

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAY 27 1982

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Abraham Castetter House WN02-4

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1815 Grant Street N/A not for publication

city, town Blair N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Nebraska code 31 county Washington code 177

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 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 type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Patrick L. and Kathy H. Tripp

street & number 1815 Grant Street

city, town Blair N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse, County Clerk

street & number 15th and Colfax

city, town Blair state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Abraham Castetter House exemplifies the stylistic tendency known as Eclecticism. The original house was built in the French Second Empire style, in 1876 by Mr. Castetter. Later additions were made to the house in the 1880's-1890's, following the architectural styles that were popular during those years.

Situated on what was known as the "Silk Stocking Row" in the late 19th and early 20th century, the Abraham Castetter house occupies the corner of 18th and Grant streets in the city of Blair, Washington County (1980 population: 6,277). The house represents an example of the Eclectic style of architecture. The two story house is frame with a brick foundation. The original mansard roof, with bracketed eaves, multiple dormers and pedimented window hoods, now supports a hipped roof with front gablet, adorned with pilasters and arched attic vent. The two-sided curvilinear porch has columns, balustrade and dentiling. The first story features one-over-one pane windows with pedimented hoods, transom windows over entryways and a foyer flanked with pilasters and a Gothic sash window with a keystone ornament. The adjoining anteroom (north facade) has pilasters, dentiling and a pentagon-shaped bay window. The west facade has an oriel window and a heptagon-shaped bay window with dentiling. The east facade features a square two story bay window with pedimented window hoods on the first level. Non-original windows housing the solarium are present on the east facade.

The interior of the house features oak floors throughout the first level. Woodwork, including newel posts and doors, is accented with Neo-Classical Revival decorative designs. The front and back parlors are divided by an opening articulated with fir trim work. The trim work is composed of a Doric Order including columns, entablature, and dentilled cornice. Sliding pocket doors are featured leading into the front parlor from the hallway area. The "U" shaped front stairway has a landing and bay window with leaded glass. Many of the windows in the house have a generous use of leaded and beveled glasswork. The back stairs (off the dining room) and the elevator (near the central hall) also provide access to the second floor. Door frames, windows and bays are treated with symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks. The first floor plan of the Castetter house includes a foyer, anteroom, hallway, front and back parlor, library, dining room, solarium, kitchen with pantry, summer kitchen, dumbwaiter area and bath. The second floor layout includes five bedrooms, sunporch and bath.

The original house was built in the French Second Empire Style in 1876 by Abraham Castetter. In the mid 1880's, a crippled child prompted the F.M. Castetter family (son of A. Castetter) to remodel the house. An additional ten foot section was added to allow installation of an elevator in what then became a central hall. This was necessary to allow the child to reach her second floor bedroom. Neo-Classical Revival details, including the peaked roof, porch, foyer, anteroom and bay windows were also added. Several additions to the rear of the house (south) including the second story sun porch,

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and possibly what now serves as the kitchen, were probably added prior to the turn of the century (1880's-1890's). The summer kitchen, formerly detached, is now attached to the rear of the house.

The nomination includes a carriage barn located directly south of the house. The one and one half story building is frame with a one story shed addition on the west. The jerkinhead roof is penetrated by a cupola and wall dormer with jerkinhead roof, loft doors with diagonal framing, decorative "blindings", and a triangular-shaped window in the gable peak. The two door gable entrance (east facade) has diagonal framing and a pent hood with scalloped brackets, which are repeated in the gable roof line. Entries on the north and south facades have transom windows and timber framing. The carriage barn was built in 1876, the same year the house was constructed.

The house remained in the Castetter family until the 1920's when it was passed to relatives in the Smith family. It was held by direct family members until 1963. The present owners are Patrick and Kathy Tripp. The house has served as a private residence throughout the years.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1876+ **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally significant, the Abraham Castetter house represents an example of the Eclectic style which became prevalent during the second half of the 19th century in the United States. As a locally prominent banker and businessman, A. Castetter played a significant role in the banking interests of Blair and Washington County. As donor of the land which became "Castetter Park", Abraham Castetter played an active role in the formation of what is today the present city park of Blair.

The Abraham Castetter house is architecturally significant as an example of the stylistic tendency known as Eclecticism. The Eclectic period in America (1870–1925) was an extension of the Victorian era. Architecture was influenced by the French National School of Fine Arts and residential architecture was influenced by diverse historic styles, with corresponding interiors and furnishings. Even in the Victorian Period (1840–1880) Eclecticism dominated architectural and decorative designs.¹ The Castetter house achieved its exuberant eclecticism as a result of major remodeling in a divergent style. In Design, Criteria for Decisions by Harold H. Alexander, he states:

"By the 1880's elaborate houses of pretentious scale and eclectic ornament could be found throughout the United States, from the Victorian mansion in Portland, Maine, to the Carson House in Eureka, California. No city, town, or village was without an example of these exaggerated houses, always grandiose, heavily encrusted with rather crude ornament, and obviously expensive to construct."

The interior of the Castetter house is a wonderfully complicated maze of chambers, antechambers and niches; an imaginative blend of Victorian and Neo-Classical details creating a unique product of Eclecticism in Nebraska.

1. Interior Design and Decoration by Sherrill Whiton, Fourth Edition, J.P. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia-New York-Toronto, Copyright 1957, 1951.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Blair, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 4	7 3 8 6 3 0	4 6 0 2 6 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is located on lots 1, 2 Block 63, Town of Blair, Washington County, Nebraska, including all of the historic real estate associated with the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Survey Associate

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date

street & number 1500 R Street

telephone 402/471-3270; 471-3850

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marianne D. Kett 5/13/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

6/25/82

for *Delores Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Abraham Castetter was born at East Liberty, Ohio, February 13, 1831. He was married to Miss Helen Phelps at Williston, Vermont in 1854. Mr. Castetter located at DeSoto, Nebraska in 1857 and was elected county clerk of Washington County in 1859, which position he held for eight years. In the spring of 1869, Mr. Castetter moved to the present city of Blair and went into the banking business with M. V. Wilson as partner. In a short time he purchased the interest of Mr. Wilson and continued as a private banker up to October of 1898, when the bank was incorporated as "The Banking House of A. Castetter" with A. Castetter as president, F. M. Castetter, vice president, and F. H. Claridge, cashier. Mr. Castetter's bank was the financial foundation for the prosperity of Washington County as it was the only one in the county for many years. In 1887, Mr. Castetter deeded to the city a tract of land which became known as Castetter Park and formed the nucleus of the fine city park which exists today.

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Blair 1869-1969, Blair Nebraska Centennial. Blair, Nebraska.

"Failure of Bank Hangs Like Funeral Pall Over People", The Tribune, March 10, 1921, p. 1, 8.

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