5d3. Political and Military Affairs; The Great Depression, 1929-1939

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC Senator George W. Norris House

AND/OR COMMON

George W. Norris Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 706 Norris Avenue

		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
city, town McCook	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTI 003 (Thir	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Nebraska	31	Red Willow	145

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	XPUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X_MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES. UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER

NOWNER OF PROPERTY

	•		
^{NAME} Nebraska State Histo	orical Society (Mr. Marv	in F. Kivett)	
STREET & NUMBER 1500 R. Stree	t		
CITY, TOWN Lincoln		state Nebraska	
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL	DESCRIPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Red Willo	w County Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER			
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
McCook		Nebraska	_
6 REPRESENTATION IN	EXISTING SURVEYS		
TITLE Historic Sites	Survey		
DATE			
1961	X FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR	tes Survey, National Pa	rk Service	
CITY TOWN Washington		D.C.	

Washington

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

RECEIVED

7 DESCRIPTION

co	NDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	NE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	CRIGINAL	SITE
G00D	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

George W. Norris purchased his two-story, cross-gabled house in 1899. In 1930-31 he remodelled it, adding stucco to the exterior walls. The house contained eight rooms, a full basement and an unfinished attic. The first floor had a small entrance hall with a stairway, a living room, a study, and an enclosed sun room. A dining room came into use as a bedroom after Norris' death and the kitchen was modernized. Otherwise it remains unchanged. On the second floor there is a large hall and three bedrooms, each with a full bath and closet. Most of the original furnishings, which date from various eras, remain. The house sits on a small lot facing the appropriately modest Norris Park. There is a garage in the northeast corner of the grounds.

In 1968 The Nebraska State Historical Society took possession of the house and has sought to maintain its almost perfect historic integrity. The exterior has been painted twice, an exhibit area installed in the basement, and <u>exterior</u> minor upkeep has been continued. The house is open to the public as an historic museum.



PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
_ x 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899-1944

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George William Norris, U.S. Senator from Nebraska, was a progressive force in Washington for forty years. He was one of the most powerful New Dealers in the Senate, helping pass innumerable reforms.

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Norris was born in 1861 and became the chief support of his Ohio farm and family at an early age. Largely self-educated, he taught school before joining the bar in 1883 and began practice in Nebraska two years later. He was soon elected prosecuting attorney for Furnas County and in 1895 became district judge. In 1902 he entered Congress as a conservative Republican but grew increasingly reform-minded in Washington. In 1910 he led a successful fight to reduce the autocratic power of the House Speaker.

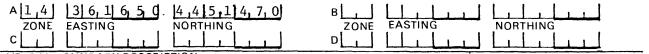
In 1912 Norris was elected to the Senate, where he served until 1943. As a senator he became an independent, who, in his own words, "would rather be right than regular." He voted against United States entry into World War I, and denounced the Versailles Treaty that followed it. He fought for many reforms, including presidential primaries and the direct election of U.S. Norris was the author of the 20th Amendment which abolished senators. "lame-duck" sessions of Congress. He introduced bills for the retention of Muscle Shoals as a government power-development project and for establishing the Tennessee Valley Authority. The first TVA dam, completed in 1936, was named after him. He was also a leader in the demand for farm relief legislation and co-author of the Norris-LaGuardia Act, which restricted the use of injunctions in labor disputes, permitted workers to join non-company unions, and opened the way for a changed legal concept of labor-management relations. His last fight was an unsuccessful attempt to pass legislation outlawing the poll tax. He was defeated for reelection in 1942. Franklin Roosevelt, whose programs Norris did so much to further, described the Senator as "a gentle knight of progressive ideals," whose life was an "able and heroic fight on behalf of the average citizen." Norris died in his McCook home in November, 1944.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Encyclopedia Brittanica, vol. 16, "Norris, George William," article, 1964. Lowitt, Richard, <u>George W. Norris: The Making of a Progressive, 1861-1912</u>,1963. Norris, George W., Fighting Liberal: An Autobiography of George W. Norris, 1945.

10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ____ less than one_acre UTM REFERENCES



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

j.

The Senator George William Norris House is bounded by the property lines of 706 Norris Ayenue, McCook, Nebraska. The small rectangular plot contains the house, a garage, two small yards and a white picket fence.

CODE CODE Imarks Review Project DATE Service 7/29/75 TELEPHONE 202-523-5464 STATE D.C. 20240
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D.C. 20240
ER CERTIFICATION
TY WITHIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL
c Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), 1
rtify that it has been evaluated according to the Londmark $M \wedge T \simeq 1467$
Designated: date
Boilingary Contiliod:
NAL REGISTER DATE 9/12/20
DATE 113/27
LANDRAL MICTRES