

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 27 1986

date entered DEC 8 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach House (NeHBS # HL06-52)
and/or common Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach House

2. Location

street & number 720 W. Division NA not for publication
city, town Grand Island NA vicinity of
state Nebraska code 031 county Hall code 079

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	NA 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 Warren A. Connell
street & number 720 W. Division
city, town Grand Island NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Hall County Courthouse
street & number 1st and Locust Streets
city, town Grand Island 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 checked="" 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>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach House is located in Grand Island, Nebraska, the county seat of Hall County. The original house, a one-story Victorian dwelling, was constructed in 1893 for Henry J. Bartenbach and then extensively remodelled in 1937-1938 for Mrs. Bartenbach in the Moderne Style of architecture. The two-story house, which is very streamlined and rectilinear in its overall appearance, is assymetrical in plan, and shows a flat roof and smooth stucco wall surfaces with limited ornamentation. The raised entry, which shows a stoop flanked by twin curving steps, and balustrades of wrought iron, is set within a distinctive "pavilion like" form. The property also includes a Moderne garage building, which is an integral feature in the house environs and is situated directly northeast of the house. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved. This nomination includes two contributing buildings.

The Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach House is located in Grand Island, Nebraska, a city situated approximately 90 miles due west of Lincoln, the state capitol. Grand Island (1986 population-37,781) is the county seat of Hall County. The original house, a one-story stucco dwelling with Victorian detailing, was constructed in 1893 for Henry J. Bartenbach. Then in 1937-38, the house was redesigned by a local architect into an Moderne dwelling for Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach, who was widowed in 1933. The two-story house with one-story vestibule and sun room (south facade) is assymetrical in plan and has a flat roof with small ledge (coping) at the roof line. The smooth stucco wall surfaces were originally treated utilizing thin horizontal strips of wood (no longer extant) and vertical grooves (extant) for ornamentation. Fenestration in the house consists of rectangular shaped window openings, in single or paired units, with double hung, double-glazed sash and horizontal muntins. The sun room shows a prominent "wrap-around" (south and east facades) plate glass window with rounding ends. The entry pavilion (raised) features a central curved portion flanked by rectilinear pilasters (stucco covered) with copings and a deeply recessed door opening. Access to the entry is gained by twin curving steps with original wrought iron balustrades of cyma or S-shaped curves (see photo # 4). The east facade shows a one-story square bay with original wrought iron balustrade. Second story walkouts are featured on the south (one story vestibule and sun room provides the deck floor) and east (square bay provides deck floor) facades. The original downspouts and light fixtures remain intact. The west facade shows an additional entry with wrought iron balustrade and a massive exterior chimney.

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Description

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The interior floor plan on the first level consists of a foyer, sun room, library, living area, dining room, bedroom, breakfast nook, kitchen and bathroom. The second floor contains bedrooms, a maids room and baths. Distinctive interior spaces include the open stairway and landing area which features a newell post and balustrade of modernistic design utilizing chromed rods and railings. The original plans called for vertical glass rods to be installed and although the balustrade was drilled and readied, the glass rods were unintentionally forgotten during assembly and so were never installed (see photo # 6).

The property also includes a large Moderne garage building c. 1920) which was remodeled at the same time as the dwelling (1937-38). The one-story three-bay frame building features smooth stucco wall surfaces, a flat roof and three garage stalls divided by decorative pilasters. Each stall features a garage door with paired round windows and decorative horizontal and vertical wood strips. The garage building is located directly northeast of the house.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1938	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1893, 1937-38 ~~XXXXX~~ Architect 1893-Unknown/1937-38 Gordon Shattuck

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally significant on a state level, the Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach House represents a unique and well-preserved example of a dwelling house designed in the Moderne Style of architecture. The original house, a one-story Victorian dwelling constructed in 1893 for H. J. Bartenbach, was redesigned by a prominent local architect in 1937-38 for Mrs. Bartenbach, giving the house its present appearance. The period of significance is derived from the 1937-38 remodel of the house. Although the house falls short of the 50 year criteria by two years, it gains extraordinary significance as one of the few recorded examples of Streamline Moderne architecture in the state and as the most important dwelling of the style in Grand Island. Although the Moderne style did not gain the widespread popularity of other architectural styles during the 1930's in the state, these few pivotal examples gain exceptional significance, initially through their rarity and ultimately as unique cultural expression within a predominately conservative architectural environment. The property also includes a modernistic garage building which is an integral feature in the house environs and is significant for its associations with the dwelling.

The Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach House is a very distinct and exceptionally significant architectural product of the 1930's, representing a well preserved example of a dwelling house in Nebraska designed in the Moderne Style of architecture. The Moderne style did not gain widespread popularity in the state as did many of its Victorian and Classical predecessors of the late 19th and early 20th century especially in residential architecture. To date, very few examples of Moderne dwelling houses have been recorded as part of the on-going Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. On a local level, the Bartenbach house represents one of only three examples of Moderne residential architecture in Grand Island, all of which were recorded in the 1975 reconnaissance level Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey of Hall County. One property, (NeHBS #HL06-118) has been substantially remodelled since the 1975 survey and no longer retains its historic integrity. Reportedly this dwelling house was also designed by Gordon Shattuck. The other property (NeHBS # HL06-142) which remains in good condition, appears to have been built as a duplex in 1937. Three other examples of Moderne residences in the

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Grand Island, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	5	5	5	1	2	0	4	5	2	9	8	9	5
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

The property is described as lots 5, 6, Block 106, Railroad Addition, Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska, including all historically associated real estate.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date April, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 82554

telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

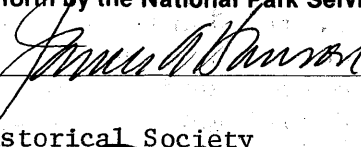
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

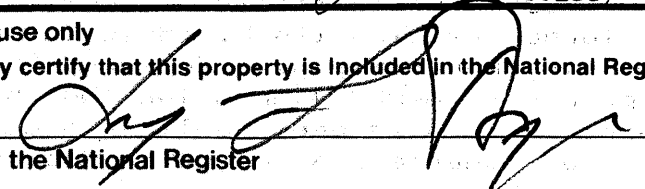


title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 10/20/86

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



date 12/8/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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state, also recorded as part of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, have been identified: the first is located in Hastings, Adams county (NeHBS #AD04-140) and the remaining two (one a duplex) are in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County (NeHBS #'s SF11-77, 81). All dwellings exhibit similar form and design characteristic of the style including: assymetrical facades, two story height, smooth stucco wall surfaces or painted brick to simulate the appearance of stucco, flat roofs, rectilinear walls, some with curves and limited ornamentation. The Mrs. H. J. Bartenbach house represents an exceptionally well-preserved example of Modernistic architecture in Nebraska--more specifically an example of what is defined as the Streamline Moderne style of architecture.

In Gebhard's (1983) article he discusses Modernistic architecture, identifying three styles: Art Deco (American Perpendicular or Perpendicular Moderne, popular in the 20's), Streamline Moderne, (characteristic of the 30's), and Modernized Classicism, evident in both time periods. The Art Deco Moderne, which emphasized verticality, was best expressed in America by the skyscraper. Projecting pilasters and buttresses were incorporated in building designs and ornamentation consisted of spirals, disks, zigzags and stylized plant forms used in repetition. Materials, both inside and out, were rich in appearance and boasted vibrant colors (Gebhard, 39). A second component of popular Modernism was based upon the tradition of Classicism. Bertram G. Goodhue's work is indicative of the style, especially his design of the Nebraska State Capitol at Lincoln (1920-1932; Gebhard, 40).

The last component of the Modernistic style, which the Bartenbach house represents, is Streamline Moderne which characterized the new popular Modernism between the years 1930-1942.

One of the great advantages of the Streamline Moderne was that its character could be established by a limited vocabulary of forms and details. Its basic form should be a volumetric container with surfaces symbolizing the machine: exposed concrete, stucco, vetrolite or Carra glass, or baked porcelain enamel panels. With the exception of concrete, all of these materials were to be read as a surface skin that did not reveal one way or another what lay beneath. Articulating this surface and parallel to it (with no suggestion of structural depth) were horizontal window openings, horizontal bands, and

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often near the top a grouping of three horizontal lines. The window and framing should ideally be machine-like (metal), and the doors should give one the impression of entering a Buck Rogers rocketship. Finally, the two most telltale marks of the style--curved walls and glass brick--should establish the indisputable modernity of it all. (Gebhard, 42).

Although the Streamline Moderne Style was fully established and accepted by American architects by the mid 1930's, the style was not widely used in residential architecture. The middle class associated the style with certain building types e.g. bars, restaurants, theaters, medical clinics, etc., but retained in their minds the image of the Colonial Revival Style dwelling as their ideal home during the depression years. When the style was utilized for single-family housing, it usually reflected the owners desire to build a modern display house or perhaps to suggest to his community that this was the residence of a doctor of science (Gebhard, 43).

This last statement may provide some insight into the reasons why Mrs. Bartenbach, at that time, 61 years of age, chose the Modernistic Style in which to redesign her house. Mrs. Bartenbach's Moderne dwelling must have been quite a "new and different" style of house in an otherwise conservative town such as Grand Island, where most single family dwellings constructed during this time period reflected the more ubiquitous building styles of the 1930's (e.g. period houses, Colonial Revivals, etc.).

Of the three Moderne houses recorded in Grand Island, it is probable that Gordon Shattuck, architect for the Bartenbach house, was also responsible for the design of the other two dwellings as well. As a prominent local architect, Mrs. Bartenbach obviously allowed Mr. Shattuck much freedom in the redesign of her Victorian dwelling, and Mr. Shattuck in turn may have convinced Mrs. Bartenbach that a "lady of her means" should live in a modern and trend-setting display house.

In any case, the house today stands as a notable product of the Moderne Style of architecture in Nebraska, gaining extraordinary significance as one of few recorded examples in the state and as the most important dwelling of the style in Grand Island, the home-town of architect Shattuck. The other superior example of the style in the city was recently re-built into a

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neo-French country house, and is unrecognizable today as a Moderne residence. Although the Moderne Style did not gain the widespread popularity of other architectural styles during the 1930's in the state, the few pivotal examples that remain gain exceptional significance, initially through their rarity and ultimately as unique cultural expression within a predominantly conservative architectural environment. The Modernistic garage building and surrounding landscape enhance the house's overall appearance, and reinforce the significance of the property both in architectural and historical terms.

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