

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 16 1985**  
date entered **SEP 12 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic Samuel Bullock House (NeHBS # DD05-85a)

and/or common Dr. Joshua DeVries House

**2. Location**

street & number 508 West Military Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Fremont NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Dodge code 053

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" 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 James M. Gibney, Jr.

street & number 508 West Military Avenue

city, town Fremont NA vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dodge County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 5th and Park Streets

city, town Fremont 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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Samuel Bullock house is located in Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska. The one and one-half story brick vernacular Greek Revival dwelling was constructed in 1869 by Samuel Bullock, a prominent businessman engaged in an interior decorating business. In the 1890's, the frame kitchen lean-to was replaced by a brick addition to the rear. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved except for interior modifications.

The Samuel Bullock house is located in Fremont, Nebraska (1985 population: 23,979) the county seat of Dodge County.

Constructed in 1869, the house is of the typical cottage style with Greek Revival influences in exterior and interior finish. Rather than utilizing exterior bearing walls of brick, the original core of the structure is framed of cottonwood lumber with a veneer of soft brick with no bonding course. Exterior window tops are gauged flat arches.

A kitchen lean-to of wood was replaced in the 1890's by a brick addition at the rear. The brick used was of the hard-fired variety laid in common bond.

Evidence indicates that the wrap-around porch which replaced original was added at time of 1890's kitchen wing, the eave detail and concealed guttering being of the same design. Porch columns are of the simple unfluted Tuscan order. Pilasters framing entrance and beveled glass door were probably installed during same period.

Original 1869 interior finish details include: floor-to-ceiling, two over four light double hung sash in parlor (lower sash concealed in aperture in wall when raised); pine woodwork of main core of structure; curved staircase with black walnut newel and balaster; recessed niche on stair curve with ornamental plaster surround.

Original wide pine flooring covered with narrow oak strips and original parlor fireplace removed in 1890's. An embossed tin ceiling in library probably added during same period.

Beveled glass french doors, parlor cornice detail and columns between parlor and entrance hall probably added in 1890's.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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** 1869, c. 1893 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Samuel Bullock house is architecturally significant, on a local level, as a fine vernacular product of the Greek Revival style of architecture. Because of Nebraska's later settlement pattern the Greek Revival style did not enjoy widespread popularity, thus only a limited number of extant houses remain in Nebraska with the majority of examples located in the southeast portion of the state. The period of significance is derived from the construction dates of the dwelling. The house was built for Samuel Bullock, a prominent businessman in Fremont, Nebraska. From 1870 to 1903, the house went through succeeding owners until 1903 when Dr. Joshua DeVries purchased the property and it remained in the DeVries family for over 50 years.

Architecturally significant on a local level the Samuel Bullock house represents a vernacular product of the Greek Revival style of architecture. The Greek Revival style, the first popular Romantic style, was dominant in the United States during the 1830's-1850's (McAlester, 1984, p. 177). In Nebraska the style seemed to enjoy popularity during the late 19th century among vernacular builders, although it had already lost favor in the east by the time the territory was opened. To date, only a limited number of Greek Revival houses (in comparison to the Picturesque styles, e.g. Italianate, Queen Anne which are widespread in eastern Nebraska) have been identified as part of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. The Taylor-Wessel house (NRHP-see South Nebraska City Historic District), the James Thorington house (NRHP-see Nebraska City Historic District) and the Martin-Russell, Majors, Waddell-Gant house (see NRHP-Nebraska City Historic District) in Nebraska City and the Abbot G. Gates house and Worthing-Baker house in Brownville (see NRHP-Brownville Historic District) are good examples of Greek Revival houses in the state.

On Friday the 26th of March 1869, the Fremont Tribune reported that the residence and a barn were under construction. On 17 Nov., 1869 Wilson Reynolds sold the house for \$3,000. to Samuel Bullock, formerly of Omaha. Mr. Bullock was engaged in the painting and paper hanging business. His son George H. at the age of 14 when the family moved into the home, was already engaged in his father's trade. By 1882 George H. Bullock had become a successful dealer in art paper hangings, decorations and painting and was a respected businessman in Fremont employing from two to eight men during the building season. In 1884 George Bullock leased the Shed Opera House, at that time the only public building in Fremont, and remodeled the interior.

On 16 March, 1870, the house was sold to Captain Edward George St. John, a former Captain in the Second Queens and the 29th Regiment of the English Army. For a number of years he engaged in the lumber business which supplied the expanding community with building material. The business was later bought by D. Crowell. Captain St. John was founder and half owner, with his brother-in-law, of the Fremont Foundry. The Foundry, which operated until just recently, provided iron products of all kinds for a large marketing area.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fremont West, Ne

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UTM References**

A	<u>14</u>	<u>708700</u>	<u>4589980</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

East 24' of lot 7 and all of lot 8 in block 108, Reynold's Addition to the City of Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska, including all historically associated real estate.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
state	NA	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Loell Jorgensen, Director		
	Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian, Technical Editor and Additions		
organization	Louis E. May Museum	date	September 1978
	Nebraska State Historical Society	date	May 1985
street & number	Box 766	telephone	(402) 721-4515
	P.O. Box 82554	telephone	(402) 471-4767
city or town	Fremont	state	Nebraska
	Lincoln		

# 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 James Atkinson

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date 8/13/85 (date of letter)

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

Sharon Byers date 9-12-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In 1881 the house was purchased by Arthur Truesdell also a director of the Fremont Foundry and Machine Company and a director of the National Bank. He was primarily a grain merchant dealing in both wholesale and retail. He had warehouses in Fremont, Battle Creek, Stanton and Norfolk which area farmers depended on for handling of their crops.

The home was purchased in 1893 by Dr. Joshua S. DeVries, a pioneer Nebraska physician and surgeon. In 1878, at the age of 14, Dr. Devries' family migrated to Nebraska from Maryland where they had been slave owners. Dr. Devries graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Department in 1888 with a degree of Doctor of Medicine. For 45 years he was one of the able and honored representatives of his profession in Dodge County. He served as President of the Dodge County Medical Society, the Elkhorn Valley Medical Society and the Missouri Valley Medical Society.

The DeVries children, raised in the house, included James Arthur of Fort Worth, Texas, a pioneer aviator and an instructor in the aviation service during World War I; Perry O. who engaged in the drug business in Fremont; Miriam G. Byorth, wife of the Assistant Postmaster in Fremont; Herbert J., a lawyer in Boulder, Colorado; and Donald E. of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dr. Devries sold the property in 1900 to Alfred Sears, president of the Fremont Granite and Cement Company. Dr. Devries again purchased the property in 1903 from Sears. The DeVries family retained ownership until 1957 when architect Homer Turner bought it for rental property. From 1959 to 1971 Kenneth Peterson was owner. The present owner, James M. Gibney, Jr. purchased the property and began renovation in 1971.

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BOOKS

Andreas, A. T.    History of the State of Nebraska, the Western Historical  
Company, Chicago, Illinois 1882.    Volume 1.

Buss, Rev. William H. and Thomas T. Osterman, History of Dodge and Washington  
Counties, Nebraska and Their People, The American Historical Society,  
Chicago, Illinois, 1921.    Volume II.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf,  
Publisher, New York, 1984.

NEWSPAPERS

Fremont Tribune, March 26, 1869, Fremont, Nebraska.