

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 23 1984
date entered JUN 21 1984

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

1. Name

historic Jasper Newton Bell House (~~LC13:D10-120~~)

and/or common Jasper Newton Bell House (LC13:D10-120)

2. Location

street & number 2212 Sheldon St. na not for publication

city, town Lincoln na vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Lancaster code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jordan L. Brasch

street & number 2212 Sheldon

city, town Lincoln na vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number 555 South 10th Street

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date Ongoing 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	na
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jasper N. Bell house is a one-and one-half story frame dwelling constructed over a brick and concrete block foundation. Square in plan with a rear kitchen wing, and pyramidal roof is enlivened with wall gables on its major facades. The house is designed in a modest interpretation of the Renaissance Revival style which features a nearly symmetrical three-bay front facade, corner pilasters and dentilled entablature, and a two-bay front porch supported by Tuscan columns.

The Jasper N. Bell house is located in Lincoln's near northeastern suburb, currently known as the Clinton neighborhood. The house is a modest wood frame dwelling constructed over a slightly raised foundation of brick, veneered with rock-faced concrete block.

Formally the house is a one and one-half story square section measuring approximately 30 by 30 feet in plan with a 12 x 16 foot kitchen wing at the rear. Symmetrically-placed wall-dormered gables enhance the two main facades (south and west), while a modest extension at the northeast corner repeats the gabled motif. The gables are set within the dominate pyramidal roof section, through which the centrally-located brick chimney penetrates near the apex. A miniscule gablet near the apex provides a vent to the attic space. Hip-roofed porch sections complete the formal repertoire; one located in the rear northeastern ell over the kitchen entrance, the other located along the south front facade.

Stylistically the house is elaborated beyond what is typical for houses of this type and period. The narrow clapboarded walls are enframed with three section corner pilasters, wide-board water table, and a dentilled entablature with crown-mold cornice. The two-bay front porch, supported by full-length Tuscan columns, repeats the entablature design of the house. The nearly-symmetrical arrangement of the whole provides a dignity commensurate with the cernacular Renaissance Revival styling of the whole.

The plan essentially follows typical informal arrangements common to the square plan. Divided into four cells along and near the intersection of the chimney flue, the original plan included a combination living-dining room space along the west side of the house. The east half provided space for two smaller chambers (or a chamber and a work room), with the rear-ascending stair occupying the center of the house along the west edge of the rear chamber (additional space being provided for this room by the gabled extension of the square). The kitchen wing opened directly into the dining room and to the stairway, and to the rear first floor chamber via the stair vestibule. Lacking any hallways, complete access to the first floor was provided in circumferential fashion from room to room.

Minor modifications have occurred to the interior, most significantly the partitioning of the first floor to create a duplex. A small bath was placed between the two eastern chambers and the partition between the original living and dining areas was closed. The essential nature of the plan remains in tact, as well as the period woodwork.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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The Bell house was first identified as potentially eligible for National Register listing by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as a part of a survey of Lincoln's proposed Northeast Radial highway right-of-way. The house, at that time, was assessed within the context of that corridor, and the Clinton and Malone neighborhoods which it bisected.

Subsequently the city scrapped the controversial project (at least that proposed alignment), resulting in a renewed optimism in the future of both neighborhoods. Currently the City is offering low-interest loans to qualified owners in the neighborhood. The Bell house was "flagged" again in 1983 as a result of required SHPO review of Federally-funded projects. The owner has modified his proposed work program for the house to preserve those qualities which make it eligible for National Register listing, and is willing to sustain the additional expense should the property be listed.

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

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect** Jasper N. Bell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jasper N. Bell house is significant as a notably elaborated example of one of Nebraska's most ubiquitous house types; more specifically as a fine, vernacular Renaissance Revival rendition of the popular "square" or "cubic" type house.

Very little is known of the life of Jasper Newton Bell except that he was a carpenter by trade and that he died at the age of 85 in 1930 (Lincoln (Nebraska) Star, Jan. 31, 1930, 6:3). As Bell owned the property for some time prior to moving to the site, it is possible that Bell built this house for himself.

The evaluation of the Jasper Bell house, in architectural terms, is being made on a local and primarily neighborhood level. Identified through local surveys conducted as a part of Section 106 requirements, the Bell house was observed as one of the most architecturally notable houses along the Northeast Radial right-of-way in the Clinton and Malone neighborhoods.

In a larger context, the house shares typical characteristics with many dwellings in the state of Nebraska -- that being the one, one and one-half, and two-story "square" type. In Nebraska, the type shares associations with all levels of architectural quality -- from an unelaborated folk dwelling (see examples identified in the German-Russian South Salt Creek Historic District, Lincoln) to numerous vernacular or popular examples (such as the Miner, McNeny, Pulsipher, and Grice houses, to name a few, in the Willa Cather Thematic Group nomination, Red Cloud, Webster County, NRHP), to very academic renditions such as the J. C. Robinson house (Waterloo, Douglas County, NRHP) -- and has been identified as the single most ubiquitous house type in the state during the period circa 1865 to circa 1920.

Culturally the type, during its history in Nebraska, must be considered a truly American house type. While it has been identified with significant ethnic associations, such as with the Volga-Germans for example, it was in its latter years built by all ethnic-European groups as well as Anglo-Americans. Very generally, by the turn-of-the-century the type's cultural associations are so heterogeneous and wide-spread as to require consideration as a truly American Type. By the time of the Period Revivals in the teens and twenties, the type had become fully Americanized and was built in virtually any of the popular Period Revival styles (most of the houses in the Mount Emerald . . . Historic District, Lincoln, are of the type but executed in a wide variety of styles).

Historically the type in Nebraska first appears in the late 1860's and early '70's in the Italianate style. This particular "square" or "cubic" form of the Italianate has rarely if ever been acknowledged by writers concerned with Italianate architecture, a fact perhaps indicative of the folk or vernacular character of the style's execution in the state. Among the earliest recorded examples in Nebraska are several in Brownville, most of which are essentially Georgian houses in plan-form, to which Italianate details have been applied (cf. the Muir and Atkinson houses for example). The type remained popular even in more academic circles (less-so, perhaps during the Queen Anne movement) through the end of the century,

9. Major Bibliographical References

na

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lincoln, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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6	9	4	8	8	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 17, Block 2, Engleside Addition to the City of Lincoln; including all historically associated property

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

state na code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title D. Murphy, Survey Architect

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date January, 1984

street & number 1500 "R" Street 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Marvin D. Knott* 5/11/84

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

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

J. Selous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

6/21/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Significance

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becoming preferred after 1900 when the classical styles replaced the Victorian.

Formally and typically the Bell house is both common and special. In external form the house represents one of the less-common examples of the "square" house, that being those built to a one and one-half story height. The added wall height achieved by the extra half story imparts a certain monumentality which is lacking in the more common single story house. In plan-type the Bell house represents the most modest of all the "square" house plans. Composed of four rooms arranged in "pin-wheel" fashion and without a separate stair hall the house achieves extreme economy of means for the type. More common for the "pin-wheel" plan is the corner stair hall which occupies up to one-quarter of the ground floor.

Stylistically the house partakes of the classicism so popular after the turn-of-the-century. More specifically the Tuscan columns and the large gabled wall dormers on the two main facades imply a very modest Renaissance Revival. The use of the gablets here makes formal connection back to the genesis of the type in Nebraska, recalling the same motif which was so popular on the "square" type Italianate houses of the nineteenth century.

In summary, the Jasper N. Bell house stands as a notable and dignified product, fully American in association, and a testament to both the conservatism and the competence of vernacular builders in the state of Nebraska.