

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 23 1980  
DATE ENTERED MAR 11 1980

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

Frank J. Rademacher House

(SA01-3)

AND/OR COMMON

Paul Kersenbrock House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1424 Grove St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Crete

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Nebraska

31

Saline

151

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kersenbrock

STREET & NUMBER

1424 Grove

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Crete

VICINITY OF

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Saline County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Wilber

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Frank J. Rademacher house is situated on a gently sloping hill in east Crete (1970 pop. 4,444). Originally the property consisted of an entire city block (see copy of period photograph, photo #10) which provided space for Rademacher's "hearse barn", a building no longer extant. The house and surrounding grounds now occupy three residential lots which still allows an environment that does not deter from the historical integrity of the house.

The Rademacher house is a two and one half story brick structure with limestone foundation and stone trim. Constructed in 1894, the building exemplifies a simple version of the Queen Anne style of architecture. In keeping with the Queen Anne mode, this house has two, two story bay windows. The west (or front) bay is a unique curvilinear shape with ornamental brick work framing the first story windows. The house features a full, two story frontal porch with turned balustrades. A smaller, one story porch projects from the south side of the house allowing direct entry to the back parlor. On the third level, solid paneled balustrades extend above the cornice line under the west and south gables. An interesting detail on the north facade is the arched dining room window which features a small leaded glass pane under the crown of the arch. Leaded glass transom windows adorn all windows in the frontal bay, while colored glass windows enhance the decor of the main stair hall (see photos #6 & 7).

The interior of the house is in near original condition. The majority of the woodwork is of a simple classical design, with the most ornate interior features being the main stairway bannister and paneling and the mantles of the two parlor stoves. These coal burning stoves (see photo #8) are in working condition. Both mantles are very similar to each other with colored tile surrounding the firebox which has an ornate pressed metal frame and cover.

The dining room has a built-in cupboard (see photo 9) complete with drawers to house linen and flatware and glass-enclosed shelves for dishes. Next to this cupboard, mounted on the wall, is an enunciator or call bell which summoned the maid to four different areas of the house.

The first story of the house contains five rooms plus the entry hall and the second floor features six rooms including an original bathroom and maid's room. The attic consists of two finished rooms. There is a partial basement under the house.

The house was purchased from the Rademacher estate in 1972 by the Paul Kersenbrock family who are in the process of restoring the home.

## 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT      James Tyler

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Frank Joseph Rademacher, (1845-1926) a German emigrant, came to America in 1868 and settled in the then unplatted village of Crete in 1870. Rademacher was significant in the early settlement of Saline and surrounding counties. He was a staunch Catholic and an organizer of the St. James Parish in Crete. He influenced many German Catholic settlers to come to this fledgling community and in order to provide a more stable environment, he allowed the parish to worship in his furniture store building until a church could be built. According to the daughter of one of Rademacher's contemporaries, Clara Muff Algermissen, he arrived in Crete with a wagon piled with furniture for sale in the style of an itinerant peddler. In May 1874, Rademacher married Mary Pavlik, a Bohemian native. The Pavliks were one of many Bohemian families who established residence in Saline County in the 1870's.

Frank J. Rademacher achieved phenomenal commercial success. He had apprenticed in Germany in cabinet making, draftsmanship and architectural drawing, and in his early career, built all of the inventory for his store and undertaking service. He opened his furniture establishment in Crete on July 12, 1870, one year before the town was officially platted. His business prospered rapidly, with customers coming from Saline and adjoining counties. He also provided a mail order service for settlers in western Nebraska. As the demand for fine furniture grew (ca. 1880), Rademacher began to purchase factory-made goods from quality companies in Omaha, Chicago and New York and at this time, expanded to include carpets. Before 1900 Rademacher had opened branch stores in Wilber and Friend, two other Saline County towns. By 1912, he and his sons had established a very large furniture outlet in York, Nebraska, a community 50 miles northwest of Crete.

As a highly respected leader of the Crete community, Rademacher served many civic and commercial organizations in administrative capacities. He was a director and vice president of the Crete Loan and Savings Company from its inception in 1902 until his death in 1926. He served as Vice President of the Crete Commercial Club, an organization founded in 1912 to encourage social and commercial advancement in the town. Rademacher served on the Crete School Board in the 1880's and, about 1886, he drew the architectural plans for the St. James Catholic School in Crete. Rademacher also was an organizer and a director of the Protective Fire Insurance Company of Seward, Nebraska (30 miles north of Crete). He was a charter member of the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association organized in 1885.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

ITEM NOT VERIFIED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle Name Crete, North

Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 673060 44991070  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                 
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property consists of lots 7-9 in block 115, original town of Crete.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

December, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

402/471-3270

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Marcus O'Connell

11/9/80

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

M.W. Ray Luce

DATE

3/11/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

William H. Bratman

DATE

4.80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET      Significance      ITEM NUMBER      8      PAGE      2

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Architecturally, the F. J. Rademacher house is a significant example of the later, simplified Queen Anne style. The house is significant as being built during a transitional period in Nebraska architecture when the flamboyant styles of 1880's and early 1890's were beginning to be replaced by the more simple, classical lines which typify eastern Nebraska architecture between 1900-1920.

Rademacher hired premier Lincoln architect James Tyler (see NRHP: Burr Block and William H. Tyler house, Lancaster County; Johnston-Muff house, Saline County) to design his house. Tyler (1848-1919), a native of Monmouthshire, England, studied stone cutting and stone carving in Great Britain and before coming to America in 1870, he assisted in the remodeling of Windsor Castle. Tyler gained prominence as an architect in southeastern Nebraska soon after his arrival with his unique and well-executed building designs.

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Saline County Union newspaper, Crete, January 19, 1882.

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