UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Nebraska	
COUNTY:	
Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
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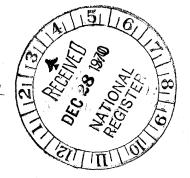
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COMMON:							31 14 (3				
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Lewi	is-Syford Hou	ıse			1	RECEIVE 1979 DEC 28 1979	E	7		
LOCATION							1440- 130	. 2	1		
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CITY OR TOWN:	Line	coln				``	11/01/16				
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CATEGORY (Check One)	*	,	ÖWNEF	RSHIP			STATUS	1	CESSIBLE HE PUBL	- 1	
☐ District X Build ☐ Site ☐ Struc ☐ Object		☐ Public ☑ Private ☐ Both		Acquisit In Pro Being		1	 ∑ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress 	X R	es: estricted Inrestricted	d	i [
PRESENT USE (Check O	ne or M	ore as Appropriate)	L								
☐ Agricultural☐ Commercial	_	overnment] Park] Priv	: ate Reside	ence		Transportation Other (Specify)	□ C∘	mments		
Educational	☐ Mi	litary] Reli	gious						_	
Entertainment	☐ Mu	seum] Scie	ntific							
OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME:											<u> </u>
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REPRESENTATION IN	EXIST	ING SURVEYS								s	m
DATE OF SURVEY:	Octo	ober 1970		on in N Federal	lebrask □ _X sı		reliminary Pla	an D Loca	1]	31.0	TRY N
DEPOSITORY FOR SURV		cords: raska State H	listo	rical	Societ	у				00	R NPS USE
STREET AND NUMBER:	1500	D "R" Street								/	SE ONLY
CITY OR TOWN:	Line	coln			STAT	ΓE;	Nebraska		31	1/4	

			(Check One)			
CONDITION	☐ Excellent ☐	Good 🛛 Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
	(0	Check One)		(Check One)		
	☐ Altered		4	☐ Moved	▼ Original Site	

Facing west, this dwelling was erected ca. 1878 as a modest, story and a half frame structure with a partial basement and central fireplace. The roof is a somewhat low, shingled, mansard with dormer windows, decorative eave brackets, and a continuous curb around the top of the visible slopes. A continuous line of ornamental, cast-iron cresting crowns the roof. The facade is faced with clapboards and includes a veranda adjoining the main entrance on the west, and a porch at the side entrance on the north, both supported with square, wooden columns. Sevenly designed, high, rectangular windows predominate the main floor elevations. A small, barn-like, frame structure with a modified gable roof and vertical board-and-batten siding is located to the rear (or east) of the house, purportedly built at the same time as the main structure, ca. 1878. This out-building originally served as a carriage house and stable. Over the years a concrete floor slab and wider entrance doors were added to accomodate automobiles.

The building was designed in the French Second Empire style, as revealed by the mansard roof, iron cresting, dormer windows, and the general three-dimensional effect in the overall design.

The Syford family owned and occupied the house as a private residence from ca. 1904 to May 1965. Very few alterations, interior or exterior, have been made over the years, other than those additions reflecting changing technology, such as electric lights and heating and water pipes. The dwelling and the carriage house are well preserved and located in the W_2 of the J and K subdivisions of lot 1 in S.W. Little's Subdivision of the W_2 of the SW4 of Section 24, Township 10 North and Range 6 East.



ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) Ca.18	78	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropris	ite)	714. 3 C
Abor iginal	☐ Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
	Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

The Syford House is well worth preserving for architectural as well as historical reasons. Although modest in scale, the structure reveals fine proportions and stands as Lincoln's best example (and one of Nebraska's last remaining examples) of the French Second Empire style of architecture, popular during Lincoln's early years. This style, popular in America beginning about 1865, was based on a mid-nineteenth century French revival of the French Renaissance architecture of the seventeenth century. The Syford House style handsomely illustrates two of the most distinguishing features of the American version of the Second Empire style: elaborate cast-iron cresting and the mansard roof. The Syford House is especially worthy of preservation because both interior and exterior has been altered very little over the years.

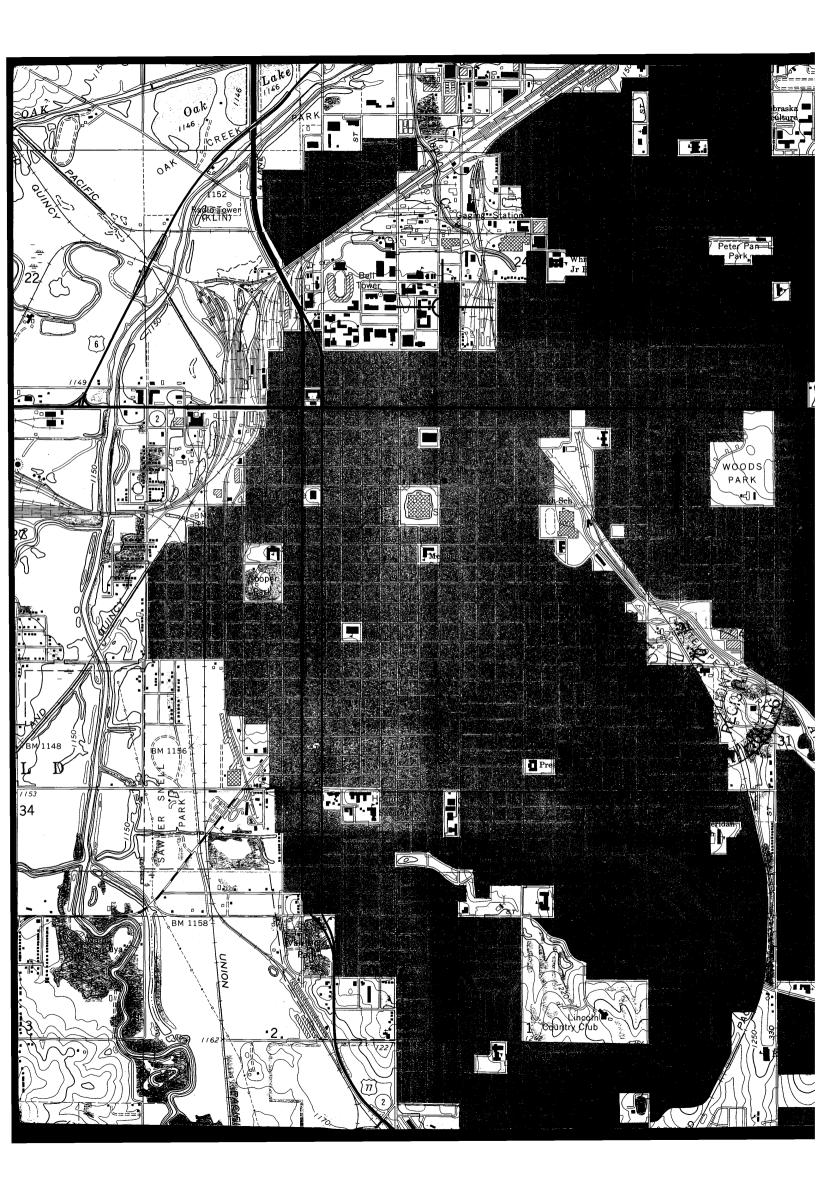
Our research to date has not allowed us to pinpoint precisely when the Syford House was begun and finished. However, 1878 would seem to be the most likely year in which the house was built, and it appears certain the house was erected sometime between 1877 and 1880 for the Rev. Elisha M. Lewis, a "home missionary" of the Presbyterian Church.

Recent years have seen the destruction of virtually all early building on the University of Nebraska main campus. The Syford House, now near the center of the campus, is the oldest remaining landmark on the University campus, and in spite of all the flurry of change, the Syford house still stands linking the past to the present.

The house, owned and occupied for nearly sixty years by the Syford family, became the property of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation upon the death of Constance Syford in May, 1965. At the present time only a limited amount of restoration has been possible, although future plans call for an intensified program of restoration and the possible future development of the house for public visitation.



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Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
Nebraska	
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