

PH0367117

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 26 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAR 24 1977

**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
"The Elms"
AND/OR COMMON
Bess Streeter Aldrich House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Elmwood

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE
Nebraska

CODE
31

COUNTY
Cass

CODE
025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___DISTRICT	___PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL ___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	___YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL ___TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	___MILITARY ___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dwight Clements
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Elmwood

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Register of Deeds, Cass County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Plattsmouth

STATE
Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Preservation in Nebraska
DATE

1971

___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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated just east of the Elmwood City Park, the Bess Streeter Aldrich House visually extends the park with its well-landscaped yard. The present landscaping reflects a maturation of the original planting as revealed in early photographs.

The house, constructed in 1922, is a two-story frame dwelling with brick veneer and wide-sided walls. As originally constructed, the house represented a fine popular version of the Prairie style of architecture. The moderately-pitched hipped roof was originally covered with wood shingles and comfortably sheltered the second-story wall. This wall, originally finished in a gray earth-colored stucco, featured a continuous wood molding that ran the entire perimeter of the house at the line of the window heads. This molding, along with the horizontal strip of stucco wall above, contributed much to the horizontality of the original scheme. The single-storied wing (enclosed porch to the south), the ribbon window effect of the fenestration, and the low-walled terrace between the porch and the entrance portico on the west all contribute to the Prairie style character of the whole. Only the entrance portico, supported by paired columns, recalls the earlier preference for classical detailing.

As the house stands today, three major changes have occurred: the entrance portico has been screened in, the wood shingle roof has been replaced with light-colored asphalt shingles and the stuccoed second-story wall has been covered with wide siding. These changes have obscured the subtle details and the earthen colors and textures which enhanced the original dwelling's association with the Prairie style. However, the overall form, the deep brown brick, and the detailing of the extant elements still recall the character of many dwellings built in the 1920's in Nebraska.

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 checked="" 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 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 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bess Streeter Aldrich was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa on February 17, 1881, to James and Mary Wilson Streeter, pioneers of northeastern Iowa. Bess grew up in the midst of a large, fun-loving family, being the youngest of eight children. She began writing at an early age while still a schoolgirl. At fourteen she entered her first short story in a contest conducted by the old Chicago Record and was a prizewinner.

Bess Streeter attended school at Cedar Falls, graduating from high school in 1898. She continued her education at Iowa State Teachers College, receiving her degree in 1901. Throughout her six years of teaching she also pursued her writing, submitting many children's stories to magazines such as The Young Citizen and A Magazine of Supplementary Reading in the Public Schools. Bess sold one adult story prior to her marriage, The Madonna of the Purple Gods, to the National Home Journal.

While Bess Streeter was teaching in Marshalltown, Iowa, she met an attorney, Captain Charles S. Aldrich. They were married September 24, 1907. The Aldriches resided in Iowa until 1909, when they moved to Elmwood, Nebraska, where Mr. Aldrich and a brother-in-law purchased the American Exchange Bank. He pursued his law and banking careers until his sudden death in 1925 at the age of 53 years.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Aldrich was forced to turn her hobby into a profession. She had been writing steadily during her marriage, while caring for her four children, but her work consisted mainly of short stories for women's magazines. In 1925, her first novel, The Rim of the Prairie, was accepted and published by D. Appleton and Company. The title of the book was a phrase often used by Mr. Aldrich in describing the rise of land which was seen from Bess's study window at "The Elms". In this novel, as in her other work, Mrs. Aldrich weaves a fascinating tale of life on the Nebraska prairie in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of her story lines are adapted from her own or her parents' experiences. Because of her

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harvey, Alice G., Nebraska Writers, Omaha: Citizen Printing Co., 1934.
 Masters, Helen Geneva, "Nebraska Authors," The Nebraska Educational Journal, Feb. 1928.
 Meier, Amelia Mabel, Bess Streeter Aldrich: Her Life and Works, unpublished Masters Thesis, Archives, Nebraska State Historical Society, 1968.
 Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 4	7 2 8 3 4 0	4 5 2 4 7 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Janet Jeffries, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

April 14, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

(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

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 F. Kivett

4/19/76

TITLE Marvin F. Kivett, Director

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

Levy [Signature]

DATE

3/24/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

3/23/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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excellent characterization and realistic story lines, her works provide an authentic interpretation of midwestern small-town life. Many public schools insist on Mrs. Aldrich's novels as required reading. Her writings are so popular that they have been translated into six foreign languages plus Braille. One novel, Miss Bishop, was adapted for the screen by producer Richard A. Rowland and was released as Cheers for Miss Bishop in 1941, with Mrs. Aldrich acting as film consultant in Hollywood.

Throughout her writing career, Mrs. Aldrich published a total of seven novels and five short story collections. She also sold over 160 short stories to periodicals.

Bess Streeter Aldrich continued her writing until her death August 3, 1954 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She had moved there in 1946 to live closer to her daughter.