

PH0367265

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 MAY 11 1976  
 RECEIVED  
 DATE ENTERED APR 18 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  
 Israel Beetison House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

SE of Ashland

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

VICINITY OF

CODE

31

COUNTY

Saunders

CODE

155

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Beetison

STREET & NUMBER

RFD 1

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

STATE

Nebraska

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Saunders County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wahoo

STATE

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located high upon the rugged Platte River bluffs near the mouth of Salt Creek, the Israel Beetison house was built near the old Ox-Bow Trail, which crossed Salt Creek at the Salineford about one-half mile northwest of the house. The trail ruts are still visible east of the house. Built in 1874-1875 of locally quarried limestone, the house was constructed by the Dalton brothers, local masons. A similar limestone dwelling was also built by them in 1880. The remains of this house still stand a couple of miles east of the Beetison house.

The dwelling is "tee" shaped and consists of two well-defined components. The main living portion of the house is square in plan, two stories in height and has a hipped roof. The "tee" is formed by a 1½-story extension to the north which is covered with a gable roof. A frame cupola crowns the hipped roof of the main portion of the house. The house contains ten rooms, one on each floor of the "tee" extension (the kitchen is on the ground floor), and four rooms on each floor of the main portion of the house. Vertical circulation is by the centrally-located stairway off of the east entrance of the house.

Stylistically, the house is representative of the Italianate mode of design. Distinguishing features of the style include the cupola, the bracketed cornice, the gablets symmetrically placed in the cornice of the two-story element, the segmentally-arched windows and the bold stone quoins at the corners of the building. Distinguished also is the handling of the stone on the various facades. The main (east) facade is constructed of coursed ashlar while the remaining walls were built of faced rubble.

The house has seen some alterations over the years, most notably the removal of the Eastlake-styled porches along the east facade. Only one interior wall has been removed while other changes on the inside have been confined to paint and wall paper. The most alarming alteration to the house has been the loss of keystones over some of the second floor windows. The house's foundation is set on bedrock, which forms a continuous shelf about two miles to the north. This shelf has been quarried since the late 19th century; however, explosives have been used once a day for the past 20 years. The shock from these explosives has slowly taken its toll on this structure as seen in the loss of the keystones.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Existing Surveys ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

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A Survey of Historic, Architectural and Archeological Sites  
in the Eastern Nebraska Urban Region  
1971 (State)  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
Lincoln, Nebraska

## 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 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 1874-1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Dalton Brothers

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Israel Beetison house stands as one of the fine examples of the Italianate style of architecture in Nebraska. Due to the economic hardship associated with the settlement of a wilderness territory, the Greek and Gothic Revivals saw very little development in Nebraska before they had passed out of favor. The Italianate was probably the first style in the state to gain widespread popularity. This may have been, in part, due also to the fact that the style did not make rigid demands in terms of execution. We find the style expressed in a considerable variety of ways before it was replaced with more Victorian tastes.

The house is a variant of one of the typical plan-forms which have been associated with the Italianate style (see pending National Register nomination, Boscobel, Otoe County). Basically a rectangular block, the "tee" is derived from the gabled extension to the north. Similar extensions were used throughout the state to gain needed interior space without the expense of building a much larger house in an attempt to keep all of the space within the confines of the "ideal" form. As an example, the Thomas P. Kennard house (National Register nomination, Lancaster County) originally had a similar extension to the rear of the basic ell-shaped plan-form. Others could be cited.

The house, then, is related to such Italianate examples as the Tipton house and the Muir house (National Register of Historic Places, Brownville Historic District, Nemaha County). Each facade of the basic rectangular block reveals a symmetrical composition in the location of door and window openings. The Beetison house, like the Muir house, displays the variant cornice design which utilizes symmetrically disposed gablets on each facade. What makes the house interesting as a variant of plan-form is the assymmetrical disposition of the 1½-story extension. Normally we would expect to see it appended to the rear of the house, but here we see it flanking the main facade, producing a more informal or picturesque effect to the whole. This is consistent with the tendency of Italianate to move away from the classical cube (as represented by the Tipton house) toward the more picturesque imagery (seen in the Kennard house and Boscobel) which became the primary concern of the late 19th century.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gowans, Alan: Images of American Living, Philadelphia & New York: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1964.  
 Nebraska State Historical Society: County research files  
 Whiffen, Marcus: American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	4	7	2	2	5	0	0	4	5	4	5	4	2	5
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

C 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

D 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

D. Murphy, Architect

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

May 1976

STREET & NUMBER

15 1500 R Street

TELEPHONE

(402) 432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

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

*Marvin O. Kuetts*

5/10/76

TITLE Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF *[Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/18/77

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/28/77

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

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The significance of this dwelling as an example of the Italianate style is seen most clearly in its use of ideal Italianate design motifs. Featuring the prominent frame cupola, low-pitched hipped roof, and the bracketed eaves, the house also displays paired, segmentally-arched windows set into a smooth wall surface which is interrupted only at the corners with the well-defined quoins. The consistency of its design and the compatibility of its form vis-à-vis the ideal symbolic intent of the style, combine to establish the Beetison house as one of the outstanding Italianate dwellings in Nebraska.

Property

Beetsia, Israel, House

77000839

State

Neb.

Working Number

5.17.76. 3445

Saunders Co

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 5  
Maps 1

OK 5.20.76  
*cm*

**HISTORIAN**

*accept*  
J. Groves  
4/30/76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
S. Adham  
7/15/76

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Accept*  
3.25.77  
Cole  
7-16-76

**KEEPER**

*Wm*  
3/28/77

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered **APR 18 1977**

Federal Register Entry 6.7.77

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office

DOE APR 18 1977

#1-5  
#1-Israel Beetison House  
Saunders County, Nebraska  
Photo by D. Murphy, February 1976  
Neg.: Nebraska State Historical  
Society, 1500 R St., Lincoln, Ne  
General view showing the main  
(east) entrance and south facades,  
looking northwest MAY 17 1976



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#2

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State Historical Preservation Office

DJE APR 18 1977

185  
#2-Israel Beetison House  
Saunders County, Nebraska  
Photo by D. Murphy, February 1976  
Neg.: Nebraska State Historical  
Society, 1500 R St., Lincoln, Ne.  
View of the main (east) entrance  
facade, looking west.

MAY 17 1976



#3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office

00 APR 18 1977

865  
#3-Israel Beetison House  
Saunders County, Nebraska  
Photo by D. Murphy, February 1976  
Neg.: Nebraska State Historical  
Society, 1500 R Street, Lincoln  
Detail view of the stone wall and  
quoins at the east wall, south  
corner, looking west. MAY 17 1976



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office

DOE APR 18 1977

*of 5*  
MAY 17 1976  
#4-Israel Beetison House  
Saunders County, Nebraska  
Photo by D. Murphy, February 1976  
Neg.: Nebraska State Historical  
Society, 1500 R St., Lincoln  
View looking east from the house  
showing Ox-Bow Trail ruts across  
ridge.

*14*



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#5

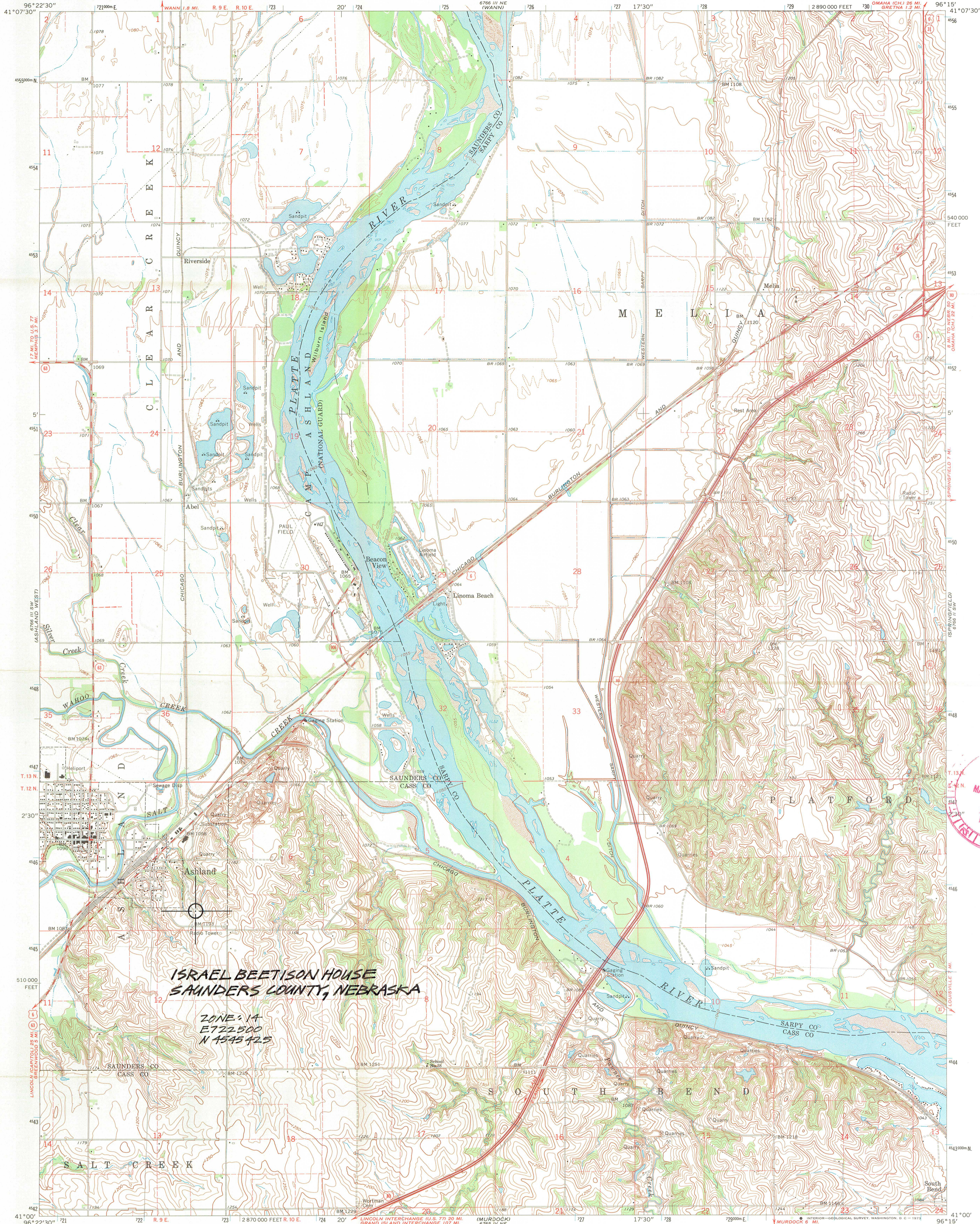
NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office

DOE APR 18 1977

#5  
MAY 17 1976

#5-Israel Beetison House  
Saunders County, Nebraska  
Photo ca. 1880; copy negative at  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
#7602/1

Historic view of the Beetison  
House, showing original porches on  
the main (east) facade, looking sw



**ISRAEL BEETSON HOUSE**  
**SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

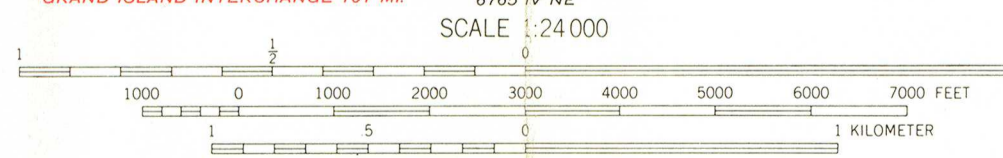
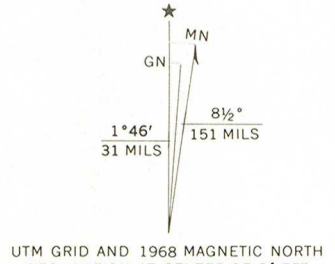
ZONE: 14  
E 722500  
N 4543425

RECEIVED  
MAY 17 1976  
NATIONAL REGISTER

APR 18 1977

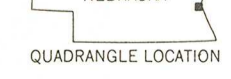
NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office

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 1966. Field checked 1968  
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  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface. Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface.  
Secondary highway, all weather, fair or dry hard surface. Unimproved road, fair or dry weather.  
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



ASHLAND EAST, NEBR.  
N4100—W9615/7.5

1968

AMS 6766 III SE—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

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 Otto Kotouc, Jr., 2nd Vice President . . .Humboldt  
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 Nes Latenser . . . . . Omaha  
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 James A. Rawley . . . . . Lincoln  
 S.N. Wolbach . . . . . Grand Island  
 Warren C. Wood . . . . . Gering

MARVIN F. KIVETT  
 DIRECTOR-SECRETARY



Phone 402/432-2793

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 CLARENCE HEBDA, PRESIDENT OF  
 THE NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION

1500 R STREET  
 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

May 7, 1976

Robert B. Rettig  
 Acting Keeper of the National Register  
 Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service  
 13th and C Streets, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20005



Dear Mr. Rettig:

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. The Israel Beetison 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:lab

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **NEBRASKA**

Date Entered **APR 18 1977**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Beetison, Israel, House</b>	<b>Ashland vicinity Saunders County</b>

Also Notified

Hon. Edward Zorinsky  
Hon. Carl T. Curtis  
Hon. Charles Thone

Regional Director, Midwest Region

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

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 6/30  
Reviewer INITIALS: JG  
NR DOE APR 18 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *Rectson, Israel, House*

OTHER NAMES:

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER *SE of Oakland*  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE *Nebraska* VICINITY OF *Ashland* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT *1st*  
COUNTY *Saunders* code *155*

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:

INTERIOR Substantially intact-1  
 unknown - 4  
 not applicable - 7  
 EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2  
 unknown - 5  
 not applicable - 8  
 ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3  
 unknown - 6  
 Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -  EXCELLENT  GOOD  FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  RUINS  UNEXPOSED  Unexcavated  
 UNALTERED  ALTERED  Reconstructed  Excavated  
 ORIGINAL SITE  MOVED  Unknown

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*

now- *House*

## SIGNIFICANCE:

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

## Claims

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

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Italianate*

~~architect~~/m.builder: *Dalton Brothers*

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal

(label role  
&  
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1874-1875*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) */*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

description: limestone, 2 stories, T-shaped, hipped roof with <sup>central</sup> ~~large~~ frame cupola, interior chimneys, center entrance on east facade, paired windows under keystone segmental arches, quoins, <sup>decorative</sup> bracketed cornice, gabled roof interruptions, "tee" formed by 1 1/2-story gabled extension; east porch removed.

explosives used in quarrying have had some effect, such as causing the loss of some of the keystones over the 2nd-story windows.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Israel Beetsen House is one of Nebraska's most outstanding Italianate buildings