

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received NOV 3 1980
date entered

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

1. Name

historic N/A
and/or common College Hill Historic District

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Juniper, 15th,
Boswell and 9th Streets N/A not for publication
city, town Crete N/A vicinity of congressional district First
state Nebraska code 31 county Saline code 151

3. Classification

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>N/A</u> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name multiple ownership (on file at Nebraska Historic Preservation Office)
street & number N/A
city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk
street & number Saline County Courthouse
city, town Wilber 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 type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date <u> N/A </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The town of Crete (1970 pop. 4,400) is located in the valley of the Big Blue River 25 miles southwest of Lincoln. Founded in 1870, the town flourished steadily due in a large part to the fact that Doane College, which has religious affiliations with the Congregational Church, was established there in 1872. That portion of Crete's residential section which rises out of the valley east of the business district was casually named "College Hill" very early in the town's history, as Doane College is situated at the top of this hill. Boswell Street separates the Doane campus from the eastern boundary of the historic district. The majority of the houses in this area were built by the founders and supporters of Doane College and Crete's business district. Nearly all of the homes have remained single family dwellings and unless otherwise noted, the physical appearances of the buildings retain their historic integrity. College Hill Historic District displays an excellent cross section of 19th and early 20th century residential architecture. The inventory of sites is as follows:

SA01

- 1 THEODORE H. MILLER HOUSE, 1112 Grove. Two and one-half story Queen Anne mansion. Built 1899 of brick and Colorado sandstone. Hipped and gabled roof. Designed by Lincoln architect George W. Shaffer for Miller who was a prominent Crete merchant. House features a corner turret, two story bay window on the south facade, a pedimented porte cochere attached to the north facade. Curved porch with classical detailing skirt the west and a portion of the south facades of the structure. Excellent example of a late Queen Anne structure. (see photo #1)
- 2 JOHN D. DESH HOUSE, 1140 Grove. Two story frame house. Built in 1888 for Desh, a clothing merchant.
- 3 FRANK J. RADEMACHER HOUSE, 1424 Grove. (NRHP, entered March 1980)
- 4 ZEPHANIAH WATERMAN HOUSE, 1205 Forest. Two story house with hipped and gabled roof. Vertical siding in gables and under eaves. Brackets are found under eaves and near base of the east gable. Built ca. 1885 for Waterman, a lumber dealer. Full frontal porch was added ca. 1910 replacing smaller one of Eastlake design. (see photo #2).
- 5 JOHN L. TIDBALL HOUSE, 1112 Forest. Two story brick Italianate structure. Built in 1880 for Tidball, a banker and lumber dealer. Large curvilinear porch added in the summer of 1910. House is one of a very few of Italianate design in Saline County. (see photo #3)
- 6 JUDGE WILLIAM H. MORRIS HOUSE, 1039 Forest. Excellent two and one-half story Shingle-Style house. Built in 1887-88. Designed by Omaha architect J.H.W. Hawkins (see NRHP R. O. Phillips House, Lancaster County). House displays several shingle patterns and numerous colored glass windows. An especially pleasing Eastlake porch compliments the overall design of the dwelling built for District Judge Morris. (see photos #4 & 5)

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- 15 GERMAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (presently Plymouth Congregational Church), northeast corner of 9th and Ivy. Frame church constructed in 1888. Features an ell-shaped plan and an entrance tower. (see photos #6 & 7 & 18)
- 19 ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL, southeast corner 14th and Ivy. Two story brick constructed 1887. Roof altered from original Mansard design. (see photo #8)
- 20 SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, northeast corner 13th and Ivy. Brick Gothic church with entrance tower. Built 1892. Designed by Lincoln architect James Tyler. (see photo #8)
- 23 GEORGE D. STEVENS HOUSE, 924 Grove Street. Two story frame house built 1885 for Stevens, cashier of State Bank of Nebraska at Crete. House exhibits fine Victorian ornamentation in window trim, bay window and porch detail. Gabled roof. Small frame barn situated at rear of property. (see photo #9)
- 24 SACRED HEART RECTORY, northeast corner 13th and Hawthorne. Square house type. Neo Classical Revival with slightly projecting entrance pavilion and fully developed corner pilasters. Constructed 1906. (see photo #10)
- 25 REV. WILLIAM EYSTER HOUSE, 909 Forest. Two story frame house, gable entrance with wing, gabled roof. One story bay window. Built 1883-84 for Rev. Eyster, a retired Lutheran minister. House shape seems to be indicative of the influence of Eyster's Pennsylvania-German nativity. (see photo #11)
- 28 FIRST JUDGE WILLIAM H. MORRIS HOUSE, northwest corner 10th and Forest. One story frame cottage with side wing.
- 31 MATTHEW A. DAUGHERTY HOUSE, 941 Boswell. Two story brick Italianate house with one story bay window. Built ca. 1880 for Daugherty, a lawyer, journalist and stockgrower.
- 32 FRANK B. STEPHENS HOUSE, 839 Boswell. One story frame square type house with additions. Built 1883. Mansard roof. Decorative features include frontal bay window, corner windows with bracketed hoods and two large porches. (see photo #12)
- 33 GOVERNOR JAMES W. DAWES HOUSE, 941 Grove. Two story frame house with steeply pitched gabled roof. Vertical siding in gables and ornate window hoods. Constructed ca. 1885 by H. H. Whittlesey. Sold to Dawes in 1887. Dawes was a lawyer, State Senator and Governor of Nebraska (1883-1887). (see photos #13 & 14)
- 34 HOUSE, 942 Grove. One story frame two room cottage with rear wing and pedimented window hoods. Constructed ca. 1900.
- 37 EDWARD J. STEIDL HOUSE, 1242 Hawthorne. Two story frame house with hipped and gabled roof. Two story bay window on north facade. Circular frontal porch. Built 1901, possibly from pattern book plans, for Steidl, a druggist. (see photo #15)
- 42 GEORGE L. MEISSNER HOUSE, northwest corner 11th and Grove. Two story frame square house with hipped roof and full frontal porch. Built ca. 1904. (see photo #16)

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- 61 CHARLES B. ANDERSON HOUSE, 709 E. 11th. Two story frame Colonial Revival house; curvilinear frontal porch and large rectangular porch on west facade; Fanlight arched doorway flanked by engaged columns gives access to second level frontal porch. Skylight penetrates roof; Porch railings have been changed from original wooden balastrades (see photos 17, 18) to wrought iron. Built 1904 for banker Anderson.
- 62 FAYETTE I. FOSS HOUSE, 944 Forest. Two story brick Italianate which has been stripped of its decorative features. Presently serves as apartment dwelling. Built 1880 for Foss, a prominent attorney at cost of \$4500. (see photo #19)
- 65 BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, southeast corner 11th and Ivy. Frame church with entrance tower and Gothic windows. Built ca. 1905. Presently the I.O.O.F. Hall.
- 66 JAMES K. PATTERSON HOUSE, 1123 Ivy. House built ca. 1885. One and one-half story frame, ell-shaped, with frontal porch and Greek Revival Window hoods.
- 67 ISREAL M. WOLF HOUSE, 1210 Forest. Italianate, two story frame house built 1884-85 with ca. 1900 two-sided porch. Built for Wolf, a grocery merchant. (see photo #20)
- 68 HOUSE, 1144 Forest. Small one story frame cottage built ca. 1895 with Greek Revival porch.
- 69 CHARLES W. WECKBACH HOUSE, 1040 Forest. Two and one-half story square; frame construction with hipped roof and full frontal porch; built 1907 for prominent banker Weckbach.
- 70 JOHN SEWALL BROWN HOUSE, 838 Forest. Two story frame "ell" with rear addition; gabled roof and frontal and side porches. Built ca. 1884 for J. S. Brown, Doane College professor and an organizer of the Crete Chautauqua. (see photo #21)
- 71 HOUSE, 910 Grove. Two story frame "ell" with frontal and side porches; gabled roof; frame barn at rear of property.
- 74 A. T. CASSELL HOUSE, 842 E. 11th. Two story brick vernacular Georgian; gabled roof; built ca. 1927 for Doane College Treasurer Cassell. (see photo #22)
- 95 RHINE-SHEBL HOUSE, 1342 Grove. Two story frame house with hipped and gabled roof lines with curvilinear porch. Built ca. 1890 for James W. Rhine, but served as Joseph Shebl residence 1909-1922.
- 96 CHARLES ARON HOUSE, 638 E. 14th. Two story frame house with cross-gabled roof and curvilinear porch. Built 1907 for tailor and clothier Charles Aron. (see photo #23)
- 102 HOUSE, 1115 Grove. One story frame "ell" with addition; gabled roof and two-sided porch. Built ca. 1880.

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- 103 HOUSE, 905 Grove. Two story frame with jerkin head roof and central chimney.
- 113 JOSEPH H. SMITH HOUSE, 909 Hawthorne. Two story frame square-type house with addition; with full frontal porch and hipped roof. Smaller side porch at rear. Built 1910 by Baldwin Lumber Company of Crete.
- 114 DR. MYRON O. JOHNSON HOUSE, 1010 Hawthorne. Two story frame square house type with attic gable dormer. House has hipped roof and two level two-sided porch. Built ca. 1907 for Dr. Johnson, a dentist. (see photo #24)
- 115 HOUSE, 1023 Hawthorne. Two story frame ell-shaped house. Built ca. 1900.
- 116 HOUSE, 1043 Hawthorne. One and one-half story frame house type with gabled roof. Built ca. 1880.
- 117 BALDWIN-BENNE HOUSE, 1108 Hawthorne. Two and one-half story frame "T" shaped house with gabled roof. Enclosed frontal porch. Built 1891 by George W. Baldwin of the Baldwin Lumber Company of Crete for his residence. House has been home of the Benne family since 1907. (see photo #25)
- 118 GEORGE W. CHURCH HOUSE, 1126 Hawthorne. One and one-half story "T" shaped house; with full frontal porch; gabled roof with dormers. Built ca. 1890 for grocer G. W. Church.
- 119 J. P. CERVENY HOUSE, 1142 Hawthorne. Two and one-half story frame Bungaloid house with garage at rear of property. Gabled roof and full frontal porch. Built 1912 by Parker and Jacobsen Lumber Company of Crete for Cerveny, a general merchant.
- 120 CALDWELL-FAY HOUSE, 610 E. 12th Street. One and one-half story frame house with several additions and multigabled and dormered roof. One of the oldest buildings in the district built ca. 1875 for Daniel Caldwell. Purchased 1879 by E. D. Fay, a longtime Crete shoe dealer and city councilman. House is presently covered with asbestos siding.
- 121 HANNAH C. HILL HOUSE, 1241 Hawthorne. Two story frame square house type with wing. Hipped roof; full frontal (east) porch which also partially skirts the south facade. Constructed ca. 1908.
- 122 WILLIAM T. BUCHANAN HOUSE, 612 E. 13th. One and one-half story frame house. Upright portion (west) built ca. 1875, addition on east built ca. 1890's addition includes bay window and wall dormer. House features gabled roof and frontal porch. Built for W. T. Buchanan, one of Crete's first settlers and a prominent merchant. (see photo #26)

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- 124 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, northwest corner 12th and Ivy. Brick church. Neoclassical Revival style with interior auditorium plan. Built 1909. (see photo #27)
- 125 CHARLES B. GOODELL HOUSE, 1141 Ivy. Two and one-half story frame; vernacular Neo-classical Revival; hipped roof and full (east) frontal porch which also extends along the south facade. Built 1901-02 for banker C. B. Goodell by Crete contractor William Kerst.
- 126 GRACE M. ALLER HOUSE, 1030 Ivy. One and one-half story frame gable entrance house with shed addition. Date of house is confusing. Possibly built in the 1870's as the parsonage for the Church of God. Property was purchased in 1896 by Grace M. Aller who resided there for 56 years. (see photo #19)
- 128 HOUSE, 920 Ivy. One story ell-shaped house type with gabled roof and shed addition. Built ca. 1900. (see photo #7)
- 142 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PARSONAGE, 408 E. 12th. Two and one-half story frame square type house with wing. Gabled roof with shed dormers. Two-story bay window. Full frontal porch. Built ca. 1905.
- 143 WILLIAM H. DEAN HOUSE, 407 E. 12th. Two story square frame house with enclosed side porch additions. Hipped roof with gablet dormers. Full frontal porch. Built ca. 1906.
- 203 JOHN R. JOHNSTON FRAME HOUSE, 808 E. 14th. Two story frame "T" shaped house type with low pitched hipped roof. Porch surrounds south and a portion of the east facades. Built ca. 1880, house originally had Mansard roof and was situated two blocks east of present location on the site of the Johnston/Muff-Algermissen House. (NRHP, Saline County). When Johnston, a Crete banker built the brick Queen Anne (1887-89) house, this frame house was moved down the hill and re-modeled. Members of Johnston family resided in the house until 1894. (see photo #28)
- 214 ROBERT GREWELL HOUSE, 1407 Boswell. Two story frame square type house with one story shed addition. Hipped roof and frontal porch. Constructed 1890. Presently house is covered with aluminum siding installed in the 1970's. (see photo #29)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

Other properties which are contributing structures in this historic district include all properties which have been given numbers on the accompanying site map plus the following: Block 133, lots 10-12; Block 135, lot 7; Block 137, lots 7-9; Block 138, lots 7, 8, 11, 12; Block 139, lots 10-12; Block 148, lots 4-8, 10-12; Block 149, lot 3; Block 150, lots 1-3; Block 151, lots 9-11; Block 153, lot 9; Block 154, lots 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12; Block 155, lots 3, 5, 6, 8, 9; Block 173, lots 1-4, 11, 12; Block 174, lots 2, 8-12; Block 175, lots 7, 11; Block 176, lots 7, 8; Block 177, lot 2, all in the original plat of Crete.

Nonconforming contemporary buildings (i.e. ranch style houses) which are not certified as part of this district include Block 114, lot 4; Block 134, lots 6-9; Block 136, lot 7; Block 137, lot 12; Block 140, lot 7; Block 150, lots 9, 10; Block 153, lots 3, 4; Block 155, lot 7; Block 173, lot 10; Block 174, lots 3-5, 7; Block 175, lots 1, 2; Block 176, lots 9, 10, all in the original plat of Crete.

An intrusion within the district is the Crete Medical Clinic, Block 139, lots 7-9; (see photo 32).

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The College Hill Historic District is significant in the areas of settlement, commerce, education, architecture, and politics/government.

Many of Crete and Saline County's earliest inhabitants built houses in this residential area. These men, who were deeply involved in community improvements and city planning, endeavored and succeeded in making Crete a desirable place for others to settle.

Commercially, this area is significant because of the large number of Crete's early day merchants and bankers who chose this neighborhood for their home. Crete's good reputation as an area trade and banking center was built on the successful establishments conducted by these College Hill residents.

Because of this neighborhood's close proximity to Doane College, several Doane professors and supporters lived in the area. The majority of the College Hill residents were members of the Congregational Church in Crete, which is affiliated with Doane, and they supported the college spiritually and financially.

Architecturally, the College Hill District is significant as an excellent cross-section of the popular building styles in Nebraska during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. All but a few houses in this area are in near original and well-preserved condition.

The College Hill neighborhood served as home for several men involved in local and state politics and government. The sixth Governor of Nebraska, a State Senator, District Judge, two mayors and a city engineer are among those who resided in the district.

The town of Crete was platted in 1870-71 by the Burlington Railroad Company. There were a few settlers in Saline County in the 1860's, however the population was very sparse and the nearest supply source was a two day trip by horseback or wagon to Nebraska City on the Missouri River. Land speculation began in Crete as soon as it was known that the Burlington would definitely build their line through Northern Saline County. By August 1870, a mill, several business establishments and dwellings had been erected and the community began a steady growth. During the winter of 1870-71, the bridge spanning the Big Blue River just west of Crete was completed and from then on, Crete served as an outfitting point for settlers moving west.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 47 acres

Quadrangle name Crete north and Crete south

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>4</u> | <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
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| B | <u>1</u> <u>4</u> | <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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| C | <u>1</u> <u>4</u> | <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> |
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| D | <u>1</u> <u>4</u> | <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> |
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| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
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| H | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|---|-------------------|---|---|

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the College Hill Historic District is shown as the black line on the enclosed map entitled "Site Map." See Continuation Sheet.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| NA | | | |
| NA | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date June, 1980

street & number 1500 R

telephone 402-471-3270

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

Marvin E. Kinnell

10/23/80

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

For HCRS use only

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

Bruce A. Anderson
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/10/83

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*
Chief of Registration

date 2/7/83

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The history of Doane College dates from 1857 when the General Association of Congregational Churches, in its first annual meeting at Fremont, Nebraska decided to found a literary institution in the state. Fourteen years later in 1871, a Congregational College was established at Crete and was named after Burlington Railroad official Thomas Doane who donated the land for the college. (See Doane College Historic District, NRHP, Saline County) Today the college has an enrollment of about 650 students and offers a highly-praised liberal arts program.

Crete enjoyed a steady growth and by 1880, ten years after its founding, the population had reached 1,870. During the "boom years" of the 1880's new immigrants continued to settle in the community and by 1890 the population grew to 2,310.

Short biographies follow of residents of the College Hill neighborhood who were significant in Crete's founding and progress.

John A. Desh was the proprietor of the Star Clothing Company, a well known men and boys clothing store in the 1880's and early 1890's. In 1894, the six year old Desh house was sold to Andrew Smith, Crete's first commercial photographer. Smith, a Denmark native, arrived in Crete in 1879 and established his photographic gallery. He continued his profession until his death in 1908 when the business was passed on to his son Axel. The Smith name was synonymous with photography in Crete and surrounding Saline County for over 50 years (see SA01-2).

Theodore H. Miller (1846-1928) could be labeled a philanthropist who did much for the founding and growth of Crete. Arriving in the fledgling village in 1871, he began to accumulate property rapidly and subdivide it into residential lots. Miller was long involved in Crete's business community. He was an organizer of the Crete State Bank in 1897, an institution still serving area residents, the State Bank of Dewitt, and the Conservative Investment Company in 1899. He was very generous with his wealth and soon after 1900 gave the city of Crete \$10,000 for the erection of a public library. (see SA01-1)

George D. Stevens was an instrumental figure in establishing electricity and a water works system in Crete in the late 1880's. Stevens, with partner J. R. Johnston planned the electrical layout in Crete which was water-powered. They also planned the route of the water pipelines throughout Crete to provide citizens with water for private residential purposes and fire protection. Aside from being involved in the above projects, Stevens served as cashier of the State Bank of Nebraska at Crete from 1879-1892. Stevens also was a trustee of Doane College from 1888-1892. (see SA01-23)

Charles B. Anderson (1865-1931) was an organizer of the Crete State Bank, and also had interests in banks in Ord, Scotia and Kramer, Nebraska. In 1902 Anderson was elected to the State Senate and served three terms. Anderson was very interested and vocal about education. He served for seven years on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and for 30 years was a trustee of Doane College.

(see SA01-61)

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John L. Tidball (1844-1928), settled in Crete in 1870 where he was a partner in Valentine, Tidball & Company, a general merchandise establishment. Tidball is credited with having built the first store building in Crete, a structure no longer extant. Valentine, Tidball & Co. had the contract to furnish supplies for the railroad construction workers and had several places of business, but made Crete their headquarters. In 1873, this firm dissolved and Tidball and H. S. Fuller established a lumber business which was in existence until 1895. This lumber business grew rapidly with the demand for building materials in new settlement areas and soon the partners had lumber yards in 18 communities in southeastern Nebraska. In 1882, Tidball organized the First National Bank at Crete and served as it's president until about 1910. Tidball was active in promoting educational growth in Crete, serving on the local school board for 21 years and was a trustee of Doane College from 1888-1910. (see SA01-5)

Charles W. Weckbach (1867-1928) was an important figure in Crete's banking history. Weckbach came to Crete in 1897 when he was offered the position of cashier in the First National Bank under President John L. Tidball. In 1910, Weckbach was one of the founders of the City National Bank, an institution still serving the Crete area. In 1915 he became president of that organization, a position he held until his death in 1928. (see SA01-69)

William T. Buchanan (1843-1927) was a very early settler arriving north of the Saline County line in 1866 where he opened a general store in Camden, one of the first settlements in the vicinity. When the Burlington & Missouri railroad was built through Crete instead of Camden in 1870-71, Buchanan moved his establishment to Crete and became one of the first merchants in Crete. In 1875, he closed his business and opened an auction house and soon became one of the most widely known auctioneers in southeastern Nebraska. (see SA01-122)

Edward J. Steidl (1864-1951) arrived in Crete with his family in 1874 at the age of 10 years. He graduated from Doane College and in 1886 received a degree from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He returned to Crete and established his own business in 1887 and soon gained a reputation for being a reliable pharmacist and innovative businessman. In 1899, for example, Steidl received a new cash register which printed sales receipts in English, German and Czech to accomodate the clientele in the Crete area. Steidl also created a perfume "Steidl's Clarene" which he sold at his store in the 1890's. Steidl remained in business until 1920 when he sold his establishment. (see SA01-37)

Charles Aron (1850-1924), a native of Czechoslovakia, learned the tailoring trade in Vienna and came to America in 1876. In about 1878 he moved to Crete and opened a tailoring establishment which he soon expanded to include ready-made men's clothing. He retired from active business in 1918 after 40 years of serving Crete and the surrounding county. (see SA01-96)

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Zephaniah Waterman was the founder and proprietor of the Waterman Lumber and Coal Company. This company was in existence from 1883-1910 during which time it was expanded to include a branch store in Dorchester, Nebraska, 9 miles west of Crete. Waterman supplied most of the materials to Crete citizens during the building boom of the 1880's. He served as a trustee of Doane College from 1896-1923. (see SA01-4)

Another prominent lumber dealer, George W. Baldwin founded his business, the Crete Lumber Company, in the 1890's. Like Waterman, Baldwin's company was responsible for the erection of many of the residences in the College Hill neighborhood. Baldwin served as a Doane College trustee from 1895-1922. (see SA01-117)

Isreal M. Wolf was born in Germany in 1839 and arrived in Crete in 1874. Wolf operated a general merchandise store and later a grocery business during his 36 years in the community. Another interesting commercial venture undertaken by Wolf and his son Louis was that of shipping horses to his native Germany. (see SA01-67)

J. P. Cerveny opened his general merchandise business in 1898 after having had similar commercial ventures in Wilber and Milligan, Nebraska. The Racket Store, as the establishment was called, did a thriving business for many years and Cerveny had a reputation for being an innovative merchant. (see SA01-119)

William H. Morris (1834-1920) was a significant figure in local and state government. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in New York City in 1868 and came to Crete in 1872. Morris was twice elected mayor of Crete and in 1880 was elected district attorney, a post he held until 1883 when Governor J. W. Dawes appointed him district court judge. His term as judge expired in 1892. Judge Morris was an important contributor to the founding and growth of Crete. (see SA01-6)

James W. Dawes (1845-1918) studied law and was admitted to the bar in Wisconsin and moved to Crete in 1871 where he opened a general merchandise store with his brother Winchester. In 1879, Dawes entered into a law partnership with F. I. Foss, a union which continued until 1892. Dawes was significant in Nebraska politics, serving as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1875, State Senator in 1876-1877, Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee 1876-1882 and Governor of Nebraska 1883-1887. Dawes was very much interested in the advancement of Nebraska's state institutions and it was during his administration that the first appropriation was made for the Nebraska State Historical Society. Dawes kept his residence in Crete while serving as Governor and after his second term expired he returned to Crete and resumed his law practice. During the Spanish-American war in 1898, Dawes was assigned a position as paymaster in the Army. He was commissioned as Major and spent much time in the Phillipines. Dawes sold his home in Crete in 1901 and moved his permanent residence to his native Wisconsin where he died. J. W. Dawes was a loyal contributor to Doane College and served as a trustee for 40 years. (see SA01-33)

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Fayette I. Foss, (1852-1907) a lawyer, came to Nebraska from Vermont in 1873 and settled in Crete in 1878. In 1879, he and J. W. Dawes formed a law partnership. Foss served as a legal representative for the Burlington Railroad for many years and during his career built a reputation as an excellent trial lawyer. In the early 1880's, Foss was instrumental in the establishment of the Crete Chautauqua, which was Nebraska's first. (see SA01-62)

Myron O. Johnson, a dentist, received his degree from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1894. After practicing in Lincoln for five years, he opened an office in Crete and became known in the Saline County area as a dentist who advocated preventative dentistry rather than simply repairing decayed teeth. (see SA01-114)

Francis J. Stejskal (1876-1957) was a family physician who served the Crete community for nearly 50 years. Stejskal was born in Czechoslovakia and emigrated to the United States in 1892. He received his medical degree from Creighton University in Omaha in 1906 and began practicing in Crete in 1907. He held a lifetime membership in the Saline County Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He was also an active member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church and the Crete Chamber of Commerce. (see SA01-216)

A. T. Cassell, an 1894 Doane graduate, returned to Crete with his family in 1925 after a career in the business world to become Treasurer at Doane College. Cassell served in this capacity until 1942. (see SA01-74)

John S. Brown (1844-1917) was a professor of Chemistry and Ancient Languages at Doane College for 35 years. Brown was totally devoted to the college and spent the time when classes were not in session soliciting funds and recruiting students. Brown, a native of New Hampshire, arrived in Crete in 1882 to assume his duties at Doane. He also took a prominent role in all of the activities of the Congregational Church and was an organizer of the Crete Chautauqua. (see SA01-70)

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Verbal Boundary Description

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The boundaries for the College Hill Historic District can be justified as follows:

Along the western boundary line, the severely altered business district on the outside of the historic district makes a definite border. The northern and southern boundaries can be defined by the high concentration of post World War II residential construction which is found beyond the district. The eastern edge of the district is basically defined by the Doane College Campus (see NRHP Doane College Historic Buildings) which is located along the east side of Boswell Street. Some jogging along Boswell Street was done to exclude several post World War II houses and substantially altered bungalows.



COLLEGE HILL
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CRETE, SALINE
 COUNTY, NEBRASKA

BUILDING STYLES

- VICTORIAN
- SQUARE
- BUNGALOW
- PERIOD
- INTRUSIONS
- CONTEMPORARY
- MISC. VERNACULAR
 (MOSTLY SIMPLIFIED
 NEOCLASSIC STYLES)



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KINGWOOD

JUNIPER

IVY

HAWTHORNE

GROVE

FOREST

BOSWELL

6th

7th

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

13th

14th

15th

16th

15 128 ✓

✓ 126 65

66

INT

233

20

19

113

115 222 116

217 216

121

234

24

232 231

✓ 103 ✓ ✓ ✓ 33

114 926 ✓ ✓

117 118 119 42 101 210

37 235 236 224

122 227 237

228

229 230 96

21 23 34

225 219 61

1 ✓ ✓ 2

238

✓ ✓ 95

3

25 244 245 ✓

28 ✓ ✓ 6

246 247

4 ✓

239 240

241 ✓ ✓ ✓

✓ ✓ ✓

20 ✓ ✓ 62

69

5 68

67 ✓

242

223 221

203

37 ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

24 ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

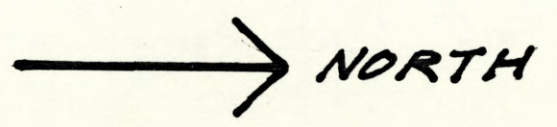
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214 ✓

COLLEGE HILL
HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRETE, SALINE
COUNTY, NEBRASKA

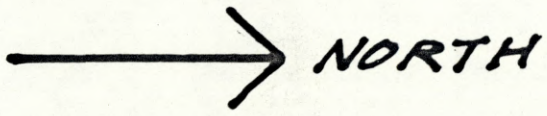
SITE MAP





COLLEGE HILL
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CRETE, SALINE
 COUNTY, NEBRASKA

BUILDING HEIGHT
 ■ ONE STORY
 ■ TWO STORY



NOV 3 1980

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6th

7th

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

13th

14th

15th

16th

KINGWOOD

JUNIPER

IVY

HAWTHORNE

GROVE

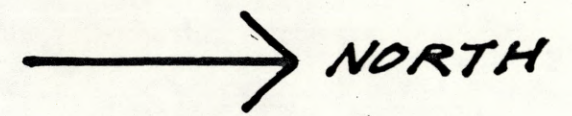
FOREST

BOSWELL

Va Camp

BUILDING MATERIAL

- FRAME
- BRICK
- STONE
- STUCCO



COLLEGE HILL
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CRETE, SALINE
 COUNTY, NEBRASKA

