

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 24 1979
DATE ENTERED SEP 6 1979

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

1 NAME Father Flanagan's House

HISTORIC

Father Flanagan House

(D002-1)

AND/OR COMMON

Father Flanagan's Alumni House

2 LOCATION 417 N.S. 6

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boys Town

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

031

COUNTY

Douglas

CODE

055

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Father Flanagan's Boys Home, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

The Rev. Father Robert P. Hupp, Director

CITY, TOWN

Boys Town

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

STREET & NUMBER

1819 Farnam Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Father Flanagan House is located on the northwestern edge of the spacious Boys Town campus. It is recessed from the main streets of the town and is surrounded by an expanse of lawn which continues on the north to Highway 6 and to several educational buildings on the south.

The house was designed in a puritanical Georgian Revival manner by architect Jacob M. Nachtigall and was completed in March, 1927. It is a five-bay central block structure with hipped roof and a two-story wing on the south and a two-story wing to the rear. The open veranda on the front (east) facade is encircled by a masonry balustrade. The gabled one-bay porch with an elliptically-arched entrance accents the centered door with sidelights. The first floor windows are surmounted by a flat arch of soldier courses with keystone-like projections. At the cornice line, yellow brick is applied to simulate denticulation (see photo #1). The first floor of the south wing is an open piazza with entrance from the living room. Centered on the east is a hip-roofed dormer whose central opening has a gablet above, transforming the arrangement into a quasi-Palladian window.

The west addition was constructed in 1940 as dormitory space for the De La Salle Christian Brothers who were occupying the house at the invitation of Father Flanagan. The addition was extended from the original rear wing and begins with the cross-gabled entrances (see photos #2 and #4). The main side entrance is on the south and is highlighted by the door's stone surround and pseudo-half-timbering on the second floor with irregularly-laid brick nogging.

The floor arrangement is a central hall plan with living room on the south and dining room and office on the north. The rear wing contains the kitchen and housekeeper's room. The second floor comprises four bedrooms (one in each corner), bathroom (center of east side), and sun room (entered off the two south bedrooms).

In 1974, Boys Town officials decided to cease using the house as a residence for personnel and to restore and furnish the original portion of the house as the home of Father Flanagan as a museum in his memory. The major alteration of the house had been the removal of the main staircase and its installation opposite the side entrance in 1940. As part of the restoration, a new staircase was built following the original plans and in the original material--oak. The restoration is essentially completed and the house is open as the Father Flanagan Museum. The 1940 addition is the Alumni Center, housing offices on first floor and bedroom facilities for visiting alumni on second.

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Father Flanagan's House is being nominated individually as a building representative of Boys Town and one having the closest association with Boys Town's founder. There is no historic area in the town; buildings of various periods and styles are interspersed throughout the campus. The 1927 house is the oldest building on campus and was the second structure erected. The first, the Main Building, has been demolished. The majority of buildings are post-Second World War.

In consideration of the fact that the town is owned by one body, there are no individual city lots or blocks to be used as a legal description. There are no other structures or landscape features associated with this individual property. For these reasons, the nominated area is determined to include fifty feet in all directions from the foundations of the house.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1926-27

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jacob M. Nachtigall, architect
Charles W. Brader, contractor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Father Flanagan's Boys Home, also known as Boys Town, is internationally famous as a refuge for homeless boys which began in Omaha in 1917 and evolved into a separate municipality on the outskirts of Omaha through the efforts of its founder, Father Edward Joseph Flanagan. The personal home of Father Flanagan was the second building erected on the campus and is now the oldest extant structure in the town. The house is historically significant for its association with Father Flanagan and as a building representative of Boys Town.

Edward J. Flanagan (1886-1948) was born and raised in Ireland and immigrated to New York City in 1904 with the rest of his family upon the encouragement of his sister who was working there. Flanagan almost immediately enrolled in Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he received a B.A. in 1906. He then studied at the Gregorian University in Rome, but ill health prevented him from completing the seminary training necessary for ordination. To recover his health, he returned to live with his family who had moved to Omaha in proximity to his elder brother, a priest at the Church of Holy Angels. After a year, his health improved and he was accepted in the Department of Theology, University of Innsbruck, where he studied for three years and was ordained in 1912.

After his first assignment as assistant pastor to the church in the Irish community of O'Neill, Nebraska, Father Flanagan was assigned to St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Omaha. In his off-duty time, he established a free hotel for poor men which served as many as 500 men a night. Boys often presented themselves at the hotel requesting a place to stay, and this, plus his work with boys charged in the local court, sparked his interest in homeless boys. In 1917 permission was received to work with homeless and troubled boys, and on December 12th, the Boy's Home began with five boys. By spring over 100 boys were living in the home, having been referred by the courts and by relatives, and many presented themselves. In June, 1918, the home moved to a larger building, the Deutsches Haus, which had closed because of the anti-German feeling during the first World War. The Boys' Home initiated its own school during that summer to accommodate the individual needs of students whose education had been interrupted, and which the public school was not equipped to handle. Since that time, Boys Town has maintained its own accredited school system.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Elkhorn, Nebraska

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 740040 4571630

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house is located in the village of Boys Town, Nebraska, the legal description of which is the north half of Section 24, T15N R11E. The nominated area extends fifty feet from the foundations of the house.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Penelope Chatfield, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

DATE

July, 1979

TELEPHONE

402/471-3270

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. Knecht

7/16/79

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Skell

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-6-79

ATTEST:

William A. Blalock

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

5-28-79

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The third and final home of Boys Town was acquired in 1921 when the former Overlook Farm, then about eleven miles west of Omaha, was purchased. Space was then available for expanding the facilities and raising food for the community. A city-wide campaign raised funds to construct a main building which was completed in 1922. Father Flanagan's house was the second building erected and was finished in March, 1927. The campus today has grown to include over fifty buildings — cottages, schools, chapel, farm buildings, theatre, sports facilities and visitors' center. Boys Town was incorporated as a village in the 1930's with its own post office.

Father Flanagan utilized the house as his home and office until the late 1930's when he invited the De La Salle Christian Brothers to teach at Boys Town and gave them the use of his residence. The rear addition was completed in 1940 for dormitory space for the brothers. From the mid-1940's until 1974 the house served as a residence for various personnel. Since that time the original house has been restored to the appearance of the late 1920's when Father Flanagan resided there and the addition serves as offices for the Alumni Center.

Father Flanagan died in 1948 in Berlin, Germany, while an advisor to the U.S. War Department surveying the living conditions of young people in Austria and Germany. Although the entire town and the over 12,000 boys who have lived in the home are representative of the work of Father Flanagan, this house has a strong personal association as his home and office which has been recognized by the community in its decision to preserve and restore it as a museum to his memory.

Architecturally, Father Flanagan's house is significant to the community of Boys Town, an incorporated village of 989 (1970 census). In addition to its status as the second building erected on the campus and the oldest building extant, the house is representative of its era, a time of period revivals especially popular in residential architecture. Father Flanagan's house is an austere interpretation of the Georgian Revival. The simplicity is entirely apropos to the philosophy and lifestyle of this humanitarian. The 1940 addition is not obtrusive, being built entirely to the rear of the house. It is part of the evolution of the property's use and was done under the direction of Father Flanagan.

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Architect Jacob M. Nachtigall (1874-1947) designed a number of Catholic churches, schools, an orphanage and a hospital in Omaha. Nachtigall, with his family, immigrated to Omaha in the early 1880's from Germany. His professional experience included work as a draftsman in the office of Omaha's Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. Subsequently, he was a draftsman in Thomas R. Kimball's architectural firm before opening his own office in 1909.

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Boys Town Alumni Ass'n. Newsletter Vol. XIV, No. 13 (Feb., 1976) p. 1.

Boys Town: Memories and Dreams. Boys Town, 1977.

Interview with Thomas D. Burnes, Coordinator of Activities, Boys Town.
April 3, 1979, and floorplan information and photos supplied by
Mr. Burnes.

Omaha City Directories 1897-1909, 1915.

Omaha World-Herald June 1, 1947 p. 23A (5) Jacob Nachtigall obituary.

Oursler, Fulton, and Will Oursler. Father Flanagan of Boys Town.
Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1949.