

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

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

For NPS use only

received **JUN 11 1986**

date entered **JUL 10 1986**

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

1. Name

historic H. E. Snyder House (NeHBS # PT01-170)

and/or common The Snyder House

2. Location

street & number 2522 16th Street NA not for publication

city, town Columbus NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Platte code 141

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard A. Snyder

street & number 2522 16th Street

city, town Columbus NA vicinity of Nebraska state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 14th Street and 26th Avenue

city, town Columbus 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 H. E. Snyder House is located in Columbus, Nebraska, the county seat of Platte County. The two story brick dwelling was designed in 1928 by an Omaha architect and represents an excellent example of a 20th century Period house displaying design characteristics of the French Country house type. The dwelling displays irregular massing, steeply pitched gable rooflines with large overhangs, clay tile roofing, half timbering, casement windows, and an attached garage. The house is also somewhat reminiscent of the Tudor Revival Style, especially noted in the "Tudor Arch" found in major window and door openings and in the balcony balustrade. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved.

The H. E. Snyder house was built in 1929 by local contractor George Johansen I, following the plans of Edward J. Sessinghaus of Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Johansen resided in the Columbus community his entire life and is noted for his unique construction ability in many other homes located in this community. The house is a large two story frame structure with brick facing and a unique smooth old English tile system with copper valleys and gutter linings. The south facade of the dwelling is designed as the front or primary facade of the property. This includes a recessed internal guttering system so that no gutters are exposed to view from the south. The master bedroom windows, front entry door and south facing fountain wall all share the unique arch shape which is very significant of the Tudor style of design prevalent in this era.

The house shows a massive chimney on the west facade. The south facade is dominated by a steeply pitched gable with decorative half-timbering. The east facade shows a clipped gable dormer window designed into the roof line, allowing for the design of a unique room with windows on all four sides. Fenestration in the house consists primarily of casement windows with multi-pane sash. The front arched entry door is highlighted by a cut stained glass window bearing the initial "S" for Snyder. It has been hand-cut utilizing leaded glass. The south wall of the original attached garage incorporates a built-in stone fountain. This fountain is still operational and includes a six foot semi-circular catch basin built into the ground below for drainage of overflow water.

The property is in excellent physical condition. Alterations are very minor and are primarily prevalent on the interior involving redecorating and minor color changes. The west wing of the house was designed to serve as a library. This area features

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Description

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four built-in book shelves, recessed into each of the four corners of the library room. Entry into this area is gained through elaborate oak swinging gates with double action hinges. The gates are very elaborate utilizing hand carved oak vertical dividers with ornate scroll carvings. This area remains completely original and is currently used as a TV room as well as library. The southeast corner of the house features an octagonal shaped room, which serves as an eating area and is highlighted by a domed ceiling with hanging light fixture. This area is unique in its eight-sided shape and features a balcony on the second story over the eating area.

Distinctive interior features include the decorative open oak staircase leading to the second story and two oak arched openings between rooms on the main floor. All woodwork is solid fumed oak. This displays a light green tint to the wood, indicating the treatment to the wood prior to construction.

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

Specific dates 1928-29 **Builder/Architect** George Johansen I./Edward Sessinghaus

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The H. E. Snyder house is architecturally significant, on a local level, as a well-preserved and excellent product of 20th century Period Revivals, displaying design characteristics found in French Country House types. In Nebraska, these "period houses" gained popularity in the 1920's and were characterized by Romanticism and multifarious Eclecticism. The house was designed in 1928 by Edward J. Sessinghaus, Omaha architect and built by George E. Johansen I, local contractor. The period of significance is derived from the original construction date of the house (1928-29).

The architectural evaluation of the H. E. Snyder house was made on a local level. The house was identified and entered into the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey as a result of the Platte County reconnaissance level survey performed in 1980. The Snyder house, in the context of Columbus, was one of very few "period houses" surveyed in town. The dwellings are scattered throughout the northern half of Columbus (north of railroad tracks) and exhibit many of the same design characteristics--that being one-and-one-half to two stories in height, brick face, steeply pitched rooflines and half-timbering found in gable apexes. The H. E. Snyder house is architecturally significant as the best example of a 20th century Period Revival exhibiting design features of French Country houses. In addition, the H. E. Snyder dwelling remains in near-original condition, with only minor cosmetic changes made in the interior spaces. The house occupies a large corner lot, and with its landscape design stands out in the immediate neighborhood where the surrounding residences are primarily of frame construction and lack distinctive architectural merit.

In the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey of Columbus, both high style and vernacular architecture were identified in residential areas. Styles such as the Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Renaissance Revival, and Classical Revival were evident in the town, however their numbers were small, sometimes only one example of each style was identified. As a whole, the architecture of Columbus tends to be more vernacular with the majority of dwellings of frame construction with only a small portion of houses constructed of brick. The period houses of

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Columbus, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	3	7	1	2	0	4	5	8	7	8	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is described as Lots 1, 2, Block 16, Steven's Addition, Columbus, Platte 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 Richard A. Snyder/Technical Editor and Additions, Joni Gilkerson, Historian Architectural

organization Owner/Nebraska State Historical Society date November 1985/April 1986

street & number 2522 16th Street/1500 R Street telephone (402) 563/3010/(402) 471-4767

city or town Columbus/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 *June 4, 1986*

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

Entered in the National Register

date *7-10-86*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Columbus make up the majority of substantial brick dwellings in town with the H. E. Snyder house gaining additional notoriety as a unique house design and as the only period dwelling constructed of the buff/light colored brick. The Snyder house then becomes significant to Nebraska's architectural history as an superior representation of Columbus' residential architecture in the 1920's and early 1930's, the time frame when these Period Revivals were popular in the state.

During the first third of the 20th century many widely differing influences were evident in the design of residential architecture. The majority of models for period houses were based upon farm or rural structures. American architects used a great deal of originality in interpreting English and French country house styles, and transposed them with local materials and vernacular forms and designs (Panek, 1976, p. 39-1). Period houses were intimately associated with the landscape and often sprawled across the width of a large suburban lot, incorporating a formal front area and an informal back yard. Inside, the interior floor plan of the period house had fewer rooms than its 19th century predecessor, but the rooms were much larger and spaces were more open in plan. The houses also utilized an abundance of contemporary ideas in interior arrangement and planning (Poppeliers, 1977, p. 39).

The Anglo-French Country type was characterized by a two-to-three story height, irregular massing, steeply pitched roofs with large overhangs and slate or clay tile covering, large chimneys, half-timbering, casement sash windows and limited articulation of surfaces and shapes (Panek, 1976, p. 39-2). Floor plans are relatively open and informal, although efficiency is emphasized in the design of interior spaces. Attached garages are also common as is integration of building and landscape.

Edward J. Sessinghaus incorporated many characteristic features of the French Country house when he designed the Snyder house in 1928. The dwelling also exhibits minor influence from the Tudor Revival style noted in the Tudor arch in the second story bedroom windows and front door entry (south facade), as well as a semi-octagonal bay window on the east facade. It is evident that Sessinghaus put much thought into the design of the interior spaces to accommodate his clients. Built in china cabinets, book shelves, pantries, four foot drawers utilizing space beyond the wall line, contemporary plumbing fixtures, and modern conveniences in the kitchen are found throughout the house. Mr. Sessinghaus practiced architecture in Omaha and the

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surrounding area for many years and was affiliated with several architectural and design firms including Leighton and Sessinghaus, Edward J. Sessinghaus and Associates, and E. J. Sessinghaus and Associates, Designers, all established in Omaha. George E. Johansen I, was a prominent local contractor and is credited with the building of numerous houses in Columbus. The Johansen Construction Company, carried on by his descendants, is still in operation today.

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