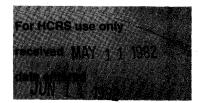
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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	Royer-Williams House	e	(L(C13:D9-383)
and/or common	N/A			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	407 N. 26th		N	A not for publication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. Clas	sification			
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition N/A_ in process being considered	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park _X_ private residence religious scientific transportation
4. Own	er of Proper			
name street & number	Henry Hultquist 407 N. 26th			
city, town	Lincoln	N/A vicinity of	state 1	Nebraska
5. Loca	ation of Lega	I Description	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. City-C			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
city, town	Lincoln		state ¹	lebraska
6. Rep	resentation i	n Existing		····
Historic title <u>Survey o</u>	and Architectural S of Lincoln, Nebraska	ite	operty been determined el	
date <u>1978</u>			federal stat	te county _X_ local
	nvey records Nebraska S	<u>tate Historical Sc</u>		
city, town Lin	lcoln		state 1	Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent good	deteriorated	unaltered	_X_ original site moved date <u>N_//</u>	1
<u>X</u> fair	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-fiveroom 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

Specific dates c. 1885-88

Builder/Architect 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 <u>A Social Study of the Russian</u> <u>German</u>, 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, <u>The Czar's Germans</u>, being published posthumously in 1975 by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

9.	Major	Bibliograp	hical Refe	erences

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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- 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.
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