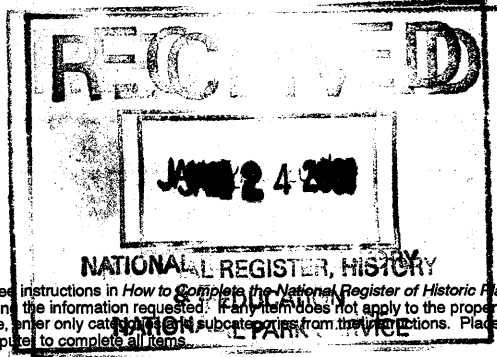


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name J. M. Burk Residence

Other names/site number NeHBS # FM05-021

2. Location

Street & number 331 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street

Not for publication

City or town Geneva

Vicinity

State Nebraska Code NE County Fillmore

Code 059 Zip code 68361

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Andrew Summer  
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain):

Edson H. Beall

2/23/01

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**J. M. Burk Residence**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Limestone

Walls Brick

Roof Asphalt

Other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**J. M. Burk Residence**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
- E** A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** A commemorative property.
- G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1891

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

E. A. Webster

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- Previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- Designated a National Historic Landmark
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location for additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**J. M. Burk Residence**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of property** 1

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>		<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1.	14	618730	4487240	3.			
2.				4.			

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jill Ebers – Historic Buildings Survey Coordinator

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date December 11, 2000

street & number 1500 R Street

telephone (402) 471-4773

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska zip code 68508

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Curt and Joan Coddington

street & number 331 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street

telephone (402) 759-4100

city or town Geneva

state Nebraska zip code 68361

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**J. M. Burk House**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

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Section 7 Page 1

The J. M. Burk House, located in Geneva, Fillmore County, Nebraska was built in 1891 and exemplifies the Queen Anne style of the Victorian period. Located at 331 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, the house resides in a neighborhood of several notable, stately homes situated on large lots along wide, tree-lined avenues. It is located adjacent to another impressive Queen Anne home, the George W. Smith House, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 8, 1986.

The J. M. Burk House is an irregularly shaped, two and one half story, brick veneered structure with an asphalt shingled, hipped roof with lower cross gables. The gables are decorated with "cockscomb" metal roof cresting along the ridgelines. A cornice with a dentil molding embellishes the roofline and the roof of the porch. The house has a coursed, rusticated limestone foundation and is veneered in brick. There are three corbeled chimneys; one sits toward the southwest portion of the building and serves the parlor and the master bedroom. The other two lie toward the back of the house, formerly serving the kitchen and a sitting room space. The Burk Residence has three decorative fireplaces. The fireplace located in the sitting room has a substantial oak mantel with vines carved in relief and glazed tiles. It is topped with a large mirror and has an early gas insert that is thought to be original to the house. The other two fireplaces feed the same chimney, and have decorative tiles in the same theme. The bedroom fireplace has glazed tiles depicting scenes from the life of King David. The tiles on the fireplace in the parlor show views of David's Bathsheba.

The primary façade of the Burk House contains a full-width front porch that is one story high and wraps around the north elevation. It has square beveled columns supporting the roof of the porch. Small brackets located on either side of each column create segmented arches. The primary façade also contains a small porch on the second story under the primary projecting gable with decorative woodwork in the gable end. It is embellished with spindlework that forms a round arch between the turned post supports. At some point during the house's period of significance, the porches were expanded by the addition of another bay. The materials that were used to extend the porch were identical to the original materials used in 1891. The front door, with original French screen doors, is centrally located under the front porch. The primary façade is also graced with a one and one half story wall dormer, which starts at the bottom of the second floor. It is capped by a small wooden gable decorated with a flower in relief in the tympanum, and is flanked by two large finials. Other windows found on the front of the house include a large window with a clear pane below, and a stained glass pane above. The pane of stained glass depicts a series of four flowers with pointed petals flanking a four-pointed star. All the other windows found on this elevation of the house are standard one-over-one double hung windows.

The front porch wraps around the north elevation of the house, terminating in a door that leads into a canted bay. The bay has two limestone belt courses that serve as sills under the windows on both floors. The first floor of the bay has a large window topped with a round arched stone lintel that surrounds a stained glass fanlight. The stained glass of the fanlight window roughly coordinates with the window in the front parlor, presenting a representation of a half-sun surrounded by ribbons and rosettes. The other windows found on the canted bay also have stone lintels. A two-story porch is located on the back half of this elevation. The porch has square beveled columns similar to the posts on the front porch, but has different decorative brackets that are triangular in shape with *demi-lune* cutouts. Brackets on the second story of the porch form round arches between each bay of the porch. A triangular shaped dormer is located on the roof, and a stained glass oculus window topped with an arched stone lintel is found on the second floor. A pinwheel rosette is depicted in the stained glass of the oculus window.

The north and west elevations of the Burk House are the principal facades of the house, each facing one corner of an intersection. As a result, they are the showcase elevations with the majority of the decorative details. The south side of the house is far more understated, with simple one-over-one double hung windows with stone sills and lintels, and a slightly projecting gable. An unadorned enclosed porch is also located on this elevation. The east elevation of the house, or the rear, is simply graced by four double hung windows and an additional triangular dormer.

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**J. M. Burk House**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

County and State

**Section 7 Page 2**

The interior of the Burk Residence is mostly intact. All the rooms, with the exception of the kitchen and the baths, have the original 1 1/2" planked hardwood floors. In the sitting room and the dining room, the planks are laid in a herringbone pattern. A formal front stairway, in a hollow newel arrangement, leads from the front entry vestibule and the first parlor to the private areas above. The stair has an elaborate newel post with daisies carved at regular intervals and a large finial on top. Each of the three parlors is easily partitioned into separate spaces using three sets of pocket doors. A large pocket door can also be used to separate the front vestibule from the rest of the entryway. A final set of pocket doors is found upstairs in the master bedroom. Decorative moldings surround all the doorways and windows in the house, and are different in various parts of the house. The downstairs public areas have molded pilasters on the doors and windows, with head blocks that feature stylized foliage. The daisy motif from the newel post on the stair is repeated on the head blocks of the doorways to the bedrooms upstairs; simple rosettes are found elsewhere.

Overall, the J. M. Burk House retains a high degree of historic integrity and is an excellent representation of the Queen Anne style.

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**J. M. Burk House**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

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Section 8 Page 1

The J. M. Burk House is significant at the local level under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of residential Queen Anne architecture, a style that was popular from approximately 1880-1910. Although the style was popular during the period in which the house was built, very few classic Queen Anne houses were built in this part of Nebraska. The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey includes only four examples of classic Queen Annes in Fillmore County. The house is a grand example of an ornate style of building that emphasized the addition of an assortment of details in order to vary the texture of the walls visually. This is accomplished through the use of dormers, oculus and stained glass windows, canted bays, and two story porches.

Geneva, Nebraska, the county seat of Fillmore County, is located in the southeastern portion of the state. The county was established in April of 1871. Although the majority of the population occupied land in the southern portion of the county, the majority voted to establish the county seat in a central location. Geneva grew slowly in its earliest years, but experienced a growth spurt after the Burlington Railroad established a depot in town in 1886. By 1890, the town had a population of 1,580, an increase of 243% since 1885. Such growth created the need for builders and supplies. J. M. Burk relocated to Geneva in 1887 to profit from that need by opening a hardware store. The *Nebraska Gazetteer* listed J. M. Burk as a hardware store owner in its 1888-1889 business directory. An ad in the *Fillmore County Republican* dated October 26, 1892 stated that "Mr Burke came to Geneva some five years ago and engaged in the Hardware business. He has steadily increased his stock until today he occupies one of the finest rooms in the city. His store room has a metropolitan air and he enjoys a flattering trade. Aside from a general line of Hardware, he carries a large stock of Harness, Saddles, Bridles, etc."

J. M. Burk constructed his residence in the summer of 1891, at a cost of \$8,700. Being a prominent businessman in Geneva, the newspaper followed the construction of the house closely. The *Fillmore County Republican* provided the name of the designer and builder, and gave frequent progress reports. The house is an ornate Queen Anne residence with many and varied decorations that visually break up the texture and pattern of the wall surfaces. At two and one half stories and of brick construction, the scale of the house is substantial and impressive. Situated on the corner of two streets, the two most visible sides of the house create an impressive statement regarding the apparent success of his business ventures. The south and east elevations of the house, the sides not visible from the streets, are plain in comparison. There was no need to embellish that which could not be seen on the right of way. Unfortunately, Burk was ultimately unable to maintain ownership of the property. He was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1893. The *Republican* reported that "The business circles of Geneva were astonished yesterday morning by the news that J. M. Burk, a very heavy hardware dealer of this city, had made an assignment." Next weeks edition of the paper added that the U. S. Marshall had seized the remainder of his stock, and announced that Burk's creditors could make claims on his property directly to the authorities. The Citizen's Bank of Geneva took possession of the house and sold it in 1899 for \$4500, half of the cost of building the property seven years before.

In 1916, Walferd C. and Rosalie Peterson purchased the house. The Petersons were the parents of nine children: six daughters and three sons. The current owners of the Burk House have a photograph of John Peterson, one of the children, in front of the steps to the front porch. The photograph was taken in 1917, one year after they acquired the house. At some point after this photograph was taken, but during the historic period of this house, the front porch was altered. According to Jim Shaw, a man who lived in the house from 1947 to 1962, the modification was made prior to 1947. Using materials identical to those used in the construction of the porch originally, an additional bay was added to the width of the porch. This addition was mimicked in the second floor porch as well. The trim was split in the middle, and material added in between. At some point, the porch lost its decorative railing on the second floor, as well as its elaborate steps leading to the porch. Even so, enough of the original structure of the porch is remaining to imply its original intent and to read properly as an appropriate Queen Anne wrap-around porch.

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**J. M. Burk House**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

County and State

**Section 8 Page 2**

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Even with the alteration of the front porch, the J. M. Burk House retains a high degree of integrity. Both inside and out, the residence looks much the same as the designer intended when he built the house 109 years ago. The house is a striking example of a Queen Anne residence for this part of Nebraska built during this time period.



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**J. M. Burk House**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

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Gaffney, Wilbur G., ed. *The Fillmore County Story*. Geneva, Nebraska: Geneva Community Grange No. 403, 1968.

Harris, Cyril M., ed. *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1977.

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McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

*The Nebraska Signal*: 1903-2000.

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**J. M. Burk House**

Name of Property

**Fillmore County, Nebraska**

County and State

**Section 10 Page 1**

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The J. M. Burk Residence resides on the NW ¼ of Outlot 20 in original town plat of the city of Geneva in Fillmore County.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The boundaries of the J. M. Burk Residence encompass the original plat of the land that has been historically associated with the house.