

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Evans, Dr. Carroll D. and Lorena R. (North), House
other names/site number "The Evans' House"; NEHBS #PT01-134

2. Location

street & number 2204 14th Street
city, town Columbus
state Nebraska code NE county Platte code 141 zip code 68601

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: district (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (1, 1, 2, 4), Noncontributing (1, 1, 1, 1), Total (1)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: James A. Hanson
Date: February 5, 1991
State or Federal agency and bureau: NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: Helene Byers
Date of Action: 3/14/91

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Secondary Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

Commerce/Professional

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Mixed:

Renaissance Revival

Greek Revival

Colonial Revival

Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Sandstone

roof Ceramic Tile

other Sheathing and wood rafters

Stone pillars

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Evans' House is a three-story, brick structure, which was commissioned by Dr. Carroll Dandola Evans and his wife, Lorena Rose North Evans, prominent leaders in the development of this community. The design of the residence was performed by Charles H. Wurdeman, architect and the construction of the residence was the work of Walter L. Roth and his firm, assisted by Mr. Wurdeman.

The property includes four (4) contributing resources: house (contributing building); retaining wall (contributing structure), and two (2) copper lamps (contributing objects), mounted on black metal posts. (See sketch map.)

In 1949-50 the original carriage barn (c. 1911) was incorporated into a substantial brick addition made to the northwest corner of the house (see sketch map). Due to loss of integrity, the carriage barn is considered a non-contributing building. The 1949-50 addition, although not counted, is considered non-contributing in this nomination.

The Evans' House is situated on a lot representing one-fourth (1/4) of a city block at the corner of 14th Street and 22nd Avenue in the original plat of the City of Columbus, Nebraska.

-----  
The Evans' house has a formal "L" shaped plan and a story by story synopsis of the various spaces is as follows:

Basement Level: The physical plant spaces are located in the northwest corner and consist of a coal room and mechanical/boiler room. The rest of the basement consists of a large laundry room, storage spaces, toilet facilities and a shop area. (Four curved windows provide extra light in the laundry room.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

First Floor Level: The main floor contains the formal and grand spaces, which are as follows: Reception Room/Foyer-This room consists of an ornate vestibule, faced with tiles and the family crest designed in the floor tiles, which opens into the reception room, viewing into the sitting room and formal dining room. The reception room/foyer also contains a formal spiral staircase, which leads to the second floor level. A gas lamp, positioned on the newel post, adds a striking addition to the staircase, which has a curved seat fashioned at its base. A stained-glass window is encased on the landing.

Sitting Room-A formal space subdivided into two areas by a large arched partition, contains as its focal point a fireplace, with a detailed wood mantle and surround (since removed by a previous owner).

Library-A large reading room, containing a detailed fireplace and built-in book cases with leaded-glass doors. This room is graced by a porch, which extends to both the south and east. Three large windows give view of the porch on the south and a unique window opens onto the porch on the west. This room is viewed from the west vestibule/foyer. The porch has been designed to prevent the hot summer sun from entering the windows of the rooms along the porch; but allows the winter sun to penetrate the interior rooms.

Formal Dining Room-A massive space measuring 25' x 16' possesses a very detailed curved window seat/window area (7' radius), a large ornate fireplace, well detailed wood trim/wainscoting, sliding mahogany doors and exposed beam ceiling.

The supporting spaces on the first floor are a large kitchen area, (since removed by previous owner), den and elevator, which serves the first, second and third floors.

Second Floor Level: The second floor contains the sleeping areas and support areas as follows: There are seven (7) bedrooms on this floor, with the master suite consisting of bedroom/closet/bathroom combination. The remainder of the bedrooms share a second bathroom. Other spaces on the second floor include a sewing room, walk-in linen closet, elevator and open-air sleeping porch with a tiled floor. (This area was enclosed with large windows by previous owner.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

Third Floor Level: The third floor was devoted to entertainment and storage. Entertaining was accommodated with dancing in the ballroom and an adjacent space was a billiards parlor. This area was also served by the previously mentioned elevator and the two (2) storage areas. This area was turned into two apartments by previous owner but restoration plans for the future include restoring this area to its original intention.

Interior Walls-and partitioning are wood studs and lath with plaster finish.

Floor-systems are wood framing with tongue-and-groove oak finish.

Foundation and Exterior Walls: are load-bearing modular brick masonry. Roof framing consists of wooden rafters, wooden ceiling joists, with dimensional wood brand sheathing.

Exterior facade reveals the residence to be a combination of architectural styles, prevalent during the early 20th century. This composite is Spanish Colonial, Colonial Revival and Greek Revival.

Roofs-All roofs on the original residence and carriage house are of clay tile, with hip shapes prevalent in the Spanish Colonial Revival buildings of the period.

Cornices-These works consist of the modillions, dentils, architrave and frieze on all hipped roofs and represent the Colonial Revival style.

Windows-are of the Colonial Revival style as denoted by the rectilinear lights in the upper sash and the single light in the lower sash.

Portico-or main entrance of the residence is of the Greek Revival style. The four large, massive columns supporting the portico roof are of the Ionic order with scrolls atop. This area is lighted with a single copper hanging lamp and the steps are graced with two (2) copper-topped lamps positioned on black posts. The leaded glass in these match the glass in the hanging lamp.

Terraces and Porte Cochere-The cornice work on the roofs of these areas have a sandstone architrave, with brick masonry column, imitating the Greek-doric order in their simplicity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

---

Main Entrance-The main entrance is also Greek Revival, as denoted by the cornice with dentils, architrave, frieze and architrave trim.

Carriage Barn-The original brick building (c. 1911) was similar in design to the house. The upper level was finished and provided living space for the maid. The building was incorporated into the 1949-50 addition and no longer retains its historic integrity.

Courtyard: The original courtyard became the site of the addition to the house in 1949-50. The addition is well designed and does not detract from the original grandeur, or beauty, of the home and property.

Landscaping on the site was used to give stature and monumentality to the residence. This was accomplished by raising the finish grade of the structure approximately 24" above adjacent grades and by constructing a curvilinear retaining wall to the front of the residence.

Site-of the residence was probably chosen for its social prominence in the early nineteen-hundreds. The neighborhood was the area where people of social and financial prominence built their homes during this time frame. The proximity of the neighborhood to the business district and railroad service also played a major role in the choice of site. (In 1911 a special railroad spur was built up to the site to bring in the huge columns.)

To this day the neighborhood remains residential in nature and borders the business district of Columbus.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1908-1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1908-1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Wurdeman, Charles H.  
Roth, Walter L.  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Dr. Carroll Dandola and Lorena R. (North) Evans House, locally known as "The Evans' House", features the elements of the Renaissance, Greek, Colonial and Spanish Revival styles, artistically combined into a palatial masterpiece, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion "C". The period of significance is derived from the original construction date (1908-1911) of the dwelling.

The 28 room mansion portrays unique grandeur and spaciousness. The home consists of over 17,000 square feet of living area (excluding the addition made in 1949-50). An article, written in the Columbus Telegram in 1987, describes the house as "an imposing edifice and as not only the most beautiful home in Columbus; but one of the finest in the State. This house was built to meet a level of quality and opulence that is seldom seen today."

All roofs on the original residence and carriage house are clay tile, with hip shapes prevalent in the Spanish Colonial Revival buildings of the period. The Cornice works consist of the modillions, dentils, architrave and frieze on all hipped roofs and represent the Colonial Revival style.

The exterior facade reveals the residence to be a combination of architectural styles prevalent during the early nineteenth-hundreds, with the Portico and main entrance representing the Greek Revival style. The four large, massive columns supporting the portico roof are of the Ionic order, with scrolls atop, cut from single slabs of stone.

The Evans' House is architecturally significant on a local level for its unique design, resulting from the blending of the Renaissance, Greek, Colonial and Spanish Colonial Revival styles

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Dischner, Francis M. "Tales of Platte County," The Columbus Telegram, Columbus, Nebraska, April 7 & 14, 1978.

Hughes, Patricia A., Dr. Carroll D. Evans House, Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Form, August, 1989, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Krepel, Terry, "Columbus' Most Imposing Edifice Is Up for Sale," The Columbus Telegraph, Columbus, Nebraska, 1987.

Mares, Larry, Dr. Carroll D. Evan's House, Architectural Description, Typescript, August, 1990.

See continuation sheet

**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 of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one.

**UTM References**

A 

1	1	4
---	---	---

6	3	1	7	5	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	5	8	1	7	6	1	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is described as Lots 7 & 8, Block 47, Original Town, Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The property includes that parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Patricia A. Hughes

organization N/A date 11/12/90

street & number 2258 36th Avenue telephone (402) 564-5241

city or town Columbus state Nebraska zip code 68601

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

of the period, and architecturally uncommon in the small Nebraska communities of the 20th Century. The architect was successful in creating the feeling of dignity and excitement. Through the architect's use of the 4 principles of composition-balance, rhythm, proportion and scale; plus meeting the requirements of function-strength, beauty and usefulness, the home is an example of a master's work and he set the mood for the resplendent and endearing individuality of this home.

Located on one-fourth of a residential block and enhanced by well intentioned landscaping and lighting, the property is maintained as a memorable landmark, totally prominent and distinguishable from other homes in Columbus and the surrounding area.

Dr. Carroll D. Evans, a prominent Union Pacific and Columbus, Nebraska surgeon and his wife, the former Lorena Rose North, along with her illustrious family (Major Frank North, Luther and James North), played a very prominent role in the history of the Columbus area. They were multi-talented people, who used their abilities in a wide range of endeavors for the betterment of the community and area. "In a word, the family name is associated with all that is uplifting and beneficial in Community life." (Columbus Telegram-1987)

Charles H. Wurdeman, the architect, was born in 1871 and began his career as a carpenter in Columbus, Nebraska in 1896. Mr. Wurdeman is well known for a long list of structures in Columbus and the area, and include: the Platte County Court House (listed National Register of Historic Places), Pawnee Park Stadium, school buildings, churches, hospitals, library, bank and YMCA.

In Mr. Wurdeman's time, there was no American-made cement and reinforcing steel had not yet been designed; but Mr. Wurdeman devised a process of reinforcing, with excellent results and he worked out a formula, using cement imported from Holland and mixed with crushed "flint rock" for mortar, which has well stood the test of time.

"The Evans' House" truly represents the work of a master, whose genius, love of creating and pride of vocation is embodied in this structure, that stands as unique and beautiful today, as when conceived in the mind of the architect himself. His firm is still in business in Columbus today and is known as Reed, Veach and Wurdeman Associates.



DR. CARROLL D. & LORENA R. (NORTH)  
EVANS HOUSE (NEHBS #PTOI-134)  
COLUMBUS, PLATTE  
COUNTY, NEBRASKA

SITE PLAN - NO SCALE

DRAWN BY DELL DARLING FROM  
SKETCH MAP BY PATRICIA A. HUGHES  
NOVEMBER 1990

KEY

- \* 1. ORIGINAL HOUSE
- \* 2. CARRIAGE BARN
- \* 3. 1949-50 ADDITION (FORMER  
COURTYARD)
- \* 4. LAMP POSTS (2)
- \* 5. RETAINING WALL
  
- \* CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

