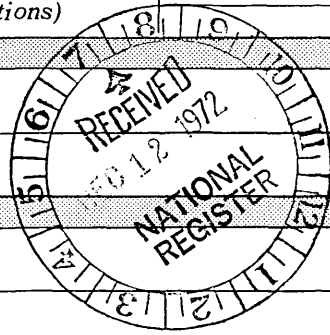


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Buffalo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEH 23 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Frank (Geo. W.) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Kearney State College

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kearney

STATE: Nebraska      CODE: 31      COUNTY: Buffalo      CODE: 019

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Kearney State College

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Kearney      STATE: Nebraska      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Buffalo County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Kearney      STATE: Nebraska      CODE: 31

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln      STATE: Nebraska      CODE: 31

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Nebraska

COUNTY: Buffalo

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: FEH 23 1973

DATE:

This nomination is located in the Third Nebraska Congressional District

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mr. Frank headed the architecture firm of Frank, Bailey, and Farmer. His firm enjoyed prosperity through the boom period, 1885-1900, designing some of Kearney's early residences and commercial buildings. The best example of the architectural talents of Mr. Frank is the residence which he designed for himself, the George W. Frank House.

The Frank House, setting at the head of West Twenty-fifth Street, was built in an exclusive suburb, developed by the George W. Frank Improvement Co. Built in 1899 at the peak of the Real Estate Boom, it represents the prosperity Kearney was enjoying during this period.

Architecturally the house portrays a combination of the shingle style, which developed in the New England area around 1880, and Richardsonian influences, also popular during this period. The early appearance of these styles in the West can only be attributed to Mr. Frank's business travels in the East. The straight forward architectural expression which the Frank House portrays, can be appreciated when one considers the very strong Victorian tastes inherent to this period and region.

The house is two stories, constructed of Colorado sandstone, quarried in Wyoming and cut on site. The large gable ends best represent the stone construction and its texture. The roof, typical of the shingle style, extends past the walls of the ground floor forming a veranda along the entire length of the main facade. The veranda was extended south past the end of the house, and was capped with a truncated conical roof. To the north, the veranda is transformed into the porte cochere. This gives the facade a balancing horizontal emphasis. Also typical of the shingle style are the massive dormer projections. An effective departure from the materials of the shingle style was accomplished by using tile, imported from Holland, instead of the usual wood shingles.

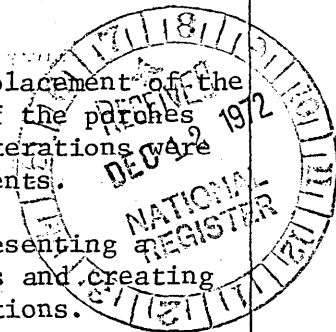
The interior of the house, Victorian in character, is more representative of its period. The extensive woodwork on the first floor is all hand carved oak; prepared in Minneapolis by a craftsman of Swedish origin, John Lindbeck, then crated and shipped to Kearney for assemblage and installation.

When the financial panic came in 1893 Mr. Frank lost his new home and its 13 acre grounds to O. G. Walbridge of Brooklyn, New York. In 1907 the house was sold to the State of Nebraska Hospital for Tuberculous, to be used as a home for the Superintendent.

The only major alterations to the house have been the replacement of the terra cotta tile with conventional shingling, the enclosing of the porches and porte cochere, and the removal of the chimneys. Minor alterations were also made in the second floor when it was converted to apartments.

The Frank House has much of its original integrity, representing a skillful handling of style combined with well chosen materials and creating a unique system of complementary textures, colors, and proportions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

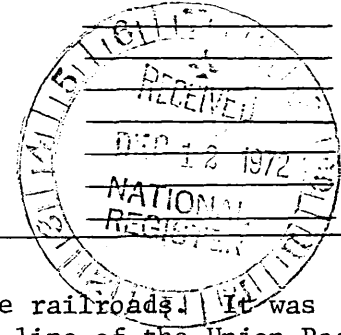
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kearney was founded by the westward push of the railroads. It was established in 1873 around the junction of the main line of the Union Pacific and the expanding Burlington line. With the arrival of the railroads came merchants, surveyors, and land speculators. By 1880 Kearney had a population of 1,780.

In 1881 a Kearney Board of Trade was organized by progressive businessmen. This organization envisioned an irrigation canal which would bring water sixteen miles from the Platte River to the Kearney proper. They stimulated 67,000 dollars worth of local investments and in 1882 the canal was started. The lack of further local funding created a need for outside investment. One of the Board members knew of a man who had considerable wealth and an interest in speculation. This man was George W. Frank of Corning, Iowa.

Mr. Frank was persuaded to travel west for a first hand look at Kearney's potentials. His interest turned to enthusiasm as he envisioned creating an industrial center in the "New West". He believed the canal could not only be used for irrigation but also saw it as a potential source of electrical power for a great industrial center.

By 1885 Mr. Frank had established residence in Kearney and had assumed the entire canal stock. In 1886 the canal was finished and Mr. Frank incorporated the Kearney Canal and Water Supply Company. He immediately initiated negotiations in the East to stimulate large investments for industrial development. Local speculations coupled with great amounts of eastern investment created an extensive economic and real estate boom. By 1889 Kearney boasted a paper mill, woolen mill, oatmeal mill, plow factory, canning factory, cracker factory, pressed brick works, machine shop, and most impressive, a large cotton mill powered by turbines which were supplied with water from the canal. Kearney also had one of the first electric street railroad systems west of the Missouri. The boom brought a variety of city improvements including the city water works, a city gas plant, a sewage system, the city hall, opera building, and an elegant hotel. An exclusive suburb was platted and built in West Kearney, complete with boulevards and parks. Mr. Frank built his grand home in this addition. By 1890 Kearney's population had grown to over 8,000 and the boom was at its peak. Over-speculation and the failure of the canal to support an industrial city's power needs caused the initial collapse of Kearney's boom period. The

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Files, Nebraska State Historical Society  
 Hartzell, T.N. One Hundred Views of Kearney Buffalo County, Nebraska, 1892.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

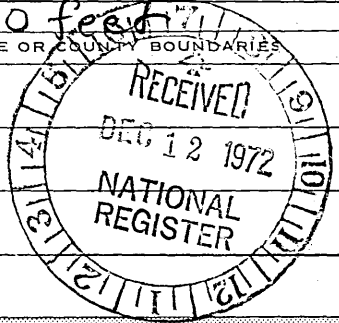
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0	99	06	30	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0	40	42	03	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

UTM  
 14/490840  
 4505340  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200' X 150 feet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: Nov. 30, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Marian O. Knott</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Nebraska State Historical Society</u></p> <p>Date <u>Nov. 29 - 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>7/23/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Tom Beatty</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>2-21-73</u></p>
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Buffalo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1973

(Number all entries)

(8) SIGNIFICANCE

industrial section closed, all of the banks failed, and most of the businesses closed. These events were closely related to the national financial panic of 1893, followed by a severe drought throughout Nebraska and the midwest.

George W. Frank's name is synonymous with Kearney's boom period, 1885-1891. During this period Mr. Frank was president of the Kearney Electric Co., Kearney Canal and Water Supply Co., Nebraska Ice Co., and the George W. Frank Improvement Co. He built Kearney's first electric plant and owned much of the real estate in and around the city.

