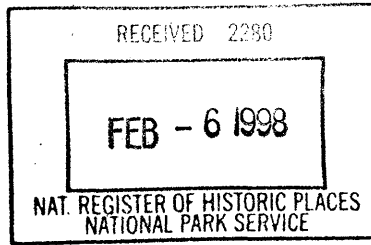


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



188

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Gillen, Frank E. & Emma A, House

other names/site number NeHBS# LC13:D6-714

2. Location

street & number 2245 A Street not for publication [N/A]

city or town Lincoln vicinity [N/A]

state Nebraska code NE county Lancaster code 109 zip code 68502

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.)

Barbara Sommer
Signature of certifying official

1/26/98
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

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): _____

Edson H. Boall

3.5.98

for
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Enter as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Enter only one box)

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

- [x] private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

- [x] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 4 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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
none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
[Blank lines for input]

Domestic/single dwelling
[Blank lines for input]

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

19th and early 20th Century Revival Styles
[Blank lines for input]

foundation limestone
walls brick and stucco
roof clay tile
other limestone, cast stone

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

See Continuation Sheets.

Name of Property

County and State

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.
[] 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

horticulture

Period of Significance

1903-1937

Significant Dates

1903-04, 1918-19, 1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Emma A. Gillen

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fiske & Meginnis/A. J. Lawrence

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheets.

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
Record #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- [] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[x] Local government
[] University
[] Other
Name of repository:
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept.

Name of Property

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	695410	4518750	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Monte McKillip (owner) and Edw. F. Zimmer (historic preservation planner)

organization Lincoln/Lanc. County Planning Dept. (Zimmer) date July 18, 1997

street & number 2245 A Street telephone (402)476-9498

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68502

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 Monte & Kathryn McKillip

street & number 2245 A Street telephone _____

city or town Lincoln, NE 68502 state NE zip code 68502

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

Gillen House
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Frank and Emma Gillen House is a two-and-one-half story, period revival style, single family residence located in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. The brick and stucco veneered house was originally constructed in 1903-4, then substantially remodeled to its present appearance in 1918-19. The garage was constructed as part of the 1918-9 remodeling. The interior and exterior of the house remain almost entirely intact, although the exterior yard/garden has been reduced in size. The nomination consists of two contributing buildings--the house and the garage.

The Frank and Emma Gillen House is a two-and-one-half story, period revival style frame house located in the Near South neighborhood of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. The exterior is buff brick veneer on the lower portion (up to the level of the second story window sills) and stucco above. The main gable roof, of red clay tile, is oriented with the ridge running north-south. A substantial wing under its own gable roof extends east from the main body of the house. There is an attached greenhouse on the southeast corner of the house, added by Mrs. Gillen in 1928.

The principal entrance facade of the house faces west, and neither of the street facades (north and east) offer any entrance. The west side is dominated by a wide, tile-floored terrace with a railing of formed stone and cap of sandstone. At the south end the terrace is covered with a tile roof supported on brick arches, forming a garden pavilion attached to that corner of the house. The rear of the house, facing south toward a small yard and the 1918-19 garage, has a small stoop accessing the rear entrance. The garage is built of the same buff brick as the house and has a tile, gable roof.

The interior of the house retains a high degree of integrity. The main west entrance retains its original, oversized panelled door of gumwood, with the upper two panels (of six) glazed. The vestibule floor is polychrome marble tile. A beveled glass door opens from the vestibule to the entry hall, with the dining room to the southwest and the living room, which measures 15'x32', occupying the north end of the first floor. The entry, dining room, and living room all are paneled floor to ceiling with reddish finished gumwood. All of the major rooms of the first floor have quartersawn red oak flooring. The south end of the living room has a large fireplace flanked by built-in, glazed bookcases and cupboards. On the opposite (north) end of this room is a massive window of 130 panes in zinc comes. On the east side of the living room is a sun room, separated by double French doors with beveled glazing and beveled sidelights. The sunroom has paneling to the window sill level, and a tile floor matching the vestibule. The greenhouse addition of 1928 is accessed from the sunroom.

The dining room has a beamed ceiling and built-in buffet. The original milk-glass chandelier and wall sconces are still in place. A swinging door at the south of the dining room opens onto the butler's pantry, which still has a steam-heated plate warmer. The butler's pantry and kitchen beyond (in the southeast corner of the first floor) share a tile floor with a brass floor drain. Gillen family members reported that a daily duty of the servants included hosing down these floors daily, due to the amount of dirt and mud carried in from the gardens. A secondary stair to the second floor rises from the kitchen.

The main entry hall opens at the east end upon the main staircase to the second floor, which is lit by a smaller zinc window with 32 beveled panes. The second floor originally contained four bedrooms, a small study, a sunroom, and two bathrooms, accessed by a central hall served by the front and rear stairs. The major change to this floor has been the removal of one wall to combine two bedrooms into a master suite.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gillen House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

The rear stair continues to the attic, which contains the former servants' quarters.

The site is terraced above the east and north sidewalks, with considerable planting of perennials and annuals on the banks. There are mature conifers in the front yard along A Street, and mature trees in the south rear yard between the house and garage. Trees that had to be removed when they overgrew the site and began damaging the house (especially the stucco) have been replaced with new plantings, including oaks, pines, dogwood, and redbud, selected from Mrs. Gillen's original planting list. The major loss to the integrity of the site was the construction of an apartment building west of the house in the additional garden area, but the integrity of the house, inside and out, and of the remaining site, is high.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gillen House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

Statement of Significance

The Frank and Emma Gillen House is significant on the local level under criterion B for its association with Emma Gillen, whose work as a gardener and amateur horticulturalist was recognized by academics, horticulturalists, botanists, and politicians.

The Frank and Emma Gillen House in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska is significant on the local level under criterion B as the longtime home of Emma Gillen and the site of her work as a gardener and amateur horticulturalist. The house reached its present form in 1918-1919, when Lincoln architects Fiske (Ferdinand C.) and Meginnis (Harry) designed an extensive remodeling of an earlier frame house on the site. The architectural integrity of the efforts of these significant Lincoln practitioners remains intact, but their work is well-represented throughout the community, especially in such districts as the Mount Emerald & Capitol Additions Historic District (NRHP, 1980) and Sheridan Blvd. and environs, a potential district.

Frank Gillen was an important industrialist and business leader in Lincoln, founding the Gillen and Boney Candy Company which operated at 8th and P Streets. His factory building still stands in the Haymarket Landmark District (locally designated and federally certified in 1983) and that property more closely relates to his significance.

Mrs. Gillen was an amateur horticulturalist who dedicated herself to gardening as a life work. Born in Germany in 1868, she came to America with her parents at age three and grew up in Indiana. She married Frank Edward Gillen in Omaha in 1891 and they settled in Lincoln in 1893. They moved into their home at 23rd and A Street in 1904, remodelled it extensively in 1918-19, and remained there until her death in 1937.

Mrs. Gillen concentrated not only on the beauty of her garden and neighborhood, but also on practical applications of her work in testing and adapting new plants in this climate. Her home was a regular meeting place of the newly formed Garden Club of Lincoln, through which she provided information to beginning gardeners and experienced nurserymen and botanists alike. A charter member of that Club, Mrs. Gillen developed and tested plants and seeds for their hardiness in this climate, with its relentless summer heat and bitter winters.

Upon Emma Gillen's death in 1937, she was eulogized by the Governor of Nebraska, nurserymen, professors from the University of Nebraska in botany and horticulture, and by author Mari Sandoz. (Kathleen Gillen gathered documents from her mother-in-law's life and death into a slim volume entitled simply *Emma A. Gillen.*) Governor Cochran noted "Lincoln and for that matter all of the eastern section of Nebraska owes much to the pioneering work of Mrs. Frank E. Gillen for here lifelong efforts in demonstrating the fact that hundreds of varieties of beautiful flowers can be grown in this state." Another leading Lincoln gardener, Dr. Harry Everett, praised Emma Gillen "who pioneered in this field...[and] constantly strove to find new plants which would grow and thrive here in Nebraska....Her influence on the gardens of Lincoln, and the State, will be felt for many years to come." The Lincoln Garden Club president recalled that Mrs. Gillen "was one of the early members of the Garden Club...and was duly recognized at that time as an authority on the adaptation of plants to this locality. She was continuously trying this plant and that plant, and really succeeded in growing many unusual shrubs and plants." Harvey Williams, a local nurseryman, reported "I must confess that, on occasions, I learned more from her than she probably did from me. Her intimate knowledge of the habits and characteristics of her many plants was astonishing. Much of her information was the result of hard work and experimentation." Mari Sandoz declared "It is time we commemorated those modest ones

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gillen House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

who worked with the earth to bring forth beauty and fruitfulness, and the hope of a new spring to us all."

The house, garage, and remaining grounds of Emma Gillen's home are locally significant as the only site closely associated with this talented and recognized amateur horticulturalist. The Gillen House was designated a Landmark by the City of Lincoln in 1983.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gillen House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

Sections 9 & 10 Page 5

Bibliography

Baldwin, Sara Mullin, ed., *Who's Who in Lincoln*, Lincoln, Nebr.: Robert M. Baldwin, 1928.

Gillen, Kathleen Bartunek, *Emma A. Gillen*, Lincoln, Nebr.: Printed by State Journal Printing Co., copyright by K. B. Gillen, 1937.

Sawyer, A. J., ed., *Lincoln: The Capital City and Lancaster County, Nebraska*, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1916.

Zimmer, Edw. F., *The Near South Tours, Volume 1: Franklin Heights and Environs*, Lincoln, Nebr.: Near South Neighborhood Assoc., 1989.

Verbal Boundary Description

This property consists of Lot 1 and the east half of Lot 2, Block 2, Pleasant Hills Subdivision, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries include the Gillen House and all the remaining portion of its original yard not occupied by structures of recent construction.