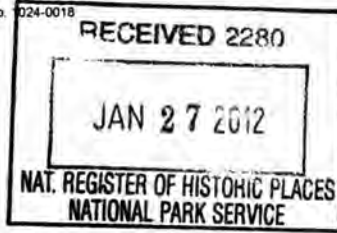


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



105

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name Mathewson-Gerecke House
Other names/site number Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory MD06-140

2. Location

Street & number 1202 West Norfolk Avenue Not for publication
City or town Norfolk Vicinity
State Nebraska Code NE County Madison Code 119 Zip code 68701

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.)

Michael J. ... 01-23-2012
Signature of certifying official Date
Director/CEO, Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Officer
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): _____

Jay Walker 3/12/2012

Signature of Keeper Date of Action
fn

Mathewson-Gerecke House

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

- 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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Domestic/single dwelling/house

Current Functions

Domestic/single dwelling/house

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late Victorian/Queen Anne

Materials

Foundation Brick

Walls Wood

Roof Asbestos/Asphalt

Other

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Continuation Sheet**

Mathewson-Gerecke House

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The Mathewson-Gerecke house is a two-story residence built in 1884. It sits on a commanding lot, facing south and east to the intersection of Norfolk Avenue and North 12th Street. The house is of the Queen Anne style. It is asymmetrical in massing with a complex roof configuration. The frame structure sits on a solid brick foundation. The interior has an irregular floor plan and features an elaborate staircase, fireplaces, and fine woodwork. The house was remodeled in c.1925, which is attributed to the construction of a sunroom to the east of the house and the replacement of porches with Classical porticos at the front and rear entries. Originally the site included a barn, which is no longer extant. A modern, noncontributing two-stall garage is located to the east of the house. The house possesses a high level of integrity.

When a new subdivision was platted in 1882, Charles P. Mathewson purchased a large, commanding lot on the northwest corner of West Norfolk Avenue and North 12th Street. The house is situated at the top of the sloping lot and placed far from the streets. Its primary facades face south and east overlooking the spacious landscape and oriented to the intersection for maximum prominence. As described in a local newspaper in 1884: "Mr. Mathewson chose a beautiful spot for his home several years ago and has been adorning it since by planting shade and fruit trees and making an attractive blue grass lawn."¹ The site now includes several mature trees, shrubs, and large expanse of lawn. A long, curving driveway leads to the house from North 12th Street. A rock feature is located immediately west of the garage. While the surroundings have changed with the demolition of several houses on the north side of Norfolk Avenue and the construction of a modern, multi-story apartment building next to the subject property, it still commands a presence. Given the size and prominence of the house, especially when viewed from the south and east, it retains its setting, feeling, and association.

The property once included a barn described upon completion in 1884 as "...fully in keeping with the handsome residence...It is furnished with all the conveniences and is supplied with water from the reservoir in the home."² The barn was presumably removed when the property was subdivided into several smaller lots in 1922. A modern two-stall garage is now located east of the house, which is not contributing to this nomination.

The house was built in the Queen Anne style. It is asymmetrical in massing. The complex hipped roof is steeply pitched and features gables and two eyebrow windows. It was once punctuated by a prominent chimney. The roof on the main portion of the house is covered with asbestos shingles with built-up gutters. Fish-scale shingles are at each gable end. As documented in an 1888 engraving the peaks of the roofs once featured cresting and finials and detailed brackets at the gable ends.³

Other features of the Queen Anne style included projecting bays at the east and west, covered by a shed roof and gable. The east bay window has been removed. Large, double hung windows are located throughout, consisting of a single panel of glass surrounded by divided lites set in wood sash. A set of stepped windows, topped by stained glass transoms are located on the west façade, which light the interior stair hall.

Changes to the exterior of the house are attributed to a c. 1925 remodeling.⁴ A sunroom was added to the east side of the house. The chimney was replaced with a large exterior chimney, which serves the fireplaces in the sunroom and living room.

Detailed descriptions of the new house were reported in local newspapers both throughout the construction and upon its completion in 1884. Originally, the house featured an elaborate full-width Eastlake porch at the south façade with a shed roof incorporating a gable

¹ "An Elegant New Home," *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

² "An Elegant New Home," *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

³ As illustrated, *Norfolk Daily News*, August 28, 1888.

⁴ From a booklet (c. 1966, untitled) listing Stitt's commissions and those of his successor, Howard J. Strong Associates, Architects. An entry lists a remodeling for C.J. Fleming in 1925. Copy in the collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

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that defined the main entrance, which was approached by grand staircase.⁵ As described, “[t]he main floor is entered from an elaborately finished porch in front through solid oaken doors.”⁶ The porch was removed, presumably in the c. 1925 remodeling and redesigned with a Classically detailed portico flanked by columns with a single door surrounded by decorative sidelights and topped by a fanlight. A rear porch of Eastlake design was also replaced with a portico of Classical details with columns.⁷

The house rests on a basement of solid brick, divided into several rooms. Shortly after the basement was excavated, the local newspaper reported that seven carloads of brick from West Point, Nebraska were being received for the foundation of the house.⁸ As described upon the house’s completion:

...The basement is under the entire building, and 55,000 brick were used in constructing it. It contains six apartments, the walls between being made of brick. Here is the large furnace of the latest pattern, which heats the entire building. The other basement rooms are a laundry supplied with hot and cold water by means of faucets; also vegetable, fruit and jelly cellars, and two apartments for fuel – wood and coal...⁹

The house was once heated “with the latest improved furnace...”¹⁰ Radiators once served to heat the house. The basement now holds a modern geothermal heating and cooling system. Forced air heating and air conditioning replaces the system of radiators and natural ventilation.

From the front door the guest proceeded into an entry vestibule with Lincrusta wallcovering and an interior set of doors with beveled glass. This enters into a spacious hall featuring oak paneling and a dramatic staircase of oak, originally described as a “...unique stairway costing \$800. All woodwork in the hall is solid oak.”¹¹ The stair hall is lit by a pair of windows, which are topped with stained glass transoms.

The first floor was originally divided into an adjoining parlor and sitting room and a dining room, described upon completion of the house:

...To the right [of the stair hall] the parlor is entered through sliding doors. This room is finished in native cherry, as is also sitting room adjoining, which is entered through sliding doors.” From the sitting room one passes into the dining room, also through sliding doors, on the west side of the house; this room being maple...¹²

The parlor and sitting room are now combined into one large living room. With this exception, the floor plan remains in its original configuration throughout the first floor. The woodwork was originally described as “furnished in polished wood, no paint being used inside.”¹³ The elaborate woodwork, including pocket doors remain in excellent condition. Hanging light fixtures of the Art Deco style and wall sconces are in the living room.

The house featured “unique designed marble mantles and fireplaces.”¹⁴ In another 1884 description, “[e]laborate and beautiful fire places and mantels are placed in the parlor, sitting room, dining room and large upper chamber.”¹⁵ Two remain, one in the former parlor and another in an upstairs bedroom. The parlor fireplace is in the Eastlake style, detailed in cherry.

⁵ As illustrated, *Norfolk Daily News*, August 28, 1888.

⁶ “An Elegant New Home,” *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

⁷ As illustrated, *Norfolk Daily News*, August 28, 1888.

⁸ *Norfolk Journal*, April 18, 1884.

⁹ “An Elegant New Home,” *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

¹⁰ *Norfolk Journal*, December 26, 1884.

¹¹ “An Elegant New Home,” *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

¹² “An Elegant New Home,” *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

¹³ “An Elegant New Home,” *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

¹⁴ *Norfolk Journal*, December 26, 1884.

¹⁵ “An Elegant New Home,” *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

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Mathewson-Gerecke House

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

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East from the living room is a door with beveled glass, which leads into the sunroom addition. A massive fireplace is faced in glazed brick and topped by an oak mantle. The floors are glazed tile. The ceiling is coffered. Originally all of the woodwork was finished in fumed oak, now painted. Arched bookcases of more recent origin flank the fireplace. The sunroom is surrounded by large multipane casement windows.

The dining room features a bay window and the original maple woodwork. From the dining room is the kitchen, described in 1884. "Adjoining [the dining room] is the kitchen and pantry, furnished with all the conveniences, supplied with a Monitor range and hot and cold water."¹⁶ The kitchen has been modernized to include a small dining area and an adjoining half bathroom. A staircase from the kitchen enters the basement. Exiting the kitchen is an exterior entrance, originally covered by a small Eastlake porch, replaced by a portico of Classical detailing.

The second floor now includes five bedrooms and one main bathroom. However, the second floor was described in 1884: "There are seven chambers in this floor with bath rooms and water-closets.... The house has also a complete system of sewerage."¹⁷ The article continued. "The upper rooms are all finished in polished pine." An original fireplace is found in the largest of the bedrooms. A back bedroom probably housed servants.

A back stairway was used by family and servants, leading down to the first floor kitchen. Another stairway provides access to the attic. The house was originally plumbed with a gravity water system from a large storage tank, which in 1884 was described as follows:

... In the attic is a large reservoir containing thirty barrels, water from which is drawn in all parts of the building, and also from hydrants in the yard and barn – this furnishing a complete system of water-works for the kitchen, laundry, lawn and fire purposes. The power is furnished by a windmill and force pump...¹⁸

The attic is subdivided into several rooms and storage areas.

Most of the alterations to the original house are attributed to the remodeling in c. 1925. However, these changes are significant in their own right and the defining characteristics of the Queen Anne style are still present. The house reflects remarkable integrity when applying the factors of location, setting, design, association, materials, feeling and workmanship.

¹⁶ "An Elegant New Home," *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

¹⁷ "An Elegant New Home," *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

¹⁸ "An Elegant New Home," *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X 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

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

- Architecture
Commerce
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1884-c.1925

Significant Dates

1884-1886
1887-1907
c. 1925

Significant Person

Charles P. Mathewson
Herman Gerecke

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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 for additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The house is associated with two of Norfolk's most prominent citizens, applying significance under "Criterion B" of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level. Charles P. Mathewson and Herman Gerecke were among the earliest residents of the town of Norfolk. Their lives crossed and both became the most prominent citizens of the city. It is also locally significant under "Criterion C" for its architecture, being one of Norfolk's finest houses representing the Queen Anne style. The period of significance extends from 1884, when the house was built, to c.1925, the date attributed to a remodeling. Significant dates are 1884 to 1886, when the house was associated with Mathewson; 1887 to 1907 when the house was occupied by Gerecke; and c. 1925, the date attributed to the remodeling.

Charles P. Mathewson

Charles Payson Mathewson (1848-1941) was born in Connecticut. His father, Col. Charles Mathewson, located in Nebraska after service in the Civil War. Afterwards he was appointed as agent to the Winnebago Indian Reservation and held this position from 1865-1869.¹⁹ Col. Mathewson then relocated to Madison County. Here he found an industrious group of German settlers from Ixonia, Wisconsin who located in the area in 1866 and 1867. Seeing the rich agricultural and commercial prospects of the area he built a saw mill operation and a water-powered flour mill in 1869-1870. He also established a store with his son-in-law, John E. Olney. The mill and store on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River determined the location of the town site that became the new hamlet of Norfolk.

C.P. Mathewson and his older brother, Major Joseph Mathewson, established the private banking house of J.&C.P. Mathewson in 1872. He married Henrietta Merideth Coon of David City in 1873.²⁰ The partnership in the bank was dissolved in 1878 and C.P. Mathewson became sole owner. His business interests also included insurance and real estate, being an agent for B&M railroad land in Madison County. The bank prospered and a new two-story brick building costing \$5,000 was built in 1880. That year it was reported that approximately \$500,000 of business was conducted.²¹ His banking house became a national bank in 1885 with capital stock of \$60,000.²² C.P. Mathewson became president of the newly-organized Norfolk National Bank. He continued to have an interest in the milling company under the name of Mathewson & Co. until 1886.

In his civic and political endeavors, Mathewson was elected to the Nebraska legislature in 1878 and became speaker of the House the following year. He served two terms. When Norfolk's government was organized as a village in 1881, he was elected chairman of its board of trustees. His other work included service as president at the time of the establishment of the Madison County Agricultural Society, which was organized in 1874.²³ He became first president of the Elkhorn Valley Immigration Association in 1880, a booster organization that promoted settlement in a six-county region of northeast Nebraska.²⁴

The headlines of the local newspapers on March 25, 1886 expressed the shock and disbelief of the entire community when it was reported that Mathewson had fled Norfolk. Financial irregularities were uncovered when a bank examiner inspected the books shortly before the incident. Mathewson carried with him \$1,000 that was to be deposited in an Omaha bank. In a letter sent to his wife from Chicago he enclosed \$110 and said that financial embarrassment led him to the action and he could not confront his creditors any longer. He told her that he would correspond with her the first of each month through a personal column of an eastern newspaper. His resignation as president of the bank was enclosed. When the situation was known a small run on the bank occurred but bank officials covered the withdrawals and satisfied the depositors.²⁵ N.A. Rainbolt, who was then named president of the bank, transmitted the following statement:

¹⁹ Morton and Watkins, *Illustrated History of Nebraska*, Vol. 11, Lincoln: Jacob North and Company, 1907, pages 325, 327.
²⁰ Morton and Watkins, *Illustrated History of Nebraska*, Vol. 11, Lincoln: Jacob North and Company, 1907, page 327.
²¹ *Norfolk Journal*, January 14, 1881.
²² *Norfolk Journal*, May 15, 1885.
²³ "Madison Co. Agricultural Society," *Madison County Review* (Madison), February 20, 1874.
²⁴ "Immigration," *Madison County Chronicle* (Madison), April 1, 1880. "The E.V.I. Assn.," *Norfolk Times*, February 3, 1881.
²⁵ "The Disappearance of Chas. P. Mathewson," *Norfolk Journal*, March 25, 1886.

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The Board of Directors of the Norfolk National Bank have instructed me to express through the papers their thanks to the business men and citizens of our town and vicinity for their manly conduct towards and faith in the bank during its late trial. We are pleased to state that the bank passed through its ordeal without injury or much inconvenience.²⁶ Investors, however, entered claims estimated at \$50,000 to \$58,000.²⁷ Mathewson's assets were placed in receivership and his wife packed her household goods and left Norfolk with their three young children in November. Reports indicated that Mathewson had gone to Colorado where he entered into the silver mining business.²⁸

The Norfolk National Bank survived the ordeal but Mathewson did not return to Norfolk. He did, however, come back to Nebraska in 1889 and engaged as a bank clerk in Wakefield. He remarried in 1891 to Eva L. Ashley. In 1892 he served as chief clerk at the Winnebago Reservation and in 1899 was appointed by President McKinley as agent of the Omaha and Winnebago reservations.²⁹ His record followed him, however, and created headlines when it was learned that the "absconding" banker had been appointed to this high position.³⁰ Mathewson settled in Walthill, later moving to California where he died in 1941.

Although Mathewson only lived in the house from 1884 until 1886, the house best reflects his prominence in the community, marking the pinnacle of his many business and civic ventures. This warrants consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under "Criterion B." Of other properties once associated with Mathewson only the bank building remains, located at the southeast corner of Norfolk Avenue and Second Street, which was built in 1880. However, it suffers from substantial alterations and probably lacks the necessary integrity to make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Herman Gerecke

Herman Gerecke (1844-1936) was born in Germany and at the age of ten came to America with his family. They settled in Wisconsin where he spent his boyhood years. At the age of seventeen he enlisted to serve in the Civil War with Company D, Sixteenth Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry and was wounded at the battle of Shiloh. Because of his wounds he was discharged in 1862, came to Decatur, Nebraska the following year and enlisted with Company C, Seventh Iowa Calvary, which was stationed on the frontier.³¹ After his discharge in 1866 he returned to Nebraska and took a homestead in Burt County.³²

Herman Gerecke had learned the carpentry trade as an apprentice to his father. He came to Madison County in 1869 to work for Col. Charles Mathewson, who he knew previously from helping to build a mill at the Winnebago agency. His work included the construction of the Mathewson mill and Olney store, the first frame house in the settlement for the Mathewsons and several bridges.³³ He then left for Waterloo, Nebraska helping to build a mill and becoming the millwright. There he met Sarah Esmeralda Brickley, the mill owner's adopted daughter. He returned to Norfolk with his new wife in 1871 and in 1874 he entered into a partnership in the furniture business.³⁴

Gerecke rose to become one of the city's most prominent and wealthy men. He was instrumental in bringing the Union Pacific railroad to Norfolk in 1879, making out the right-of-way papers.³⁵ With the arrival of the railroad, Gerecke saw that the hamlet was posed for growth and went into a partnership in the lumber business with A.P. Pilger. Three years later he bought his partner's interest in the business.³⁶ An astute businessman, he also invested in real estate. Herman Gerecke was a stockholder in the Norfolk National

²⁶ "Charley Mathewson Gone!" *Elkhorn Valley News* (Norfolk), March 25, 1886.

²⁷ "The Disappearance of Chas. P. Mathewson," *Norfolk Journal*, March 25, 1886. "Charley Mathewson Gone!" *Elkhorn Valley News* (Norfolk), March 25, 1886.

²⁸ *Norfolk Journal*, October 28, 1886.

²⁹ Morton and Watkins, *Illustrated History of Nebraska*, Vol. 11, Lincoln: Jacob North and Company, 1907, page 327.

³⁰ "New Indian Agent's Record," *New York Times*, January 9, 1899.

³¹ Andreas, A.T., *History of the State of Nebraska*, Vol. II, Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1882, page 1106.

³² *Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska*, Chicago: Alden Publishing Company, 1912, page 667.

³³ "Veteran and Pioneer," *Norfolk Press*, August 10, 1916.

³⁴ "Herman Gerecke First Mayor of Norfolk is Dead," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 11, 1936.

³⁵ Pangle, Mary Ellen, "Stories of the Pioneers," *Norfolk Daily News*, January 30, 1929.

³⁶ "Herman Gerecke First Mayor of Norfolk is Dead," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 11, 1936.

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Mathewson-Gerecke House

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Bank when it was organized as a national bank in 1885. He invested in an existing brick manufacturing business, which was reorganized in 1888 as the Norfolk Brick and Tile Works with Dr. Ferdinand Verges as president and Gerecke as secretary-treasurer and general manager. In 1890, the brickworks had a capital of \$60,000. The large operation covered about four and one-half acres. It ran three kilns with a capacity of 700,000 brick turning out 30,000 brick every ten hours, running day and night. That season the factory shipped one hundred railroad carloads of brick in addition to that provided for the local trade area.³⁷ Gerecke later acquired controlling interest along with immediate family members S.E. Gerecke, Alfred Gerecke and H. Ervin Gerecke.³⁸

In civic affairs, Gerecke was one of the first members of the board of education. He served as assessor for Norfolk and fourteen years as justice of the peace.³⁹ Gerecke is credited with circulating a petition to the county board asking that Norfolk be granted the status and rights of a village in 1881. He helped form the Norfolk fire department in 1884.⁴⁰ When Norfolk was made a city of the second class in 1886, Herman Gerecke was elected the town's first mayor. He is credited with writing the city's first ordinances. Gerecke served two subsequent terms as mayor from 1889-1891. Active in the Democratic Party, he was nominee by his party for the state legislature in 1892. He was elected city treasurer in 1895 and served many years on the city council, his last term in 1915.⁴¹

His fortunes declined in the brick business and he recalled that the enterprise took twenty years of his life without return.⁴² In 1907, the brickyards closed. With his fortune spent he went to live at the State Hospital for the Insane in Norfolk, where he had worked first as a steward and then as general carpenter.⁴³ His wife died in 1910 and he remarried to Mrs. Grace Dederick in 1915. Despite his turn in fortunes, the status and respect gained over his long service to Norfolk was reflected in a 1916 newspaper account of Gerecke's life subtitled "The City's Wealthiest Man. Rich in Love of Fellow Man and in Service to Community - World's Best Wealth." The article continued:

...Mr. Gerecke's part in upbuilding Norfolk was of such a nature as to make him of the town one of its first citizens. At one time among the richest if not the richest men in the community, Mr. Gerecke today is comparatively a poor man and his wealth was not expended in riotous living, but in helping make others more happy, more prosperous. His is a name that stands for square dealing and no man can raise even one hint at that which would make for a lessening of the good name of our friend and no one would, for all love him, many with much reason...⁴⁴

Gerecke spent his last birthday at work. He continued to work at the hospital until a few months before his death in 1936 at the age of 91.⁴⁵ In his eulogy, Gerecke was called "the grand old man of the city of Norfolk."⁴⁶

The Gereckes acquired the house after the holdings of C.P. Mathewson were placed in receivership. His wife obtained a receiver's deed to the house in 1887 and the family owned the property until 1907.

The house is locally significant under "Criterion B" of the National Register of Historic Places, reflecting the prominence of Herman Gerecke in business and civic affairs. No other representative property remains in Norfolk that is associated with Gerecke. Only the site of his brickyards remains (Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory, MD06-478), however it lacks integrity of the

³⁷ "Norfolk Brick and Tile Company," *Norfolk Daily News*, November 1, 1890.

³⁸ *Norfolk of Today... A Review of Her Advantages, Central Location... Remarkable Resources*. Omaha: The Trans-Mississippi Immigration Company, n.d. The latter two were Gerecke's sons. S.E. Gerecke was his wife, Sarah E. Gerecke.

³⁹ *Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska*, Chicago: Alden Publishing Company, 1912, page 667.

⁴⁰ "Herman Gerecke Helped to Form Fire Department in '84," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 12, 1936.

⁴¹ "Herman Gerecke First Mayor of Norfolk is Dead," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 11, 1936. "Funeral Rites Held for First Mayor of City," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 13, 1936.

⁴² "Stories of the Pioneers," *Norfolk Daily News*, January 30, 1929.

⁴³ "Stories of the Pioneers," *Norfolk Daily News*, January 30, 1929.

⁴⁴ "Veteran and Pioneer," *Norfolk Press*, August 10, 1916.

⁴⁵ "Herman Gerecke First Mayor of Norfolk is Dead," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 11, 1936. "Funeral Rites Held for First Mayor of City," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 13, 1936.

⁴⁶ "Funeral Rites Held for First Mayor of City," *Norfolk Daily News*, June 13, 1936.

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period, having been developed as a park by Dr. C.J. Verges, who acquired the site after the brickyards were closed and the buildings removed.

Subsequent Owners (1907-1966)

The house continued in the ownership of noteworthy families. Frank and Martha Davenport acquired the house in 1907. His parents, George and Mary, arrived in Norfolk with their family in 1883.⁴⁷ In the 1890s Frank and his brother George (Jr.) opened "Davenport Bros.," a shoe store. When the partnership was dissolved in 1902, Frank continued the business until 1925 when the Davenports moved to California.⁴⁸ The house was then sold to Carl J. and Ethelyn Fleming. Fleming was a young pharmacist who arrived in Norfolk in 1908 when he purchased the drug store of F.F. Ware & Son.⁴⁹ He was active in many civic and fraternal organizations.⁵⁰ C.J. Fleming stayed in the business until his death in 1963 and at the time was Norfolk's oldest businessman in terms of years in business.⁵¹ The house was sold by the family in 1966. The remodeling of the house is attributed to Fleming, who commissioned architect J.C. Stitt to prepare architectural plans in 1925.⁵²

Architecture

In the 1880's into the early 1890's Norfolk, like many communities in Nebraska, experienced significant growth. This is reflected in the construction of homes, businesses, industries and schools in the growing and prosperous community. This also coincides with the period of the popularity of the Queen Anne style for residential architecture in Norfolk and elsewhere. The Mathewson-Gerecke house is one of the most prominent representatives of this period of architecture in the city.

In 1882, Charles P. Mathewson acquired a large lot in what had been platted as "Haase's Suburban Lots." The subdivision was intended for some of the finest house sites, demonstrating the new prosperity being experienced in the town at the time. With select and spacious lots facing Norfolk Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare, the prominent citizens who built here could be assured that their homes could be put on display as the finest in the community. Mathewson's new house would certainly be worthy of this choice site.

In the spring of 1884 builders began construction of the foundation and a barn. Even as the framing went up and the house was being back-plastered, a correspondent for the *Sioux City Daily Journal* reported:

Looking up the western extension of the Main street, which lays on a beautiful upward slope, we note that some of as fine pieces of residence property as can be seen in any town of its size in the country, and particularly noticeable is the palace residence of Chas. P. Mathewson, the representative banker of the town.⁵³

The house was completed in October of 1884. In a detailed description of the new house, the *Norfolk Journal* boasted that:

"[t]he completion of Banker Chas. P. Mathewson's new house on Main street affords the *Journal* an opportunity to speak of an improvement which surpasses anything previously attempted in this part of the State... The crowning improvement... [is] a beautiful and costly residence. It is a two story frame with basement and attic, fashioned by the architect in the Queen Anne style and costing \$12,000. No adequate description of it can be given with pen..."⁵⁴

In another report it was described. "This is one of the finest improvements in North Nebraska... It is a daisy."⁵⁵

⁴⁷ "A Sudden Summons. George Davenport Dies..." *Norfolk News*, June 7, 1900.

⁴⁸ "Frank E. Davenport Dies in California," *Norfolk Daily News*, October 10, 1936.

⁴⁹ *The Pharmaceutical Era*, New York City: D.O. Haynes and Co., May 28, 1908.

⁵⁰ *Who's Who in Nebraska* (Nebraska Press Association), Lincoln: State Journal Printing Company, 1940, page 799.

⁵¹ "C.J. Fleming, Long-Time Druggist Dies," *Norfolk Daily News*, May 4, 1963.

⁵² From a booklet (c. 1966, untitled) listing Stitt's commissions and those of his successor, Howard J. Strong Associates, Architects. An entry lists a remodeling for C.J. Fleming in 1925. Copy in the collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

⁵³ "A Sketch of Norfolk by a Sioux City Tourist," *Norfolk Journal*, July 18, 1884.

⁵⁴ "An Elegant New Home," *Norfolk Journal*, October 7, 1884.

⁵⁵ *Norfolk Journal*, December 26, 1884.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Mathewson-Gerecke House

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 8

The original architect has not been confirmed. In 1925, James C. Stitt furnished the plans for a subsequent remodeling for then owner, C.J. Fleming.⁵⁶ Stitt was the city's most prolific architect, practicing in Norfolk from 1889 until his death in 1949. Alterations to the house are attributed to the subsequent remodeling, which gave the house several Classical features and a sunroom. The tasteful remodeling reflects the then-outdated popularity of the Queen Anne style and the desire to give the house a more modern appearance.

The house reflects the high-style treatments found in Queen Anne architecture. As distinguished by the Queen Anne style, it is asymmetrical in massing and has an irregular floor plan. The complex roof features a variety of roof shapes; steeply pitched with hipped roof and gables with overhanging eaves. Features of the Queen Anne style included projecting bays at the east and west. Throughout the house are large double-hung windows consisting of a single panel of glass surrounded by divided lites set in wooden sash. Stained glass windows are in the stair hall. Combined, the defining characteristics of the Queen Anne style are represented by the Mathewson-Gerecke house.

Although many examples of the Queen Anne style are still extant in Norfolk, they do not possess the size and prominence of the Mathewson-Gerecke house with the exception of the N.A. Rainbolt house at 1104 Koenigstein, completed in 1885 (Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory, MD06-190).⁵⁷ The Queen Anne style still remains prominent despite the c.1925 alterations. Furthermore, these alterations have gained significance in their own right. The house, therefore, reaches the level of local architectural significance, making it eligible under "Criterion C" of the National Register of Historic Places.

⁵⁶ From a booklet (c. 1966, untitled) listing Stitt's commissions and those of his successor, Howard J. Strong Associates, Architects. An entry lists a remodeling for C.J. Fleming in 1925. Copy in the collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

⁵⁷ Comparisons are from survey data in the Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory, Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office. Surveys of Madison County were conducted in 1982 and 2000-2001.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bibliography

Section 9 Page 9

Mathewson-Gerecke House

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Andreas, A.T., *History of the State of Nebraska, Vol. II*, Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1882.

Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska, Chicago: Alden Publishing Company, 1912.

Morton and Watkins, *Illustrated History of Nebraska*, Lincoln: Jacob North and Company, 1907.

Norfolk of Today...A Review of Her Advantages, Central Location...Remarkable Resources. Omaha: The Trans-Mississippi Immigration Company, n.d.

Newspapers:

Elkhorn Valley News (Norfolk)
Madison County Chronicle (Madison)
Madison County Review (Madison)
Norfolk Journal
Norfolk Press
Norfolk News
Norfolk Daily News
Norfolk Times

Booklet (c. 1966, untitled) listing the commissions of architect J.C. Stitt and those of his successor, Howard J. Strong Associates, Architects. Published by Howard J. Strong Associates.

Deed records, Madison County Register of Deeds.

Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory, Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

Mathewson-Gerecke House

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	630479	4654664	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as Davenport's Subdivision of Haase's Suburban Lots, Pt Lot 4, All Lots 5 & 6 & Pt Lot 7, Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses that tract of land as subdivided in 1922, which includes the house and the surrounding landscape that have been historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Robert Puschendorf, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
 organization Nebraska State Historical Society date January 6, 2012
 street & number 1500 R Street, PO Box 82554 telephone (402) 471-4769
 city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

Additional Documentation**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

name/title Josh and Jessica Moening
 street & number 1202 West Norfolk Avenue telephone (402) 580-2471
 city or town Norfolk state NE zip code 68701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mathewson--Gerecke House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Madison

DATE RECEIVED: 1/27/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/23/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/09/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/13/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000105

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/12/2017 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Home of two prominent Bankers, one who was also a prominent
Politician. Good examples of Q.A. style in local context.*

substitute page 4 sent

RECOM./CRITERIA B+C

REVIEWER J. Galbreath DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Mathewson-Gorecke House

Norfolk, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

View NW

Photo 1 of 9



Mathewson-Gerecke House
Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

View NE

Photo 2 of 9



Mathewson-Gierecke House

Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

View North

Photo 3 of 9



Mathewson-Gerecke House
Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

View West

Photo 4 of 9



Mathewson-Gerecke House
Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

View SE

Photo 5 of 9



Mathewson-Gerecke House

Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

View: Interior

Photo 6 of 9



Mathewson-Gerecke House
Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHD

View Interior

Photo 7 of 9



Mathanson-Gierecke House
Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Jill Dolberg

1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

View: Interior

Photo 8 of 9



Mathanson-Gerecke House

Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska SHPO

Jill Dolberg

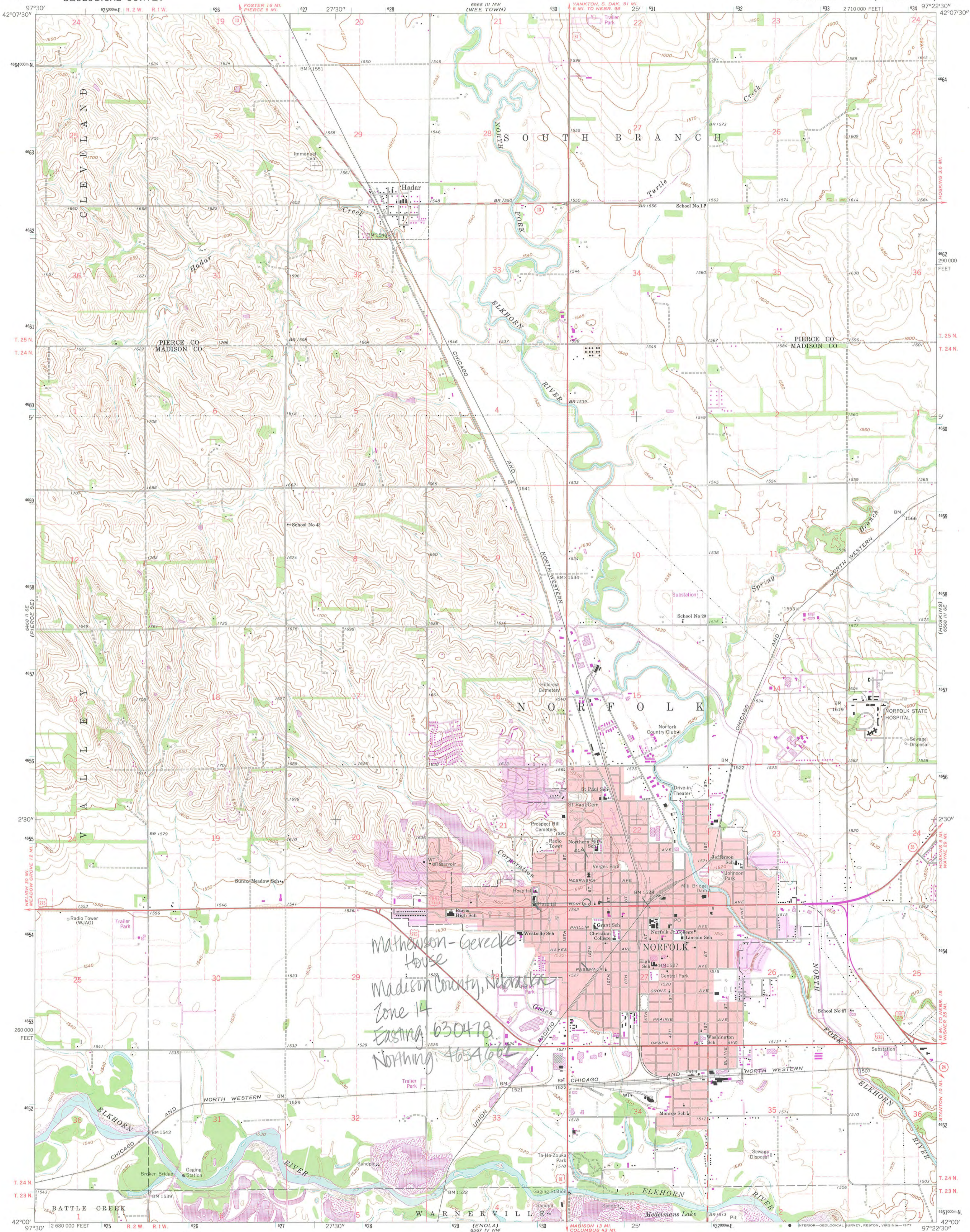
1 December 2011

Original negative at Nebraska SHPO

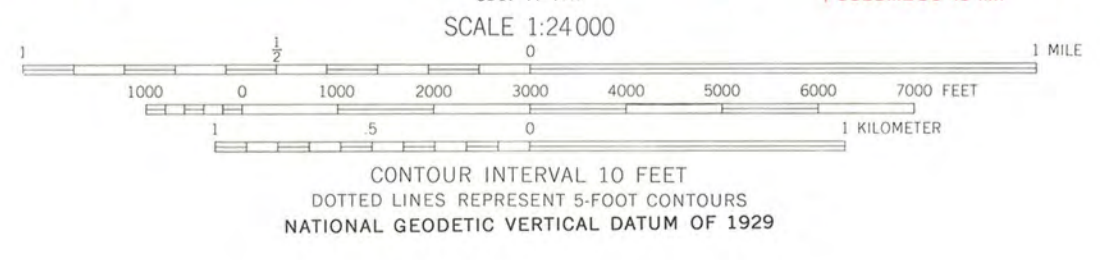
View interior

Photo 9 of 9



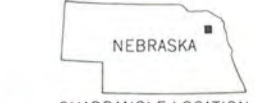


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS, USC&GS, and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



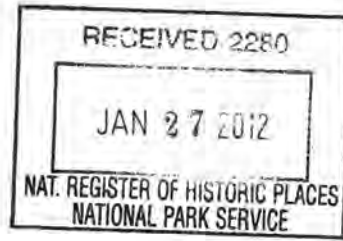
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NORFOLK, NEBR.
N4200—W9722.5/7.5
1963
PHOTOREVISED 1976
AMS 6568 III SW—SERIES V875



January 23, 2012

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Mathewson-Gerecke House
Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Robert Puschendorf".

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

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