

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Heber Hord House  
other names/site number Hord House; NeHBS # MK02-7

### 2. Location

street & number 1505 16th Street  N/A not for publication  
city, town Central City  N/A vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Merrick code 121 zip code 68826

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

James A. Hanson 10-19-87  
Signature of certifying official Date

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Classic Box

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

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walls Wood/Weatherboard

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roof Asphalt

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other Brick

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Heber Hord House, built in 1906 and located in Central City, Nebraska, is a rectangular, two-story frame residence with raised basement. It is a Cubic Form house, commonly called the Classic Box, with a rear addition. It features a hip roof with four hipped dormers, a full-frontal porch which has been partially enclosed, and a bay window and carriage portico on the west. The interior is spacious and accentuated by hardwood floors and doors, inlaid woodwork, original lighting fixtures, three fireplaces and a great hall with open staircase. A carriage house, converted to a five stall garage with second floor apartment, is located to the rear. The integrity of both structures is good. A 1923 remodelling of the house changed its character very little with the original floorplan retained. This nomination consists of two contributing buildings - a house and a garage.

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Located in Central City, Nebraska, (1980 population, 3,083), the Heber Hord House is a two-story Cubic Form House, commonly called the Classic Box. It was built in 1906 and designed by Omaha architects Fisher and Lawrie, with a 1923 remodelling by Omahan F. A. Henninger. The frame building is 39 feet wide and 56 feet long including a rear addition. It has a raised concrete block basement and is covered by a hip roof with four hipped dormers. The roof is punctured by two brick chimneys at the north and east exterior walls. The front (south) facade originally featured a full frontal porch with bay window to the east of the central front door. In the 1923 remodelling the window was removed when the east end of the porch was enclosed to create a sun porch. On the second story directly over the front entrance is a projecting bay window. The carriage portico is located on the west with a bay window to the north of it. The east facade features an oriel window on the second story.

The interior of the house exhibits original lighting fixtures, hard wood floors and doors, inlaid woodwork, and three fireplaces. Particularly striking is the great hall and open

 See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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stairway to the second floor, which are centrally located in the house. At the front of the house are the sitting room and the reception room. Directly behind those rooms are the den, and the formal dining room which has an entrance to the china pantry and also to the kitchen. The remainder of the first floor is taken up by a servants' dining room, a kitchen pantry, a refrigeration area and a half bath under the central stairway which was added in the 1923 remodelling.

Located on the second floor are four bedrooms, a sleeping porch, and two baths. The attic area consists of one large room with numerous closets once used as servants quarters. The basement has eight rooms, including a vegetable cellar, coal room, laundry room, and bathroom.

At the rear of the property is the frame carriage house. It has been converted to a five stall garage with a one-bedroom apartment on the second level.

The integrity of both the house and the garage is excellent, with the 1923 remodelling having changed the character of the house very little.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Agriculture  
Industry

Period of Significance  
1906-1937

Significant Dates  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
Heber Hord

Architect/Builder  
Fisher, George Lee (Fisher and Lawrie)  
Lawrie, Harry (Fisher and Lawrie)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Heber Hord House is significant on a state level, under criteria A and B for its associations with rancher and businessman Heber Hord. Hord's father, T. B. Hord, established several large cattle feeding operations, numerous grain elevators, an alfalfa meal company and several lumber yards across the state of Nebraska. Acquiring business acumen from his father, Heber Hord established the Alkali Products Company and managed the many family operations, surviving the depression of the 1930s with several businesses intact. Hord lived in this house from 1906 to his death in 1949, during which time he was managing the Hord businesses. The period of significance begins in 1906 and ends in 1937, the last year in which the property continues to meet the 50 year criterion.

**HISTORY**

Thomas Benton Hord, better known as T. B., was born in 1850 at Marion, Ohio. In 1881, he moved his wife and two children to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where, with business associates, he founded the Citizens National Bank, obtained the first telephone franchise and established the Lance Creek Cattle Company located at Lusk, Wyoming.

After the devastating 1885-1886 blizzard, T. B. transferred the bulk of his cattle operation to Central City, Nebraska, from which he directed the expansion and diversification of his business interests. An initial feeding operation was soon completed which resulted in approximately fifty elevators eventually being located across Nebraska, Iowa, and Wyoming. Other operations included the Hord Land and Cattle Company, Hord and Shonsey Cattle Company, T. B. Hord Alfalfa Meal Company, the 70,000 acre Lakeside Ranch in northwest Nebraska, and various lumber yards as

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Architect/Builder  
Henninger, Fred A.

well as feed and farm supply houses. During the height of T.B.'s career, the Central City feeding operation as well as the grain company were considered by many to be respectively the largest such enterprises in the state of Nebraska. Moreover, the live-stock feeding venture, which accommodated 16,000 cattle and 12,000 hogs in 1908, was judged by some the largest in the world. These various business endeavors of Mr. Hord had a far-reaching effect and profound influence upon the economic development of Central City and Merrick County.

Heber Hord, T. B.'s only son, born in 1877, lived and worked on one of the family's ranches until 1906. At that time construction was completed on the dwelling at 1505 16th Street in Central City, and Heber, his wife Effie, their infant son and daughter moved in. Through close association with his father, Heber Hord acquired the necessary business acumen to conduct the affairs of the far-ranging Hord operations upon the death of T. B. Hord in 1910. He fed as many as 97,000 sheep in one year, while simultaneously processing about 8,000 head of cattle. In 1922, he purchased 600 purebred cows and calves and an additional 2,000 head of the same stock the following year. He not only administered existing business enterprises successfully, but also established the Hord Alkali Products Company of Lakeside in 1917. This venture into the Nebraska Potash Industry was lucrative for only a short time, with operations suspended in 1921.

Despite numerous financial setbacks during the Depression, which resulted in the loss of various companies, Heber salvaged three key Hord enterprises - Lakeside Ranch Company, T. B. Hord Grain Company, and Hord and Son, Inc. These three entities essentially represented the latter day focuses of business activity for Heber Hord until his death in 1949.

Throughout his life, Heber displayed a pronounced community consciousness and civic pride. He donated his father's home to Central City for use as a hospital facility (Hord Memorial Hospital-not extant). Other gifts included the town library and post office sites. His commitment to the stockgrowers community was evidenced by his active membership in the Nebraska Stock-growers Association and his twenty-five year tenure on the board of directors of the Union Stockyards Company of Omaha.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

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Thomas Barge Hord, son of Heber and grandson of T. B., learned the family business under the tutelage of his father. In 1931 he became general manager of the Lakeside Ranch near Alliance and was responsible for implementing use of various mechanical innovations that enhanced overall efficiency of ranch operations. Among them was haying equipment, specifically, the all-steel stacker developed by Thomas himself. In addition to managing the Lakeside facility, he also administered the other family enterprises for a number of years. With the sale of the Lakeside Ranch Company in 1972, Hord business operations were essentially concluded. Thomas Barge Hord and his wife are now retired, residing in the Heber Hord House during the summer months.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Heber Hord House is significant on the state level under Criterion B for its associations with rancher and businessman Heber Hord, and under Criterion A in the areas of agriculture and industry.

The Hord Family legacy consists of entrepreneurial achievement complimented by an established record of community service. Through their various business activities related to livestock and agriculture they contributed immeasurably to the local and state economies. It was from the house at 1505 16th Street that Heber Hord supervised the numerous and large-scale activities and conducted the state-wide business dealings of the Hord family for 43 years. (The home of T. B. Hord served this same purpose during the early years of the family business, but is no longer extant). Central City, Merrick County, and Nebraska as a whole owe much to the dedicated efforts of this influential family.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property less than one

UTM References

A 

1	4	5	8	4	9	3	15	4	5	5	1	9	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Block 8; Metcalf Addition to Central City, Merrick County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The 8 city lots include all historically associated property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Julie Kuzelka, Intern; Kathleen Fimple, Preservation Historian, Dennis Madden, Archivist  
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date August 1987  
street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-4787  
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission. **Patterns on the Landscape: Heritage Conservation in North Omaha.** Omaha, Nebraska, 1984.

Merrick County History Book Committee. **History of Merrick County, Nebraska.** Taylor Publishing, 1981.

Merrick County's 100th Year. 1958.

Morse, Ruth. "Hello There" in **The Nebraska Cattleman.** The Nebraska Stock Growers Association, Alliance, Nebr., January, 1948.

**A Picture Story: The Sale of a Part of the T. B. Hord Ranch, Central City, Nebraska.** Payne Investment Company, Omaha, Nebraska, no date.

"T. B. Hord Answers Final Call." Central City Nonpareil, December 29, 1910.

"The Tree of Progress." Omaha World-Herald. August 14, 1923.

Watkins, Albert. **History of Nebraska.** Lincoln, NE, 1913.





Aspect: southeast

Photo by C.R. Johnson, 1987, NSHS (8709/1:23)



Aspect: southwest

Photo by C.R. Johnson, 1987, NSHS (8709/1:15)



Living room fireplace

Photo by C.R. Johnson, 1987, NSHS (8709/1:2)



Carriage house looking SW  
Photo by C.R. Johnson, 1987, NSHS (8709/1:22)