

PH0367141

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1976

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

Nye House

AND/OR COMMON

Louis E. May Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1643 North Nye Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fremont

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

31

COUNTY

Dodge

CODE

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

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dodge County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

1643 North Nye Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fremont

STATE

Nebraska

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dodge County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fremont

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nye house is an elegant two-story brick residence originally constructed ca. 1874 and slowly modified through the first decade of the twentieth century until its present form was achieved in ca. 1910. The original dwelling was a two-story brick Italianate structure, tee-shaped in plan with a one-story brick rear extension (see photo #1). This dwelling remained virtually unchanged on the exterior during the life of its owner, Theron Nye -- the only change being the 1885 addition of the parlour to the front of the house (see photo copy #2 for dated floor plan sketches prepared by the Dodge County Historical Society). Some interior work was executed, notably the ca. 1885 staircase in the present reception hall (see photo #3).

With the death of Theron Nye, his son, Ray Nye, began immediate renovation of the house, making a series of additions and alterations which resulted in the present form (see photo copy #2). The present dwelling exhibits a rather complex plan arrangement which is reflected in the somewhat complex composition of the exterior (see photos # 4 and 5). The major (front) portions of the house, however, were remodeled and unified in design, establishing the present architectural character (see photos #6 and 7). This notable Georgian revival renovation was executed by the Milwaukee architectural firm of Ferry & Class (noted for their Museum of Science and Industry Building at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair). This firm was also responsible for much of the interior remodeling and decoration (see photos #8, 9 and 10).

Ray Nye and his family owned the dwelling until 1921 when it was purchased by the Lutheran church for use as a dormitory and classrooms. Known as the Western Theological Seminary, the church occupied the property until 1968 when it was purchased by the Louis E. May Trust for the citizens of Dodge County for an historical museum - its present use.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1874, ca. 1901-05 BUILDER/ARCHITECT ca. 1901-05 work: Ferry & Class Milwaukee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Theron Nye was born in 1828 in Madison County, New York. As a young boy, he helped his father on their farm while attending school, and also worked in the family's potash plant. Before coming to Nebraska, he was employed in a drug store and a general store in his native state. He married Miss Caroline Colson in 1853 and became the father of four children: Fred, Ray and two children who died in infancy.

In April, 1857, Nye came west to Nebraska Territory, arriving in Omaha a month later. He stayed in Omaha for a few weeks, gaining some financial footing, and then moved on to the new settlement at Fremont, where he homesteaded one mile north of the community. For a few years times were hard for the family, as many crops failed.

By 1861 Nye's brother-in-law, S. B. Colson, had settled in Fremont and was operating the telegraph office. The two men formed a partnership and during 1861 began freighting grain to Denver with oxen. In 1866, Nye, Colson and Company was formed for the purpose of supplying a better grain market for the people of Nebraska. They soon began handling lumber, other building materials, and farm implements. The firm was very successful and Theron Nye soon became a highly respected member of the Fremont community.

Mr. Nye had other business interests. He was one of the organizers and the first president of the First National Bank of Fremont, he donated over \$4,000 toward the erection of the Eno Hotel and was a stockholder in the Fremont Carriage Factory and Street Railway Companies.

Nye was also a progressive farmer. He was first to introduce short-horn cattle into the area and invested several thousand dollars in an attempt to raise hops. This proved a failure when grasshoppers and hailstorms prevented a crop from ever going to market.

Theron Nye was quite active in politics. When Fremont was incorporated in 1871, he was elected as first mayor and served two terms. He was a county commissioner for three years and was the losing candidate in both 1872 and 1882 for State Senator on the Republican ticket.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andreas, A. T., Editor, History of the State of Nebraska. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1882.

Buss, Reverend William H. and Thomas T. Osterman. History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1921.

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	70,86,3,0	4,59,09,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries, Curator of Historic Sites and D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

November 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1500 "R" Street

TELEPHONE

(402) 432-2793

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

Marvin B. Knott

11/15/76

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

11/23/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Rettig KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Johnson

DATE

11/17/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In 1884, Theron Nye sold his interests in Nye, Colson and Company to his son Ray. Ray, who was born in Fremont in 1861, began working as a bookkeeper in the business at the age of fifteen. In 1882, he was made a full partner and in 1887, he led in the consolidation of the firm with two other grain dealers, forming Nye, Wilson and Morehouse Company. In 1890, the business was reorganized as Nye and Schneider Company. By 1920 this firm owned more than 200 grain elevators in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota.

When Theron Nye first arrived in Nebraska Territory in 1857, he built a log cabin from timber found along the Platte River. In 1865, after achieving some financial prosperity, he erected a frame house which was considered one of the finest in Fremont. He lived in this residence until 1874, when he built his estate on Nye Avenue. After his death in 1901, the home was renovated by his son Ray, who lived in the mansion.

Architecturally, the Nye house stands as an outstanding example of the Georgian Revival style which enjoyed widespread popularity in Nebraska after the turn of the century. Somewhat modified in conception due to the problems of integrating a much earlier dwelling, the house is unique compared to the more standard interpretations of the style in Nebraska. Notable in this respect is the use of flat and nearly flat roofs over the main part of the dwelling, concealed by the Georgian balustrade, which serves as a strong unifying device.

Of interest also is the uncharacteristically complex form of the house created by the necessity to integrate the 1874 dwelling - this in spite of the fact that a ca. 1905-10 shell was built around most of the 1874 dwelling (see photo copy #2). Details from the earlier dwelling, where they exist, lend a sense of historical layering which intensifies the structure's architectural interest (see photos #11 and 12) and amplifies its unique qualities.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Nebraska State Historical Society files, Historic Preservation
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"Theron Nye Passes Away." Obituary, Fremont Daily Tribune,
7 March 1901.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge:
M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Theron Nye - Ray Nye Residence
1874-1912 period of construction

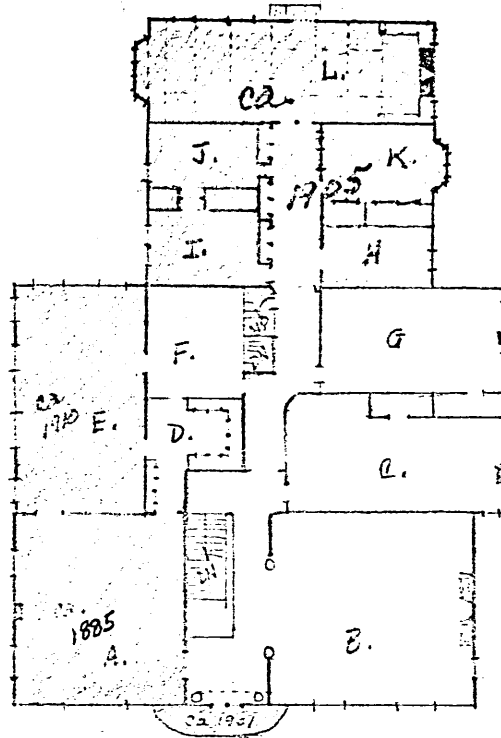
Fremont, Nebraska

DODGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



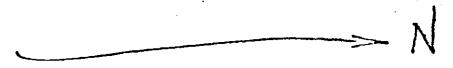
NOT TO SCALE

2ND floor

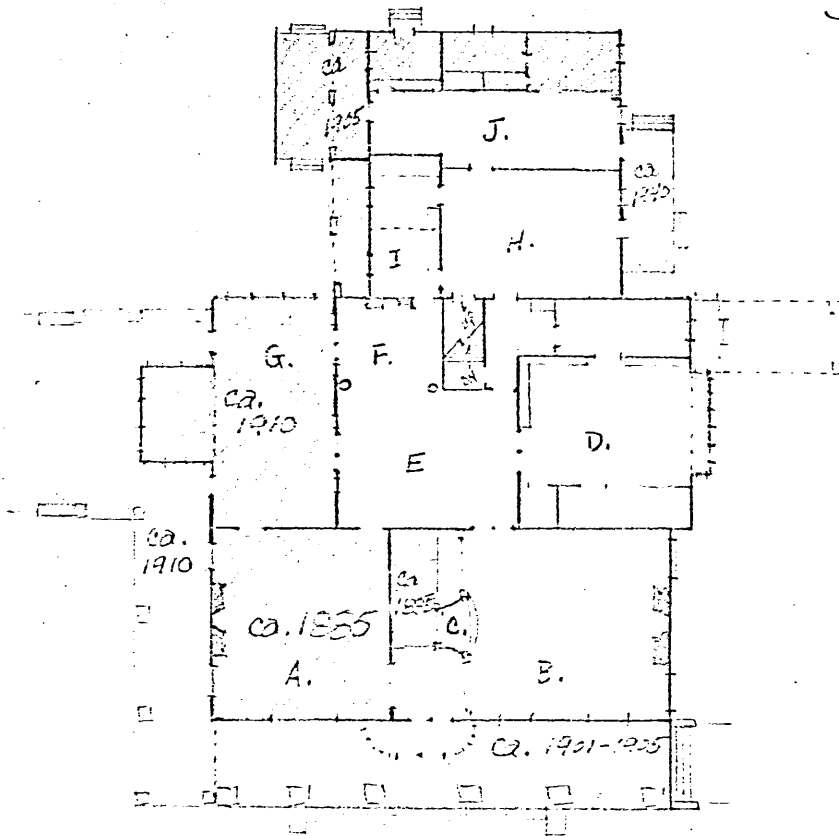


- A. master bedroom
- B. sitting room (billiard room 1885 to 1905)
- C. bedroom
- D. master dressing room
- E. sunroom
- F. master bath
- G. bedroom
- H. bath
- I. servant bedroom
- J. " "
- K. sewing room
- L. billiard room

unshaded area - 1874
room arrangement - ca 1901-1905



1ST floor



portc
colonnade ca. 1901-1905
(removed 1940s)

- A. parlor
- B. reception hall
- C. stair ca 1885
- D. library
- E. dining room
- F. breakfast room
- G. sunroom (conservatory style) with glass roof
- H. kitchen
- I. pantry
- J. servant's hall, laundry, etc.

unshaded area - 1874
room arrangement - ca 1901-1905

NOT TO SCALE

PHOTOCOPY #2

NOV 23 1977

Nye House
Fremont, Nebraska

Dodge County Historical Society
Sketch
ca. 1975

Dodge County Historical Society
Fremont, Nebraska

Sketch of floor plans showing dates
of the additions and alterations