

PH0361133
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 4 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 23 1977

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

AND/OR COMMON

Cornelius O'Connor House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E 6th Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Homer

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

CODE
31

COUNTY
Dakota

CODE
043

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dakota County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dakota City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Dakota County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dakota City

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated against the bluff near the Missouri River, the Cornelius O'Connor house is a local interpretation of the Italianate style of architecture. Designed and built ca. 1875 by O'Connor himself, this two story brick house has decorative features including bracketing along the cornice, brick window hoods with keystones and brick quoins at the corners. Two matching frame scroll saw work porches shelter the north (front) doors of the house.

Typical of much Italianate architecture, the main body of the house is ell-shaped in plan. There is a rectangular brick addition on the rear of the structure which may have been built at the same time as the main house. The plan of the first floor is that of a central hall with front and back parlors on the east side and dining room on the west. The kitchen and 2 other small rooms are housed in the rear addition.

The interior of the structure features walnut woodwork handcarved by Captain O'Connor. This first floor boasts of panelled wainscoting in the entryhall and dining room. The doors and wainscott panels have a marbleized grain. A special dining room feature is the built-in sideboard on the east wall. A small pantry located between the kitchen and dining rooms has a window to allow for efficient food serving. Other first floor rooms include front and back parlors, the former containing a black marble fireplace purportedly imported from Italy. A picture rail also lines this room and a bay window adds interest to the back parlor. These two rooms are separated by a wide semi-elliptical archway with sliding doors.

The carved staircase lined with wainscoting, rises to second floor to the south from the entry hall. The newel post contains a hidden panel which gives way to a secret compartment. Near the top of the staircase is a recessed niche where the O'Connor family kept a religious statue. At this point the stairway carves east as does the wall.

There are eight bedrooms on second floor. Two of these being at the rear of the house in the addition housed servants, who had easy access to the kitchen by way of a back stairway.

The house, now being restored by the Dakota County Historical Society, is in excellent condition. The most serious problem they encountered was the rebuilding of the ornate porches to replace the originals, which had nearly rotted away. This reconstruction was accomplished through the use of old photographs and the talent of a local carpenter. There is a minor modern intrusion on the interior. The society has installed a baseboard heating system which is visible in places, but color-wise blends with the rooms. Outside the house a tall chainlink fence has been installed to discourage vandals.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cornelius O'Conner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cornelius O'Connor, an Irish immigrant, came to America with his parents in 1829 at the age of eight years. The family lived in Boston for twenty years, after which Cornelius went to New York where he married Catharine Duggan in 1852. In 1857 he and his wife moved west settling in a year old Catholic colony in St. John's Precinct, Dakota County, Nebraska.

O'Connor had been a carpenter while living in the east, but followed agricultural pursuits after his settlement in Nebraska. By 1882, he owned 1,300 acres of land with about 240 acres in cultivation, and wintered 200 head of cattle, 100 hogs and 20 horses.

O'Connor was also politically and militarily active, representing Dakota County in both the 8th and 11th sessions of the Territorial Legislature. He was instrumental in establishing the first school in Dakota County, the O'Conner School, and served as its director for over twenty years. In 1857, Governor Richardson commissioned O'Connor as Captain of a company formed to suppress Indian troubles. During the Indian war of 1864, he led Company I of the Second Nebraska Cavalry through the fighting in Northern Dakota Territory.

Architecturally, the house is quite distinct. Since it was a product of Captain O'Connor's talents, it has a special character particularly noticeable in the interior. A curvilinear aspect dominates the interior details, while the dark walnut woodwork adds a special, almost heavy quality to the atmosphere. This is very different from the character of the exterior which is generally light and rectilinear. The O'Connor house is an exceptional example of rural Italianate architecture designed and constructed by a talented immigrant carpenter.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	14	709170	4687240	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

April 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

402-432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln,

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

Marvin O. Knott

4/21/77

TITLE

Director Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

11/23/77

ATTEST:

Charles A. Harrington

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.17.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Andreas, A. T., History of Nebraska, Chicago, Western Historical Company, 1882.

Dakota County Historical Society, informants, 1977.

United States Census Records, Dakota County, Nebraska, Omadi Township, 1860, 1870, 1880.

Warner, M. M., Warner's History of Dakota County, Nebraska, Dakota City, Mirror Job Office, pub. 1893.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge, M.I.T. Press, 1969.