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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 or by entering the information requested. 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 W. H. Faling House

other names/site number Cambridge Inn (NeHBS #FN03-051)

2. Location

street & number 606 Parker Street not for publication []

city or town Cambridge vicinity []

state Nebraska code NE county Furnas code 065 zip code 69022

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official [Handwritten Signature]

10-8-99 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: [x] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.

[Handwritten Signature: Edson H. Beall]

11/22/99

[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.

[] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[] removed from the National Register.

[] other, (explain):

[Handwritten Signature]

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	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instruction)

Domestic: Inn

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood Frame

roof Asphalt Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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.
[x] 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

1909

Significant Dates

1909

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. F. Gernandt

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more 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 #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location for Additional Data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	400650	4459550	3.			
2.				4.			

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Todd Knispel - Research Assistant
organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date 09/01/99
street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-4787
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

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/title Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hilton
street & number 606 Parker Street telephone _____
city or town Cambridge state NE zip code 69022

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Continuation SheetFaling House

Name of Property

Furnas County, Nebraska

County and State

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The W. H. Faling House located in Cambridge, Furnas County, Nebraska was built in 1909 and is an example of Neo-Classical style. The house is two stories plus an attic and dominates the street corner of Parker and U. S. highways 6 & 34. Cambridge is located in the northern part of Furnas County on the Medicine Creek, near where it empties into the Republican River. Cambridge is on a very gentle slope that rises from the bottom lands of the Republican River and Medicine Creek. Cambridge is located in the Southwest part of Nebraska on the Dissected Plains which is hilly land that are remnants of plains that have been eroded by wind and rain. Cambridge is about twenty miles from the Kansas border.

The W. H. Faling House was designed by architect W. F. Gernandt of Fairbury. Mr. Gernandt later established a business on Omaha, Nebraska. Other buildings designed by him are the courthouses of Webster, Pawnee, and Valley Counties of Nebraska. Gernandt designed the Faling House in the Neo-Classical style with a full height entry divided by a lower full-width porch. This is somewhat unusual style in that no colossal columns are used for a full height entry; instead a second tier of columns occurs above the lower porch. The house is built with the main entrance facing east. The foundation and supports are brick. The main facade is dominated by a pedimented porch and dormer. The columns on the house have horizontal bands. The porch columns have ionic capitals. The main upper columns are Corinthian in style. Columns also occur on the now enclosed south porch. Also on the south wall are ionic pilasters running from the first floor to the second. The eaves around the house are decorated with box dentils, and with a running ornament border. The front door is oak surrounded by an elliptical arch and sidelights, decorated with leaded beveled glass. The entrance is flanked by two columns as are the outside windows on the second floor of the main facade.

The property retains a high degree of historic integrity with the only exterior alterations including the enclosure of a small south side porch and the removal of railings from the roofline. The railings are still in the possession of the current owners.

Remodeling as been kept to minimum on the interior of the house, even though it has had several owners. The houses two half baths have been modernized and a shower was added to the master bath. The kitchen has also been remodeled.

The entry hall and main staircase still bear the original paint, which resembles marble with inlaid wood border. A second floor bedroom also retains its original faux painted birds-eye maple woodwork throughout. This decorative treatment is accredited to the work of Danish immigrant artists Charles Hansen and James Willer of Fairbury, Nebraska. Hansen and Willer left no records, so confirmation is difficult. However, the faux-wood painting on the ceiling in the Faling house dining room is nearly identical to that in the Colman House (JF02-4; NRHP 1982) in Diller, Nebraska. The Colman House decorative painting has been documented as the work of Hansen and Willer, and was designed by the same architect, W. F. Gernandt. It is likely that Gernandt worked as a team with the Hansen and Willer on the decorative interiors of his projects.

The woodwork in the Faling House has been very well preserved. Oak is used extensively throughout the house. The interior columns and border repeat the designs on the exterior of the house. The fine craftsmanship is especially evident in the living room fireplace, the main staircase,

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Faling House

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and the dining room sideboard which appears to be made out of Italian olivewood. Leaded beveled glass is used throughout, and the rose tree design of the stain glass window on the main staircase is the focal point of both the downstairs reception hall and the upstairs balcony.

Though the Faling House has had many owners over the years, it has been exceptionally well preserved and cared for, and remains an excellent example of early 20th century architecture and craftsmanship. The house retains a high degree of historic integrity and is the best example of its type in the city of Cambridge.

The one noncontributing building is a newer garage that sits behind the house.

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The W. H. Faling House is eligible for listing on the National Register as a representative of the eclectic Neo-Classical style popular during the early parts of the 20th century. The locally significant house eligible under criterion C has a period of significance of 1910, established at its date of completion. Architecturally the house represents an era when many towns in the west were beginning to move from infancy and rapid growth to stability and maturity that is illustrated in the building stock of more established towns. Built in 1909 by architect W. H. Gernandt, the house is architecturally significant and contributes to a time when the west was becoming more cultured, and manifesting its growth through a more elaborate physical building stock.

History

Cambridge is located in the northern part of Furnas County on the Medicine Creek in Southwest Nebraska. Cambridge is on a very gentle slope that rises from the bottom lands of the Republican River and Medicine Creek. Cambridge is located on U. S. Highways 6 & 34 and has a population of 1,100.

In 1878 J. W. Pickle surveyed and laid out a town that was called Northwood. The post office that was established four years earlier was called Medicine Creek. In May 1880, the railroad came to the area and the name was subsequently changed to Cambridge.

In October of 1904 the Falings purchased the lots on which they would build their new home, and by 1910 the Faling House was complete. W. H. Faling was a prominent business and community leader of early Cambridge. Years prior to the construction of the house Faling did much to help Cambridge to grow and develop.

W. H. Faling was born in Jefferson County, New York in 1848. Moved to Illinois in 1864. From 1872-1874 ran a business in Winnebago City, Minnesota. 1874-1880 he lived in Exeter, Nebraska and ran a general merchandise store. During his time at Exeter he would marry Anna Stewart. In 1880, W. H. and Anna moved to Cambridge and opened a general merchandise store. Later that year he was appointed land agent for the Lincoln Land Company. In 1885, Mr. Faling helped to incorporate Cambridge into a village and was chosen as the Village's first chairman. As chairman and land agent Faling laid out and platted five additions and subdivisions to Cambridge and sold all the lots. The next year Faling opened the Faling Home Bank as well as joining the Masons. He would, in 1887, be named the first president of Enterprise Building & Loan Association and would remain a member for the rest of his life.

In 1883, Anna Faling helped form the first Congregational Church of Cambridge. Eight years later W. H. Faling joined the church and would serve as clerk for the next thirty years.

After all those years helping Cambridge W. H. and Anna Faling built their house where they would spend the rest of their lives. In 1926, Anna Faling would pass away and W.H. would follow in 1933. Mr. Faling would leave the house to the Masons to sell with the proceeds going toward building a new Masonic Lodge in Cambridge. Today the house is, after years of private ownership and few alterations, a bed and breakfast.

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Name of Property

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Criteria Evaluation

Revival of interest in classical models dates from the 1893 World Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. McKim, Meade, and Wright set the standard for Neo-Classical style at least until America's entry into World War One. Neo-Classical houses have a facade dominated by a full height entry porch with columns. The columns typically have ionic or Corinthian capitals, and facades have symmetrically balanced windows with a center door. Boxed eaves are more common in Neo-Classical houses than earlier styles.

Manifestation of Neo-Classical building styles in Nebraska generally occurs after the turn of the century during the recovery period from the depression of 1893. Building in general was halted during this period when many farms and banks were going under. However, by the turn of the century recovery is in full bloom and farms and businesses began to prosper again. Cambridge, Nebraska was no exception to this historical period and saw the construction of one of its biggest and most architecturally distinct homes during this time.

The Faling House illustrates the Neo-Classical Revival style with its massive height porch with grouped, banded columns throughout the facade. Its elaborate and symmetrical front entrance reveals what was common during the period with a wide central door surrounded by sidelights and often a fanlight above. Other architectural details that classify the building in this style include dentil moldings, geometric key designs and pediments in the gable facade as well as in interior details.

Overall the Faling House is architecturally significant as the best example of Neo-Classical style in the city of Cambridge and because it retains a high degree of historic integrity.

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Bibliography

Calabro, Elaine. "Residence for Mr. W. H. Faling, Esq." Unpublished manuscript, 1992. Nebraska State Historical Society.

Furnas County Genealogical Society. *Furnas County: Past and Present*. Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corp., 1987.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. NY: Alfred A. Knopf Inc., 1998.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture since 1780*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1992.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 5 and 6 and alley, and parts of Lots 7 and 8, Block 18, Original Town of Cambridge, Furnas County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes land that is historically connected with the house.