

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jones, Harry T., House

other names/site number NEHBS # SW09-74

2. Location

street & number 136 North Columbia Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Seward

n/a vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Seward

code 159 zip code 68434

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

na

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

*James A. Hanson*  
Signature of certifying official

*October 11, 1990*  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

*William Byers*  
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the  
National Register

*11/28/90*  
Date of Action

*for*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single DwellingDomestic/Secondary Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single DwellingDomestic/Secondary Structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls woodroof shingleother wood**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Harry T. Jones House, located in Seward, the county seat of Seward County, is a large two-and-one-half story dwelling constructed in 1889-90. The house was designed by architect George A. Berlinghof, with John Hughes & Sons serving as the contractor. The Jones House is the best example of the Queen Anne style in Seward, both in terms of its Free Classic styling and its excellent state of preservation. A two-story rear addition (1918) and a one-story side addition (1950) were made to the house. The interior retains original features including the main staircase, woodwork trim, pocket doors, and fireplaces. The property also includes a c.1890 brick carriage barn, located northeast of the main dwelling. The prominent corner lot and the surrounding landscape features further enhance the property's setting.

The Harry T. Jones House is located in Seward (1989 population: 5,713), situated approximately 30 miles northwest of Lincoln, the state capitol. Mr. Jones, president of the Jones National Bank (SW09-174, Seward County Courthouse Square Historic District, listed NRHP), hired George A. Berlinghof, an architect then residing in Omaha, to design his house. Berlinghof chose the Queen Anne style, one of the most popular styles for residential architecture in the state at that time, and incorporated Free Classic detailing in the house design.

The large two-and-one-half story frame dwelling has a wood shingle hipped roof with lower cross gables and features asymmetrical porches on the first and second levels. The house incorporates brick nogging in the frame structural wall system. The local contractor used brick from the family house being demolished across the street. Most Queen Anne houses in the state are typically frame or frame with brick veneer construction.

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The main wrap-a-round porch displays classical support colonettes grouped together in units of two or three, a balustrade, spindlework, pediments with decorated tympanums, and a distinctive corner turret with a conical roof of patterned shingles. The second story wrap-a-round porch exhibits similar detailing, including ornamental latticework. Fenestration consists of rectangular windows, for the most part, either single or grouped in units of two or three. A horizontal unit of four small square windows on the west (front) facade provides additional fenestration patterning. Surface ornamentation is abundant including patterned shingles, recessed panels, modillions, and elaborate motifs such as beading, garlands, and acanthus. Other notable features include the front bay window, and the double-door main entry with transom. A two-story addition was made to the rear facade in 1918. The small one-story addition made on the northeast corner of the house in 1950 is considered non-contributing in this nomination.

The two-story brick carriage barn (c. 1890) is located northeast of the house and is used today as a garage. The house and carriage barn are located on a large landscaped corner lot with conifer and deciduous trees, privet hedges, and other plantings (see site plan) which enhance the property's setting. The property remains today an architectural landmark in the town and continues to serve as a family residence. Integrity for both the house and carriage barn is excellent.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1889-1918  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1889-1890  
1918  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

na  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Berlinghof, George A.  
John Hughes & Sons  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Harry T. Jones House is architecturally significant (Criterion C) as the best example of the Free Classic Queen Anne style in Seward, both in terms of its styling and state of preservation. Substantial in size and profuse in surface ornamentation, the dwelling is further enhanced by its location on a landscaped corner lot. The period of significance is derived from the original construction date (1889-90) of the dwelling, through significant later additions (1918).

The Harry T. Jones House is architecturally significant for its distinctive design, its excellent state of preservation, and for its associations with a noted Lincoln architect. The grandiose dwelling, built for prominent local banker Harry T. Jones, is an excellent example of what is sometimes referred to as the "Banker's House" and clearly illustrates the prosperity and prestige afforded to a successful businessman like Mr. Jones.

Substantial in size and 100 years old this year, the house is in remarkably good repair. It has been in the same family ownership since it was built.

Designed in the Queen Anne style, the house is the best local example of the Free Classic adaptation of the style, and stands as a landmark, both visually and historically, in the town. Visually, the dwelling is impressive due to both its size and design. The house is located in a residential area on a large corner lot, and this, along with the surrounding landscape features, enhance its status as a prominent local architectural landmark. While other examples of the Queen Anne style were identified in the Nebraska

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

**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 of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

NSHS

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	4	6	6	0	7	6	0	4	5	3	0	1	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is described as the west 265 feet of Lot 1, Block 2, Jones Addition of the City of Seward, Seward County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes that parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property, and which retains historic integrity. That parcel of the original property east has been excluded because it has been subdivided and now contains a modern dwelling.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian  
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date August, 1990  
street & number P.O. Box 82554 telephone (402) 471-4767  
city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68501

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Historic Buildings Survey (NEHBS) in Seward (e.g. SW09-53, SW09-58), none attain the high degree of design and integrity of the Jones House. Only one other house in Seward, the Cattle-Hughes House (SW09-6, listed NRHP), is comparable to the Jones House in scale and setting. The large two-and-one-half story frame house, also constructed in the 1880s, is designed in the French Second Empire style, and occupies a large landscaped lot.

In Nebraska, the Queen Anne style enjoyed widespread popularity in residential architecture during the 1880s through 1900. Usually two to two-and-one-half stories, these houses have asymmetrical facades and steeply pitched rooflines of irregular shape, and are characterized by a variety of surface ornamentation on walls, prominent towers or turrets, tall chimneys, and porches with gingerbread trim. Queen Anne houses, for the most part, are located in the central and eastern portions of the state. The Jones House is probably one of the best examples of the style statewide. Other notable dwellings identified in the NEHBS include the Johnston-Muff House in Crete (SA01-12); the Andrew M. Hargis House in Grand Island (HL06-87); the Lake Bridenthal House in Wymore (GA15-3); the John Holman House in Humboldt (RH04-6); the J.D. McDonald House in Fremont (DD05:D-13); the Edgar Zabriskie House in Omaha (DD09:216-2); the George W. Smith House in Geneva (FM03-31) and the William Jennings Bryan Home in Lincoln (LC13:F6-1), all listed NRHP.

The Jones House was designed by George A. Berlinghof (1862-1944), a prominent Lincoln architect, then residing in Omaha. A native of Germany, Berlinghof graduated from the Polytechnic School of Darmstadt in 1879. He established residency in the city of Omaha in 1881, where he worked in the architectural firm of Mendelssohn, Fisher, and Lawrie for nine years. In 1898 he moved his practice to Beatrice and in 1905 relocated in Lincoln. He was selected as the architect for the State of Nebraska in 1907. In 1910 he formed a partnership with Ellery L. Davis, and during their association they designed many of Lincoln's schools and commercial buildings. Berlinghof also designed numerous governmental and public buildings throughout the state.

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In Seward, Berlinghof designed the County Courthouse (SW09-93), the Thomas Building (SW09-181), and the J.F. Goehner Building (SW09-182), all in the Seward County Courthouse Square Historic District, listed NRHP. The Jones House is noteworthy because it represents the only known residence designed by Berlinghof in Seward, and one of only two known in the state. The other property is the A.O. Thomas House in Kearney (BF05-136, listed NRHP).

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Berlinghof, George A., architect's file, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide To American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1984.

Wake, T.H., Jones Residence Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Form, May 1989, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.



HARRY T. JONES  
HOUSE (SW09-74)  
SEWARD, NEBRASKA

SITE PLAN - NO SCALE

DRAWN BY DELL DARLING FROM  
FIELD NOTES BY BOB PUSCHENDORF  
NOV. 1989

KEY  
1. HOUSE  
2. CARRIAGE HOUSE

