

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUN 18 1986  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic H.S.M. Spielman House (NeHBS # BT06-2)  
and or common Chamberlain House

**2. Location**

street & number 1103 "I" Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Tekamah N/A vicinity of  
state Nebraska code 031 county Burt code 021

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Delmar G. Chamberlain  
street & number 1103 "I" Street  
city, town Tekamah N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Burt County Courthouse  
street & number NA  
city, town Tekamah 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

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

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

The H. S. M. Spielman house is a one and one-half story brick house of vernacular Neo-Classical Revival design. The house, constructed in 1906, is reminiscent of the Queen Anne style of architecture in its massing, however, Neo-Classical Revival details prevail in the porch, dormer window and cornice design. Situated on a large, tree-shaded, corner lot in Tekamah, Nebraska (1980 population 1848), the house and two frame out-buildings retain their architectural and historical integrity.

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The Spielman house is situated on a large corner lot on the site of an 1882 sixth through eighth grade grammar school. This school was replaced by a larger building in another location and the property was purchased in 1905 by Spielman for a dwelling site. The brick school building was razed and the Spielman house was erected in 1906. The original school bricks, stone window trim, and chimney pots were salvaged and used in the house construction. (Sutherland, n.d., p. 88; Tekamah Chamber of Commerce 1954, pp. 152-153). This solid brick house has exterior walls measuring 15 inches thick, with turn of the century Pennsylvania hard-fired brick veneer.

The Spielman house is reminiscent of the Queen Anne style of architecture in its massing possibly because of its 1882 foundation. The one and one-half story structure is more identifiable as Neo-Classical because of its porch, window and cornice detailing.

The front portion of the house has gabled dormers which display Palladian windows and return cornices. The rear half of the house has hipped dormers piercing the wood shingled roof. The full frontal porch also wraps around a portion of the east and west facades. Sidelights flank the front doorway. Brick segmental arches with stone ends crown the door and window openings.

This single family dwelling is in near original condition on both the exterior and interior. The present owners have undertaken major restoration and renovation projects during the early 1980's with the guidance of Lincoln designer Andrew Morrow.

The floorplan of the Spielman house is basically six over six rooms with a central hallway leading from the front door straight through to the back entrance. A frame addition, which serves as a passive solar collector, is attached to the rear facade of the house with entry to this addition gained through the original back door. The interior of the house has been

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tastefully decorated throughout with period furniture, wallpapers and other fixtures (see photos #9 and #10).

There is a full basement under the house. This area is divided into four finished rooms--a laundry room, fruit room, meat room and a large family room. Two frame outbuildings, a barn and garage, are also located on this property and are considered to be contributing structures to this nomination (see photos #6 and #7).

# 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 checked="" 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** 1906–1916 **Builder/Architect** I.N. Bramhall, Clint Matthew

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The H. S. M. Spielman house is significant in agriculture locally, under Criterion B for its association with Spielman, an important figure in the Burt County farming industry. Spielman was a successful, enterprising farmer for over 50 years and continued to be influential in agriculture matters after his move to this retirement house in 1906. The house is significant under Criterion C as a fine local, vernacular example of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture in detailing; Queen Anne style in its massing. The period of significance (1906–1916) is derived from original construction date of the house to the time of Spielman's death.

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Pennsylvania native H.S.M. Spielman (1836–1916), was a pioneer territorial farmer who settled in Burt County in 1857, ten years before Nebraska achieved statehood. Spielman was a very important figure in the agricultural history of Burt County. He maintained a high level of agricultural activity for nearly 50 years on his farmstead and became a successful stockraiser and grain farmer. By some accounts, he was the largest landowner in Burt County during the late 19th century. By 1905, when he made plans to build a new home in town, Spielman had accumulated 3,055 acres of prime Burt County farmland which he managed with great financial prosperity.

This retirement house in town is a culmination of Spielman's efforts and success as a farmer. His agricultural accomplishments enabled him, at the age of 70 years, to build this substantial and stylish home in which to live after his retirement from daily farm labor. Even as a resident of Tekamah, he maintained close contact with the family farm operation being managed by his children. The food processing phase of this agricultural production was carried out in this more urban environment. A large "fruit room" for storage of canned meat, vegetables, fruit and fresh produce was constructed in the basement as was a meat room reserved for the cutting and processing of meats after butchering.

Spielman also continued to maintain a working interest in agriculture and agricultural economics by serving on several boards during his residency in this house. He was a stockholder,

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Tekamah, Nebr.-Iowa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	4	7	3	1	2	1	0	4	6	2	8	1	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is described as lots 1 & 2, Block 164, Original Town of Tekamah and includes all historically associated property.

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 Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date April 1986

street & number 1500 "R" Street

telephone (402) 471-4767

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

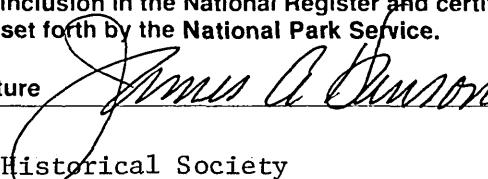
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

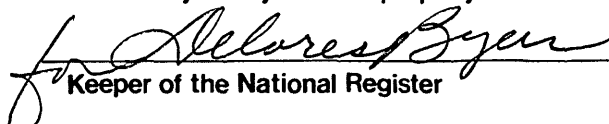


title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date June 11, 1986

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



Keeper of the National Register

date 7-17-86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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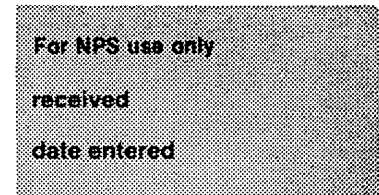
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director and vice president of the Farmer's Grain and Livestock Association of Tekamah, a stockholder, director and treasurer of the Tekamah and Farmer's Telephone Company, and served as vice president of the Burt County State Bank.

Architecturally, the house is significant locally as a fine vernacular version of the Queen Anne/Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture. Its massing suggests Queen Anne influences, the details of the porch, windows, cornice and the formal, central hall plan definitely reveal the structure to be of Neo-Classical Revival design, a style popular in Nebraska at the turn of the century. In Tekamah, this property has long been considered a local landmark. The one other house in Tekamah which features this architectural style is a large two story frame structure (see NRHP, E. C. Houston House), very different in scale and plan. In the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey of Tekamah, it was found that only nine other houses of substantial size have retained their architectural integrity. Generally these houses are loose vernacular adaptations of various high styles. Only one, the Houston House mentioned above, displays any quantity of Neo-Classical Revival details. Only one other of these nine houses is constructed of brick, a building material not readily used in Tekamah's residential construction.

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