

PH#367265

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
MAY 11 1976  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED APR 18 1977

**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  
Israel Beetison House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

STATE

Nebraska

VICINITY OF

CODE

31

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

COUNTY

Saunders

CODE

155

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Beetison

STREET & NUMBER

RFD 1

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Saunders County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wahoo

STATE

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located high upon the rugged Platte River bluffs near the mouth of Salt Creek, the Israel Beetison house was built near the old Ox-Bow Trail, which crossed Salt Creek at the Salineford about one-half mile northwest of the house. The trail ruts are still visible east of the house. Built in 1874-1875 of locally quarried limestone, the house was constructed by the Dalton brothers, local masons. A similar limestone dwelling was also built by them in 1880. The remains of this house still stand a couple of miles east of the Beetison house.

The dwelling is "tee" shaped and consists of two well-defined components. The main living portion of the house is square in plan, two stories in height and has a hipped roof. The "tee" is formed by a 1½-story extension to the north which is covered with a gable roof. A frame cupola crowns the hipped roof of the main portion of the house. The house contains ten rooms, one on each floor of the "tee" extension (the kitchen is on the ground floor), and four rooms on each floor of the main portion of the house. Vertical circulation is by the centrally-located stairway off of the east entrance of the house.

Stylistically, the house is representative of the Italianate mode of design. Distinguishing features of the style include the cupola, the bracketed cornice, the gablets symmetrically placed in the cornice of the two-story element, the segmentally-arched windows and the bold stone quoins at the corners of the building. Distinguished also is the handling of the stone on the various facades. The main (east) facade is constructed of coursed ashlar while the remaining walls were built of faced rubble.

The house has seen some alterations over the years, most notably the removal of the Eastlake-styled porches along the east facade. Only one interior wall has been removed while other changes on the inside have been confined to paint and wall paper. The most alarming alteration to the house has been the loss of keystones over some of the second floor windows. The house's foundation is set on bedrock, which forms a continuous shelf about two miles to the north. This shelf has been quarried since the late 19th century; however, explosives have been used once a day for the past 20 years. The shock from these explosives has slowly taken its toll on this structure as seen in the loss of the keystones.

# 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 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 1874-1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Dalton Brothers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Israel Beetison house stands as one of the fine examples of the Italianate style of architecture in Nebraska. Due to the economic hardship associated with the settlement of a wilderness territory, the Greek and Gothic Revivals saw very little development in Nebraska before they had passed out of favor. The Italianate was probably the first style in the state to gain widespread popularity. This may have been, in part, due also to the fact that the style did not make rigid demands in terms of execution. We find the style expressed in a considerable variety of ways before it was replaced with more Victorian tastes.

The house is a variant of one of the typical plan-forms which have been associated with the Italianate style (see pending National Register nomination, Boscobel, Otoe County). Basically a rectangular block, the "tee" is derived from the gabled extension to the north. Similar extensions were used throughout the state to gain needed interior space without the expense of building a much larger house in an attempt to keep all of the space within the confines of the "ideal" form. As an example, the Thomas P. Kennard house (National Register nomination, Lancaster County) originally had a similar extension to the rear of the basic ell-shaped plan-form. Others could be cited.

The house, then, is related to such Italianate examples as the Tipton house and the Muir house (National Register of Historic Places, Brownville Historic District, Nemaha County). Each facade of the basic rectangular block reveals a symmetrical composition in the location of door and window openings. The Beetison house, like the Muir house, displays the variant cornice design which utilizes symmetrically disposed gablets on each facade. What makes the house interesting as a variant of plan-form is the assymmetrical disposition of the 1½-story extension. Normally we would expect to see it appended to the rear of the house, but here we see it flanking the main facade, producing a more informal or picturesque effect to the whole. This is consistent with the tendency of Italianate to move away from the classical cube (as represented by the Tipton house) toward the more picturesque imagery (seen in the Kennard house and Boscobel) which became the primary concern of the late 19th century.



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A Survey of Historic, Architectural and Archeological Sites  
in the Eastern Nebraska Urban Region  
1971 (State)  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
Lincoln, Nebraska

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The significance of this dwelling as an example of the Italianate style is seen most clearly in its use of ideal Italianate design motifs. Featuring the prominent frame cupola, low-pitched hipped roof, and the bracketed eaves, the house also displays paired, segmentally-arched windows set into a smooth wall surface which is interrupted only at the corners with the well-defined quoins. The consistency of its design and the compatibility of its form vis-à-vis the ideal symbolic intent of the style, combine to establish the Beetison house as one of the outstanding Italianate dwellings in Nebraska.