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RECEIVED JUL 24 1978

DATE ENTERED FEB 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

William Brach House

AND/OR COMMON

Brach-Coover House (AD04-64)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

823 N. Lincoln Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Hastings

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Nebraska

031

Adams

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Barbara F. Coover

STREET & NUMBER

823 N. Lincoln Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hastings

VICINITY OF

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Adams County Court House

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hastings

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 ca. 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brachs, father and sons, have long been prominent in the commercial and social life of Hastings. As prosperous department store owners, they were influential and respected members of the community.

William Brach came to Hastings about 1877 to manage a branch of Wolbach Brothers, after working in their home store in the nearby town of Grand Island. Wolbach Brothers was a growing dry goods store which became the largest of its kind in that part of the state. The business in Hastings prospered and was re-named Wolbach & Brach in 1887. Wolbach & Brach was the prominent dry goods dealer and later department store for Hastings and the surrounding area. The firm was incorporated in 1907 with William Brach as president. His two sons, J. Frederick and Waldorf H., and his wife, Charlotte, worked in the business; and Waldorf succeeded his father as president. William Brach was praised by his fellow citizens for his community involvement and business ability. The name was changed to Brach's Incorporated in 1932 and remained the same until 1953 when Burton Thompson purchased the company and changed it to Brach-Thompson. In 1966 new owners changed the name to Schwesers, removing the Brach connection for the first time.

William Brach was born April 3, 1854 in Germany and emigrated at the age of eleven. Brach was one of many German natives who settled in Hastings and Adams County. In the Adams County census records of 1880 and 1890, the majority of foreign born residents were German. Brach was a prominent and respected member of the community. He was a member of the Lutheran church, the Masons, the Kiwanis Club, and the Adams County Agricultural Society. He served as City Councilman in 1892. A music lover, he contributed funds for Sunday band concerts in Chautauqua Park. He and his family lived in three houses on N. Lincoln avenue, this being the second and least altered, which he sold in 1892.

The two subsequent owners, Mary Campbell (Mrs. Lemuel) and Miss Blanche Fullerton, were both unable to pay their mortgages and lost the property. Volney B. and Mary Blackman Trimble purchased the house in 1899; they were followed by their daughter, Helen Trimble Suis, who retained ownership until 1966. Trimble arrived in Hastings in 1887 and worked as a wholesale grocer, then after the turn of the century, became a real estate and insurance agent. He served as City Councilman 1922-25, chairman of the County Council of Defense during the Great War and was an active member of the Library Board, 1903-1938.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	5, 5, 1, 5, 5, 0	4, 4, 9, 3, 5, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Hastings Plat, Alexander's Addition, Block 7, east 156 feet of north 122 feet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Penelope Chatfield, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

June, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE 471-3270

402-432-2793

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 X

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

Marion B. Knott

7/9/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

2-1-79

ATTEST:

William H. Bravham

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1-31-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Wolbach Brothers, later Wolbach & Sons, who had established William Brach in their Hastings branch, began their business in Grand Island in 1874 and became the prominent mercantile firm for the region. Michael, Jacob and Samuel Wolbach were natives of New York City; and two of the brothers, Jacob and Samuel, had worked in dry goods stores there. Within the first ten years, Michael and Jacob sold their interests to Samuel who developed and expanded the store into a prosperous business. His sons, E. J. and Emil, joined the firm in 1901.

S. N. Wolbach was active in state politics and financial and commercial institutions. A member of the Democratic party, Wolbach served in the State house of representatives and senate in 1885, 1887 and 1889, respectively, and was an unsuccessful candidate for Lt. governor in 1892. An organizer of the First National Bank of Grand Island, he was associated with several other banks around the state. The town of Wolbach in Greeley County was named in his honor.

Architecturally, the house exemplifies changing tastes in American architecture. It was built ca. 1884 in a simplified Queen Anne style and was remodelled ca. 1904 in a Classical Revival manner on the facade and principal interior rooms. The addition of classical details was a popular modification to Nebraska houses around the turn of the century, possibly as a result of the expositions of the 1890's. The Brach-Coover House is a typical example of these changes in stylistic taste which resulted in the alteration of the front porch and balcony, a usual practice, as well as the woodwork, mantelpiece and windows of the front and back parlors.

Concerning the other two houses in which William Brach resided on North Lincoln Avenue, it is doubtful the first house is extant and the third house has undergone extensive changes that have severely compromised its integrity.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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- Buechler, A. F. and R. J. Barr, ed., The History of Hall County. (Lincoln, Nebr.: Western Publishing and Engraving Co., 1920)
- Creigh, Dorothy Weyer, ed. Adams County: The People, 1872-1972. (Hastings: Adams County-Hastings Centennial Commission, 1971)
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- Wheeler, Wayne. An Almanac of Nebraska: Nationality, Ethnic & Racial Groups. (Omaha: Park Bromwell Press, 1975).

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- Hastings city directories - 1893, 1905-1921.
- Hastings Daily Tribune, March 25, 1921, William Brach obituary.
- Hastings Daily Tribune, November 9, 1939, page 1, V.B. Trimble obituary.
- Nebraska Historical Sites Survey Form, completed by John A. and Barbara F. Coover, August, 1977. Filed at State Historic Preservation Office, Nebraska State Historical Society.