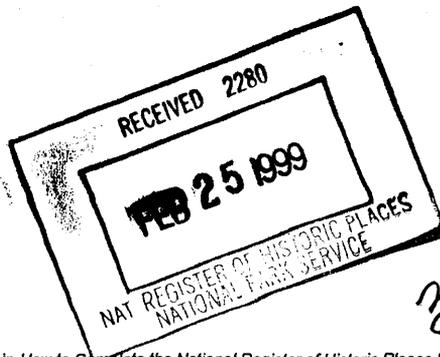


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sturdevant, Brantly House

other names/site number NeHBS #HT02-042

2. Location

street & number 308 S. Main St.

not for publication

city or town Atkinson

vicinity

state Nebraska

code NE

county Holt

code 089

zip code 68713

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.)

Wendee Sommer
Signature of certifying official

2/18/99
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.

Edson A. Beall

3/25/99

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): _____

Beall
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Sturdevant Residence
Name of Property

Holt County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
-0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instruction)

DOMESTIC:single dwelling

RECREATION & CULTURE:museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:Queen Anne

foundation limestone
walls wood

roof asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Other: early political development

Period of Significance

1887-1949

Significant Dates

1887

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Brantly Sturdevant

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

Sturdevant Residence
Name of Property

Holt County, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	502738	4707144	3.			
2.			km	4.			

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melissa Dirr, Architectural Historian
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date December 1998
street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402.471.4408
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Sturdevant McKee Foundation, Inc.
street & number 308 Main telephone 402.925.2726
city or town Atkinson state NE zip code 68713

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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, (16 U.S.C. 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
Continuation Sheet**

Brantley E. Sturdevant Residence

Name of Property

Holt County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The Brantly Sturdevant House is located in Atkinson, Holt County, Nebraska. Atkinson is a small town lying within the Elkhorn River valley in north central Nebraska. It is located in a flat section of high plains bisecting the Nebraska Sand Hills and Split Plains geography. The house was built in the Queen Anne style in 1887 and remains one of the earliest extant residences in the town.

The Sturdevant House is capped by a hipped roof and has an irregular one-story floorplan. The property retains two half-block sized lots divided by an alley. The corner of Main Street to the east and Neeley Street to the south defines the front lot. The back lot is open except for the presence of the carriage house/barn. A historic metal fence surrounds the house on the three property lines of the front lot terminating at the alley. Four mature trees planted at the time of construction shade the house. Rows of spirea and lilac bushes further define the lot providing a visual shelter along the south boundary bordering Neeley Street and extending from the front lot line of the house back to the barn.

The house manifests typical Queen Anne details with its extensive one story porches punctuating the asymmetrical façade, and lace-like delicate turned porch supports. Although it is somewhat unusual to have such detail on a one story building the home adequately illustrates the primary defining characteristics of the style.

The irregular plan has two front entrances divided by a projecting bay window and separated by significant setbacks in plan. Each entrance is further defined by a wrapping porch with a low turned balustrade with spindles organized in a geometric design. Posts are capped by turned scrolled brackets with additional brackets at the porch roofline. The base of each post has an inset panel with an incised quatrefoil design. Each door leads in to a parlor room with northern most door probably for public use as it enters the large formal parlor with bay window. The southern most door accesses a small sitting/dining room immediately adjacent to the kitchen. Both doors face east, the main façade of the building.

The house rises from a limestone foundation with simple four-inch clapboard walls. Although there is no ornamental shinglework as is often typical in many gable roof version in this style, the walls are finished with capped cornerboards and the irregular rhythm of fenestration accents the wall surface. A concrete deck has been added to the south façade of the building which is attached to the kitchen. The back, west and north facades, remain quite plain with few ornamental details.

The interior of the house is deceptively expansive given the cottage-like appearance of the exterior. It retains four bedrooms, one full bath and a small loft-type attic space. Most original interior features remain like the pine wood floors, one-over-one double hung windows, pocket doors, wide baseboards, chair rails, and detailed doors with grooved surrounds with bulls-eye corner details. Adjacent to the family entrance by the kitchen is a room once used as a doctor's office. The large formal parlor with bay window is open and airy and punctuated by many doors leading to bedrooms and windows. Next to the kitchen is a small room once used as a buttery.

Immediately behind the house is a small gable-roof coal shed with white weatherboard siding. One double hung four-over-four window is located adjacent to the four-panel door in the gable end facing the house. Next to the coal shed is the old water pump. Across the alley from the house is the old barn/carriage house. Contemporary in construction to the house it had a gravel drive leading to the road. It is a simple gable-roofed whitewash frame building.

Overall, the Brantly Sturdevant House retains a high degree of historic integrity and is an excellent example of the small-scale cottage Queen Anne building type.

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Continuation Sheet

Brantley E. Sturdevant Residence

Name of Property

Holt County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

The Brantly Sturdevant House in Atkinson, Nebraska is eligible for listing on the National Register under criterion B for its association with Brantly Sturdevant who significantly contributed to the town both politically and through his involvement in various religious and charitable groups. It is also locally significant under criterion C for its architectural merit as an example of the Queen Anne cottage building style. As the house remained in the Sturdevant family through 1977, its period of significance extends from its construction date in 1887 through 1949 the established 50-year termination.

The town of Atkinson is located near the Elkhorn River and along Highway 20, one of Nebraska's historic roadways providing access across the northern tier of the state. Located in the north-central region of the state, permanent Euro-American settlement did not occur here until the 1870s. The Atkinson town site was laid out by 1878 along the banks of the Elkhorn River and filed at the O'Neill Land office on August 7, 1880. Colonel Atkinson who served under General John O'Neill's army is the namesake of the town. Soon after the town was established the rail line came through cementing its continued growth. It was soon after this, in 1885, that Brantly Sturdevant arrived in Atkinson.

Brantly Elijah Sturdevant was born in Black Walnut, Pennsylvania on December 11, 1852. Sturdevant emigrated to Nebraska with his parents, six brothers and one sister in 1871. He married Ellen Olivia Smith in Pennsylvania in 1876 after having met in Nebraska and realizing they were reared mere miles apart in Pennsylvania. At the time he was holding various railroad jobs with the Union Pacific outside of Atkinson. It wasn't until 1885 that the Sturdevant's settled in Atkinson and it was here where they both lived out their fruitful lives.

Initially Brantly went into the general mercantile business with his brother Charles, establishing one of the earliest businesses in the city. He continued in this commercial endeavor for twenty years. Following this, in 1907 he became the registrar of the United States Land Office in O'Neill, Nebraska, the county seat of Holt County and neighboring town to Atkinson. He remained active in real estate and insurance until the day before his death at the age of 85 in 1938. It was during these years of occupation in Atkinson that Brantly Sturdevant shaped the town he called home.

Early on he became politically active, was a staunch Republican, and considered a leader in the party. He was elected a state legislator for the House of Representatives for two terms and served one term as a state senator. In the 1890's he served two terms as the chairman of the village board (mayor). He also served twelve years on the school board, was a member of the Holt County Board of Supervisors and actively involved in his church. During World War I he served the community as coal advisor and was appointed a four-minute man. A four-minute man was a person who presented prepared four-minute length political inspirational speeches encouraging the purchase of war bonds.

Brantly was raised Baptist, but because there was no established Baptist church in Atkinson upon his arrival, he became a Methodist and served that congregation for more than 50 years. He sang in the choir throughout these years and served as superintendent of the Sunday school from 1896-1915.

Aside from helping to form the community through his political and religious connections, Sturdevant was also involved in a number of fraternal organizations that benefited from his service. During the 1890s and immediately after the turn-of-the-century he committed to the venerable consul of the Modern Woodmen, he also served the Royal Highlanders as Illustrious Protector of the Castle and was a member of the Royal Neighbors of America and the Order of Workmen.

As his obituary stated in 1938, "He was truly a pioneer who accepted the responsibility of helping to build up the country in which he chose to make his home." Sturdevant significantly contributed to the development of Atkinson politically by serving two terms as its mayor and three terms in state government. His primary platforms were land rights issues, agricultural concerns, education, insurance, banking and real estate. The Nebraskana from 1932 describes Sturdevant

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Continuation Sheet

Brantley E. Sturdevant Residence

Name of Property

Holt County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

as "a Republican in politics, and a prohibitionist, believing that sobriety is a necessity to prosperity." His twelve-year tenure on the school board directed local education efforts at a time when school systems were consolidating and building more permanent city schools. He was truly one of the leaders in shaping the community that became his home until his dying day.

Architecturally, the Sturdevant House is illustrative of Victorian Era Queen Anne styling. Built in 1887 it exemplifies stylistic details at the height of the era. Typified by irregular roof shapes, ornamentally textured walls, bay windows, asymmetrical facades, and extensive wraparound porches, the Queen Anne style or vernacular representations thereof dominated building types, at its height in Nebraska, from about 1880-1910.

This house is an example of the smaller scale cottage Queen Anne because it is an unusual one-story type. It retains a high degree of historic integrity with original details that link it to the style. Its irregular footprint belies the small exterior appearance with sizable rambling interior rooms. The two wraparound front porches with their detailed brackets and spindlework across the low bannister link the building to the high style detailing evident in larger scale versions of the style.

Locally, Atkinson has very few high style houses remaining from its early settlement days. The Sturdevant House is the best example in the city not only of its style, but also of its early construction era. It is significant locally as an example of a Queen Anne cottage architectural style. It is also significant for Brantly Sturdevant's political contribution to the development and future of Atkinson long after its initial settlement.

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Brantley E. Sturdevant Residence

Name of Property

Holt County, Nebraska

County and State

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McKee, Mary Ellen. A History of Dr. Neal Patrick McKee (1890-1966), Sturdevant-McKee Foundation, 1997.

McKee, Mary Ellen, History of Brantly Elijah Sturdevant, Sturdevant-McKee Foundation, 1994.

Nebraskana, 1932, Baldwin Company

Olson, James O. and Ronald Naugle. History of Nebraska. University of Nebraska Press, third edition, Lincoln, NE 1997.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The Brantly Sturdevant House resides on lots 6, 7, 8, and 9 of block C in Neeley's Addition to the city of Atkinson in Holt County, Nebraska.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries chosen were those historically associated with the house to include the house and its out-buildings.