

**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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 11 1982

DATE

**1. Name**

historic Royer-Williams House (LC13:D9-383)

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 407 N. 26th N/A not for publication

city, town Lincoln N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Nebraska code 31 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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 Henry Hultquist

street & number 407 N. 26th

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 Historic and Architectural Site  
Survey of Lincoln, Nebraska

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

## 7. Description

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N / A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Royer-Williams house is a wood-frame residence -- highly irregular in external shape, internal plan, and decorative treatment. The four-over-five-room plan features a corner entrance-hall with curved stairway to the second floor. Much of the interior, including period woodwork, is intact and in near-original condition. The house rests on a limestone foundation, faced with rock-faced concrete block.

The main body of the house is one-and-one-half stories in height with a gabled roof. The entrance tower, the focal point of the composition, is octagonally shaped with a pyramidal roof which flares at the eaves. Flat-roofed sections occur at the bedroom wing along the west and the enclosed porch at the northwest corner. A singled-storied porch with fluted Doric columns shelters the south and part of the east facade.

Decorative treatment, inside as well as out, is characteristic of the Queen Anne style of architecture. Typical are the hood-moldings of the windows, the prominent square bay window of the south facade complete with Victorian trim and brackets, and the varied imbrication on the second floor of the tower and on the concave hip of the south bay window.

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

Specific dates c. 1885-88 Builder/Architect ~~Robert~~ Henry Royer

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Royer-Williams house is significant architecturally as a fine, vernacular, wood-frame product of the Queen Anne style in Lincoln. Additionally, the house is significant to the social-humanitarian history of Lincoln for its associations with Hattie Plum Williams, a University of Nebraska scholar whose pioneer work in ethnic studies has contributed significantly to our knowledge of Lincoln's (and one of Nebraska's) largest ethnic groups, the Germans from Russia.

Henry Royer, a carpenter by trade, started construction on his private residence at the height of Nebraska's first major boom period. Completed by ca. 1888, Royer's occupation of the house was secure until the Crash of 1893 when a series of financial difficulties began, culminating in the sale of the house in 1898 to T. F. A. Williams.

The Queen Anne style of architecture is significantly associated with this boom-bust period of Nebraska's history. The late 1880's through the early 1890's was Nebraska's first period of economic growth following the initial periods of settlement. This historical circumstance is responsible for the large number of Queen Anne dwellings constructed in the state (compared to the earlier Victorian styles). Few of these fanciful dwellings are extant in Lincoln today. The Royer-Williams house is representative of the archetypical Queen Anne house in the state, being an irregularly shaped rectangular mass with a prominent corner tower (see, for example, the T. H. Miller house, pending College Hill Historic District, Saline County). The house is a fine vernacular interpretation of the more elaborate, high-style version of the mode.

Significance to the social-humanitarian history of Lincoln is relative to Hattie Plum Williams' residence in the house. Thomas F. A. and Hattie Plum Williams purchased the house in 1898. It was occupied by them until their deaths in 1969 and 1963 respectively. Dr. Hattie Plum Williams pioneered the study of Germans from Russia in the United States with her doctoral dissertation which was published in 1916. Entitled A Social Study of the Russian German, the work was an intensive investigation of Lincoln's two, large, German-Russian enclaves, the North, and the South Bottoms. The importance of this group to Lincoln and the State of Nebraska was demonstrated in a positive Determination of Eligibility for the South Salt Creek Historic District (Lincoln, Lancaster County). Dr. Williams' work with the German-Russians continued until her death, with her major work, The Czar's Germans, being published posthumously in 1975 by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

IMAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lincoln, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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4	5	2	10	8	1	5
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11 and 12, Block 12, Eddy's Subdivision of Hawley's Addition to the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska in Section 24, T10N, R6E, including all of the historically associated real estate.

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 November, 1980

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 Merrin O. Kett

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 4/20/82

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

William H. Gramann

date 6-14-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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

Williams, Hattie Plum. "A Social Study of the Russian German",  
University Studies XVI:3 (July 1916), pp. 127-227.

Williams, Hattie Plum. The Czar's Germans: With Particular Reference to the Volga Germans. Edited by Emma S. Haynes, Phillip B. Legler, and Gerda S. Walker. Lincoln: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1975.

Williams, T.F.A., Collection. State Archives, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.