

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 18 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

~~*/~~ HISTORIC

Jesse C. Bickle House

AND/OR COMMON

The Maples

rh

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Crete off NE 33

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Crete

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

X VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

31

COUNTY

Saline

CODE

151

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- __DISTRICT
- X BUILDING(S)
- __STRUCTURE
- __SITE
- __OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- __PUBLIC
- X PRIVATE
- __BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- __IN PROCESS
- __BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- __OCCUPIED
- __UNOCCUPIED
- X WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- X YES: RESTRICTED
- __YES: UNRESTRICTED
- __NO

PRESENT USE

- __AGRICULTURE
- X MUSEUM
- __COMMERCIAL
- X PARK
- __EDUCATIONAL
- __PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- __ENTERTAINMENT
- __RELIGIOUS
- __GOVERNMENT
- __SCIENTIFIC
- __INDUSTRIAL
- __TRANSPORTATION
- __MILITARY
- __OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Crete Bicentennial Society

STREET & NUMBER

Box 277

CITY, TOWN

Crete

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Saline County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Wilber

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jesse C. Bickle house is located on an 18 acre tract of bottom land south of a bend in the Big Blue River west of Crete, Nebraska. The property includes grass and timbered lands as well as a small section of the Blue River. Structures on the property include the dwelling, a small frame barn and wood framed entrance gate with a sign announcing "The Maples" (see photo #1).

The dwelling is a two story frame tee-shaped structure with a rear (west) kitchen shed addition, the final form of which may have been arrived at by successive additions and alterations. The original dwelling, built ca. 1864 was a one story, two room log house. This log structure was oriented east-west and still supports the ground story of what is now the rear tee extension. Little is known of the original character of the log house. The present basement-cellar under the log portion appears to be original. The walls which support the log are dry-laid local limestone, while the log sill is hewn flat on its bottom side to rest firmly on the foundation. The floor of the log section is supported by large log joists notched into the log sills at the side walls and hewn flat on top to accept the floor boards.

The architectural evidence seems to indicate that the frame portions of the house were built at slightly different times. More intensive research, both architectural and historical, will be needed to determine the facts. This description will hypothesize that the frame sections were built at different times based upon both the plan form of the two sections and the interior and exterior architectural details.

Sometime around the early 1870s (Bickle had a sawmill on his property by 1870) the log house was enlarged slightly to the east and a second floor was added. The resultant form was a simple two story house with a gable roof, central entrance (south) gable, and gable end chimneys. The arrangement of the rooms and location of the stairway has not yet been determined, although the slightly off-center entrance leads to a passage (possibly a stair hall) which ran straight through the house to a door on the north. It seems logical to assume a hypothesis of a basic 3 over 2 or 2 over 2 room arrangement for the dwelling at this time.

By the mid to late 1870s (before 1879), Bickle made a final addition to the house. A new "front" was added on the east and substantial alterations were made to the remainder of the house. This front addition is highly reminiscent of the early I type house common to the prairie states of the Mississippi basin.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Long and narrow in plan, the tall vertical proportions of the gable ends, the central entrance and stair hall, and the gable end chimneys all relate to the I type house form. The 2 over 2 room arrangement with the central hall and stairway confirms this view.

The final addition to the house also gave Bickle an opportunity to dress the whole house in the prevailing stylistic garb. The gables of the house all (except the west gable) received a highly decorative verge-board in the Gothic mode and the chimneys of the new addition featured semi-elaborate corbeled brick designs which were popular by the 1870s. The hood moldings of the windows reflected the basic pedimented form of the earlier house, but were elaborated with additional moldings and a "flaring" of the pediment beyond the sides of the jamb itself. In its early days, the house also featured an elaborately detailed entrance porch on the east with a walk-out above. Wooden shutters were also used on all of the windows. The house was painted a light color with the verge-boards, corner pilasters, window moldings, shutters and porch trim painted in a dark color. Interior decorative details in this section included plaster molded ceiling medallions.

The house has deteriorated considerably over the years, perhaps most notably on the inside. In later years, the house served as an apartment house which has altered the basic floor plan. For the most part, however, the original plan information may be recoverable, as should some of the interior architectural features. Structurally, the house is in fair to good condition with the major problem appearing in the settlement of the last (or east front) addition. The brick foundation of this portion is in bad condition and has caused considerable problems, especially to the first floor of this section. Exterior alterations include the loss of the south end chimney of the latest addition, damage to the other three chimneys, the loss of the front entrance porch and all of the window shutters. The most recent paintings have been an all white color scheme, however, original colors may be preserved in earlier layers of paint.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1864 - 1870s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jesse C. Bickle homestead was patented by President U. S. Grant on September 1, 1869, after Bickle had proved a 5-year residency on his claim. His log cabin, ca. 1864, is now a part of the carpenter Gothic house Bickle completed in the 1870s.

Bickle was born near Coshocton, Ohio in 1820 and farmed in Illinois and Iowa before settling in Nebraska. He filed for a homestead on 160 acres of land along the Big Blue River in Saline County and became the first white settler in the area. His original home was a dugout in the bank of the river, but according to several historical accounts, a flood during his first year of residence forced him to build a cabin higher on the flood plain. Being the first permanent resident, he was named postmaster of the area on August 26, 1868, with the post office to be located in his cabin. He named the post office Crete in honor of his wife's hometown of Crete, Illinois.

In the summer of 1870, Jesse Bickle selected a site on the southern portion of his land and platted a town which he named Blue River City. Later that year the Burlington and Missouri Railroad Town Company chose a site directly adjacent to the north and east of Blue River City and laid out a town which would be on their new railroad line from Lincoln. This town was named Crete after Bickle's post office, as that name followed their plan to alphabetically name the towns along the B & M Line. (Berks Siding and Dorchester had been platted to the east and west of the proposed Crete site). A rivalry developed between the leaders of the two towns and the townsite company was entertaining the idea of relocating Crete, thereby isolating Blue River City from commercial growth. However, a compromise was reached and Blue River City and Crete were combined by an act of the Nebraska Legislature under the name of Crete before the first regular train came through June 12, 1871.

In addition to being a founding father of the community, Bickle was actively involved in the social life of the county. An account in Andreas' History of Nebraska, 1882, tells of a 4th of July party held in 1870 to celebrate the completion of

(see Continuation Sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>14</u>	<u>671980</u>	<u>4499160</u>	B	<u>14</u>	<u>671980</u>	<u>4498980</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>14</u>	<u>671840</u>	<u>4498980</u>	D	<u>14</u>	<u>671840</u>	<u>4499160</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries, Historian; D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

DATE

October, 1976

TELEPHONE

402-432-2793

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

Marvin J. Kretz

10/11/76

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

11/23/77

ATTEST:

Charles A. [Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.22.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Mr. Bickle's new barn (no longer extant). Over eight hundred people came from distances of thirty to forty miles to join in the festivities.

Jesse Bickle maintained his philanthropic attitude toward the community despite the antagonistic beginnings. In addition to his farming and stock raising activities on the homestead, he served on a committee in 1871 which investigated the possibility of the incorporation of Crete, a successful venture. In 1872 he opened a brick yard and burned 100,000 bricks that fall. Bickle also owned a general store in Pleasant Hill, then the county seat of Saline County, which was located about nine miles southwest of Crete.

Jesse Bickle's home was quite an attraction in early day Crete. In July of 1876, travelers from Michigan noted the impressive Bickle estate:

"Arriving at Crete on an excessively hot day, and missing the Michigan shade trees, our walks around town were suggestive of their value. Of course we sought out the magnificent fringe of green on the north of the city, where we soon found the Big Blue winding around between borders of stately shade trees of all kinds. Here also we came across a nice house all buried in refreshing green. Nature had tended to the matter on two sides, and the art of man on the others, where were rows of ornamental trees and a fine young orchard. Envy is a mean passion, yet we probably feel something akin to it, when we longed to possess a nest just about like that, or even that--if, etc. We inquired who was the happy owner of that spot. 'That! why that belongs to Mr. Bickle.'" (Saline County News, July 29, 1876)

In 1879 Bickle chose a site on his farm for the location of a community cemetery which was named Riverside. Owned by the city of Crete since the 1920s, it was platted by Bickle, who offered free lots for a time to those who wanted to move their relatives' graves from a nearby unkempt cemetery.

After Jesse Bickle died October 15, 1885, his widow rented out the first floor of their home. The house remained in the family until 1923 when Milton O. Smith purchased 18 acres of the property including the house. Smith operated an amusement park

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NOV 23 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

on the grounds and lived in the house. He named the acreage "The Maples", a name still commonly used when referring to the "old white house" nestled in the trees.

The Jesse C. Bickle house stands today as a significant example of Nebraska folk architecture whose facades display, to some extent, the additive nature of its form. Built up over a period of less than ten years, the house developed from its rudimentary log beginnings to a house which displayed considerable architectural refinement. This development, in turn reflects social and economic situations of Mr. Bickle who struggled with the problems of early settlement until his station in life had become substantial enough to found a town and remain one of its strongest supporters. Architecturally the house is both typical in the form and composition of the individual elements, and unique in the overall composition of the final, combined form. This, together with the overall Gothic revival character, especially of the east front section with its tall vertical proportions and steep pitched roof, establishes the dwelling as a significant example of the carpenter Gothic style which enjoyed only limited popularity in the state of Nebraska

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DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Andreas, A.T., History of Nebraska, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1882.

Crete Bicentennial Society, informants.

Gregory, Annadora F., Pioneer Days in Crete, Nebraska, State Journal Printing Co., 1937.

Saline County Census Records, Crete Precinct, 1870 and 1880.

Saline County Land Records, County Clerk's Office, Wilber, Nebraska.

State Vidette, Crete, Nebraska, pp. 5, col. 2, October 15, 1885.

Watkins, Albert, History of Nebraska, Vol. IIIA Lincoln: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1913.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Jesse Bickle House

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RECEIVED	JUN 6 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 23 1977

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

Verbal Boundary

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Commencing at a point 219 feet east and 33 feet north of the Southwest corner of Section Twenty-seven (27) Township Eight (8) North, Range Four (4) east of the 6th P.M., thence north parallel to the west line of said section Twenty-seven (27), a distance of 994 feet to the center of the Big Blue River, thence right 123 degrees, a distance of 133 feet, thence right 33 degrees and 30 minutes, a distance of 270 feet; thence left 20 degrees and 40 minutes, a distance of 120 feet, thence left 42 degrees and 30 minutes, a distance of 120 feet, thence left 51 degrees a distance of 130 feet, thence left 37 degrees a distance of 115 feet, thence right 88 degrees and 30 minutes, a distance of 325.8 feet, thence right 90 degrees, a distance of 16.5 feet, thence left 63 degrees and 40 minutes a distance of 284.5 feet, thence right 63 degrees and 40 minutes a distance of 365.25 feet, thence right 61 degrees, a distance of 600 feet, thence right 30 degrees a distance of 580 feet to the place of beginning, all in said Saline County, Nebraska and containing 16.978 acres, more or less, also described as Lots 19 and 9, being a part of the Southwest Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southwest Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twenty-seven (27) Township Eight (8) Range Four (4),

Except a parcel of land described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the southwest corner of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Eight (8) North, Range Four (4) East, thence easterly along the south line of Section Twenty-seven (27), a distance of 426 feet, thence northerly 90 degrees left a distance of 33 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing northerly on the same line a distance of 120 feet, thence easterly 90 degrees right a distance of 176 feet, thence southerly 90 degrees right a distance of 40 feet, thence easterly 90 degrees left a distance of 151 feet, thence southerly 90 degrees right a distance of 80 feet, thence westerly 90 degrees right a distance of 327 feet to the place of beginning.

Property Bickle, Jesse C, House

(The Maples)

477000838

State Nebraska

Working Number 10.18.76.4326

Saline Co.

TECHNICAL

Photos 6
Maps 1

CONTROL

K P
OK 10.19.76

HISTORIAN

call, then accept
B. Grovener
11/10/76

we should have a boundary description

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

As written, property is only architecturally significant. Therefore, either acreage should be reduced or statement submitted elaborating on significance in terms of settlement. (was River included in original tract?) and justifying 18 acres as original homestead grant.

Call ~~Holt~~
Lebonich
11.26.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

This 18 acres represents original settlement tract - also gate at other end of land

4/7/77
Lebonich
accept
6.23.77

New material received (VLD) 6/16/77

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
6/24/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Hung
11.17.77

KEEPER

Petting for Murtagh
11/23/77

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered NOV 23 1977

Federal Register Entry 2-7-78

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Saline County, Neb.

PHOTO #1 *76*

Jesse C. Bickle House
Vicinity of Crete, Nebraska
D. Murphy - Nebraska State
Historical Society
October, 1975
NSHS #7510/2:31

General view of the property
showing "The Maples" gateway
and the dwelling in the back-
ground, looking north.

OCT 18 1976

NOV 23 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Saline County, Neb.

PHOTO #2 of 6

Jesse C. Bickle House
Vicinity of Crete, Nebraska
D. Murphy - Nebraska State
Historical Society
September, 1975
NSHS #7509/3:27

General view of the Bickle House
showing the south facade.

OCT 18 1976

NOV 23 1977



43

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Saline County, Neb.

PHOTO #3 *of 6*

Jesse C. Bickle House
Vicinity of Crete, Nebraska
D. Murphy - Nebraska State
Historical Society
September, 1975
NSHS #7509/3:31

NOV 23 1977

View of the main entrance (east)
facade looking north-northwest.

OCT 18 1976



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Dalaine County, Neb.

PHOTO #4 of 6

Jesse C. Bickle House
Vicinity of Crete, Nebraska
D. Murphy - Nebraska State
Historical Society
September, 1975
NSHS #7509/3:34

General view of the north and
east facades looking south-
southwest.

OCT 18 1976

NOV 23 1977



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Saline County, Neb.

PHOTO #5 86

Jesse C. Bickle House
Vicinity of Crete, Nebraska
D. Murphy - Nebraska State
Historical Society

September, 1975
NSHS #7509/3:30

NOV 23 1977

Detail view: elaborate verge-
boards of the easternmost
gable of the south facade -
looking north.

OCT 18 1976



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Saline County, Neb.

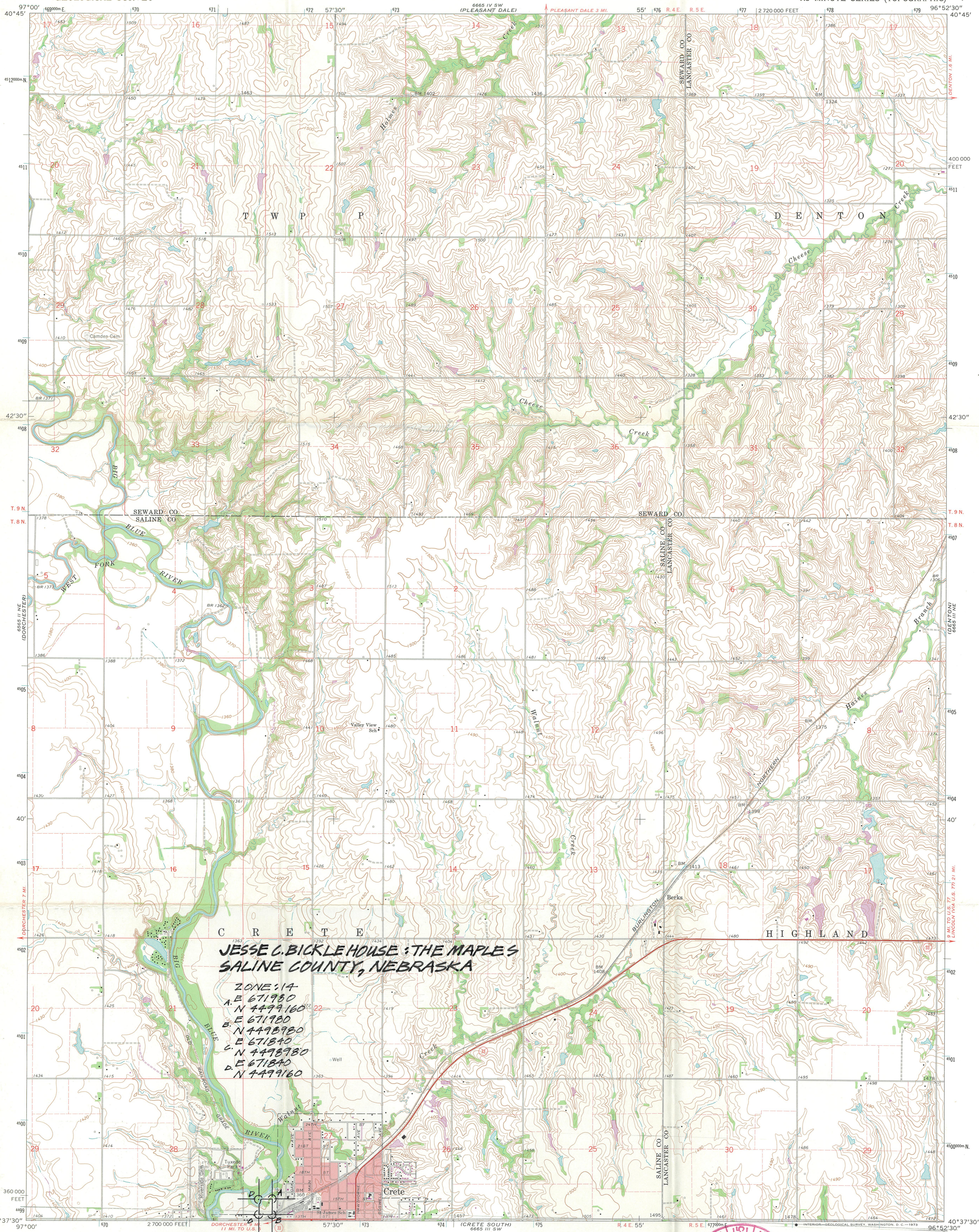
PHOTO #6 *86*

Jesse C. Bickle House
Vicinity of Crete, Nebraska
D. Murphy - Nebraska State

Historical Society NOV 23 1977
September, 1975
NSHS #7509/3:33

General view of the small frame
barn looking northeast.

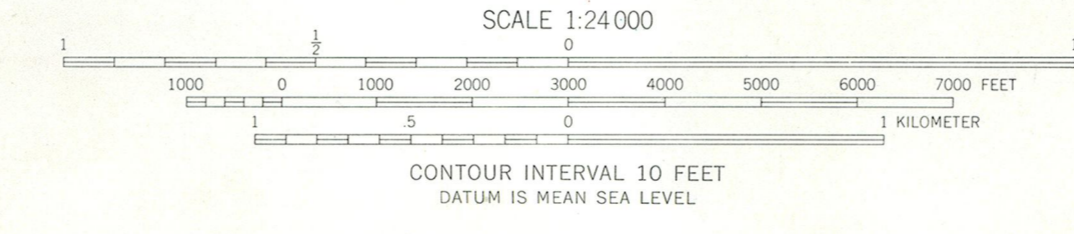
OCT 18 1976



**JESSE C. BICKLE HOUSE: THE MAPLES
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

ZONE: 14
A. E 671980
N 4499160
B. E 671980
N 4498980
C. E 671840
N 4498780
D. E 671840
N 4499160

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area 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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy duty ——— Light duty ———
Unimproved dirt - - - - -
State Route ○

CRETE, NORTH, NEBR.
N4037.5—W9652.5/7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 6665 III NW—SERIES V875

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State Historic Preservation Office

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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 Charles W. Martin Omaha
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 James A. Rawley Lincoln
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 Nellie Snyder Yost North Platte

MARVIN F. KIVETT
 DIRECTOR-SECRETARY



Phone 402/432-2793

October 8, 1976

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 OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEBRASKA
 JACK POLLOCK, PRESIDENT OF
 THE NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION

1500 R STREET
 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508



Dr. William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of the National Register
 National Park Service
 Department of the Interior
 Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

On behalf of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Board we are endorsing the following nomination for your consideration to the National Register of Historic Places:

1. Jesse C. Bickle House

If there are any questions concerning the nomination, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Marvin F. Kivett
 Marvin F. Kivett
 State Historic Preservation Officer

MFK:psb

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 Nellie Snyder Yost North Platte

MARVIN F. KIVETT
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 OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEBRASKA
 JACK POLLOCK, PRESIDENT OF
 THE NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION

1500 R STREET
 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

Phone 402/432-2793

May 31, 1977

p. 10. 18,76

Dr. William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of the National Register
 National Park Service
 Department of the Interior
 18th and C Streets, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Please find enclosed the verbal boundary description requested in regard to the Jesse Bickle House/The Maples.

If there are any further questions regarding this nomination please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Marvin F. Kivett

Marvin F. Kivett
 State Historic Preservation Officer

MFK:lab

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEBRASKA

Date Entered NOV 23 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ziemer, Arthur C., House	Lincoln Lancaster County
Lee, George F., Octagon Houses	Nebraska City vicinity Otoe County
Nya House	Fremont Dodge County
O'Connor, Cornelius, House	Homer vicinity Dakota County
Bickle, Jesse C., House (The Maples)	Crete vicinity Saline County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward Zorinsky

Hon. Carl T. Curtis

Hon. Charles Thone

Regional Director, Midwest Region

880

Mott/js

12/2/77

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Marvin F. Kivett
Director, Nebraska State
Historical Society
1500 R Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/14/76
Reviewer INITIALS: B6
DOE NOV 23 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Bickle, Jesse C., House (The Maples)

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER W of Crete off NE 33

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

STATE Nebraska 31

VICINITY OF Crete

COUNTY code
Saline 151

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 5	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 6
<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable - 9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0 - but recoverable

CONDITION -	<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/> Excavated	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- house, outbuildings, farm; amusement park; apartment
now- museum, park

SIGNIFICANCE:

<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> health
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC		<input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY		<input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: CARPENTER GOTHIC

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal Jesse C. Bickle (1820-1885) - owner, homesteader - 1st permanent settler, 1st post master, town booster

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1864; 1870s

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1864-1885

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

18

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

FRAME, 2 STORY, F SHAPED, STEEP GABLES, SCROLL BARGEBOARDS

RECTANGULAR BARD

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Jesse C. Bickle House is a significant example of Nebraska vernacular architecture, and was built by Jesse Bickle, the area's first permanent resident, whose social & commercial activities contributed to the founding and growth of the town.