

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 20 1982  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Howard Hanson House (SD16-62)  
and/or common Saunders County Historical Society Museum

2. Location

street & number 12th and Linden Streets, NA not for publication  
city, town Wahoo NA vicinity of  
state Nebraska code 31 county Saunders code 155

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> NA 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 Saunders County Historical Society  
street & number 12th and Linden  
city, town Wahoo NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Saunders County Courthouse  
street & number NA  
city, town Wahoo 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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Howard Hanson House in Wahoo is a vernacular interpretation of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The two story 1880's structure is one of the few Victorian houses in Wahoo that has not been substantially altered. The house has been restored and is maintained by the Wahoo Women's Club.

The Howard Hanson house is situated on a corner lot in the northern residential area of Wahoo, Nebraska (1980 population 3,579), the county seat of Saunders county. The house is a two story frame dwelling with jerkinhead roofs and a two-sided wrap-around front porch. The porch roof is supported by turned columns and has a small ornamented gablet marking the front (east) entrance to the house. A small balcony, which can be entered from the second floor landing area, is found at the west end of the porch roof. Other distinctive features of the house include a wing projecting from the north facade, a two story bay and an oriel bay on the south. There is a rear porch at the southwest corner of the house. The enclosed stairway to the basement attached to the south facade of the house, was added in 1970 to give the Wahoo Women's Club access to their club room.

The interior of the house is basically a six over six room floor plan including the stairhall. An open stairway rises to the west along the north wall, just inside the front door. Colonades separate the stairhall from the front parlor to the south. The music room, or back parlor, features a fireplace.

The house has been restored by the Wahoo Women's Club, who meet in the basement. The collection of the Saunders County Historical Society was used in the restoration. The Hanson Home is open regular hours and many people tour the house each year.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** ca. 1888

**Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Howard Hanson House in Wahoo is nationally significant in the area of music and locally significant in the area of architecture. Hanson made great contributions to American music. As director of the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, New York for forty years, he was the driving force in making the school an excellent nationally famous facility. Hanson encouraged thousands of students in composing and performing careers. Hanson's own compositions have won numerous awards and have become a legacy to the music world. Architecturally the house is locally significant as a good example of a late 19th century vernacular Queen Anne style and one of few nearly original Victorian buildings in Wahoo.

Howard Hanson was born October 28, 1896 in Wahoo, Nebraska. He studied piano and cello at an early age and began composing for piano at age seven. He graduated from Wahoo High School, where he had directed the orchestra at age 15. Hanson attended the University of Nebraska School of Music and received a degree from the Institute of Musical Art in New York City (now Juilliard School of Music). He did graduate work at Northwestern University where at the age of 19 he received an invitation to become a professor of music theory at the College of the Pacific in San Jose, California. Two years later the Dean of Music retired and Hanson became one of the youngest college deans in the country. In 1921, while at Pacific, he became the first American to receive the Priz de Rome fellowship to study and compose in Italy for three years. While in Rome, Hanson wrote several major works including "North and West". In 1923, he was invited to Rochester to conduct the Rochester Philharmonic in the America Premiere of his first symphony. In Rochester, Hanson met George Eastman, who had founded and endowed the Eastman School of Music as the first professional school within the University of Rochester. The Eastman School had been founded in 1921 by the annexation of the Institute of Musical Arts, a small music school already in existence. By 1923, it was apparent to Eastman and to Dr. Rush Rhees, President of the University, that the school needed an educational philosophy and strong leadership. In a casual conversation, Rhees and Eastman asked Hanson for his ideas on the matter. He told them he thought that the United States needed a music school that was thoroughly professional in the field of performance, composition and theoretical-historical training and would integrate the scholarly and the practical aspects of the field. Dr. Rhees and Eastman asked Hanson to put his ideas in writing which he did and then returned to Rome. Hanson had not been told outright that the school was looking for a director, however he soon received an offer for the post. Hanson accepted against the advice of friends who felt he would sacrifice his own musical composition. In 1924, at the age of 28, he became Director of the Eastman School of Music, a position he held for forty years. During this time, Hanson continued to compose, writing seven world famous symphonies. His "Fourth Symphony" won the 1944 Pulitzer Prize in Music. His "Fifth Symphony" (Sinfonia Sacra) was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic in 1954 for its 135th anniversary. It was premiered in New York in 1968.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wahoo East, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	9	19	6	3	10	4	15	6	15	3	1	10
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

This property is situated on the north 1/2, Block 101, lots 1, 2, 3, County Addition to Wahoo and includes all of the historically associated property.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date September, 1982

street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone 402/471-3850

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 O'Knecht 12/9/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/27/83

for Albous Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Howard Hanson continued to remain active after his "retirement" as Director of Eastman. He served as Director of the Institute of American Music a division of the Eastman School which he established from 1964 until his death. He also occupied his time as a lecturer, writer, composer and guest conductor.

The Hanson House in Wahoo was purchased by Hanson's father in 1891. It remained in the family until his mother sold it in 1943. After twenty years of less than adequate care, and conversion to apartments, the house was again for sale. Many civic groups in Wahoo had expressed an interest in doing something with the property however finances were an obstacle. In 1963, Howard Hanson heard of the town's interest in his home and especially of the Wahoo Women's Club's interest in restoring the home and donated the funds to purchase his birth-place for the City of Wahoo. Extensive repairs were made to the foundation and sewer system and the apartment partitions were removed. The house was restored to an 1890's appearance with one of the most cherished artifacts being the baby grand piano upon which Hanson learned to play. The home was opened to the public in 1967 and in November of that year, Hanson came to tour his boyhood home. He was very pleased with the results and according to the local newspaper, gave an impromptu performance on his old piano.

The Howard Hanson House is significant nationally in the area of music for it's association with Hanson, a world famous composer and music educator. Hanson was born in the house in 1896 and his family continued to reside here until 1943. He was known as an educational pioneer for his innovative methods of teaching music. Hanson is considered to be the "architect" of the Eastman School of Music and was the driving force behind its success for 40 years.

The Hanson House is significant locally in the area of architecture as a notable example of a vernacular Victorian house which can be most closely identified with the Queen Anne style of architecture. The town of Wahoo has few examples of structures from the late nineteenth century which haven't been substantially altered.

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New York, Vol. 14, No. 2, April 1981.

Howard Hanson scrapbook, Women's Club of Wahoo.

Saunders County, Nebraska Land Records, Courthouse, Wahoo, Nebraska.

Sunday World-Herald, Omaha, Nebraska, November 12, 1967.

Wahoo Newspaper, January 3, 1963, June 8, 1967, January 3, 1963,  
September 9, 1976.