

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sudman, Fred and Minnie Meyer, House  
other names/site number NEHBS # DU02-2

2. Location

street & number 490 Vincent Avenue n/a not for publication  
city, town Chappell n/a vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Deuel code 049 zip code 69129

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
na

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

James A. Hanson  
Signature of certifying official

October 11, 1990  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Beth Boland

12/6/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: museum

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Constructed in 1911, the Fred and Minnie Meyer Sudman house is a large though simple two-story rectangular dwelling with a truncated hipped roof. Built on a concrete masonry foundation, the wood-frame walls are sheathed with narrow horizontal lap-siding while the roof material is asphalt composition shingles. Hip-roofed dormers light the attic. A one-story porch supported by Tuscan columns wraps around the north facade and west wall. The symmetrical three-bay facade features a central entrance with sidelights. The plan is a nearly-symmetrical six-room double-pile arrangement organized around a large central sitting-hall. Integrity is superb. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

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The Sudman house occupies a prominent corner lot near Chappell's main business district. Built by contractor Henry Dickmeyer of Arapahoe between April and September of 1911, the foundation is rock-faced concrete masonry, while the main structure is light wood balloon-framing. Rectangular in plan, the house measures forty-two by thirty-six feet. The walls are finished in narrow horizontal lap siding, while the large truncated-hip roof is sheathed in asphalt composition shingles. A widows walk, originally located on the truncation of the hip roof, has been removed.

The long side of the house serves as facade, facing north to Vincent Avenue. Three-bays in composition, the facade features a central entrance flanked by sidelights. An impressive wrap-around porch shelters the main entrance as well as the west side door; the whole is supported by a Tuscan colonade. The porch gives the house a somewhat informal aspect which obscures the otherwise stark Classical formality of the overall design. Hip-roofed dormers light the attic on all sides except the east.

 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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The plan is a distinctive symmetrical six-room, double-pile arrangement organized around the large entrance sitting-hall, measuring twenty by over twelve feet in size. The room is actually an entrance parlor or sitting room in addition to passage. Focus is on the elaborate, paneled-pine, dog-leg stairway to second floor, under which access is gained to the dining room behind the hall. Large double-sliding pocket-doors provide access from the sitting-hall to the front parlor on the west and a study (currently a bedroom) on the east.

The western third of the plan is devoted to the front and rear parlors (now "living-room") which are connected by a wide opening enframed by a pine colonade. The west side door under the exterior porch enters directly into the rear parlor or living room. The rear parlor is connected by a wide opening, also enframed by a pine colonade, into the dining room, which shares the central third of the plan with the sitting-hall. The eastern third of the plan is composed of the front study and the large kitchen, which are divided by the back stair. The kitchen has been further divided (n.d.) to provide a small breakfast nook and a first floor water closet. A small back mud porch on the east provides entry into the kitchen.

The second floor houses five bedrooms, a bath, four closets, a hallway, and a sitting-room. The sitting-room occupies the space at the top of the stairway, serving also as circulation to the hallway and two of the bedrooms.

Formally the house is very simple. Its predominant associations are derived from Renaissance design: plan, massing, roof-form, stairway motives, and the Tuscan porch columns with Italianate brackets.

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The house has been occupied as a single-family dwelling since its construction in 1911 until 1987; the entire period by the original owners or their descendants. Many original Sudman furnishings are located in the house. Vacant for the past three years, the house had been under the care of descendants and the Chappell Museum Association. The property is being preserved as the Sudman-Neumann Heritage House, a house museum.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1911

Significant Dates  
1911

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Dickmeyer, Henry

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Fred and Minnie Meyer Sudman house is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C as a distinct vernacular product of house design, derived from principles of the European Renaissance which remained popular in all strata of society through the turn of the century. Known descriptively as a two-story, symmetrical, central hall, double-pile house, the Sudman house is a significant vernacular product whose plan incorporates spatial design usually reserved for high-style dwellings. The age and size of the Sudman house make it a prominent local landmark. The period of significance is 1911, the year the dwelling was constructed.

The Renaissance principles exhibited by the Sudman house penetrated vernacular traditions at different times among various peoples; these principles are responsible for the most dramatic transformation of traditional design worldwide in the past two centuries. The best-known example is the adoption of Georgian design by Anglo-Americans in the early 18th century, which influenced vernacular design in the development of the I-house late in the century. The resulting symmetrical, central-passage single- or double-pile dwelling remained popular in America through the Colonial Revival styles of the early 20th century.<sup>1</sup>

The Sudman house represents a vernacular adaptation of more explicitly high-style planning in its incorporation of the central entrance sitting-hall. The large public sitting space which functioned beyond that of circulation. Specific sources of inspiration for the Sudman design, however, cannot be discerned with any degree of reliability. The plan bears only some resemblance to 18th century Georgian prototypes,<sup>2</sup> and it is just

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

McFee, Doris (Chappell Museum Committee). "Fred Sudman Home," Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Form, August 17, 1988.

"The Passing of Fred Sudman," Chappell (Nebr) Register, (March 28, 1912).

"Mrs. Minnie Sudman, Prominent Pioneer of County Dies Friday," Chappell (Nebr) Register, February 10, 1949.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one

**UTM References**

A 

1	3
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7	1	2	3	5	5
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4	5	5	2	2	2	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Described as all of Lots 5-6, Block 4, O'Neill Addition to the City of Chappell, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes all historically-associated real estate.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David Murphy, Architect  
 organization Nebraska State Historical Society date August, 1990  
 street & number 1500 R Street, P.O. Box 82554 telephone (402) 471-4774  
 city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68501

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

as likely that it was derived from continental manor house plans common to either Fred or Minnie Sudman's north German homeland of Hanover.<sup>3</sup> A continental precedent may have been selected from available Colonial Revival period designs, though the dichotomy of design between the exterior and the interior suggests that contemporary American designs were not primary sources.<sup>4</sup>

The exterior of the dwelling reveals the heavy massing typical of Germanic-influenced design in the new world, and its stark Classical simplicity speaks more to 19th century Classissimus than to the prevailing Anglo-American Classical or Colonial Revival styles of the period.<sup>5</sup> A lack of associated stylistic influence on the exterior reinforces this notion; the exception is the Tuscan porch. The character is otherwise vernacular, including the incorporation of Italianate brackets into the porch frieze. In addition to the distinctiveness of the plan, the interior exhibits a quiet, tasteful Classicism in the elaborate paneled-pine stairway and the Tuscan colonades which divide the front parlor, rear parlor, and dining room spaces. Though clearly not of original design and construction, their selection and incorporation lends a distinct flavor to the interior which is not likewise exemplified on the outside. This inside-outside dichotomy is a general characteristic of ethnic vernacular architecture.

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1. See Henry Glassie's "The Impact of Georgian Form on American Folk Housing," in Austin and Alda Fife, and Henry Glassie (Eds). Forms Upon the Frontier. (Monograph Series XVI:2) Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1969, 23-25, and Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975.

2. See Mark R. Wenger. "The Central Passage in Virginia: Evolution of an Eighteenth-Century Living Space," in Camille Wells (Ed). Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II. Columbia: University of Missouri Press for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1986, 137-49.

3. Neither of two excellent and recent studies of German Renaissance and Neo-Classical architecture include lesser buildings or discuss interior space planning to any extent.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

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4. Selection from contemporary American designs based upon traditional forms by ethnic groups has been noted in David Murphy and Kathleen Fimple. "South Bottoms Historic District, Lincoln, Nebraska," National Register of Historic Places: Inventory-Nomination Form. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1986, and by Thomas Carter, Utah State Historical Society, in a current research project.

5. See Erin McCawley Renn. "An Introduction to Nineteenth Century Missouri German Architecture." Vernacular Architecture Forum, Tenth Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri: A Guide to the Tours. Columbia: Missouri Cultural Heritage Center, and University of Missouri-Columbia, [1989], 63-80.