

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

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

For HCRS use only

received **NOV 12 1980**

date entered **DEC 10**

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

**1. Name**

historic J. D. McDonald House DD05-13d

and/or common Interiors by Joan

**2. Location**

street & number 310 East Military Ave. not for publication

city, town Fremont vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First

state Nebraska code 31 county Dodge code 053

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cloeter

street & number 1680 North "D"

city, town Fremont vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dodge County Courthouse

street & number 5th and Park Streets

city, town Fremont state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

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## 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 type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 J. D. McDonald house is a two-and-one-half story Queen Anne mansion with aspects of the Victorian Romanesque. The house is constructed of pressed brick, terra-cotta and stone, with shingled exterior wall surfaces, pseudo-dentilled cornice and a raised limestone foundation. The round turret stands atop the rounded, engaged staircase tower, with stair-stepped, arched stained glass windows reflecting the interior stair well. These windows have stone arched hoods. The frontal arched bay window has a stained glass fanlight with keystones. The house was altered about 1910 with an extension of the west bay and the addition of the open terrace along the southwest. The interior was also renovated at the same time with leaded French doors, some simplified woodwork, Art Nouveau stained glass, etc. Much of the original interior detail is still intact, however, including features such as the encaustic hall tiles, stained glass, second floor woodwork, fireplace mantles, and the unusual rounded staircase. The original Eastlake porches are no longer extant. The present canopy and wrought-iron porches were added about 1957.

The house served as a hospital from the early 1900's through the 1930's. During this period, the elevator shaft and one-story concrete block rear shed addition were constructed. Following the hospital years, the house became a funeral home, operated by three different proprietors until 1975 when Joan Cloeter purchased the house. The carport and garage stalls were added during the time the house served as a funeral home. Presently the house is used as an interior design studio ("Interiors by Joan") with first and second floors serving as office space and display areas. The third floor attic remains vacant.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1888

Builder/Architect M. A. Ecker (of Lincoln, Nebr.)

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The J. D. McDonald House is significant as an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture which was popular in the eastern half of Nebraska in the late 1880's and through the 1890's. While employing the usual variety in building materials and roof lines of Queen Anne architecture, this particular structure has a distinctive rounded and engaged tower set back from the southwest corner of the house. As a prominent railroad contractor and banker, J. D. McDonald played a significant role in the commercial development of Fremont and its transportation systems.

Joseph D. McDonald was born in Perth, Ontario, Canada, in the year 1846. At the age of 20, he came into the States and later located in central Illinois. In 1870, Mr. McDonald traveled to Iowa and homesteaded in Clay County. From 1878-82, Mr. McDonald was engaged in railroad work through Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. In the following years he continued to work on railroad contracts, moving to Nebraska in 1886. During that year, the firm of Miller and McDonald built the railroad line from Fremont to Lincoln, and part of the Scribner branch. In 1887, this firm was succeeded by Miller, McDonald and Company, which constructed the railroad from the Platte River bridge south of Fremont to Geneva, Nebraska. This firm was then succeeded, in 1888, by McDonald and Penfield, the firm responsible for constructing a number of railroad lines in Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado.

Mr. McDonald organized the Fremont Manufacturing Company and established a plaster-of-paris mill at Sturgis in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He was associated with the Commercial National Bank as stockholder and was a Director of the Fremont National Bank.

In 1896, J. D. McDonald committed suicide in his Fremont home. According to newspaper accounts of that time, failure in business ventures was assigned as the probable cause of Mr. McDonald's actions.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fremont East, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	4	7	0	9	3	6	5	4	5	8	9	9	5	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

Property located on lot 5, block 115, Original Town

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 Joni Gilkerson, Survey Associate

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date October, 1980

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  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 Mervyn W. Knott 10/27/80

title Director, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bruce Van Praeger</u>	date <u>12/10/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

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"A Tragic Ending," Fremont Tribune, November 7, 1896, p. 5.

"Blumenthal Home Sold," Fremont Daily Herald, May 27, 1906, p. 1.

"Castle on Military Avenue," Fremont Tribune, May 6, 1978, p. 6.

Scoville, C. H., History of Elkhorn Valley, Chicago, Omaha: National Publishing Co., 1892. pp. 87, 100, 719-720.

"Takes His Own Life," Fremont Weekly Herald, November 6, 1896, p. 4.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, Mass.: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.