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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 903 State Street N/A not for publication

city or town Osage N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Mitchell code 131 zip code 50461

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Patricia Chiswick DSM 12-8-00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State of 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 the 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): _____

Wesley H. Beall 1-26-01
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and
Name of Property Lucretia (Bailey), House

Mitchell, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

(attached)

Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and
Name of Property Lucretia (Bailey), House

Mitchell, Iowa
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.
- 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 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)

politics/government

Period of Significance

c.a. 1862-1887

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Deering, Nathaniel Cobb

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Osage Public Library

Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and
Name of Property Lucretia (Bailey), House

Mitchell, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	5151112	4792218
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
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 Velda J. LaCoste

organization _____ date 6-24-2000

street & number 903 State Street telephone (641) 732-1041
(641) 732-3127

city or town Osage state Iowa zip code 50461

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name John & Velda LaCoste

street & number 903 State St. telephone (641) 732-1041

city or town Osage state Iowa zip code 50461

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Page 1

**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Description

The Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House is a 2 story and 1 and 1/2 story brick structure of the Late Victorian style. It has a modified rectangular plan, with gabled windows and a side porch. The walls and chimneys are brick, the roof is finished with asphalt shingles, and the foundation is limestone. Above the side porch is a gable with a decorative tin insert. The house is in a middle class residential neighborhood with maple tree-lined streets and 70 foot (east to west) by 120 foot (north to south) lots. The house fronts south to State Street. A cement brick patio with wall sits to the west of the garage. A cement driveway leads into the double garage from the alley to the north. The house sits on a corner lot of State Street and Ninth Street and has cement sidewalk on both street sides. The property is in excellent condition for its age.

In detailing the description of the house, I will describe first the 2 story section (exterior, then interior--basement, main floor, second floor, attic), then the 1 and 1/2 story section (exterior, then interior--basement, main floor, second floor), and finally, the 1 story section (exterior, then interior). The 2 story section was built in 1882; the 1 and 1/2 story section in 1887; and the 1 story section in 1994.

The first section (2 story) is the south part of the house. It has a hand-cut limestone foundation. The walls are double brick with a 4 inch air space to provide excellent insulation. The windows are original. In 1994 we replaced the 8"X8" wood sills in 3 of the windows. The sills are built into the brick work. One upper window on the west side has been closed up in an earlier remodeling. There is a portico at the south entrance. We replaced the wood columns with 6"X6" beams, trimmed for decoration. The south steps are poured cement. The south door has been replaced at some point, as there is evidence of hinges from a double door. The roof is pitched on all 4 sides, peaking in the middle. It was resingled in 1994. One layer of wood and 2 layers of asphalt shingles were removed at that time. Plywood sheathing was put on to cover the gaps in the original roof boards. Also, a non-functioning chimney was removed from the roof. The knees below the roof were all replaced by new ones crafted in a duplicated design and size. The exterior brick has since been covered with stucco.

In the interior of the 2 story section, the basement consists of 2 rooms with a brick dividing wall. The south room has dirt floor; the north cement. The north room has an original wainscoting ceiling. The walls are limestone, 2 foot thick. The heat is hot water heat that circulates water throughout old cast iron radiators. All pipes are visible throughout the house.

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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Description (continued)

In the main floor of the 2 story section, the room height is 10 feet. In this section is a living room, office, foyer, and staircase. According to oral history, there was originally a fireplace on the south wall of the living room. There is evidence of the old chimney in the attic. At some point, a new fireplace was added to the east wall of the living room. That chimney is an exterior one. This fireplace was converted to gas in 1999. There are double French doors leading from the living room to the office and a single matching door leading from the living room to the foyer. There is a half-bath which was added to the office room when the dwelling housed separate families (oral history) in the late 1940's. The old chimney in the corner of the office is now used to exhaust the current heating system. The staircase and banister are believed to be original. There are a built-in cupboard and book case in the living room. All trim is original, painted white. The floors are hardwood oak with carpet covering. There are two 6"X8" beams across the living room ceiling for added support (oral history indicates there was water damage from the upstairs bathroom in the 1980's). All interior walls are constructed of lath and plaster or plaster over brick.

On the second floor of the 2 story section are 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath, 1 large storage room, hallway with staircase. The floor is hardwood oak with parts of it carpeted. A false ceiling was installed at some point, lowering it by 2 feet. The bathroom was added at the end of the original hallway, necessitating 2 doors to make it accessible to both parts of the house. Interior walls are constructed of lath and plaster or plaster over brick.

In the attic can be found remains of the old chimney from the living room. There was a double chimney that came up into the attic and then formed into one chimney. There is no floor in the attic. Access is gained through a crawl space in a closet ceiling.

The 1 and 1/2 story section of the house has the same limestone foundation, brick walls, and stucco as in the 2 story section. On the east side of this section is evidence of some type of pre-existing ramp structure, since removed. Oral history has suggested that this house was a stagecoach stop. On the west side is an enclosed porch with 12 double hung windows. The steps leading up to the west door are limestone. There is a gable above the entrance with a decorative tin insert. The porch has a gently sloped roof. This part of the house was reshingled in 1994 also with the same 3 layers of shingles being removed and plywood sheeting being added. While doing the roof work, the east gabled dormer was raised 1 foot to match the west one and also to eliminate troublesome valleys. New brackets were also crafted to replace the rotted ones.

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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Description (continued)

In the interior of the 1 and 1/2 story section, starting at ground level, is a crawl space. There is no basement under this part. The crawl space gives access to the plumbing and electrical business. A previous owner has poured cement pillars and built a wood support to re-level the dining room floor. Evidence in the crawl space shows that the west porch was built at the same time as the 1 and 1/2 story addition. The interior wall of the porch is stucco which leads us to believe that the entire house was possibly covered in stucco as early as 1887.

The main floor of this section includes a porch, dining room, kitchen, laundry, stairs to the second floor and stairs to the basement. In the porch are built-in cupboards and book shelves similar to the one in the living room. The interior wall of the porch is stucco and below the windows and on the ceiling is original wainscoting. There is a large open doorway into the living room from the dining room. The floor of the dining room is hardwood oak with carpet covering. The ceiling of this room has been lowered 2 feet. The kitchen was remodeled in the late 1950's. It has a lowered ceiling and recessed lighting; the floor is linoleum. The laundry room was remodeled from a full bath in the 1960's. North of the dining room is the back stairway to the second floor. All interior walls of this section are constructed either of lath with plaster or plaster over brick.

On the second floor of the 1 and 1/2 story section are 2 bedrooms, one with a large walk-in storage, and an open room at the top of the stairs. Until the 1960's this room was enclosed. The ceilings are sloped which indicates the roof line.

When we purchased the house in 1994, we tore off a single, brick-walled, garage which was directly north of the kitchen. This garage was not an original part of the house, as we found a filled-in cistern under the garage floor. The new garage was designed to match the original house. It is constructed of framed walls and stucco exterior. The windows are double-hung, long, narrow windows to match the house. Brackets were also added.

There is storage space above the garage which is accessed by a pull down stairs. The extra space between the garage and house wall was divided into two rooms: a hobby shop and a full bath/hot tub room. There is a cement floor in the garage and hobby shop. The bath has a raised wood floor to allow for plumbing and air circulation. The entire structure is insulated. The shop and bath have sheetrock walls and ceiling.

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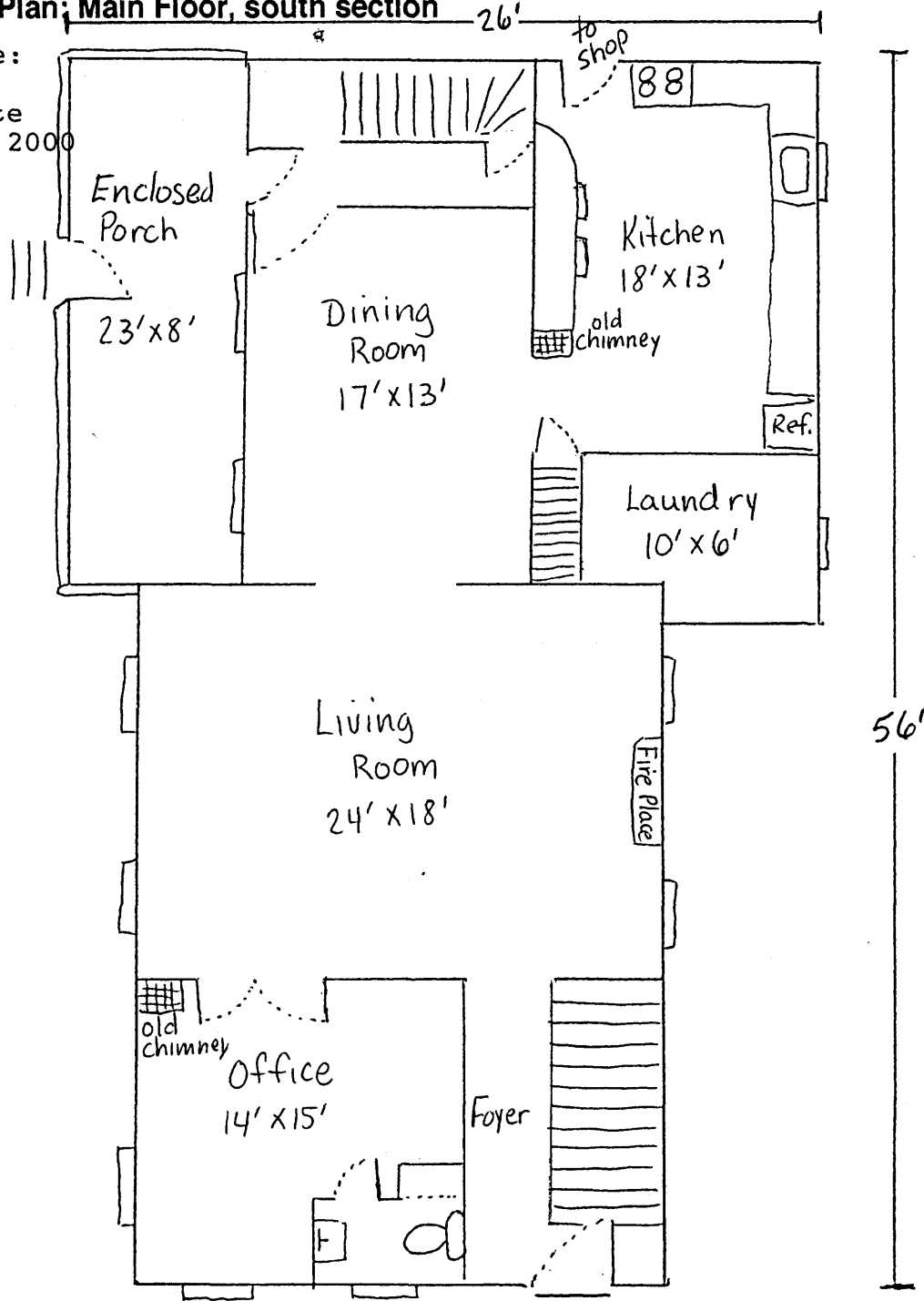
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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**



Floor Plan; Main Floor, south section

Source:
Velda
LaCoste
July, 2000



Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2'$

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

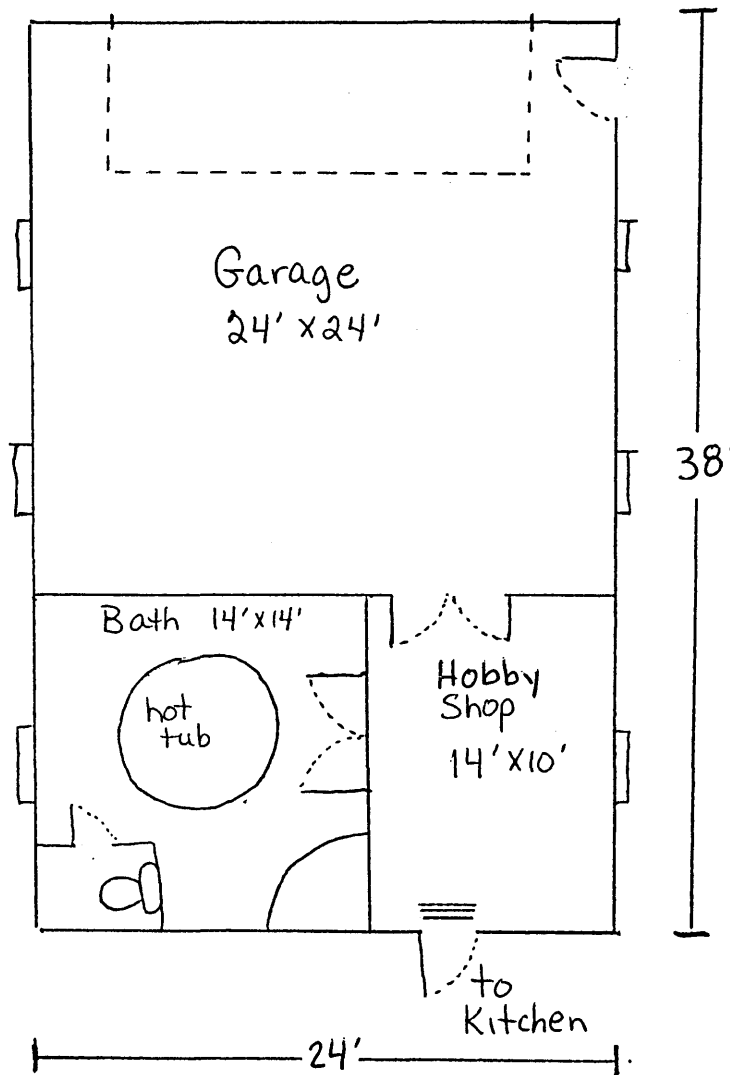
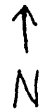
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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Floor Plan: Main Floor, north section

Source: Velda LaCoste *
July, 2000



Scale $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2'$

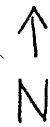
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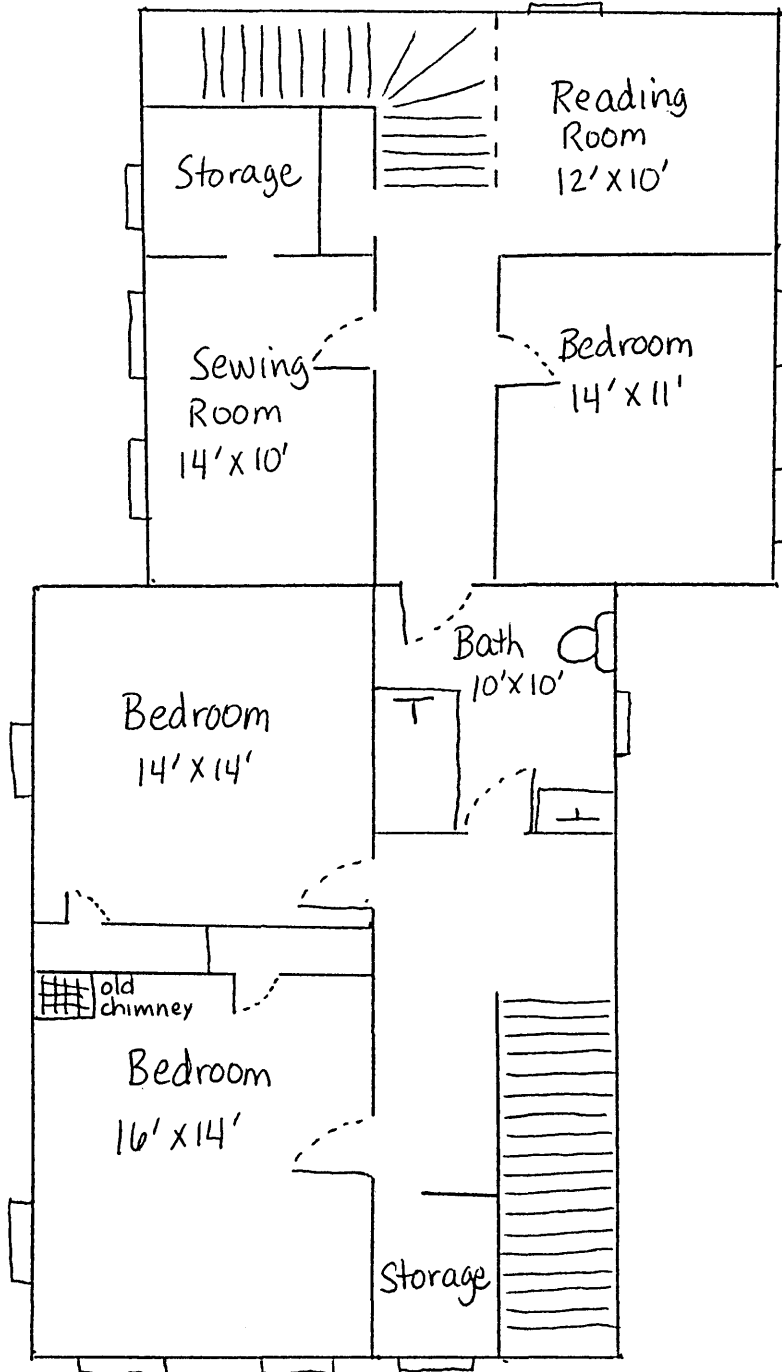
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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey) House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**



Floor Plan: Second Story

Source: Velda LaCoste *
July, 2000



Scale $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2'$

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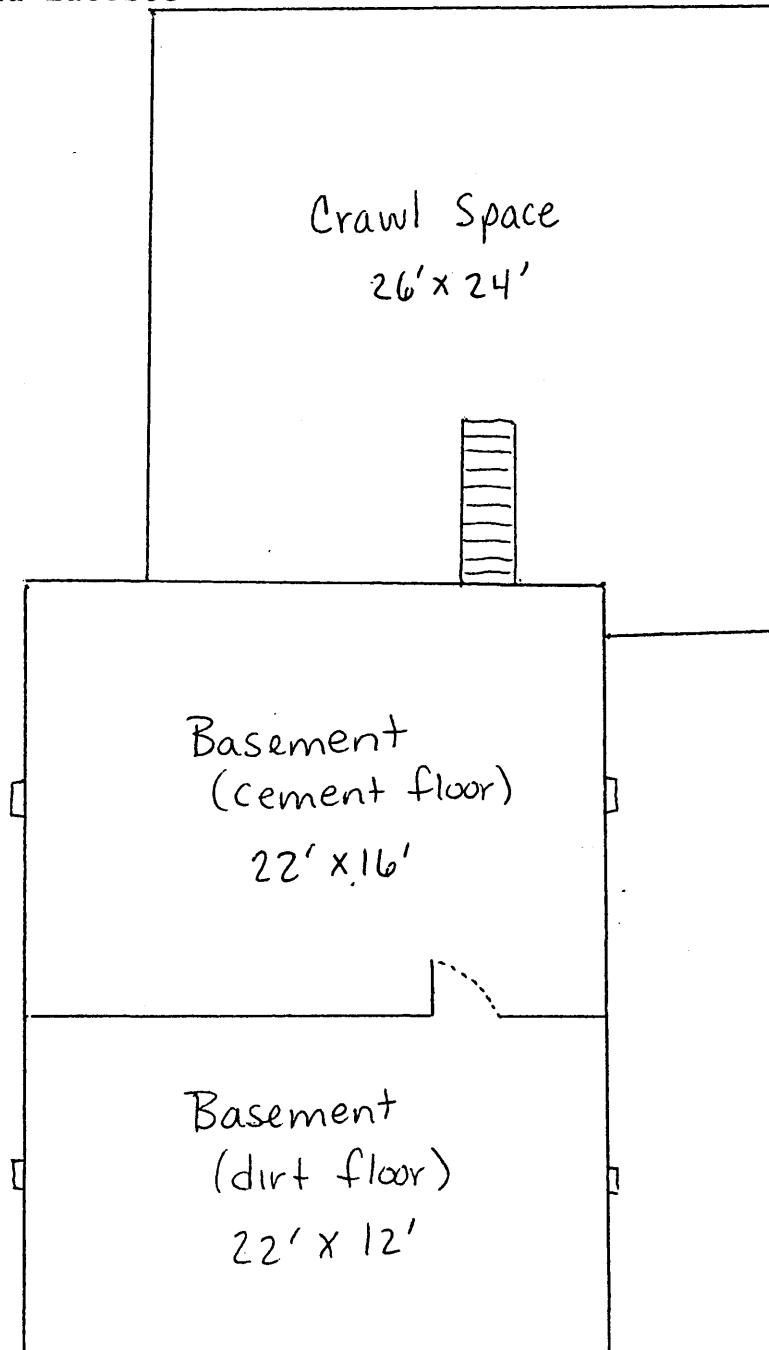
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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey) House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Floor Plan: Basement

Source: Velda LaCoste
July, 2000



Scale $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2'$

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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Statement of Significance

The Nathaniel Cobb Deering and Lucretia (Bailey) House, Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa is significant under Criterion B as the home of a prominent politician, of pride to the local community.

Nathaniel began his career as a teacher in Maine (1845-1847). In 1847 he desired a career in law. However, he was ill with lung complications from whooping cough. The doctor advised him to discontinue his studies. He was drawn to the Gold Rush in 1850. He returned two years later with a considerable fortune and started a paper manufacturing business. In 1853 he married Kate Dudley Bailey. One daughter, Katie, was born to this union (1854) and the next year Kate, Nathaniel's wife, died.

From 1855-1856 Nathaniel was a member of the Maine State House of Representatives. Along with Hannibal Hamlin he was one of the principal founders of the Republican Party. In 1856 his paper business burned and was a total loss. In that same year he married Lucretia Bailey (sister of his first wife, Kate).

It was then in 1857 that Nathaniel, Lucretia and Katie came to Osage. William Deering accompanied them as Nathaniel's nurse. (William was the Deering of the Harvester fame. He was either Nathaniel's brother or his cousin; the historians do not agree on this point.) In Osage Nathaniel bought a saw mill located on the Cedar River west of Osage. He was involved in selling real estate and was known as the premier real estate salesman of Mitchell County for all time. They maintained their residence in Osage while he revived his political career. In 1861 Hannibal Hamlin, then Abraham Lincoln's vice-president, appointed him Clerk of the U.S. Senate. According to E.J. Scofield (Who's Who in Iowa), Nathaniel numbered among his personal friends President Lincoln and all his cabinet and at one time, entertained Vice-President Hamlin in his home in Osage.

According to local newspaper reports, William Miniger built a 2 story brick house at 903 State Street in 1862. The abstract indicates that Nathaniel owned the property at that time. In 1867 Nathaniel added on the north 1 and 1/2 stories at a cost of \$1200.

From 1865-1869 he was the Special Agent for the Post Office Department over Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. During this period Nathaniel conducted the largest land-office business ever known in Osage. He spent his time, money, and credit as a general promoter of a boom town.

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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Statement of Significance (continued)

From 1872-1877 he was the National Bank Examiner for the state of Iowa. He was elected to three terms (1877-1883) in the U.S. House of Representatives. To this day, he is the only person from Mitchell County to ever be elected to U.S. Congress. In 1882 he was chosen by the U.S. House of Representatives to be a Regent of the Smithsonian Institute--an honor never before conferred upon an Iowa member of either house of Congress.

All the while he was busy with Washington affairs, he remained active in the Osage community. He was on the first Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Osage (1865), and he remained on the board for life. He helped start the Osage Library Association, a subscription library. It was housed in one of his buildings. He chaired the building committee for a new Congregational Church. He also chaired the Board of Trustees at his church at the time of his death (December 8, 1887). He was a life-long, active Mason and in the last years engaged in the cattle raising business in Montana.

Lucretia Deering also served her community and country well. While they were in Washington D.C., Lucretia was a special representative to the Red Cross and she joined the Daughters of the American Revolution. The local chapter of the D.A.R. still bears her name: the Lucretia Deering Chapter of D.A.R. She was also a charter member of the local Shakespearean Club.

Nathaniel died at his home in 1887 in Osage of malarial fever. It was reported that this was the largest funeral that had ever been held in Osage. The Osage newspaper reported his death:

"Our pen cannot do justice to his memory. His life works are left as an example for others to emulate and follow. In his demise Osage has lost one of her most prominent and progressive citizens, and the poor and needy their best friend."

After Nathaniel's death Lucretia continued living in their house until her death in 1919. She was stricken with paralysis. The couple's only child had died in 1875 of consumption. The whole family is buried in the Osage Cemetery.

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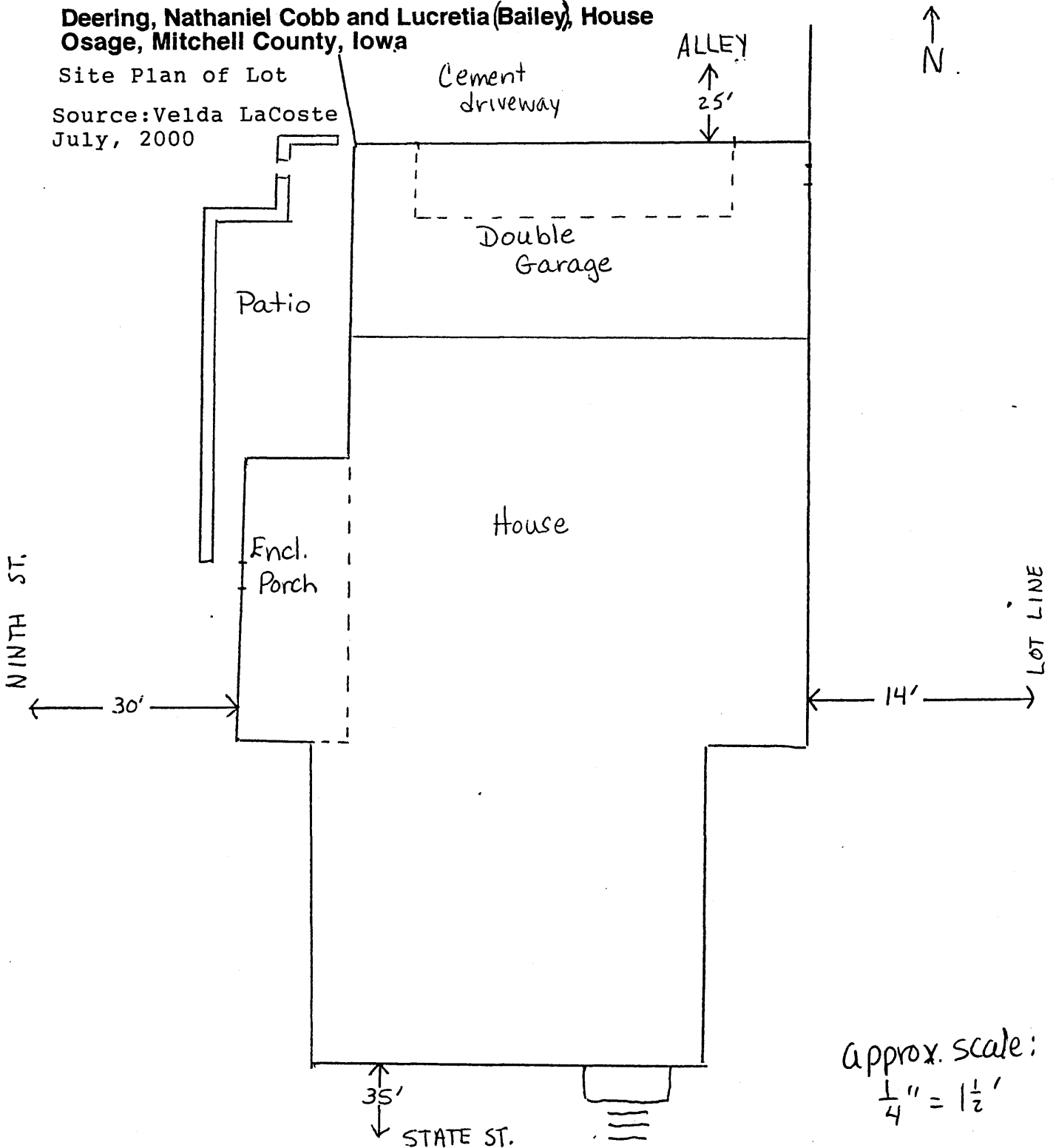
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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Site Plan of Lot

Source: Velda LaCoste
July, 2000



Approx. scale:
 $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1\frac{1}{2}'$

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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

Bibliography

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**Deering, Nathaniel Cobb and Lucretia (Bailey), House
Osage, Mitchell County, Iowa**

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Who's Who in Iowa. Iowa Press Association, 1940. Page 10.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 7, Block 154

Boundary Justification

Lot 7, Block 154 consists of a city lot which has retained its original property lines.