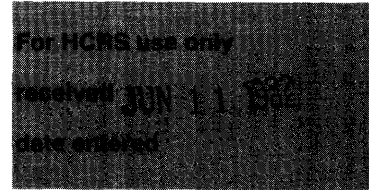


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Ryons-Alexander House (LCL13:D5-2)
and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1835 Ryons St. N/A not for publication
city, town Lincoln N/A vicinity of congressional district First
state Nebraska code 031 county Lancaster code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> 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 checked="" 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 Roger Dieckhaus
street & number 1835 Ryons
city, town Lincoln N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City-County Building
street & number 555 South 10th Street
city, town Lincoln 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

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ryons-Alexander house is a two story brick square-type house built in 1908 under the supervision of Charles J. Gerstenberger. The house is sheltered by a pyramidal roof which flares at the eaves and features hip-roofed dormers both front and rear. Two porches are appended -- a small pedimented porch enhances the symmetrical, three-bay front facade while a two-bay side porch supports an enclosed sleeping porch on the second floor.

Located in south-central Lincoln just seventeen blocks from the Capitol and one block south of South street, a major Lincoln arterial, the Ryons-Alexander house occupies a two-lot site on the eastern edge of Ryon's Addition (July 23, 1886) to the City of Lincoln. The house occupies the full extent of its historically associated property.

The Ryons-Alexander house is a slightly-raised, two story brick and tile structure with a concrete water-table just above grade. Nearly square in plan, the roof is of the characteristic pyramidal form, with flared eaves and hip-roofed dormers overlooking the front and rear facades.

Formal emphasis is given the north front facade with its symmetrical, three-bay configuration. The centered front door is flanked on either side by single-pane windows (replacements of the original double-hung sash), while the second story windows mirror the openings below. Paired double-hung sash are centered above the door. The focal-point of the facade is the entrance which is protected by a pedimented portico supported by fluted concrete colonettes following Ionic designs. The door is flanked on either side by leaded-glass sidelights which are separated from it by fluted columns.

The remainder of the exterior design is less formally arranged, being characterized by more random fenestration. A flat-roofed, columned porch, similar in design to the front portico, occupies a portion of the east facade. The enclosed sleeping porch above this east porch was added shortly after the original construction and features ribbon windows above bevel-sided walls. A small, hooded porch stoop on the west has been enclosed, possibly about the time of the sleeping porch addition.

The interior follows the four-room-ground-floor arrangement typical of this house-type. The large living room at the front is divided from the smaller study by a wide central hall. The hall leads to the dining room and to the stairway which ascends at right angles to the hall in a westerly direction. The kitchen occupies the southwest corner of the square, adjacent to the dining room. The large size of the house (40 by 42 feet) allows for a seven room arrangement on the second floor. Three rooms occupy the attic space.

A small frame garage with shiplap siding also occupies the site. Covered with a flared-eave hipped roof, significance is attached to the remnant arboretum along its east wall. Formerly enclosed with lattice-work, the decorative box beams and one column are all that remain. The northern-most beam supports the rail for the sliding garage door.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) anthropology
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1908 (1912-1927) **Builder/Architect** Charles J. Gerstenberger

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ryons-Alexander house accrues primary significance from the associations of its second owner (1912-27), Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander. Dr. Alexander's contributions in the fields of philosophy, architecture, and anthropology are nationally and internationally recognized while contributions in literature and the performing arts were widely acclaimed as well. Local interest is noted for the builder of the house, William B. Ryons, long-time vice-president of the First National Bank in Lincoln and son of Irish-born Joseph L. Ryons for whom both the Ryons Addition and Ryons street were named.

Hartley Burr Alexander (1873-1939) was born in Lincoln and raised in the southeast Nebraska town of Syracuse. He was the son of George Sherman and Abbey Gifford Smith Alexander. Alexander took advantage of the extensive library of his father, a self-educated Methodist minister from Massachusetts, and of the environment created by his artist-stepmother, Susan Godding Alexander. Their house in Syracuse was for many years considered the town's cultural center.

Following graduation from Syracuse High School, Alexander entered the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1897 with an A.B. degree. He taught English for one year following graduation before accepting the Harrison Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania (1898-1900). He then transferred to Columbia University where he received his Doctor of Philosophy in 1901.

After a two year residence in Boston he moved to Springfield, Massachusetts where he was engaged by the G. & C. Merriam Company in revising their Webster's Dictionary (1903-08). Following the publication of his Poetry and the Individual (1906), he was offered, in 1908, a position teaching philosophy at the University of Nebraska. He eagerly accepted this position which he held until 1927 when he became Professor of Philosophy at Scripps College in Claremont, California. He died at his home in Claremont in 1939 at 66 years of age.

P H I L O S O P H Y

Dr. Alexander's noted career included the publication of several books and numerous articles. His most important philosophical contributions include Nature and Human Nature (1923); Truth and the Faith (1929); "The Great Art Which is Philosophy", in Contemporary American Philosophy, Volume I (1930); and God and Man's Destiny (1936) (Stephens: 1958, p. 10). He was a member of

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lincoln, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	9	4	5	5	5	4	5	1	7	8	9	10
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

Lots 1 and 2, Block 2, of Ryons Addition to the City of Lincoln, including all of the historic real estate associated with the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title D. Murphy, Survey Architect

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date June, 1981

street & number 1500 R. Street

telephone (402) 471-3850

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

Martin O. Swett 5/13/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

For HCPRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John Shelton Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

7/8/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the Western Philosophical Association (serving as its president in 1917), the American Philosophical Association (its president in 1919), and the American Association of University Professors. He was also a contributor to the Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics. Scripps College honored him posthumously with the establishment of the Hartley Burr Alexander Professorship in the Humanities.

A N T H R O P O L O G Y

His work in anthropology is closely related to that in philosophy. In addition to the several books and articles, he lectured extensively on American Indian art and architecture. In 1925 he delivered a series of lectures on these subjects at the Sorbonne in Paris and in 1927 was the Cooke-Daniels Lecturer at the Denver Art Museum. His most important writings include his contributions to The Mythology of All Races, Vols. X (1916) and XI (1920); L'Art et la Philosophie des Indiens de l'Amérique du Nord (1926); The World's Rim: Great Mysteries of the North American Indians (1953); and Odes and Lyrics (1922). In this regard Dr. Alexander was a member and president (1928-29) of the Southwest Archaeological Federation and a member of the Archaeological Institute of the School of American Research where he lectured and was a member of the board of directors. Partly as a result of his lecture at the Sorbonne, and partly for his work on behalf of French war orphans, he became a member of the Société des Americanistes de Paris (and a recipient of the coveted Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur). For his work on Volume X of The Mythology of all Races, Columbia University awarded him the Butler Medal.

P O E T R Y
A N D T H E P E R F O R M I N G A R T S

Dr. Alexander combined his interests in philosophy and anthropology in a variety of ways. In addition to his extensive lecturing and public appearances, he published numerous poems and articles about poetry in leading national magazines of the day. He had a particular interest in theater and the American Indian, publishing articles on the subject as well as at least one, one act play. Alexander was the author of numerous popular pageants presented in Lincoln, Omaha, and at the University -- among them "The Pageant of Lincoln" (1915), "The Gate City" (1916), "Nebraska: A Semi-Centennial Masque" (1917), the Ak-Sar-Ben Pageant for 1922, and "The Making of Nebraska: A Pageant of the Plains" (1929). Additionally, he was a member of The Writers Guild, serving as its president from 1925 to 1926.

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A R C H I T E C T U R E

"The Salvation
of the State is
Watchfulness
in the Citizen"
(North Portal, Nebraska Capitol)

Hartley Burr Alexander's knowledge and talent in the fields of philosophy, anthropology, art and poetry synthesized in a unique way with his contributions to American architecture, his third chief area of interest and inquiry in later years (Harvey: 1934, p. 35). Cut in stone, set in mosaics, and painted in murals, Dr. Alexander's thought has contributed significantly to several monuments of American architecture across the United States in the form of inscriptions and symbolic programs. Perhaps best known are those for the Nebraska Capitol but other notable buildings include Bertram Goodhue's Los Angeles Public Library, the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Memorial Stadium at the University of Nebraska, the Goodhue Memorial fountain, Rockefeller Center in New York, as well as for selected buildings at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, among others. Dr. Alexander was made an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects for his contributions in this area.

No where are his talents more synthesized than in the State Capitol -- that greatest of artistic collaborations in Nebraska -- where he designed the symbolic scheme, provided for its iconography, and supplied the inscriptions. His intimate knowledge and experience of Nebraska made him eminently suited for the task.

"I love the animation of the cornfields, stirred by cruising winds; the sudden thunderstorms with its avalanche of lightning and the impetuous rain sweeping up after the great billow of cloud is the very raiment of majesty; and I think I have never seen such stars as ours, over the whole dome of heaven, of a winters night." (from "Letters to Teachers" quoted in Masters: 1929, p. 257).

So too, his broad intellectual and spiritual background, his depth of understanding and appreciation of the idea "monument" were all fortuitously combined in rare opportunity on the Capitol project:

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"At times I think that the beauty of no fine building can be fully known until it be beheld in a still-retentive ruin. Bertram Goodhue, gazing upon the mounting walls of his Capitol, the material completion of which his eyes were not to see, more to himself than to another speaking, said: 'It will be beautiful even in its ruin,' -- and than these words none could be more eloquent either of the greatness of his architecture or of the depth of his understanding. There is a mystery of the thing called Memory, which is a hovering of the Past on into the Present, and it possesses its truth not alone for the lives of individual men and women, but also for the whole life of mankind, wherever it be monumental and written, wherever it be commemorative, wherever it be pious with a sense of some lofty fatherhood. Perchance; too, it is bodied into the substance of the whole physical world, itself the writing of a thought and of a life that are archetypal in the mind of God. So understanding, we shall the better know that where we greatly build we are the more nobly imitating the scroll of the Creator." (The Last Architecture, pp. 7-8).

Philosopher and educator, anthropologist and poet, Dr. Alexander's contributions are noteworthy indeed, if not unique in American culture.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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_____. The Last Architecture. An Address delivered on April 6, 1930 in the Westminster Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, under the auspices of the Lincoln A Capella Choir.

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