

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 20 1986
date entered MAR 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic Gibson House (NeHBS # CC19-1)

and/or common Mallett House

2. Location

street & number 107 Clinton NA not for publication

city, town Weeping Water NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Cass code 025

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Grant Willis Mallett and Nancy Ruth Tilson-Mallett

street & number 1812 N. Nevada

city, town Colorado Springs NA vicinity of state Colorado 80903

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Cass County Courthouse

street & number NA

city, town Plattsmouth 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gibson house is a two story red brick dwelling with limestone basement measuring 40 by 30 feet and capped with a low-pitched hipped roof. Georgian in massing, the house features a symmetrical five-bay facade, detailed in the Italianate style (e.g. cornice with paired brackets, stilted segmentally-arched hoods, and Italianate porch stoop--originally a full frontal porch). The interior plan is a late nineteenth century variation of the Georgian central hall plan. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved except for partial removal of the frontal porch.

The Gibson house is located on the outskirts of Weeping Water, Nebraska and is the first structure to come into view as the town is approached from the west. It is a two story, red brick house of Italianate design, measuring 40 feet long and 30 feet wide. The stone foundation is exposed on the south and the east side, giving the house the appearance of a three story structure from those angles. The house has five vertical divisions on the east and west sides and two divisions on the north and south sides. It sets on a foundation of local limestone, with walls measuring 18 inches thick. The walls of the house are composed of soft red bricks, laid in soft lime mortar, three wythes thick, in a common bond with every seventh course being a header course. The house is twenty two feet high from the top course of the foundation to the bottom side of the eaves. All of the decorative woodwork around the eaves is intact, including the brackets.

The house has a hipped roof and a "widow's walk" (no railing) measuring eighteen feet long and ten feet wide. The pitch is approximately 5 in 12, flaring to 3 in 12 above the eaves. The widow's walk can be reached from a trap door in the attic. There are two chimneys on the north side and one chimney on the south side. Only one chimney was standing when the present owners purchased the house in 1984, and it was in very poor condition. The other three chimneys were lopped off in the attic. One chimney remains to be rebuilt, though this can be done at any time, when funds become available. The chimneys are arranged symmetrically.

Originally, the front porch extended across the full length of the front or west side. The two ends of the porch were removed in the early fifties, so that only two of the six columns remain on a porch measuring only 11 feet long. The outline of the original porch remains on the brick walls and the bolts that anchored the top plate are still set in the mortar joints. The original woodwork is intact on the remaining section of the front porch.

The rear porch is a concrete deck that replaced the original porch, of unknown design, in 1913, the date having been scratched in the concrete. In the early 20s, the porch was extended and enclosed, making it a small garage. A cinder block wall was also built around the original section of the rear porch.

All of the windows on the first and second floor, with the exception of the horizontal or piano window at the rear, are double hung, one over one. The windows are set in an opening measuring 36 inches by 79 inches. All woodwork and masonry is original.

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The house has two entrances at the first floor level. The front door and rear door windows are both two-light, with original woodwork and hardware. The glass in the front door is etched. An unusually wide door leads into the basement. A small four-light window has been cut in the door. A window opening into the garage has been turned into a door. The original window is used as the top half of the door; the bottom half has been constructed like the original basement door.

The interior of the house has undergone much renovation. All hardwood floors, including the first and second floor hallways, the kitchen, the two second floor bedrooms, have been sanded and refinished. All door casings, baseboards, window casings, and doors in the dining room, living room, and hallways have been reinstalled, with the original faux bois pattern intact. All other doors and hardware are original. All ceilings on the second floor have been raised to their original 10 foot height. Alterations to the room arrangement have been kept to a minimum and include a slightly enlarged bathroom on the first floor and a new closet. The passageway between the kitchen and the study has also been repositioned. The second floor bath has been enlarged and the two bedrooms on the north side turned into a single bedroom, with a large walk-in closet at one end. The closet doors in the bedrooms on the south side of the house have been repositioned to facilitate maximum use of original closet area. All new electric fixtures, including authentic reproductions, have been selected to suit the historic character of the house. All plumbing fixtures are contemporary. Traditional wainscoating has been installed in the first floor study, along with built-in book cases. Carpets and colors also enhance the period during which the house was built. The black walnut railing and ballusters leading to the second floor have been stripped and finished with tongue oil. Traditional ceiling fans have been installed in the living room and the master bedroom. A "Vermont Castings" stove sits in the living room, making use of the original chimney.

The stone foundation walls in the basement are exposed, whenever practical, and the root cellar has been restored. The original stairs lead down to the basement. The stone retaining wall, between the Mallett house and the adjoining structure, has been rebuilt.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<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 c. 1885-1893 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gibson house is architecturally significant as a nineteenth century remnant of eighteenth century Anglo-American material culture in the trans-Missouri west. One of Nebraska's finest examples of Georgian massing, the symmetrical five-bay Georgian facade belies its late date through the Italianate treatment of the exterior. Formally the central hall plan is modified to suit Victorian tastes, illustrating the kind of resiliency in the type which maintained its general popularity well into the twentieth century, including but not limited to the Georgian Revivals.

The Gibson house is an excellent and relatively rare example in Nebraska of Anglo-American Georgian vernacular architecture. Stylistically the house is treated in the Italianate manner. Weeping Water has only one other house of Italianate design, but it is a frame structure. Although Weeping Water was first settled in the late 1850s, most of the remaining houses from its early days are simple and devoid of distinguishing detail. Moreover, they are mostly frame, with a few being partially built of stone. The house is the only brick house from the late 1800s remaining in the city. The bricks undoubtedly came from a local kiln, as they match bricks found in commercial structures downtown. The stone in the foundation is local as it has an iron content found only in local limestone. The structural members in the house are all soft wood, of unknown origin.

Nothing is known about the designer or the builder of the house. It was built for Mary Gibson, the wife of a local attorney, sometime between 1885 when the lot sold for \$350.00 and 1893 when it sold for \$8,000.00. It is impossible to pinpoint the date since the tax records do not exist any longer, and no other records can be found. The deed record for the sale in 1893 also includes Benjamin A. Gibson, the husband of Mary C. Gibson. Both husband and wife were born in 1857. He came from New Hampshire; she came from Charlottesville, state unknown. They were married in 1883, the year in which they arrived in Weeping Water. The dates of their deaths are not known. He was a lawyer and had business interests in Weeping Water. The house had several owners between 1893 and 1921, but nothing is known about them, as they were not as prominent in the life of the community as the Gibsons.

In 1921, the house was purchased by the Domingos, one of the early pioneer families in Cass County. The Domingos came to Weeping Water in the early 1880s from Denmark. The house was purchased from Virginia Domingo Wiles by the Malletts.

Some of the surrounding houses were built at approximately the same time, however, they are all much smaller than the Gibson house, and are also frame. Three frame houses are approximately the same size, but they were built around 1900 in the Queen Anne style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Weeping Water, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>740660</u>	<u>4528125</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is described as the North Eighty Feet (N 80) of lots Three (3), Four (4), and Four and One-Half (4½), Block 66, City of Weeping Water, Cass County, Nebraska, all the historically associated real estate that retains

^{its historic integrity}
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>NA</u>	code	county	code
state	<u>NA</u>	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Grant Mallett, owner/
David Murphy, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Owner/
Nebraska State Historical Society date November 1985

street & number 1812 N. Nevada/
1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-4767

city or town Colorado Springs/
Lincoln state Colorado/
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 James A. Hanson

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date February 4, 1986

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

James M. McPherson

date 3/20/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The Gibson house is situated at the west entrance to Weeping Water. It is the first building that comes into sight, when approaching the town from the west, and is therefore a striking introduction to the town.

Architecturally the Gibson house is a rare and significant remnant of Anglo-American material culture in the trans-Missouri west. A vernacular product of the Georgian period, houses of this type became popular in all English-settled sections of the eastern seaboard after 1760, and remained popular for over a century (Glassie: 49-54, 125). Though the forms remained popular through the nineteenth century in the older areas, the presence of the Gibson house in Nebraska must be considered vestigial since pattern book architecture was by this time changing the face of traditional architecture among the English-speaking population. The importance of this vestige lies in its embodiment of Anglo-American culture, a tradition equal to the various ethnic ones introduced during this period, and one which ultimately supplemented ethnic traditions by the mid-twentieth century.

The significance of the Gibson house for Nebraska is enhanced by the distinct variations of the Georgian form which represent its late period of construction. Most obvious is its incorporation of Italianate stylistic features (paired-brackets in the cornice, stilted segmentally arched hoods, and Italianate porch), all of which were extremely popular in Nebraska during this period. Secondly, the shortening of the central hall to half the house depth, providing direct access to the dining room, represents a Victorian variation of this plan which was more representative of late nineteenth century preferences. Thus, the Gibson house embodies both vestigial and contemporary Anglo-American architectural features.

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Books

Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States.
Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.

Litchfield, Michael W. Renovation, A Complete Guide, John Wiley and Sons,
Publisher, 1982.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American House, Alfred A.
Knopf, Publisher, 1984.

Other

Mallett, Grant. Interview with Mrs. LaVerne Hayes, Weeping Water, Nebraska,
October, 1985.