

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JAN 26 1993
NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name N/A

other names/site number Lizzie Robinson House (DO09:0223-022)

2. Location

street & number 2864 Corby Street not for publication [N/A]

city or town Omaha vicinity [N/A]

state Nebraska code NE county Douglas code 055 zip code 68111

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wendell Sommer
Signature of certifying official

1/15/93
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Dyer
Signature of Keeper

Entered in 4581
National Register

2/25/93
Date of Action

Lizzie Robinson House
Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling

Domestic/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/Temple form

foundation Concrete
walls Wood

roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1916-1924

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Robinson, Lizzie

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/ Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- Name of repository:
Omaha City Planning Department

Lizzie Robinson House
Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	15	252550	4574350	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Reverend Elijah Hill; edited by Dawn Landholm

organization Omaha City Planning Department date August 1992

street & number 1819 Farnam Street telephone (402) 444-5208

city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68183

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert Alexander

street & number 2864 Corby Street telephone _____

city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68111

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lizzie Robinson House

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

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Description

The Lizzie Robinson House is located in a residential area in northeast Omaha. The 1-1/2 story frame house on the north side of Corby Street was built in 1910. It is of a simple temple-form style with an intersecting gable and a projecting bay on the east side and an intersecting gable on the west. What was probably originally an open porch is now enclosed. The house has clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof. Aluminum combination storms have been added to all windows, and metal awnings have been placed over the main entrance and the second-story double-window.

The integrity of the house is good. Some changes have occurred with the probable enclosure of the porch and the addition of two metal awnings and the aluminum storm windows. Other features (the siding, the pattern of the windows, the shape of the house) appear to be the same as they were at the time of the house's construction.

The property includes one non-contributing building, a contemporary garage, located to the rear of the house.

Statement of Significance

The residence at 2864 Corby Street is significant under National Register Criterion B, association with the lives of persons significant in our past, because it is the only extant building in Omaha associated with Mrs. Lizzie Robinson. Lizzie Robinson and her husband Reverend Edward D. Robinson resided at 2864 Corby Street with their daughter from 1916 to 1924. In 1916, Edward and Lizzie Robinson founded the Church of God in Christ in Omaha, the first church of that denomination in the state of Nebraska. Mrs. Lizzie Robinson is significant historically for her role as national organizer of the women's ministry for the Church of God in Christ, the largest African American Pentecostal denomination in the world. Many of the denomination's early pioneers stayed at 2864 Corby Street when they visited Omaha. Criterion Consideration "A" is applicable and is met through the property deriving significance for its association with a person important in religious history.

The Pentecostal movement's roots trace back to the economic, social, and cultural crises of the late nineteenth century, when events such as industrialization, rapid urban growth, and changes in Protestant denominations caused major changes in people's lives. Pentecostalism was also influenced by ideologies from other religious movements emerging during that period. The Wesleyan movement contributed the concept of sanctification and--crucial to the formation of Pentecostalism--the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. The latter concept is attributed to a lay Baptist preacher in Nebraska named Benjamin Hardin Irwin. The second influence was the Reformed emphasis upon power for service, an endowment of power that enabled a Christian to witness, sacrifice, and serve. The third concept was the Plymouth Brethren's belief in dispensational premillennialism--the idea of an imminent secret rapture of the saints, immediately followed by seven years of Great Tribulation, the Second Coming of the Lord, and the Millennium. The final contributor was a new theology of faith healing. The Pentecostal adamanance on speaking in tongues as a sign of baptism finally separated Pentecostals from the main body of the holiness movement.¹

In 1905, William J. Seymour, the most enigmatic major figure in the early history of Pentecostalism², attended a Bible school in Houston and, in 1906, brought those teachings to a black holiness group that (a short while later) met in an abandoned warehouse on Azusa Street in Los Angeles. At first, the Azusa revivals were

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Lizzie Robinson House
Name of Property
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Statement of Significance (continued)

interracial: eventually, they were exclusively black. The Azusa Street revival had a strong influence on its participants, an influence instrumental in the formation of the Pentecostal churches. In the United States there are more than three hundred Pentecostal denominations. Two of the largest denominations are the Assemblies of God and the Church of God in Christ.

The Church of God in Christ is the largest African American Pentecostal body in North America, headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee. The church was founded in 1907 by Charles H. Mason, one of the most significant figures in the rise and spread of the modern Pentecostal movement.³ Mason was a Missionary Baptist minister who, in 1895, organized an independent congregation in a cotton gin shed in Lexington, Mississippi. Two years later, in Jackson, Mississippi, C.P. Jones instituted a series of annual Holiness convocations that Mason, J.A. Jeter, and other former Missionary Baptists attended. Jones, Mason and Jeter then preached together for several years, eventually establishing a congregation in Memphis.

In 1907, Mason attended the revival meetings at Azusa Street and accepted those beliefs. Mason returned from Los Angeles to find that a Pentecostal revival had already begun in Memphis; however, Jones and Jeter did not agree with the new teachings. The two groups parted that year. By 1911 Jones and Jeter's group reorganized, taking the name the Churches of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. The congregations that supported Mason reorganized in the fall of 1907 as the Church of God in Christ, with Mason as general overseer and chief apostle (bishop). Until 1914, the Church of God in Christ was interracial. By ordaining ministers of all races, Mason performed an unusually important service to the early twentieth-century Pentecostal movement. He appears to have been the only early convert who came from a legally incorporated church body and who could thus ordain persons whose status as clergymen was recognized by civil authorities. As a result, scores of white ministers sought ordination at the hand of Mason. Large numbers obtained credentials carrying the name COGIC. In the years 1909-14, there were as many white Churches of God in Christ as there were black, all carrying Mason's credentials and incorporation. On December 20, 1913, elder E.N. Bell and H.A. Goss issued a call to convene a general council of "all pentecostal saints and Churches of God in Christ," to meet the following April at Hot Springs. This invitation went only to the white saints. E.N. Bell's periodical, Word and Witness, was not distributed in the black religious community. On the first week in April 1914, Mason traveled to the Hot Springs convention to invoke God's blessing on the newly formed General Council of the Assemblies of God.⁴

By 1934 the Church of God in Christ consisted of 345 churches in twenty-one states and the District of Columbia, with more than 25,000 members. Rapid growth continued, with membership increasing to 382,679 in 1962. The church reportedly had 3,709,661 members in 52 countries by 1982.⁵

The Church further developed when Mason organized the Women's Department, the Sunday School and the Young Peoples Willing Workers (YPWW) between 1910 and 1916. These departments needed people to run them, and Lizzie Robinson was recommended to Charles Mason as qualified to supervise the Women's Department.

Lizzie Robinson was the first National Supervisor of the Women's Departments of the Church of God in Christ, serving from 1911 through 1945. She was born a slave on April 5, 1860, in Phillips County, Arkansas. Her mother, a widow with five children, could not read but did send her children to school. Lizzie Robinson read the Bible to her mother's friends from ages eight to fifteen years, when her mother died. In 1881 she married Mr. Wood. In 1892 she joined the Baptist church at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. In 1901, at the age of 41, Lizzie Wood attended the Baptist Academy in Dermott, Arkansas to finish her education and remained there

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Lizzie Robinson House

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

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Statement of Significance (continued)

as matron of the school. There she became acquainted with the Church of God in Christ and with Charles Mason. Lizzie Wood then left the Baptist church and worked for the Church of God in Christ in Trenton and Jackson, Tennessee. Charles Mason appointed Lizzie Wood Supervisor of the Women's Department in Memphis, Tennessee in 1911. She formed the Prayer and Bible Band, the Sewing Circle, and the Home and Foreign Mission Board.

During this time she met, and later married, Edward Robinson, a minister. Edward and Lizzie Robinson were evangelists in western United States until they settled in Omaha and founded a church there in 1916. They lived with her daughter, Ida Baker, and her husband Archie at 2864 Corby Street from 1916 until 1924, when the Robinsons purchased a house at 2723 North 28th Avenue. Ida and Archie Baker moved to Omaha in 1912.

The Robinson's church was the first Church of God in Christ in the state of Nebraska. Shortly after their arrival in Omaha, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson began holding afternoon and night services near 27th and Lake Streets. These services attracted many people, and the Robinsons soon organized a church. The church was approved by the Bishop the following year. The congregation continued to grow, requiring the purchase of a new church site to provide more space. In 1920, the church purchased the property at 2318 N. 26th Street and remodeled the building on that site for use as a church. The Church of God in Christ was officially incorporated in 1925, with Edward Robinson as pastor. The Robinson's son-in-law, Archie Baker, was one of the first members of the Board of Trustees.

Lizzie Robinson chose women to accompany her on her evangelical trips after her husband stopped traveling because of his duties with the church. The women's work grew so rapidly that Lizzie Robinson began state organizations, and the women who had accompanied her became the first State Mothers. Her daughter Ida then became her traveling companion and assistant, eventually becoming the Secretary-Treasurer of the Home and Foreign Mission Department. Her husband, Rev. Edward D. Robinson, died in 1937 at the age of 77. From 1940 through 1945, Lizzie Robinson ran the program through the State Mothers. She took a great interest in the building of the National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee and organized National Drives to raise funds. The assembly hall in the new building was named after her. During her years of service, Lizzie Robinson established an auxiliary program through the local churches and had begun to build the State and National program. She died December 12, 1945 at a convocation in Memphis, Tenn.

Lizzie Robinson is referred to with esteem and praise in several texts. Some of that commentary follows. "[O]ne of the church's 'pioneering ladies'...helped...organize and structure the church."⁶ "[She laid] the foundation for the women's department...She was distinguished by her gifted teaching ministry...Lizzie Robinson's brilliance as an organizer was foundational to the work of women in the denomination and set the pace for years to come."⁷ "No writer could do justice to the life work of this illustrious woman of God, nor of the numerous deeds of kindness done by her, nor the height of esteem in which she was held by thousands of followers. ...a woman of very high standing...an outstanding record in public service...an organizer, able to inspire and direct...one of the greatest organizers among Christian women."⁸

Lizzie Robinson played an important role in the early days of the Church of God in Christ at the national as well as the local level. The house at 2864 Corby Street is the only extant building remaining from her period of activity in the Church of God in Christ. The house she and her husband purchased in 1924 at 2723 North 28th Avenue no longer stands, and the frame church at 2318 North 26th Street was replaced by a concrete block church (on that site) in 1949. According to building permit records, the house at 2864 Corby Street was built in 1910. The register of deeds shows that the Bakers purchased the house in 1924, but city

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Lizzie Robinson House

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

County and State

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Statement of Significance (continued)

directories indicate that they lived in the house before the purchase and that Lizzie and Edward Robinson lived with them until 1924. The Bakers remained in that house until the 1960s.

Bibliography

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McCord, Julia. "Bishop Urges Church of God in Christ to Return to Roots." Omaha World-Herald. 21 September 1991, 65-66.

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Continuation Sheet**

Lizzie Robinson House

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

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Bibliography (continued)

Souvenir book for Lizzie Robinson Gathering, August, 1981; Omaha, NE.

"The History of Our Women's Organization," from a souvenir book, New York, May 7-11, 1952.

Wacker, Grant. "Pentecostalism." Encyclopedia of the American Religious Experience, Vol. 2. Charles H. Lippy and Peter W. Williams, eds. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1988.

ENDNOTES

1. Grant Wacker, "Pentecostalism, " 933-939. All information in this paragraph was derived from this text.
2. Ibid., 937.
3. Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, eds., Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, 585.
4. Ibid., 587.
5. Ibid., 205.
6. Julia McCord, "Bishop Urges...", 65. Quoting the Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Rev. Louis H. Ford of Chicago.
7. Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, eds., Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, 759.
8. "The History of Our Women's Organization," 33-34.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 24, Block 1, Catalpa Place, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all historically associated property.