

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 12 1986

date entered

MAR 13 1986

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

1. Name

historic Hamilton-Donald House (NeHBS # HL06-49)

and/or common John Donald House

2. Location

street & number 820 West Second Street NA not for publication

city, town Grand Island NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Hall code 079

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>NA</u> 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 David L. and Frances F. Schaffer

street & number 105 West Syria

city, town Cairo NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 1st and Locust Streets

city, town Grand Island 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

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hamilton-Donald house is located in Grand Island (1985 population 37,781), Nebraska, the county seat of Hall County. A fine product of the Neo-Classical Revival Style of architecture in Nebraska, the two story frame dwelling is rectangular-shaped in plan, with a truncated hipped roof penetrated with dormer windows, and displays a prominent full-height portico supported by massive wooden columns with Corinthian capitals. The house was constructed in 1905 by E. D. Hamilton and purchased in 1908 by John A. Donald. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved.

The Hamilton-Donald house is located in Grand Island, Nebraska, a city situated approximately 100 miles west of Lincoln, the state capitol. The house represents an excellent product of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture. The rectangular shaped two-story dwelling is symmetrical in plan, of frame construction and rests on a rusticated concrete-block foundation. The truncated hipped roof displays original iron cresting and is penetrated with gabled dormer windows. The house features a colossal full height curved portico supported by eight large wooden columns crowned with Corinthian capitals. The raised entry is centered on the front (south) facade and shows sidelights with leaded glass, with a second story balcony situated directly above. Fenestration consists primarily of rectangular shaped window openings of double-hung sash with others incorporating transoms. The rear east facade (on first level) displays a "Gothic" window with stained glass. Other details include dentilling found along the eave line of the portico and crowning the main door surround, and wooden balustrades situated around the platform porch and portico roofline.

The interior, which has been changed very little over the years, features an open stairway with landing, parlor stoves displaying classical detailing, ornate woodwork including classical columns and pilasters, and decorative plasticwork. Leaded, beveled and stained glass is found throughout the house. The upper story, which served as a ballroom, features plaster finished walls and wood flooring.

The property also includes a one-story concrete block carriage barn (date of construction unknown) which has been remodeled into a garage (see photo #1). The antique wrought iron fence (not original) was installed in the early 1970's.

The house was constructed for Ellsworth Hamilton in 1905 by Henry Falldorf, a local contractor. In 1908 John A. Donald purchased the house. The dwelling presently serves as Nonna's Palazzo, an Italian restaurant.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905-1924 **Builder/Architect** Henry H. Falldorf

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally significant on a local level, the Hamilton-Donald house represents a fine product of the Neo-Classical Revival Style of architecture in Nebraska, a style which gained popularity in the state after the turn of the century. The style is readily identified by the full-height portico on the front facade with symmetrically balanced windows and center door. The Hamilton-Donald house is the only dwelling, identified thus far in Grand Island as part of the on-going Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, that incorporates these identifying characteristics (the fine Falldorf house was moved out of the city several years ago). The house was constructed for E. D. Hamilton in 1905 by Henry Falldorf, a prominent local contractor. The house also attains significance in the area of commerce for its associations with John Donald who purchased the house in 1908. Mr. Donald was one of two brothers who established the Donald Company, a leading dry goods and grocery firm in Grand Island and which served Nebraska and other surrounding states for 56 years. The period of significance is derived from the original construction date of the house (1905) through John Donald's ownership of the property (1924).

The Hamilton-Donald house is architecturally significant in Nebraska as a fine product of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture. The style was popular for domestic buildings in America during the first part of the 20th century. Characteristics of the style include a front facade dominated by a full height portico supported by Classical columns usually crowned with Ionic or Corinthian capitals, symmetrically arranged plan with central door and symmetrically balanced windows and limited detailing (McAlester, 1984, p. 343). The Neo-Classical Revival style gained popularity in Nebraska shortly after the turn of the century. In the reconnaissance level Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey performed in 1975, a wide variety of high style architecture was identified in Grand Island including styles such as the Italianate, Queen Anne, Shingle Style, Georgian Revival, and Prairie Style. The Hamilton-Donald House achieves significant on a local level as the sole surviving representative of a Neo-Classical dwelling which incorporates the full-height portico in its design, and which also retains its structural and historical integrity.

The house was constructed in 1905 by Ellsworth D. Hamilton, who served as cashier of the Commercial State Bank in Grand Island. In 1908, Mr. Hamilton sold the property to John Donald, a pioneer Nebraska wholesale grocer, who resided in the house until 1924. The house attains significance in the area of commerce for its associations with Mr. Donald, one of two brothers who established the Donald Company, a leading dry goods and grocery firm in Grand Island.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Grand Island, Ne

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	5	5	4	9	1	5	4	5	3	0	0	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is described as lot 5, Block 114, Railroad Addition, Grand Island, Hall 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 Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date January, 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 James A. Hanson

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date February 6, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 3/13/86

Jayne M. McPherson
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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John A. Donald was born May 12, 1862 in Kilmarnoch, Ayrshire, Scotland and came to America at the age of 18. Prior to his arrival in Grand Island, John served as a traveling salesman for Paxton-Gallagher in Omaha, Nebraska, a wholesale grocery company. In 1899, John and his brother Laurence, along with Carol V. Willard and G. W. Porter, organized the Donald-Porter Company, which later became the Donald Company (see Glade-Donald House, listed NRHP September 12, 1985). The Donald Company became one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in Nebraska and operated under the family name for 56 years. In July of 1955, the company was sold to George W. Martin and Company, who continued to operate the firm under the Donald name. John Donald was also active in other civic, religious, and social affairs, serving as one of the organizers of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of the U.S. Wholesale Grocery Association, and a member of the Masonic and Elks Lodges.

In 1924 Laurence and John Donald "exchanged" residences in Grand Island. Laurence, who had previously resided at 1004 West Division in the Glade-Donald house purchased the Hamilton-Donald house at 820 W. 2nd. John then moved to 1004 West Division into the historic Glade-Donald house.

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

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Books

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

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, the M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1969.

Newspapers

"L. H. Donald Succumbs in Los Angeles," The Grand Island Daily Independent, November 19, 1954, Grand Island, Ne.

"J. A. Donald Dies: Rites on Tuesday," The Grand Island Daily Independent, June 10, 1957, Grand Island, Ne.

"Retired Contractor Succumbs, Henry Falldorf Dies Early Today: Rites to be Held Thursday," Grand Island Daily Independent, February 20, 1950, p. 4, c. 3, Grand Island, Nebraska.

"The Donald Company Sold to Martin, 56-year Ownership Concluded." The Grand Island Daily Independent, July 5, 1955, Grand Island, Ne.

Other

Gilkerson, Joni, "Glade-Donald House," NRHP Inventory-Nomination Form, June, 1985, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Schaffer, Frances, "John Donald House," Grand Island, Ne., Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Form, September 1985, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.