

PHO 688541

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 1 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC McCarty/Lilley House

AND/OR COMMON
Lilley House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Quail Drive

CITY, TOWN
Bellevue VICINITY OF 2 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Nebraska CODE 031 COUNTY Sarpy CODE 153

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Freeman Real Estate Company

STREET & NUMBER
1021 Galvin Road South

CITY, TOWN
Bellevue VICINITY OF Nebraska STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Sarpy County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Nebraska Highway 370 and S. 84th St.

CITY, TOWN
Papillion STATE Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McCarty frame house was built about 1865 in the "upright with wing" style. The siding was cut at a local saw mill. The gable-front north wing faced west and was about 16 feet wide by 32 feet long. The cottage wing extended south another 18 feet. A bay window dominated the south side and a one-room limestone-walled cellar served for storage and protection. A porch on the cottage wing faced the Bellevue-Platte Valley Road.

In 1918, the need for more space for the large Lilley family stimulated the upward expansion of the McCarty House into a two and one-half story country residence in the "mid-western square" style. It was topped by a hipped roof with two roof dormers, one on the north and the other on the west. The only actual expansion other than upward was to the north where a one-story addition included a veranda and a bedroom. The porch on the cottage wing became the stairwell for the enlarged residence. This 10 feet by 32 feet addition transformed the structure into a rectangularly shaped house of 44 feet by 32 feet. The front of the house became the north side rather than the west.

The exterior was covered with stucco. The bay window remained a prominent feature. French doors, built-in bookcases, desk and door seat gave the interior a cosmopolitan flavor. Some of the original frame siding of the 1865 house remained intact on the east side of the house, inside a covered porch. This attached porch and a connected wash house all predate the 1918 expansion.

Presently, the agricultural setting is being swiftly changed into a residential development. Modern homes surround the McCarty/Lilley house. The current owner is considerate of the historical importance of the house but the tax incentives and grant opportunities associated with National Register status are essential to assuring its future.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1865: frame home built BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1918 expansion: William H. Huxhold (architect & builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCarty/Lilley House is symbolic of the pioneering spirit of America's 19th century and of the development of agriculture in Nebraska. The incentive of free land stimulated the McCartys to help push the frontier into eastern Nebraska Territory, the Republican Valley, the Pacific Northwest, and Canada. The 1918 expansion of the house is representative of the needs of the large agrarian family of that time, as well as the semi-prosperous status of the American farmer prior to the depression.

Robert McCarty joined General Taylor in Mexico in 1847 as a private in Company H of the 3rd Indiana Infantry. He participated in the battles of Buena Vista and Chapultepec. Morton's History of Nebraska indicates he was one of the first American soldiers to storm over the walls and into the fortress of Chapultepec.

McCarty first came to Nebraska in 1853. Although the Territory was not yet formed, he selected a 160-acre tract which he claimed officially with his veteran's land warrant in September, 1854. He lived across the river in Iowa until the Territory was established. The land he chose is near the Papillion Creek, about a half-mile south of Pahu'tho^Ndatho^N (the Kurz Omaha Village, a National Register site), the last home of the Omaha Indians before moving north to the reservation. The log home he built was only about 100 yards northeast of the prehistoric Indian village referred to as the Gates Site in Introduction to Nebraska Archeology.

McCarty was a staunch opponent of the claim clubs which threatened to inhibit the settlement of Nebraska Territory by enlarging the sizes of tracts which a settler could claim. He was a strong advocate for the squatters and was instrumental in assuring that land empires were not built at the expense of destroying the pioneer spirit which led men and women to the new territory.

He was one of the first major farmers in Nebraska Territory. The

(CONTINUED ON ATTACHED SHEET)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morton, J.S. An Illustrated History of Nebraska (Vol. II) Lincoln: Western Publishing Co., 1906

Strong, W. An Introduction to Nebraska Archeology Washington: Smithsonian, 1935 (CONTINUED ON ATTACHED SHEET)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately one half acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	2, 5, 0, 5, 1, 0	4, 5, 5, 7, 8, 3, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 75, 76 and 77 of the Quail Creek Addition located in the south half of Section 32, Township 14N, Range 13E and the north half of Section 5, Township 13N, Range 13E, Sarpy County, Nebraska.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Fred M. Greguras

ORGANIZATION

Kutak Rock & Huie

STREET & NUMBER

1650 Farnam Street

CITY OR TOWN

Omaha

DATE

July 31, 1978

TELEPHONE

(402) 346-6000

STATE

Nebraska

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Mervin D. Knott 10/23/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *William Tobochnik*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/22/78

DATE

12/21/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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initial survey of the area indicates he had a large tract of cultivated land just to the south of his log cabin. In that survey only six other settlers are named as having large tracts of land in cultivation in the entire county, including the land of Peter Sarpy. This prominence and leadership in agriculture extended through two more generations of his descendants and did not end until 1949. One prosperous, elderly Sarpy County farmer near Springfield, who came to America around the turn of the century, still has a photo of Robert's son William on his wall because, in his words, "he taught me how to farm." In 1957, the McCarty/Lilley family was presented the Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Farm Award for its "long and meritorious service" to Nebraska agriculture.

Robert McCarty's leadership did not go unnoticed. Upon the creation of Sarpy County from the south part of Douglas County, Acting Governor Cuming appointed him as a member of the first board of County Commissioners of Sarpy County in 1857. A Democrat, he was elected to the same office in the first county election and served until 1860.

About 1865, just prior to the construction of the mainline Union Pacific a half-mile to the north, Robert constructed a frame house some fifty yards north of his log cabin. The south side of the house was dominated by a bay window, a feature then unique to rural territorial homes. At that time, it was one of the largest frame homes in the county, befitting the McCartys' role in the community. This home perpetuated the pioneer spirit which symbolized Robert's move westward. Two of his daughters and their husbands departed from there in the 1860s to homestead in Washington Territory. They began the trek westward on the Bellevue-Platte Valley/Salt Lake Wagon Road which ran by the house about 30 feet to the west of it. The road generally followed the farm lane to the northwest, paralleling the Papillion Creek. It was from this home that William McCarty, the eldest son, left in 1875 to homestead land in the Republican River Valley in Harlan County. The Republican Valley was the frontier at the time and was the guardian of Fort McPherson.

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By 1883, Robert was nearly blind. William returned from the Republican Valley and farmed the land for his father. The house William built that year, over the hill about 150 yards northeast from the home place, was bulldozed away about 1973. The Robert McCarty house continued to spawn pioneers. Shortly after the turn of the century, two of Williams's sons traveled northward to the land-rich Canadian frontier. They became prominent wheat farmers.

Shortly following the death of Robert McCarty in 1903, his granddaughter Susie McCarty and her husband, James Lilley, acquired the home place from the other heirs. James Lilley was the grandson of Amos Gates, territorial and state legislator. The McCarty/Lilley family continued its leadership role in Sarpy County agriculture and Democratic politics. Like others/all families of the time, the Lilley family continued to expand in order to have the "resources" necessary to work the land. A total of ten children lived through infancy. About 1910, the pitch of the roof of the cottage wing was increased to provide a second floor sleeping area in that wing. In the spring and summer of 1918, the 1865 house was extended north and up. A full second story was built plus a large attic. Stucco was applied to the exterior. One feature which did not change was the distinctive bay window.

The Lilley House, as it became known, was a showpiece of the World War I era. Always the headquarters of a working farm operation, its expansion represented the physical space needs of the typical rural family of the time as well as the semi-prosperous status of the American farmer prior to the depression. Its built-in desk, book cases, door seat, woodwork and French doors were luxurious in their day and remain intact.

This house is the sole survivor of a host of territorial and early statehood homes in eastern Sarpy County which have been destroyed over the last ten years; the Amos Gates house, the Orin Fisher home, the T.R. Daniel residence, and the Sutley house, among others. It also represents a dying breed of early 20th century Nebraska farm residences. The early history of Nebraska is closely tied to this house. It has been a landmark of rural Sarpy County for 110 years.

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Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of
Nebraska, 1933

Greguras, F.M. The McCarty-Gates-Sutley Historical District
Unpublished Manuscript, 1971

Obituary of Robert McCarty, "The Presbyterian," Omaha: March 26, 1903

Funeral of William McCarty, "The Papillion Times," Papillion:
March 18, 1910

Long Time Sarpy Woman Dies (Death of Mrs. James F. Lilley), "The
Papillion Times," Papillion: September 2, 1971