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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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		COMPLETE NATION OMPLETE APPLICABI	AL REGISTER FORMS LE SECTIONS	3
NAME				
HISTORIC				
William Brach Hou	use			•
AND/OR COMMON				
Brach-Coover House (AD04-	-64)			
LOCATION	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
STREET & NUMBER				
823 N. Lincoln Avenue			NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
Hastings		ICINITY OF	Third	CODE
Nebraska		ODE 031	COUNTY Adams	001
CLASSIFICATION		**************************************		
•				
CATEGORY OWNERSH	IIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICTPUBLIC X_BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE	•	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
STRUCTUREBOTH		UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK X_PRIVATE RESIDEN
	QUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE	EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT _IN PROCESS	odolol I Tok	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSID	ERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERT	ГҮ	 		
NAME				y.
Barbara F. Coover				
STREET & NUMBER				
823 N. Lincoln Avenue				
CITY, TOWN	,	CICINITY OF	state Nebraska	
Hastings			1100240144	
LOCATION OF LEGA	T DESCK	PHON		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pogis	of Dooi	· ·		
STREET & NUMBER	ter of Deed	ıs 		
Adams Count	v Court Hou	ıse		
CITY, TOWN	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		STATE	
Hastings			Nebraska	
REPRESENTATION I	N EXISTI	NG SURVEYS		
TITLE				
DATE				
		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	_
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
er a vi a di e di ada			01015	

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT __GOOD

__DETERIORATED

_UNALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__FAIR

__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brach-Coover House stands on a large, tree-shaded lot in a fine residential section of northern Hastings. The Queen Anne style frame house was built by William Brach about 1884 and was later remodeled along classical lines, probably by Volney B. and Mary Blackman Trimble after their purchase of the property in 1899.

The Queen Anne style is evident in the irregular plan of the exterior, particularly in the roof lines, and the asymmetrical arrangement of the front facade. Two-story bay windows project from both the north and south sides and are each surmounted by a pediment. The multi-planed hipped roof with deck is also varied by a gablet on the east side. The front porch dominates the east side and curves around to the south. A doorway opens from the parlor to the south porch. The front porch with Ionic columns is the most dramatic element of the classical alterations done around the turn of the century. Ionic columns also flank a second floor window. Remnants of Eastlake details and porch columns, probably from the original porch, are stored in the basement.

The interior also reflects the Queen Anne influences of the 1880's with later classical alterations. The first floor rooms are a foyer, front and back parlors, dining room, kitchen, and bathroom. Parquet flooring remains in the foyer and dining room. The stairway is decorated with a stained glass window above the landing. Original woodwork with decorated corner blocks on the door and window frames remain throughout the house except in the double parlors. The parlors were re-modeled with new woodwork, mantelpiece and windows. The oak woodwork is decorated with chain of husks on the door lintels, and the mantelpiece has four pairs of Ionic columns and oval mirror. Large single pane windows with transoms were installed in the south and east parlor windows. The east transom is decorated in leaded and beveled glass; a landscape scene is etched in the transom of the south window.

The second floor has five bedrooms, a servant's room and bathroom. A doorway opens from the master bedroom to the porch roof for a pleasant balcony.

The Brach-Coover House has remained a single family dwelling throughout its history and is now preserved as a fine family home by John and Barbara Coover.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK 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	
X_1800-1899	X.COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION			
SPECIFIC DAT	es ca. 1884	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brachs, father and sons, have long been prominent in the commercial and social life of Hastings. As prosperous department store owners, they were influential and respected members of the community.

William Brach came to Hastings about 1877 to manage a branch of Wolbach Brothers, after working in their home store in the nearby town of Grand Island. Wolbach Brothers was a growing dry goods store which became the largest of its kind in that part of the state. The business in Hastings prospered and was re-named Wolbach & Brach in 1887. Wolbach & Brach was the prominent dry goods dealer and later department store for Hastings and the surrounding area. The firm was incorporated in 1907 with William Brach as president. His two sons, J. Frederick and Waldorf H., and his wife, Charlotte, worked in the business; and Waldorf succeeded his father as president. William Brach was praised by his fellow citizens for his community involvement and business ability. The name was changed to Brach's Incorporated in 1932 and remained the same until 1953 when Burton Thompson purchased the company and changed it to Brach-Thompson. In 1966 new owners changed the name to Schwesers, removing the Brach connection for the first time.

William Brach was born April 3, 1854 in Germany and emigrated at the age of eleven. Brach was one of many German natives who settled in Hastings and Adams County. In the Adams County census records of 1880 and 1890, the majority of foreign born residents were German. Brach was a prominent and respected member of the community. He was a member of the Lutheran church, the Masons, the Kiwanis Club, and the Adams County Agricultural Society. He served as City Councilman in 1892. A music lover, he contributed funds for Sunday band concerts in Chautauqua Park. He and his family lived in three houses on N. Lincoln avenue, this being the second and least altered, which he sold in 1892.

The two subsequent owners, Mary Campbell (Mrs. Lemuel) and Miss Blanche Fullerton, were both unable to pay their mortgages and lost the property. Volney B. and Mary Blackman Trimble purchased the house in 1899; they were followed by their daughter, Helen Trimble Suis, who retained ownership until 1966. Trimble arrived in Hastings in 1887 and worked as a wholesale grocer, then after the turn of the century, became a real estate and insurance agent. He served as City Councilman 1922-25, chairman of the County Council of Defense during the Great War and was an active member of the Library Board, 1903-1938.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL D	ATA				
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UTM REFERÈNCES					
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ZONE EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE EASTI	NG NORTHING	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRI	PTION				
City of Hastings Plat,	Alexander's	Addition	, Block 7, eas	st 156 feet of	,
north 122 feet					
		-			
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR	PROPERTIES	OVERLAPPING STA	TE OR COUNTY BOUNDA	RIES
STATE	co	DE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	co	DE	COUNTY		CODE
			•		•
Penelope Chatfield, Porganization Nebraska State Histor			n	DATE June, 1978	
STREET & NUMBER	icar societ	· <u>y</u>		TELEPHONE 471-3	276
1500 R Street				402-432-2793	210
CITY OR TOWN				STATE	
Lincoln				Nebraska	
Efficorii				Nebraska	
12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERV.	ATION ()FFICER CE	RTIFICATION	
THE EVALU	IATED SIGNIFIC	ANCE OF THIS	S PROPERTY WITHI	N THE STATE IS:	
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			LOCAL_X	
NATIONAL		STATE		LOCAL A	
As the designated State Historic Pro	eservation Office	r for the Natio	nal Historic Preserva	tion Act of 1966 (Public La	W 89-665) I
hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth by	inclusion in the I	National Regis			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFF	ICER SIGNATURE	Marin	1 To Knett	7/9/78	
TITLE	o Chaha IIda	tomical C		DATE	
Director, Nebrask FOR NPS USE ONLY	ta State His	COLICAL S	остега		
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS I	PROPERTY IS IN	CLUDED IN T	HE NATIONAL REG	ISTER	
11 .	111		\\	DATE 3 /.	7 9
Muly	agen		\/s\sqrt{-1}	DATE Z. (L /
DIRECTOR, DFFIGE OF ARCHE	/)		RVATION \		radia strata e la julia.
	16 1avna	<u>m</u>	<u> </u>	DATE	
-KEEPER-OF THE NATIONAL RE					

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Wolbach Brothers, later Wolbach & Sons, who had established William Brach in their Hastings branch, began their business in Grand Island in 1874 and became the prominent mercantile firm for the region. Michael, Jacob and Samuel Wolbach were natives of New York City; and two of the brothers, Jacob and Samuel, had worked in dry goods stores there. Within the first ten years, Michael and Jacob sold their interests to Samuel who developed and expanded the store into a prosperous business. His sons, E. J. and Emil, joined the firm in 1901.

S. N. Wolbach was active in state politics and financial and commercial institutions. A member of the Democratic party, Wolbach served in the State house of representatives and senate in 1885, 1887 and 1889, respectively, and was an unsuccessful candidate for 1t. governor in 1892. An organizer of the First National Bank of Grand Island, he was associated with several other banks around the state. The town of Wolbach in Greeley County was named in his honor.

Architecturally, the house exemplifies changing tastes in American architecture. It was built ca. 1884 in a simplified Queen Anne style and was remodelled ca. 1904 in a Classical Revival manner on the facade and principal interior rooms. The addition of classical details was a popular modification to Nebraska houses around the turn of the century, possibly as a result of the expositions of the 1890's. The Brach-Coover House is a typical example of these changes in stylistic taste which resulted in the alteration of the front porch and balcony, a usual practice, as well as the woodwork, mantelpiece and windows of the front and back parlors.

Concerning the other two houses in which William Brach resided on North Lincoln Avenue, it is doubtful the first house is extant and the third house has undergone extensive changes that have severely comprised its integrity.



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