

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03001213

Property Name: Fritz, Lee and Gottliebe, House

County: Sheridan State: Nebraska

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Handwritten signature of the Keeper

November 28, 2003

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significance

Hereby, Criterion B is marked and Criterion A dropped as a qualifying criterion to correspond with the narrative statement of significance. Also, the name " Fritz Gottliebe" is entered under "Significant Person."

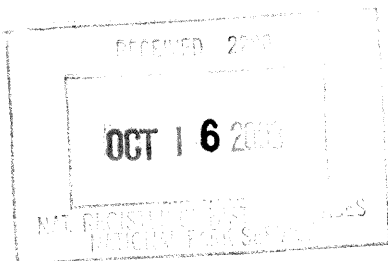
The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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 Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

Other names/site number SH05-11

2. Location

Street & number 132 North Oak

Not for publication

City or town Gordon

Vicinity

State Nebraska Code NE County Sheridan Code 161 Zip code 69343

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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

10/14/03
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): _____

[Signature]

11/28/03

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X Private
Public-local
Public-state
Public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- X Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 5 rows: Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, Total. Values: 2, 0, 0, 0, 2.

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC-Single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC-Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival-Dutch Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Concrete
Walls Frame
Roof Asphalt
Other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- X 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.
X 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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Exploration/settlement
Politics/government
Social history
Architecture

Period of Significance

1909

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Karl Tuchenhagen
Glenn Conklin

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 #

Primary location for additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

County and State

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. | 13 | 728597 | 4742665 | 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 Bill Callahan

organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date August 25, 2003

street & number 1500 R Street, Box 82554 telephone 402/471-4788

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501-2554

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/title George and Lorri Meng

street & number 132 North Oak telephone 308-282-2716

city or town Gordon state NE zip code 69343

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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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Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

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Description

The Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House (Fritz House) is located at 132 North Oak Street, Gordon (2000 Pop. 1756) , Sheridan County in Nebraska's Panhandle. Gordon is located fifteen miles south of South Dakota and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation borders and is a commercial and residential center for the region. The county seat, Rushville (2000 Pop. 999), is located approximately sixteen miles west and the state capitol, Lincoln, is located approximately 380 miles southeast of Gordon.

Sheridan County's landscape, environment and demographics are loosely divided into northern and southern sections by the east-west flowing Niobrara River. In Sheridan County, roughly, the Plains region of the north and east and the Pine Ridge region of the north and west contrast with the Sand Hills of the south. North of the Niobrara, farming is the primary economic activity, while the southern part of the county depends on ranching. A higher density of development in the northern Plains and Pine Ridge areas also contrasts with the smaller population of the Sand Hills. Gordon is the largest community in Sheridan County and is located in the Plains section of the northeast corner of the county.¹

The Fritz House is located one block west of the downtown central business district of Gordon. The Fritz House is a two-story wood-frame Dutch Colonial Revival residence constructed in 1909. The Fritz House has an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof, narrow wood lap siding and a cast concrete block foundation.

The primary gambrel-end of the House faces east, towards the downtown. The west gambrel faces the contributing garage. Both second-floor gambrels sport bracketed eaves at the roof line and fish-scale shingles. A pair of centrally-located double-hung wood windows penetrate the walls of both gambrels. The west façade windows are standard 1/1, double-hung, but the east windows contain decorative colored-glass panels and a bulls-eye pattern in the upper sash. The fish-scale shingles form a vertical diamond pattern bracketing the windows. Dormers, one each on the north and south sides, are located approximately two-thirds of the way towards the west end of the roof. These dormers are sided in both lap and fish-scale siding, and the south dormer is home to a pair of double-hung wooden windows. The north dormer repeats the bulls-eye pattern and colored panes in the upper sash first noted on the second-floor east gambrel.

Both the east and west first-floor facades are dominated by nearly identical full-width porches. The west porch is adorned with spindle-work balusters in the rail and four ionic columns. A central entryway is flanked by two double-hung wood windows. An exterior basement entry is located on the north side of the porch. The entry doors into both the house proper and the basement are topped by transoms. The wood floor of the west porch is accessed by four wooden steps.

The east porch forgoes the spindle-work for a double X-patterned rail, and adds two ionic pilasters at the back of the porch attached to the house wall. The main entry to the Fritz House is located on the south side of this porch. The formal entry is flanked by side light windows and decorative trim. Two large picture-type windows are located in the center of this the main façade and on the north end of the porch. The wooden deck of the east porch is reached by five concrete steps. The foundation of the House (and the porches) is a decorative, cast concrete block.

The north façade of the Fritz house has two large wooden windows which open into the living room and dining room, as well as a smaller wood window on the west end which illuminates the kitchen. The north foundation wall opens into three

¹ Sheridan County Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Final Report. Lincoln, Nebraska: Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1998. P. 9.

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Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Nebraska

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basement windows as well as a disused steel coal chute door. The south foundation wall also has three basement windows. The south façade is punctured by four windows as well as a small window on the east end that provides light onto the interior staircase.

A contributing garage is located across the rear (west) yard of the Fritz House. This garage is known to pre-date the house, but its construction date is not known. Accessed by a concrete driveway north of the House, the garage is a one-and-one-half story gable-roofed wood frame structure, with the gable ends facing north and south. Obviously originally built as a carriage house and stable, the building now serves as a one-car garage, with the car stall located on the north half of the building. The remainder of the building, south stall and loft, are utilized as storage.

Entering through the east door, a visitor to the Fritz House is struck by two outstanding features: the amount of natural light the main living area of the House receives, and the magnificent, extant oak woodwork on all windows and doors. From the foyer, a visitor looks straight ahead west towards the main staircase and its beautiful turned balusters, carved newel post and graceful curved rail. The foyer and stairway are illuminated by a large window at the stairway base, and a smaller window lights up the landing seven steps up.

To the right of the foyer, looking north, a visitor looks into the main living area through a magnificent columned entry. The ionic columns appear to support a lovely oak door frame, and are based on coffered wood pedestals. The living room is brightly illuminated by the two large windows on the east (looking out on the porch) and one large northward facing window.

Facing west past the living room, a visitor looks into the dining room through an identical columned entry. The dining room also receives abundant natural light from the east porch windows and a second large north-facing window. Both the dining room and living room boast gorgeous oak flooring. Continuing on through the dining room west one enters the kitchen. From there a visitor may exit the house to the west porch, or turn right and descend to the full basement.

A bedroom and or sewing room is located directly south of the dining room, which receives its light from a large south-facing window. This room is sufficiently well-lit naturally that it is currently used as an artist's studio. A bathroom is located directly south of the kitchen and is accessible from the sewing room. A pantry/utility room is also located south of the kitchen and is has access to the bathroom.

Returning to the stairway, a visitor enters the upper floor northward. A hall/foyer opens into three bedrooms, one each on the west, north and east sides of the house. The foyer flooring material is hardwood. A bathroom is located on the southwest corner. Remarkably, what appears to be original wallpaper is visible in the upper stair hall/foyer. Indeed, throughout the house, many original light fixtures, switchplates and door and window hardware remain.

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Significance

The Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C. The Fritz House is a distinctive example of a significant type of construction in Gordon, Nebraska, namely the House is a Dutch Colonial Revival residence. Dutch Colonial Revival is an extremely rare architectural style in this part of Nebraska. Indeed, a 1998 Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office historic building survey of Sheridan County found no other National Register eligible Dutch Colonial Revival structures in this nearly 2,500 square mile county.² The Fritz House is virtually unchanged from the date of its construction, with the exception of modernization of mechanical systems, bathrooms and kitchen.

The Fritz House is also eligible at the local level under Criterion B as the residence of a leading Sheridan County citizen, Lee Fritz. The Fritz House is the only property associated with Lee Fritz. Fritz made a significant contribution to the development of Gordon, the politics of Sheridan County, and his life story embodies the characteristics of the Nebraska immigrant and pioneer experience at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Criterion B

Lee Fritz, born in 1864 of German immigrants in West Virginia, moved to Sheridan County from Iowa with his parents in the spring of 1885.³ Lee himself traveled to Valentine in September of that year to file a homestead claim of his own. In 1893, he married Gottliebe Ziegler. Gottliebe was born in Germany in 1872, but immigrated with her family when she was ten. Interestingly, the Traubs, with Gottliebe in tow, also settled in Sheridan County from Iowa, albeit in 1886, the year after the Fritz family arrived. Lee and Gottliebe married in Gordon in the home of her half-brother, W.G. Traub, then settled on the Lee Fritz homestead.

The 1880's and '90s were extremely difficult times for settlers who attempted to farm in the semi-arid lands in north-central Nebraska and the northern Panhandle. Hundreds of farmers failed throughout this period in the near desert conditions that prevailed in the region in the 1890's. Indeed, two of Lee Fritz's brothers who were also attempting to farm quit and moved back to Iowa. The difficulty of farming was so great in this, one of the last settled areas in the continental United States, that in 1904 Congress passed the Kinkaid Act. Kinkaid increased homestead size in this part of Nebraska from 160 acres to a whopping 640 acres. Still, it was said that before the Kinkaid Act a farmer couldn't even starve his family properly, but that after Kinkaid, they could starve quite properly.

Lee Fritz, however, was a successful exception to the rule. Typically of those farmers who did succeed, Fritz purchased considerable land after less fortunate homesteaders abandoned the effort. While engaged in farming, Lee and Gottliebe had and three daughters. Lee Fritz was sufficiently successful in his agricultural endeavors that in 1903 he was recruited by the Republican Party to run for the office of county treasurer.

Mr. Fritz won his election, necessitating sale of the farm and a move into town, the county seat, Rushville. Lee Fritz did quite well as Treasurer. Fritz immediately discovered that a large number of residents in Sheridan County were not current in their county taxes. He successfully collected large numbers of delinquent real estate and personal taxes; so

² Ibid, Pp. 89-90.

³ Unless otherwise noted, all information regarding the Fritz and Traub families from: Recollections of Sheridan County. Rushville, Nebraska: Sheridan County Historical Society, 1976. Pp.295-298. Fritz family compilation submitted by Ms. Anna K. Fritz

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Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

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much so that by all accounts Fritz was largely responsible for the county's ability to build a fine courthouse (NRHP 1990) without debt.

Lee Fritz was elected to two two-year terms as county treasurer, the maximum allowable. In 1908, after his second term expired, Lee and Gottliebe Fritz made a second life-altering decision: not return to farming but to move into Gordon. According to family tradition, the Fritz's believed a town life was a much more acceptable lifestyle for raising four girls than that of farm life. Deed records indicate that Lee bought Lot 2 in Gordon from Gottliebe's half-brother, W.G. Traub. Traub purchased Lots 2 and 3 in 1908. The written record is somewhat unclear at this point, because, according to the record, Lee did not purchase Lot 2 from W.G. until 1914. The disparity in purchase price from two lots in 1908 to one lot in 1914, (\$1900-\$5000) makes it clear that substantial improvement had been made to the lot when Fritz's purchase of it was recorded. However, all evidence shows that Lee and Gottliebe built the house at 132 Oak on Lot 2 in 1909, and were the original occupants. What is not clear is what type of "deal" Lee Fritz and W.G. Traub worked between 1908 (when the Fritz's moved to Gordon) and 1914, when an obviously improved Lot 2 (AKA 132 Oak Street) was purchased by Lee from W.G.⁴

In Gordon, Lee Fritz, first generation son of immigrants, ex-farmer, ex-politician, now turned his hand to commerce. Fritz purchased interest in the Gordon State Bank, and served as cashier for a time. He then sold his interest and, with a partner, purchased the Louis Schmitt general store. The store was quite prosperous, and late in 1909 Lee's brother Jake Fritz bought out Lee's partner and they ran the store together until Jake's death in 1937. The general store remained in business and in the family (operated in the end by three of Lee and Gottliebe's four daughters) through the 1950's.

While running the general store, Lee Fritz continued his interest in public service by serving elected positions both on the local school board as well as on the Gordon town board. From 1928 until 1944, Fritz served as president of the First National Bank in Gordon. The Fritz's were known to be music lovers, and owned both an organ and a piano. The Fritz children had every opportunity to take piano lessons, and did so. The Fritz girls worked in the general store, and at least one, Ruth, attended the University of Nebraska.

Lee and Gottliebe Fritz lived to see a grandson graduate cum laude from the University of Nebraska Law School, three generations removed from his immigrant great-grandparents. The Fritz's also lived to see the birth of a great-grandson of their own. Lee Fritz died in 1954 at the age of 89. Gottliebe Fritz died in 1962 at the age of 90. Their significant contribution to the history of Sheridan County and Gordon runs the gamut of experience for settlers in this part of Nebraska. Agriculture, politics, commerce and family were essential components of the settlement of the Nebraska west, and the Fritz family successfully and significantly embodied these qualities.

Criterion C

The house at 132 Oak, built by Lee and Gottliebe Fritz, was occupied by a member of the Fritz family until 1994 when Anna Katherine Fritz, daughter of Lee and Gottliebe, died. The Fritz house embodies the distinctive and character-defining features of Dutch Colonial Revival architecture. These features include the gambrel roof, dormers, a full-width and deep porch with classical revival details, symmetrical arrangement of details and decorative features. Colonial Revival architecture of any sort is rare in this part of Nebraska, as is virtually any type of readily recognizable style. The majority of residential properties in this region are highly vernacular in form and rarely exhibit high-style ornamentation or features. Indeed, in the 1998 NESHPO historic building survey of Sheridan County, the Fritz house is one of only 13 surveyed residential properties were believed to have sufficient physical integrity and significance be considered eligible for the

⁴ Deed Record, Original Town, Block 12, lot 2, Gordon, Sheridan County Nebraska.

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Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

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National Register for their architectural qualities, out of a total of 272 total surveyed properties. Additionally, local tradition has it that two local builders of some note, Karl Tuchenhausen and Glenn Conklin, constructed the Fritz House. The 1998 NESHPO survey of Sheridan county recommended further investigation of Tuchenhausen and Conklin. Tuchenhausen was a stonemason who adapted to changing building technology and tastes by promoting and utilizing molded concrete for foundation and decorative concrete work. Glenn Conklin is known to have designed and built very handsome residential structures in Gordon (SH05-037 and SH05-039 are known examples in the NESHPO survey). Though to date no clear written record shows conclusively that Tuchenhausen and Conklin built the Fritz house, the quality of craftsmanship and style of the House, coupled with the timing of the House's construction, makes this supposition plausible.

The Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House is the only extant property associated with Lee Fritz, a person significant to Gordon and Sheridan County history. Additionally, the House retains nearly pristine physical integrity from the date of its construction, and is a significant, virtually unique example of Dutch Colonial Revival architecture in Sheridan County. For these reasons, the Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House is eligible for listing in the National Register.

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Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

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Bibliography

Deed Record, 132 North Oak Street. Original Town, Block 12, lot 2, Gordon, Sheridan County Nebraska.

Recollections of Sheridan County. Rushville, Nebraska: Sheridan County Historical Society, 1976.

Sheridan County Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Final Report. Lincoln, Nebraska: Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1998.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 2, Block 12 of the Original Town of Gordon, Nebraska

Boundary justification:

This nomination includes all the space historically occupied by the Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

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Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House

Name of Property

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Section Photos Page 1

The following information pertains to all photographs:

The Lee and Gottliebe Fritz House
132 North Oak Street
Gordon, Sheridan County NE

Photographs by Stacy Stupka-Burda, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office
May 13, 2003
Negatives at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, NE

Photo #1 of 12
East facade, facing west

Photo #2 of 12
East and north façades, facing southwest

Photo #3 of 12
East and south façades, facing northwest

Photo # 4 of 12
Roof bracket detail, north façade, facing southeast

Photo # 5 of 12
West façade, facing east

Photo #6 of 12
Staircase, facing south

Photo #7 of 12
Staircase detail, facing southwest

Photo # 8 of 12
View of primary entry from staircase, facing east

Photo #9 of 12
View of living room from staircase landing, view northeast

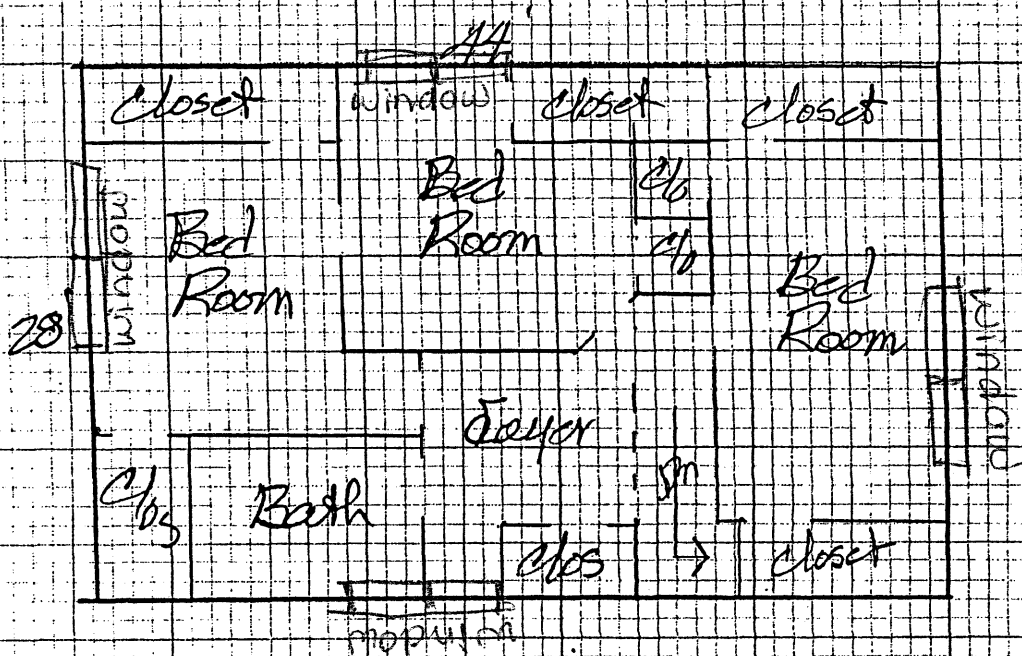
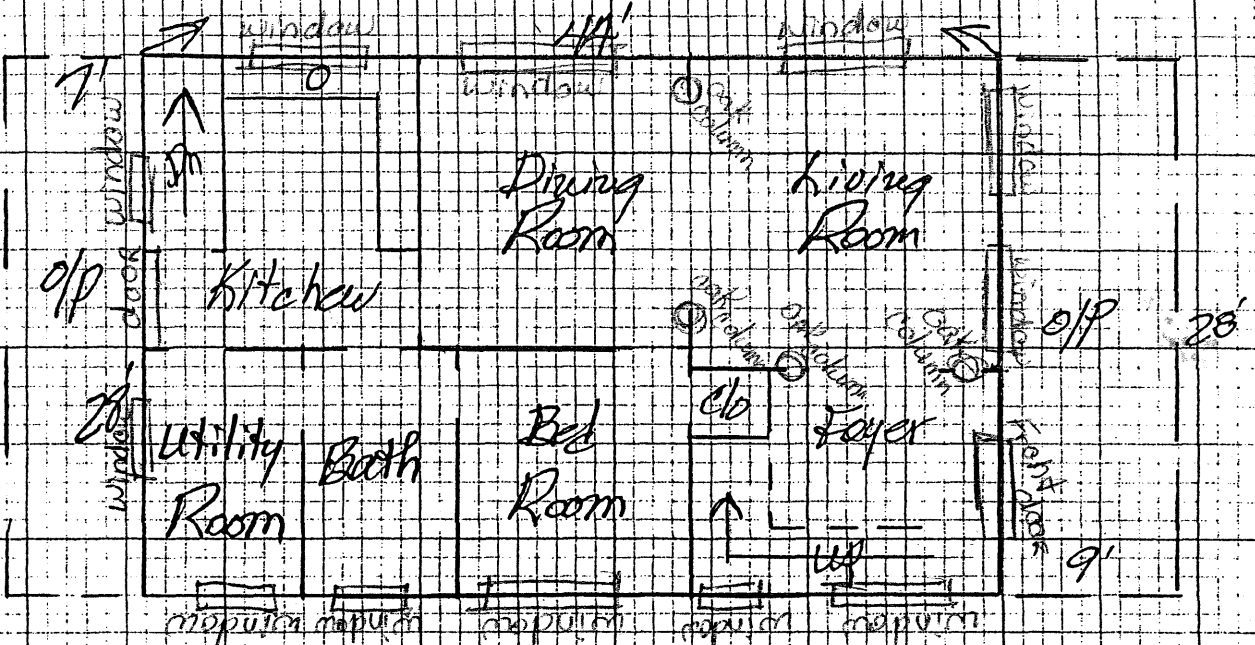
Photo #10 of 12
View of dining room from living room, facing west

Photo #11 of 12
View of second floor stair hall, view southwest from top of stair

Photo #12 of 12
Contributing garage, east façade, view west

FRITZ HOUSE

GORDON, SHERIDAN COUNTY, NEBRASKA



First Floor:

$$28' \times 44' = 1,232 \text{ sq ft}$$

Second Floor:

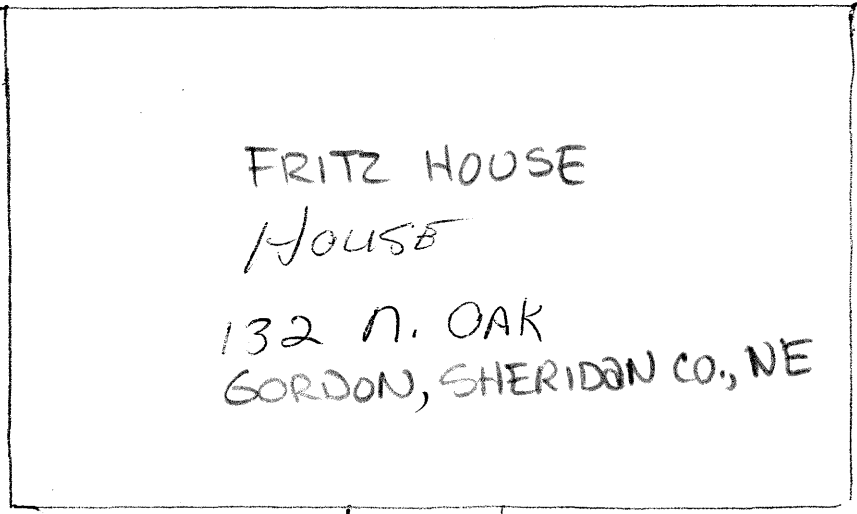
$$28' \times 44' = 1,232 \text{ sq ft}$$

$$\text{Gross Total} = \underline{\underline{2,464 \text{ sq ft}}}$$

Berry Bushes

Willows

old Carriage House
converted into Garage
Constructed sometime
in mid-late 1800's



FRITZ HOUSE
HOUSE
132 N. OAK
GORDON, SHERIDAN CO., NE

DRIVEWAY

Sidewalk

OAK STREET

Old Conoco Station