

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1978

DATE ENTERED JUN 13 1978

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

Dr. W. C. Wightman House

AND/OR COMMON

Rollie W. Ley House

(WY05-1)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

702 Lincoln St

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

VICINITY OF

CODE

31

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

179

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

Wayne County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Wightman-Ley House in Wayne, Nebraska (population 5,000) stands on a large tree-shaded lot, fronted by a brick street. The 2½ story structure was built in the Shingle Style of architecture. The first story is covered with narrow board siding and is surrounded on two facades by a large porch. This porch is supported by shingled piers which are united by railings of solid panels of narrow gauge siding. The porch roof rests on Ionic columns. The second level walk-out is surrounded by a shorter version of the lower level porch railing.

The second story of the house is faced with shingles. A segmented window on the southeast corner and Palladian windows on the two gable ends are typical Shingle Style features incorporated into the house. The windows on second floor and also, the attic dormer, display diamond motifs in the window panes and in the shingle design of the dormer. A low railing of shingled piers and turned posts extends out from this attic dormer. A turned post rail also crowns the top of the first story bay window (see photo #4).

A wide, board cornice with dentils caps the east (front) facade at the meeting of the second story and the roof line. The same cornice with a simple dentil band surrounds the other non-gabled walls of the house (see photo #4).

A second floor sleeping porch on the northwest corner (rear) with a first floor breakfast room below were added to the house in 1920. There is a screened-in porch on the south (see photo #4). The three chimneys which penetrate the roof, carry the smoke from four interior fireplaces.

The interior of the house follows a generally open floor plan. The room layout is five rooms over five with a front and back stairway. The elaborate entry-living hall (see photos #7 & #8) lined with oak paneling, features a curved glass built-in cabinet, ornate fireplace and two built-in seats. Colored glass windows and a latticework cornice are also decorative features of this hall. Each of the first level rooms, excluding the kitchen, has a different pattern of inlaid flooring. The front and back parlors of the Wightman-Ley House (photos #9 & #10) are adorned with carved woodwork featuring chains of husks and other floral motifs. A wide doorway with sliding oak doors separates the front parlor from the living-hall and the back parlor from the dining room. The back parlor has a slightly irregular floor plan, because of the bay window. A latticework cornice accentuates this bay area. The dining room features a built-in sideboard and woodwork matching that of the parlors.

The interior and the exterior of the house is in excellent condition.

A one-stall garage situated behind the house constructed ca. 1920 and a small tool shed are also located on the property. The house and the out-buildings are painted chocolate brown and beige.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Shingle Style house was built in 1900 by Dr. W. C. Wightman, a Wayne physician and doctor for the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Little biographical information is available concerning Wightman, however it is known that he was chosen a member of the Wayne County Board of Health in November of 1884 and served as County Physician in 1896, 1904 and 1905. Purportedly, the Wightmans entertained extensively and hence needed a large home to accomodate guests who were often served refreshments catered in by train by a Sioux City firm.

In 1912, Dr. Wightman moved to California and sold the house to Rollie W. Ley for \$8,000 with the agreement that he could use a bedroom on his occasional trips back to Nebraska. Ley, who was born in Jordan, Minnesota on May 15, 1879, was educated at Wayne State Teachers College, the University of Nebraska and Lincoln Business College. He became associated with the Wayne State National Bank in 1899 as a clerk and held several positions in the organization before becoming president and chairman of the Board in 1924. Ley held various community offices, among these were City Treasurer, president of the Federal Savings and Loan Association, treasurer of the Wayne County Fair and Agricultural Association and treasurer of the Greenwood Cemetery Association. He was also a member of the finance committee of the Democratic State Central Committee.

The Wightman-Ley House is a fine example of the Shingle Style mode of architecture. Though a vernacular version of the style, this house has many characteristic features, such as the shingled upper floors over the clapboarded first floor, Palladian windows in the gables, elaborate wood paneled entry hall with window seat, fireplace and winding staircase, the generally open floor plan and the exquisite parquette flooring on first floor. Modest examples of this style which utilized more obvious classical motifs were more popular in Nebraska than the fully developed mode. Now in the process of restoration by the Wayne County Historical Society, this house is one of the most outstanding buildings in the Wayne community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet Item 9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 4	6 6 3 ^{3 0 0} 3 2 0	4 6 7 7 6 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 4, Blk. 10 Britton & Bressler's Add. to Wayne

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries Spencer, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

DATE

February, 1978

TELEPHONE

402-432-2793

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

Mervin D. Knitt

DATE

2/9/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

6/13/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Walter Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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