

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lloyd, Harold, Birthplace

other names/site number NeHBS #PW02-036

2. Location

street & number NWC Pawnee & 4th Streets not for publication [N/A]

city or town Burchard vicinity [N/A]

state Nebraska code NE county Pawnee code 133 zip code 68323

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lambert Sommer
Signature of certifying official

November 1, 1993
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Linda McClelland

12/22/93

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Lloyd, Harold, Birthplace
Name of Property

Pawnee County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	3	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant: Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
walls Asphalt
Wood
roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Lloyd, Harold, Birthplace
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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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment: Silent Film Era

Period of Significance

1893-1897

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Lloyd, Harold Clayton

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Lloyd, Harold, Birthplace
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one.

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	725820	4447520	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lonnie Dickson, John Kay
organization Save America's Heritage date August, 1993
street & number 2714 Rathbone Road telephone (402) 483-0418
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68502

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Don McCormick
street & number P.O. Box 235 telephone (414) 763-6223
city or town Burlington state WI zip code 53105

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Harold Lloyd Birthplace
Name of Property
Pawnee County, Nebraska
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Description

The Harold Lloyd Birthplace is located in Burchard, a small Pawnee County town in southeastern Nebraska. The one-story, frame vernacular style house is the birthplace of Harold Lloyd, a nationally known silent film star and producer. Lloyd was born in the house in 1893 and lived there until his family moved in 1897. The nominated property contains one contributing building, the house, and three non-contributing frame buildings: a shed, a privy, and a garage. The outbuildings are similar to the house in terms of scale and materials but due to lack of confirmed dates of construction, they are considered non-contributing. Although currently vacant, the house exhibits good historic integrity.

The Harold Lloyd Birthplace is located in Burchard, a small town (1990 population: 105) in southeastern Nebraska. The one-story vernacular style house with a limestone foundation is located on a lot at the northwest corner of 4th and Pawnee streets, approximately two blocks from Burchard's downtown. The house is significant as the birthplace and best remaining building in Nebraska associated with silent film star and producer Harold Lloyd.

The house is oriented to the front of the lot which gradually slopes up hill westward toward the rear of the lot. The one-story frame house has been covered with asphalt siding. A rectangular shaped house with a rear kitchen wing, the main, or east facade of the house retains its historic appearance, and features a front porch with four, square columns and an intact balustrade. The rear kitchen wing has had additions that have enclosed it in a u-shaped fashion (see figures #1 & #2). Two, or possibly three rooms were added to the north facade of the kitchen wing as well as a room to the rear, or west facade at an unknown date. The rear porch was expanded to the west and enclosed. A basement, or cellar/pantry is located under the main portion of the house and the entrance is located in the porch.

The lot on which the house is located has several trees at the north and south edges and a curved retaining wall at the rear of the house provided space for a garden or flower bed. The lot also contains three non-contributing frame outbuildings: a narrow gable roof shed, a frame privy, and a small frame garage. Located between the house and the shed, the garage is believed to have been constructed c1920. Since exact construction dates for the three outbuildings cannot be precisely determined, they are non-contributing.

The house has been unoccupied for several years and the windows have been temporarily sealed to halt deterioration from the elements or vandalism. The current owner of the property and the Harold Lloyd Foundation have been raising money to preserve the house and have developed a restoration plan through consultations with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NESHPO). The restoration plan calls for the removal of the asphalt siding to better determine the historic configuration of the house. The Harold Lloyd Foundation, their consultants, and the NESHPO will then be able to better determine which, if any, of the additions to the core of the house should be removed to restore it to its period of significance associated with Harold Lloyd.

Statement of Significance

The Harold Lloyd Birthplace in Burchard, Pawnee County Nebraska, is significant on the state-level under Criterion B in the area of entertainment for its association with nationally known silent film star and producer Harold Lloyd. The house is significant as the birthplace and best remaining building associated with the Nebraska childhood and adolescence of Harold Lloyd, and as such meets National Register Criteria Consideration "C". Although Lloyd only lived in this house until the age of four, as a child and an adult he

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Statement of Significance (continued)

returned to Burchard to visit relatives. The period of significance, 1893-1897, encompasses the year of Harold's birth, 1893, through 1897, the last year the Lloyd family lived in the house.

Harold Clayton Lloyd was born April 20, 1893 in the frame house in Burchard, Nebraska. His parents were Sara Elizabeth Fraser, originally from Illinois, and James Darsie Lloyd. He had one brother, Gaylord, who was five years older. The Lloyd family had originally moved from Pennsylvania to southeastern Nebraska in the late 1880's when Harold's grandfather opened a general store in Burchard. Sara Fraser came from Toulon, Illinois to visit relatives in Nebraska, and while in Burchard, met and married James D. Lloyd. The Burchard house, constructed in 1883, was purchased by James and Sara Lloyd in March, 1890.

James and Sara expanded their family with the birth of Harold while living in their Burchard home. James D. Lloyd was what some people might call a dreamer. It was this trait that led him from one occupation to another, from a door-to-door Singer Sewing Machine salesman to managing shoe and hardware stores. The Lloyd family left Burchard in April of 1897 when James' latest venture was opening a photographic studio in Humboldt, Nebraska.

This scenario was repeated many times during the next 15 years of Harold Lloyd's life, leading the family through five communities in Nebraska and three in Colorado, many of them two and three separate times in varying order. In fact, in later years, members of the Lloyd family couldn't agree on the exact chronology and places of residence for their many moves (Harold Lloyd, An American Comedy, 1928, p.1). Perhaps this unstable home life was what eventually led to the divorce of James and Sara in 1910 while the family lived in Colorado.

The concept of a "hometown" is something that evaded Harold Lloyd in later life, and one that had no meaning to a youngster moving from town to town. Although Harold's family lived in four other Nebraska communities: Pawnee City, Humboldt, Beatrice, and Omaha, their residence in these other towns was usually a few months or less. In some of these towns the Lloyds stayed with various relatives or rented, making it difficult if not impossible, to substantiate their residency. The Harold Lloyd birthplace, therefore, is the best remaining house that is substantially associated with Lloyd's childhood and adolescence in Nebraska.

Throughout Harold's life he had fond memories of his childhood adventures, most of which were about his interactions with other children. Ironically, in several biographies, his 1928 autobiography, and in many newspaper accounts, there is an absence of family memories beyond the few that related to Harold and his mother's efforts to make extra money. Harold's passion as a child was the theater and later, movies. Lloyd was quoted as stating, "I was possessed from my earliest youth with a definite, violent desire to act that in no wise [sic] conformed with the rest of my character." (Tom Dardis, Harold Lloyd: The Man on the Clock, 1983, p. 8) He was encouraged from the beginning in this love by his mother, who had always wanted to be an actress. She was known to drive for miles through a snowstorm to see a vaudeville troop perform. Mrs. Lloyd read Shakespeare for amusement and to Harold, who later recalled falling asleep in her lap while listening to "Romeo and Juliet" (Dardis, 1983, pp. 8-9).

Due to the frequent moves and the family's financial situation, Harold learned to be resourceful and industrious at a young age. To earn money he watered animals in a circus, pretended to be hypnotized in a sideshow, and was a driver's helper on a milk wagon. Lloyd also worked as a soda jerk and started his own business selling popcorn. He fostered his connection to the theater by working as an usher, call boy, and stage hand when various travelling companies came to the town he happened to be living in. Harold seized every

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Statement of Significance (continued)

acting opportunity he could, ranging from bit parts in community play houses to the lead role in high school plays.

While a high school senior in California, Harold got a bit part as an extra in a movie being filmed in San Diego by the Edison Film Company. He followed the company back to Los Angeles and continued to work as an extra in 1913. During this time he became friends with another extra by the name of Hal Roach. The following year Roach inherited some money and went into business making his own comedy movies and cast Harold as the lead in many of them.

Harold Lloyd developed several characters, but it was the "Glasses Character" that secured his future. By 1917, the weekly one-reelers of featuring this character were so popular that Roach was forced to pay Lloyd a percentage of the producer's royalties to prevent other movie producers from hiring him. Before venturing into feature films in 1921, Lloyd and Roach had made approximately 160 one-reelers, 10 two-reelers, and several three-reelers (Adam Reilly, Harold Lloyd, 1977, pp. 3-4).

Lloyd's highly successful feature length films followed each other in quick succession in the 1920's. Some of the most famous of these silent comedy films were "Grandma's Boy (1922), "Safety Last" (1923), and "The Freshman" (1925). Harold Lloyd continued to be successful in film even with the advent of "talking pictures." During the 1930's and '40's, however, these movies were not as profitable as his silent film classics, and by the mid-40's, Lloyd retired.

Harold and his wife Mildred visited southeastern Nebraska in 1949, while he was attending a Shriners' convention in Lincoln as the Imperil Potentate of the Mystic Shrine. They visited Harold's relatives in Pawnee City, Beatrice, and Burchard. He related boyhood memories of events with respect to each town, but it was in Burchard that he stated, "Over there [pointing to an empty lot], was the Wonderland Theater, where I had my first acting experience. My brother was helping put the sets up and told me they needed a boy to cry so I went and bawled on stage," (Tecumseh Chieftan, 10/18/79). In his autobiography An American Comedy, Harold recalled returning to Burchard after his family had moved away, to visit his paternal grandmother (Lloyd, 1928, p.18).

Harold Lloyd's relatives owned and operated businesses in Burchard, such as W.T. Lloyd's Jewelry Store, the Lloyd Restaurant, and the Dort and Lloyd Hardware/Cash Store (The Burchard News, 7/10/1885; 8/11/1885; 9/25/1886). Several other family members owned the house Harold was born in, as well as an adjacent house (no longer extant). In the 1886 Nebraska Gazetteer, and the 1900 census, several Lloyds were listed as farmers living in or near Burchard.

Although the exact relationships between Harold Lloyd and the members of his extended family need to be further substantiated, his family ties to Burchard repeatedly brought him back to the town. The Burchard house was also Lloyd's most permanent address while he was growing up. The Harold Lloyd House, therefore, is significant as the birthplace and best remaining building associated with the Nebraska childhood and adolescence of silent film star and producer Harold Lloyd.

In honor of the centennial of Harold Lloyd's birth, a benefit was held in Burchard and Lincoln in April, 1993. Events during the four day celebration ranged from a showing of "Safety Last" to the unveiling of the restoration plans for the birthplace. The Harold Lloyd Foundation sponsored the event to honor Lloyd's role in the development of the movie industry and to raise money for the restoration and a proposed silent film museum. Plans include returning the house, as near as possible, to its appearance at the time when Harold Lloyd lived there with his family.

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Name of Property
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Bibliography

- Dardis, Tom Harold Lloyd, The Man on the Clock. New York: The Viking Press, 1983.
- Lloyd, Harold and Stout, Wesley W. An American Comedy. New York: Benjamin Blom, Inc., 1928.
- Lloyd, Harold. "Boyhood Days in Nebraska." Omaha World-Herald Sunday Magazine, 10/27/1929, p. 5.
- McCaffrey, Donald W. Three Classic Silent Screen Comedies Starring Harold Lloyd. London, England: Associated University Presses, 1962 & 1976.
- Pratt, George C. "Mind Over Matter: Harold Lloyd Reminisces," Interview with Harold Lloyd by George C. Pratt. File, Nebraska State Historical Society Archives, Lincoln, NE.
- Reilly, Adam. Harold Lloyd The King of Daredevil Comedy. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1977.
- Schickel, Richard. Harold Lloyd: The Shape of Laughter. Boston: New York Graphic Society, 1974.
- Timberg, Buddy. "The Nebraska Roots of Harold Lloyd," unpublished term paper, Film Theory, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1980.

Newspapers

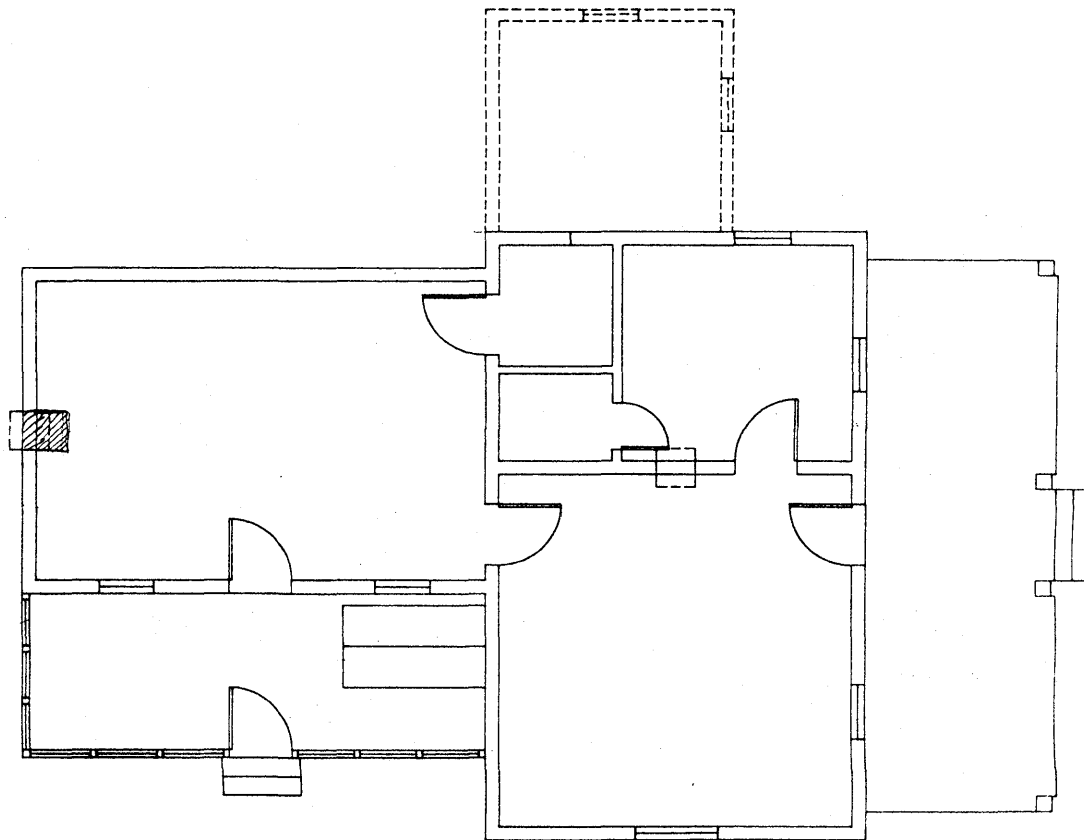
- "A Movie Baron From Nebraska," Sunday World-Herald Magazine, 9/18/49.
- "Stage and Screen," Omaha World-Herald, 7/4/54.
- "Acting Career, Shrine Days Recalled," Lincoln Evening Journal, 8/18/1967.
- "Famed Film Comic Harold Lloyd Dies," Lincoln Star, 3/9/71.
- "Comic Lloyd is Dead; He Started in Omaha," Omaha World-Herald, 3/9/71.
- "Just as Harold Lloyd Left It," Omaha World-Herald, 3/17/74.
- "Lloyd Made Them Laugh," Tecumseh Chieftan, 10/18/79.
- "Nebraskan Lloyd Ranks With Best," Sunday World-Herald Magazine of the Midlands, 7/27/80.
- "Burchard Proud as Birthplace of Harold Lloyd," Sunday World-Herald Magazine of the Midlands, 2/5/89.

Verbal Boundary Description

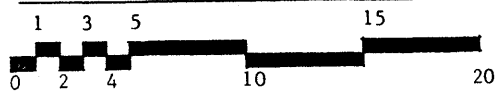
The property is described as all of Lot 3, Block 4, Original Town of Burchard, Pawnee County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains that parcel of land which has historically been associated with the property.



Probable Original Floor Plan

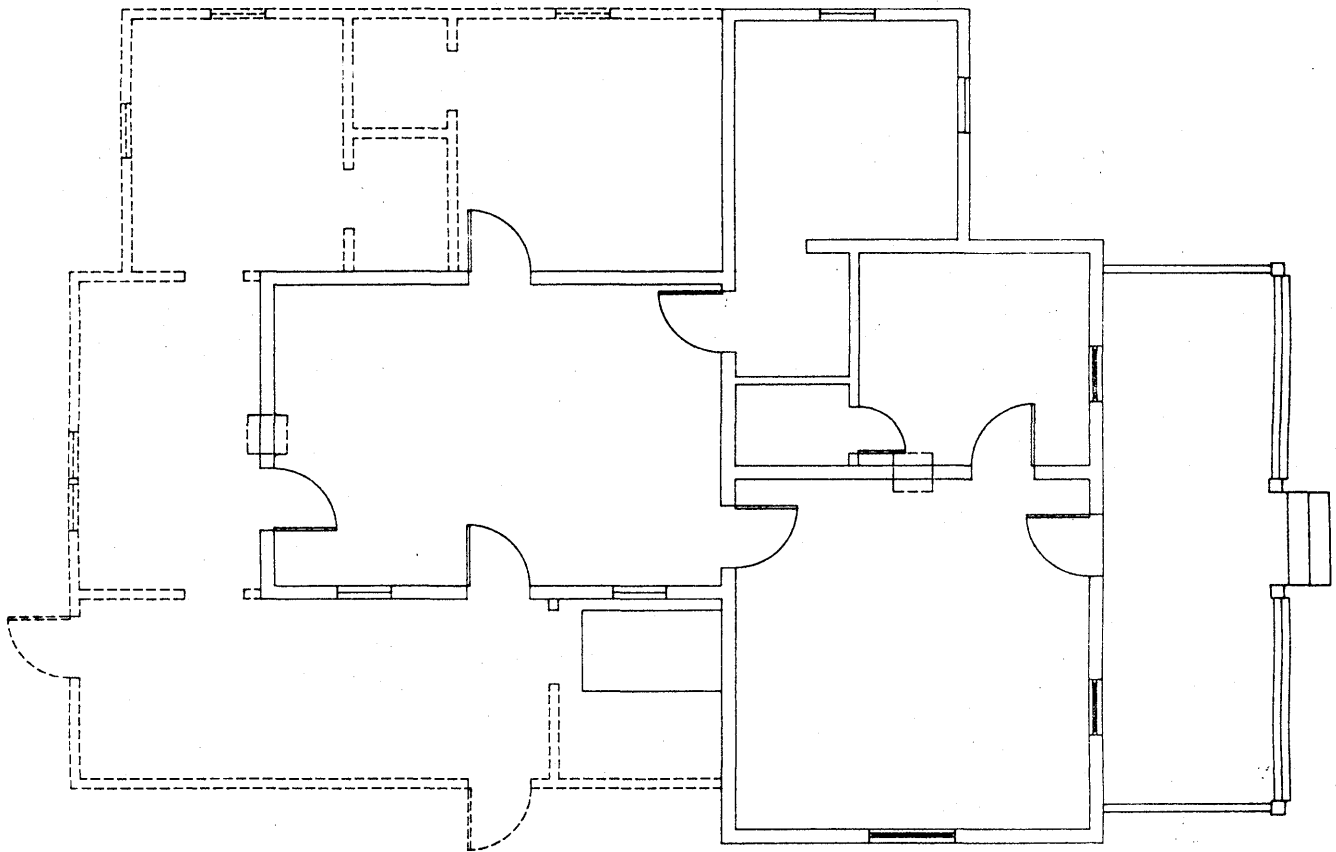


Harold Lloyd Birthplace

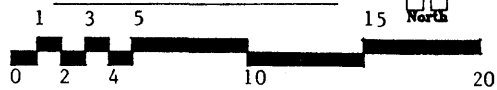
Burchard, Pawnee County, Nebraska

FIGURE #1

Drawing By: Ross Greathouse



Existing Floor Plan



Harold Lloyd Birthplace

Burchard, Pawnee County, Nebraska

FIGURE #2

Drawing By: Ross Greathouse