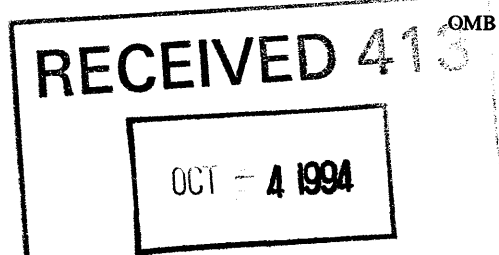


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1280

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. **INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION** *See 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. If any 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 Murphy, William L. and Sydney V., House
other names/site number Sheldon, Frances, House NeHBS# LC13:D8-387

2. Location

street & number 2525 N Street not for publication [N/A]
city or town Lincoln vicinity [N/A]
state Nebraska code NE county Lancaster code 109 zip code 68510

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Lawrence Sommer 9/26/94
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or 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 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 11.4.94

Entered in the
National Register.

[Signature] _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | object |
| 2 | 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 family

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business/professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof Asphalt shingles

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets.

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 a 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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1889

Significant Dates

ca. 1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See 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
Record # _____
- 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:
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept.

Frances Sheldon House
Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16,900 sq. ft., 0.39 acres more or less

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|----|------|---------|----------|----|------|---------|----------|
| 1. | 14 | 695250 | 4520375 | 3. | | | |
| 2. | | | | 4. | | | |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward F. Zimmer, Preservation Planner & Jacqueline S. Stumpff, Preservation Intern

organization City-County Planning Department date July 25, 1994

street & number 555 N. 10 Street telephone 402/441-7491

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68508

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert & Victoria Northrup

street & number 332 S. 33 Street telephone 402/476-6440

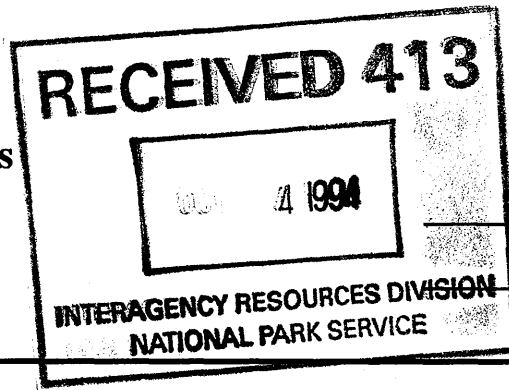
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68510

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet



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Sheldon House
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

DESCRIPTION

The Murphy-Sheldon House in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, is a wood-frame, two-and-one-half story Queen Anne style residence, built ca. 1889 for William Murphy, and occupied from 1900-1950 by the Sheldon family. This nomination includes two contributing buildings, the house and a carriage house. The Murphy-Sheldon House retains a high degree of integrity. The carriage house in the rear yard has been altered by the addition of a large door, but still retains its essential massing and most of its original exterior form.

The Murphy-Sheldon House in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, is a wood-frame, two-and-one-half-story Queen Anne style residence, built ca. 1889 for William Murphy, and occupied from 1900 to 1950 by the Sheldon family. This nomination includes two contributing buildings, the house and a carriage house.

Murphy-Sheldon House has a complex, multi-gabled roof, wood clapboard siding with considerable "Stick Style" trim and an intricately detailed wrap-around porch. This Queen Anne style house is basically rectangular in plan, but is made complex and picturesque, as is characteristic of that style, by the projection of polygonal bays on the north, east and west sides, by numerous porches, and especially by a proliferation of gables, dormers, and tall pilastered chimneys. The principal facade is oriented north toward N Street. The right (west) side of the facade contains the principal entrance, sheltered by part of the wrap-around porch and marked by a low, ornamented pediment in the porch roof. Above the entrance is a recessed second-story porch, and topping the facade is a large, asymmetrical gable end with three attic windows and metal cresting on the ridge. The attic windows throughout the house have small colored glass lights incorporated into the upper sash. The left (east) side of the north facade projects forward a few feet from the right and is organized as a polygonal bay on the first floor, set beneath a rectangular second story, and a gable roof that runs perpendicular to the main facade gable. A small shingled dormer is set in that roof.

The west facade is also prominent, continuing the curved porch of the north front until it terminates into a two-story polygonal bay, with its own gable roof. The porch is one of the finest features of the exterior, with large turned posts, a complex railing of turned and cut-out elements, and a decorative, cut-out skirt. The tall pilastered chimney set just south of the ridge of the central, high hipped roof is readily visible from the west or northwest.

The third principal facade is on the east side. It is distinguished by an attached carriage porch near the south end of the house, with a cross-gable roof supported by turned posts set on limestone walls. Near the center of the east facade is a two story polygonal bay topped by a small flat roof with pent eaves and a large dormer; to the north of that dormer is a larger gable end pierced by a tall, thin pilastered chimney.

The rear of the house faces south and is plain in comparison to the other facades. A small pent roof shelters the rear entrance. An enclosed porch has been converted into a bathroom. A bulkhead with metal doors (recently added) provides exterior access to the basement.

At the south end of the lot is a two-and-one-half-story carriage house topped with a central ventilator/cupola. It is contemporary with the main house and is constructed of similar frame materials, and is regarded as a contributing structure on the property. Its principal, north facade includes a central facade gable and a second-story hayloft door. A large garage door has been inserted into the first story. The present, wooden door replaced a fiberglass overhead door, and is much more sympathetic to the design of the carriage house. The west facade includes an older, wooden rolling door with diagonal bracing the upper half. The south, rear facade of the carriage house is without fenestration.

All windows of the carriage house are 2-over-2, double hung sash. The interior of the carriage house has been converted into garage and storage space and is lacking any original features such as horse stalls.

The Murphy-Sheldon House stands to the west side of a large lot measuring 110 feet wide (east-west) and 150 feet deep, located on a moderate grade which slopes down from east to west. North of the site, across N Street, the surroundings are predominantly commercial.

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| Sheldon House |
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West of the site is a large, four-story apartment block, with its parking lot close against the Murphy-Sheldon House property. The east half of the lot is generally open, with some mature ornamental trees (redbuds and a magnolia) and evergreens (predominantly spruce). East of the property are other late 19th century houses.

The property retains a high degree of integrity of historic material. The greatest impact on the house occurred off-site, with the removal of the large Oakley House which stood as Murphy-Sheldon House's western neighbor, and its replacement with the multi-story apartment block.

The interior of the house is equally well-preserved. The floor plan is little altered and all of the oak woodwork on the first floor is original and has never been painted. The main entrance opens on a small vestibule, which leads to the entry/stair hall--the most significant interior feature of the home. The stairs ascend south to north to a small landing lit by a stained glass window, then turn and rise southward along the west wall. (The stained glass in this house was reproduced from photographs after the originals were stolen around 1987.) The space is dominated by the stairs with oak newel posts, hand rail, turned spindles, and paneled wall. Beneath the stairs are a small closet and an exterior door to the west porch. The entry hall links to all three major rooms on the first floor--the front parlor through a wide doorway with double pocket doors, the back parlor through a large hinged door, and the dining room through another set of pocket doors.

The major first floor rooms all have complex shapes (due to the house's many bay windows and other projections) and oak woodwork including mantels, doorways, and window frames. The two parlors are joined by a wide doorway with double pocket doors.

Service rooms at the rear of the first floor include the kitchen at the southeast corner, with tall wainscotting in pine, and a pantry opposite on the west side of the house, with floor-to-ceiling pine cupboards on two walls.

On the second floor of the house, the open stairhall has been reduced by insertion of a bathroom into the north part of that space. Most of that floor is dedicated to bedrooms, arranged around a central north-south corridor. Like the major first floor rooms, the bedrooms have complex shapes reflecting bay windows, or, in the case of the north bedroom, corner cupboards inserted in rectangular space to create the same effect. As on the first floor, the stained glass windows on the second story are recent replicas of the stolen originals.

At the rear of the second floor are a simple flight of stairs from the kitchen, a plain rectangular bedroom in the southeast corner over the kitchen, and an old bathroom in the southwest corner with vertical pine panelling and a stone splashplate and surround for the washbasin.

The attic remains unfinished. Its distinguishing features are the complex ceiling reflecting the picturesque roof and the decorative upper sash in the windows.

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| Sheldon House |
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Murphy-Sheldon House in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska is significant on the local level in the area of architecture under Criterion C as one of the most ornate examples of the Queen Anne style in Lincoln, and one of the most intact, with its rare surviving features, including its elaborate main porch, carriage porch, carriage house, and interior elements. The period of significance coincides with its construction date, ca. 1889.

The Murphy-Sheldon House is locally significant under Criterion "C" in the area of architecture as one of the larger and best preserved examples of the Queen Anne style in Lincoln, with a high degree of integrity of both exterior and interior features. The house has important associations in the area of art as the home of Frances Sheldon, a patron of the arts in Lincoln whose major bequest to the University of Nebraska resulted in the Sheldon Memorial Gallery. However, while Miss Sheldon's art patronage extended through much of the period of her residence in the house from 1900 to 1950, the actual bequest occurred at her death in 1950, therefore the significance of the property is limited to Criterion "C".

The house's period of architectural significance coincides with its construction date, ca. 1889. It was built for Mr. and Mrs. William L. and Sydney V. Murphy, who had purchased the land the year before from their son-in-law Albert W. Jansen. Murphy worked for Jansen's real estate business, and is listed variously in the directories as a salesman and a bookkeeper. In 1890 Jansen built an even larger brick house (since demolished) immediately west of the Murphys' residence. Lincoln experienced very rapid population growth in the 1880s, increasing from 13,000 residents to 55,000 during that decade. Both Murphy's and Jansen's houses reflected the city's growth and real estate promoters' resultant success, celebrated through the exuberant Queen Anne style.

The Murphy-Sheldon House exemplifies that style by its complex mass, ornate porches, picturesque roofline, colored glass windows, and tall, decorated chimneys. The complexity of the mass and roofs of the house are particularly significant Queen Anne characteristics in Lincoln, where more simplified forms were sometimes preferred, even for large, architect-designed Queen Anne style residences. The Guy Brown House (LC13:D8-491) at 27th and M Streets by John H. W. Hawkins (ca. 1888) is richly detailed but has a simple mass and dominant gable roof; the Kormeyer House at 19th and E Streets (LC13:D7-28) of 1890 has similar large scale, fine ornament, and simplified roof and mass. The survival of Murphy-Sheldon House's front porch, with its elaborate spindlework, and of the interior plan and fine woodwork, including the main stairhall and four mantelpieces, is also noteworthy. The Yates House (ca. 1891-3, 16th and G Sts., LC13:D7-1), probably the only Queen Anne style, frame house in Lincoln of more elaborate form and richer ornament than the Murphy-Sheldon House, has a reconstructed main porch and has been subdivided into apartments.

Lincoln has lost many of its larger Queen Anne houses to demolition or denaturing alterations. Among the best were the A. J. Sawyer House at 17th and F Streets, designed in 1887 by Artemus Roberts (demolished 1925), the Frank Sheldon House at 14th and R Streets by William Gray (built ca. 1887, demolished); and the John MacFarland House at 14th and Q Streets (ca. 1886, demolished) designed by John H. W. Hawkins. A few large brick examples survive--notably the Clark-Leonard House (listed on National Register of Historic Places [NRHP] within the Mount Emerald District), the William Tyler House (NRHP), and the Langworthy Taylor House (NRHP). Fewer of Lincoln's frame Queen Anne houses are National Register-listed, for instance neither the Yates House nor the Guy Brown House, both large and elaborate Queen Anne residences with high integrity, are on NRHP. Two medium-sized frame Queen Anne houses, the Albert Watkins House (LC13:C7-791) and Royer-Williams House (LC13:D9-383), are included on the National Register primarily for their association with significant persons. Both are good examples of mid-sized Queen Anne style houses in Lincoln, but the Murphy-Sheldon House exceeds them in architectural detail and integrity.

The Murphy-Sheldon House received a preliminary finding of eligibility for listing on the National Register from the National Park Service in 1991, for its local significance in the area of architecture. The house has been recognized as a Lincoln Landmark under the zoning code by the Lincoln City Council, and has been the object of an exhaustive and exemplary rehabilitation by the present (1994) owners.

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Sheldon House

Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska

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Section 9--Bibliography

Blumenson, John J.-G., *Identifying American Architecture*. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

Lancaster County Register of Deeds.

Lincoln City Directories, 1885-1905.

Lincoln Star, 3-25-1936 (Obituary of George Sheldon).

Lincoln Star, 6-28-1950 (Obituary of Frances Sheldon).

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, *Sheldon Sampler: A Century of Patronage*, Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska, 1987.

Section 10--Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of Lot A of Sheldon Place in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, being a parcel 150 feet deep (north-south) and 110 feet wide (east-west).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the entire parcel of land historically associated with this property.