

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name McWilliams Houseother names/site number NeHBS# LC13:E11-090**2. Location**street & number 1723 North 29th St.city or town Lincoln[N/A] not for publication
[N/A] vicinitystate Nebraska code NE county Lancaster code 109 zip code 68503**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

☒ entered in the National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

[] See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
Category of Property
Number of Resources within Property
Name of related multiple property listing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
Current Functions
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Materials
No Style
foundation
walls
roof
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1McWilliams House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

DESCRIPTION

The Trago T. McWilliams House in the Clinton neighborhood of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska is a small, single-story wood-frame cottage composed of a hipped-roof main block and a gable-roofed front wing. The property consists of one contributing building—the house—and a non-contributing garage that was built after the period of significance. The property is related to the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska," exemplifying the property type "dwellings." The frame dwelling was constructed ca.1890. The house is an example of a rare property type in Lincoln, Nebraska and retains sufficient integrity for listing in the aspects of location, overall design, feeling, and association, even though the main exterior material (wooden clapboards) has been hidden beneath vinyl siding of a narrow, clapboard-like appearance.

The Trago T. McWilliams House at 1723 N.29th Street in the Clinton neighborhood of northeast Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, was the home of a leading member of Lincoln's African American community, and his family, from 1928 to 1941. Deeds and directories indicate that the house was constructed in the early 1890s, and it displays a fairly common vernacular form consisting of a small main block plus an off-center, forward-projecting wing. The main block has a truncated hipped roof and the front wing has a facade gable, with pent-eaves returns on the main, east facade. A small, enclosed porch on the south side nearly fills the "L" formed by the offset of the front wing, providing access to the main entrance. A second entrance is provided in a small south-side addition, with a shed-roofed cover over the entry, and an opposing shed extending back over the little wing. The 1928 Sanborn Map Co. atlas of Lincoln indicates that the side porch and the side addition were both in place by 1928, at the beginning of the McWilliams family's occupancy, and hence they are significant features of the property.

A small, front gable, wooden garage at the rear of the property was apparently built after the McWilliams occupancy of this property and hence is regarded as a non-contributing feature. Its location is not intrusive upon the setting or feeling of the house.

This small frame house was originally sided with wooden clapboards, which probably survive under the current vinyl siding. Some of the exterior wood trim at the fascia and around windows and doors remains uncovered. The house is regarded as an example of a rare property type in Lincoln, Nebraska and its integrity has been closely assessed. Of the seven aspects of integrity, location, setting, design, association, and feeling remain strong contributors to the overall integrity. The exterior "materials" aspect has been compromised by the vinyl siding, but its smooth finish and narrow "weather" more closely replicate the appearance of traditional clapboards than many other styles of synthetic siding. The porch and side wing, while probably additions to the original ca. 1890 house, contribute to rather than detract from the integrity of the property, since these features were in place during the McWilliams period of significance of 1928-1941.

McWilliams House

Name of Property

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County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

Period of Significance

1928 to 1941

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Trago T. McWilliams

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository:

Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1McWilliams House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McWilliams House is significant on the local level under criterion B for its association with Trago T. McWilliams, whose work as an advocate for the betterment of Lincoln's African American community and work as a churchman was recognized by governors, mayors, the religious community, and the broad Lincoln community. The McWilliams House is related to the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska." The property demonstrates the historic context entitled "Institution Building in an Era of Segregation, 1914 - 1941." Its date of significance began with Trago T. McWilliams' ownership in 1928 and extends through 1941, the last date of significance of the second historic context identified in the Multiple Property Document Listing.

The house at 1723 N. 29th St. in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska was occupied by the family of Trago T. and Ida Belle McWilliams from 1928 through 1941. This association renders the house significant on the local level under criterion B. Trago T. McWilliams worked throughout his life for the betterment of Lincoln's African American community as a pastor and community leader. The McWilliams House contributes to the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska." The property relates to the historic context entitled "Institution Building in an Era of Segregation, 1914 - 1941."

Trago T. McWilliams was born in Falls City, Nebraska in 1886 to Sarah J. and John Jefferson McWilliams. His parents, former slaves, came to Nebraska as homesteaders. Upon moving to Lincoln around 1887, the McWilliams parents were ordained as pastors in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1896, the McWilliams left Quinn Chapel AME Church to found the first integrated and nondenominational church in Lincoln.

Trago T. McWilliams graduated from Lincoln High School in 1904 and attended the University of Nebraska. He then worked at numerous jobs including operation and ownership of the "Quality Lunch" diners in downtown Lincoln, and owner and editor of newspaper *The Weekly Review*. In 1922, Trago McWilliams was ordained as a minister in the church of his parents, Third Christian Church. Throughout his life he ministered to the community both inside and out of the formal church.

McWilliams' community activities included working to organize the Lincoln Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and serving as the organization's first secretary in 1918; helping to establish the Prince Hall Mason's Grand Lodge of Nebraska in 1919 and serving as the Lodge's first Grand Secretary; and vigorously supporting the 1933 formation of the Lincoln Urban League through his role as editor of the African American newspaper, *The Weekly Review*. In recognition of his community efforts Nebraska Governor McMullen and Lincoln Mayor Frank Zehrung recognized him in 1933 as an outstanding Nebraskan by naming him to represent the state at the Educational Council in Kansas City, Mo. During World War II McWilliams was a foreman at the Martin Bomber Plant at Fort Crook (now Offutt Air Force Base) and was commended for meritorious service. He was still active as pastor of Christ Temple (Holiness) Church at the time of his death in 1951 at age 65, and his son, Rev. Trago O. McWilliams (1909-1986), continued to minister to that church for decades thereafter.

Trago T. McWilliams was significant to the African American community and to all of Lincoln as a churchman, civic leader, businessman, and champion of racial equality and harmony. His names are recalled on McWilliams Park at 25th and T Streets, near his church, and on Trago Park, near 21st and S Streets. His great-grandson recalls Trago T. McWilliams' contributions as follows:

"Rev. Trago T. McWilliams, Sr. was a man who wore many hats in and outside of the community of Lincoln. Not only the hats among the black community, but of many people during the segregation era. He was a man, who

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McWilliams House

Name of Property

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County and State

devoted his life for the Lord as well as a community leader, a friend to Lincoln's mayors, an owner of three restaurants, a social leader, and a mediator for all people in addition to being a husband and father and more to all. He invested his time in bringing the Urban League (which is now named the Clyde Malone Community Center) to Lincoln to the purchase of a building in Omaha for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A. F. & A. M. of the Prince Hall affiliation, for a meeting hall and civic center. He also typed letters to the editor of the local newspaper to describe the racial situations at Muny Pool. His interests in life was the church, his family, and the community."

While Trago T. McWilliams occupied the house on N. 29th Street for only a portion of his 65 years, it is the best-preserved historic property closely associated with this significant figure. It was also the McWilliams family home during a very active portion of his life, when he was fully engaged in his multiple civic, religious, and economic activities.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1.14	695900	4522190
Zone	Easting	Northing

2.	3.
	Zone Easting Northing
	4.
	[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Jon McWilliams, Great-Grandson	(with technical assistance Kathryn E. Colwell)
organization	Lincoln/Lancaster Planning Department	date April 1, 1999
street & number	555 S. 10th Street	telephone (402) 441-6360
city or town	Lincoln	state NE zip code 68508

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	Harold F. and Imogene I. Thies		
street & number	1700 N. 29th St.	telephone	(402) 466-4553
city or town	Lincoln	state	NE zip code 68503

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, ogathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

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McWilliams House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

WORKS CITED

"Christ Temple Mission." Unpublished Manuscript. Lincoln, Nebr., Courtesy Kendall McWilliams.

Lancaster County Register of Deeds."C.A. Hanna and J.B. Cunningham to William G. Nye." Book no. 62. Deed no. 3. Lancaster County, Nebraska, 1890.

Lincoln Star. 1951. "Rev. Trago McWilliams Dies at 65," 16 April.

Lincoln Star. 1951. Editorial, 17 April.

McWilliams, Art. Interview by Fannie Thomas, 1982, interview 10, transcript. Nebraska Black Oral History Project II, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, NE.

Sanborn Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas for Lincoln, Nebraska 1928*. Pelham, N.Y.: Sanborn Publishing, 1928.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property consists of Lot 17 & 18, block 3, W. H. Irvines Second Addition, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

These boundaries include the McWilliams House and all the property historically associated with it.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY McWilliams House
NAME:

MULTIPLE African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lin
NAME:coln, Nebraska MPS

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Lancaster

DATE RECEIVED: 5/27/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/09/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/25/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/11/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000748

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/25/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

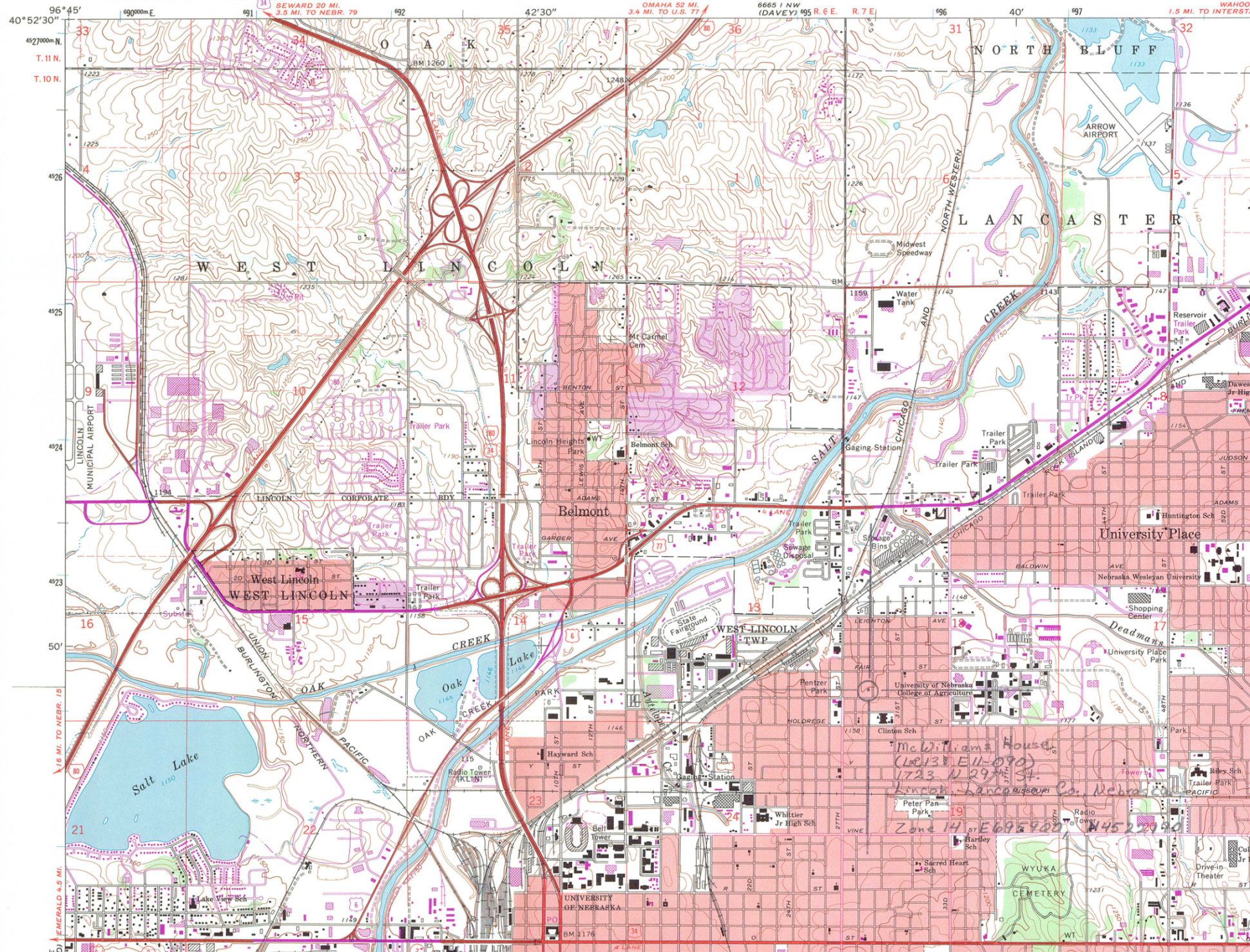
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

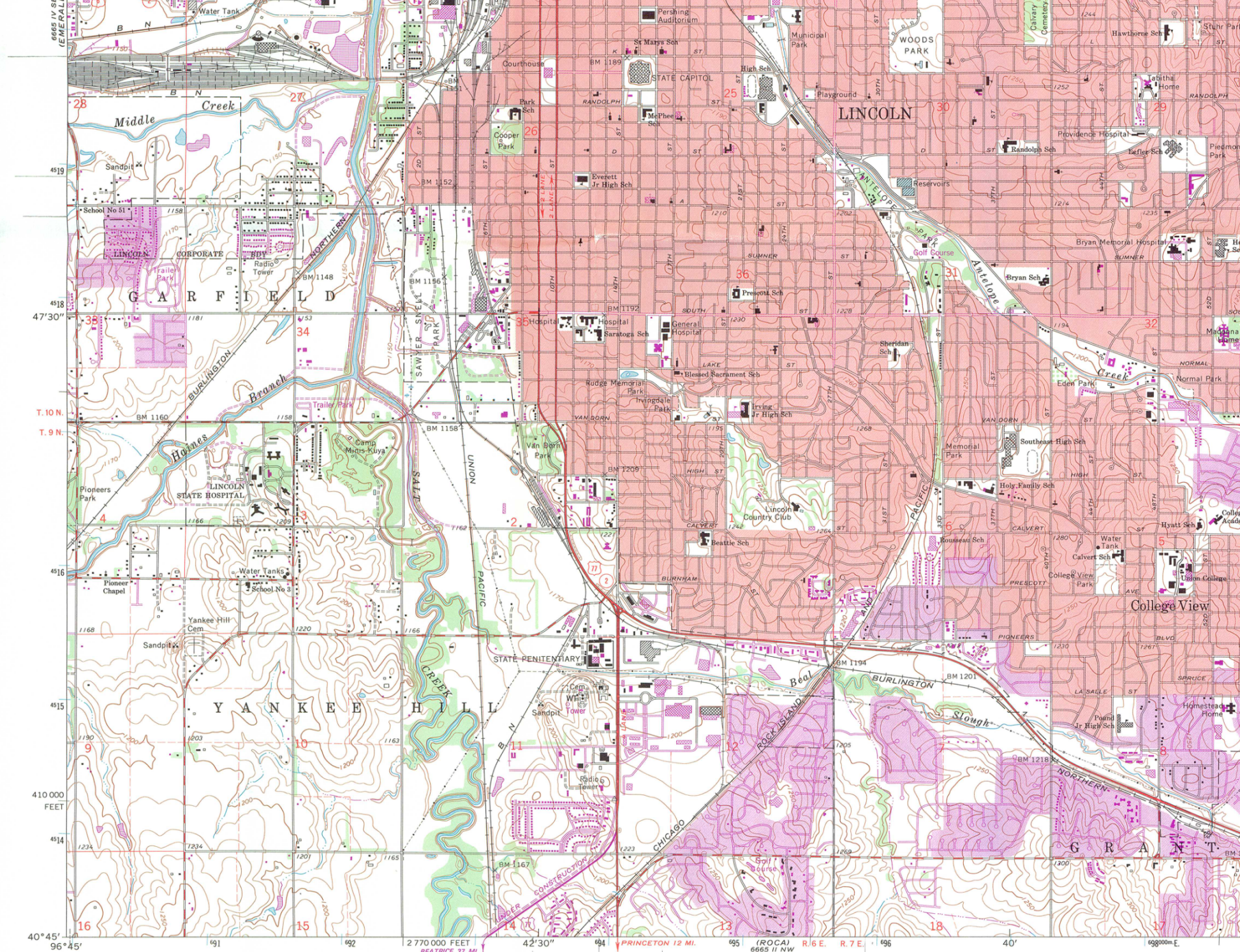
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



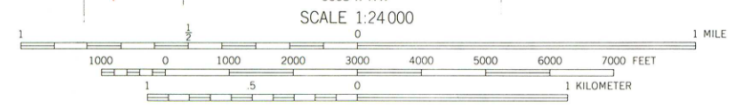
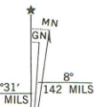
6665 14 NE
(RAYMOND)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1961 and planetable surveys 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983

move the projection lines 4 meters north and

26 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

UTM GRID AND 1980 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1972 and 1978. Map edited
1980. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1500 R STREET, P.O. BOX 82554, LINCOLN, NE 68501-2554
(402) 471-3270 Fax: (402) 471-3100 1-800-833-6747 www.nebraskahistory.org

May 25, 1999

Ms. Carol Shull
US Department of the Interior
NPS – Cultural Resources
National Register of Historic Places, Suite 400 NC
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: **McWilliams House**, 1723 North 29th
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above property. This nomination has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure