen Anne and French Second Empire styles and features an unusually large corner tower.

The Zeilinger house was built in 1888 for Chauncey S. Taylor a local jeweler. Local tradition states that Taylor, who came to David City from Vermont via Iowa, had brought with him an "18 inch square" model of a former home which could be taken apart. The carpenter, then, could follow the miniature in detail. Taylor sold the house in 1903 to John Zeilinger, father of the two sons who founded a commercially successful hardware business. One son Richard W. bought the house from his father in 1921 and continued to live there until his death in 1967.

Zeilinger Hardware was founded in 1892 by John F. and Richard W. Zeilinger. In 1887, John F. had started working for hardware store owner W. G. Boston. The Zeilingers purchased and expanded the Boston store in 1892 and after 90 years the business is still operating in the original Boston Hardware location. The store originally carried hardware, stoves, wagons, oxen yokes, guns etc. and this diversity made it a prominent trading center in this rural community and the surrounding Butler County area. Richard W.'s son Richard C. was associated with the business from 1933 until his death in 1964 and in 1966, Richard C.'s widow Lucile sold the business to a non-family member. It is still operating under the Zeilinger name and has become quite an institution in the area.

Architecturally, the house is a landmark in David City. It's prominent three story corner tower is unlike any other known in Nebraska. The unusual, but pleasing proportions of the body of the house and the tower make the structure a rather unique eclectic mixture of the Queen Anne and Second Empire styles.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name David City, West, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	4	6	5	5	6	5	0	4	5	6	8	6	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is located on lots 8 and 9, Block 5, Original Town of David City, including all of the historic real estate associated with the property.

### 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 Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date March, 1982

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-3270 or 471-3850

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Merrill O'Knecht date 5/13/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<u>Delores Byers</u>	date <u>6/25/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Banner Press, newspaper, David City, Nebraska, November 20, 1919,  
April 30, 1964, April 20, October 26, 1967.

Butler County, Nebraska census records, 1880, 1885, 1900.

Butler County, Nebraska land records.

David City Centennial 1873-1973, David City Centennial Corporation, 1973.