

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

08000600

National 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 Property

Historic name William and Emma Guhl Farmhouse
Other names/site number BT00-094

2. Location

Street & number 1560 Highway 77 Not for publication
City or town Oakland Vicinity
State Nebraska Code NE County Burt Code 021 Zip code 68045

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.)

/s/Michael J. Smith
Signature of certifying official

May 16, 2008
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:

- 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 Keeper

Date of Action

William and Emma Guhl Farmhouse

Name of Property

Burt County, Nebraska

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	Buildings
		Sites
1		Structures
		Objects
6	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE/storage

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS/Prairie School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Brick

Walls Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Other _____

Narrative Description

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

William and Emma Guhl Farmhouse

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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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914-1929

Significant Dates

1914, 1916, 1922, 1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

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 # _____
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.78

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	710402	4641073	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill E. Dolberg/Historic Buildings Survey Coordinator

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date 9 April 2008

street & number 1420 P Street

telephone (402) 471-4773

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/title Mark and Stephanie Hultquist

street & number 1560 Highway 77

telephone (402) 685-6801

city or town Oakland

state Nebraska zip code 68045

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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, gathering 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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William and Emma Guhl Farmhouse

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The William and Emma Guhl Farmhouse, constructed in 1922, is situated on a quarter section of land located three and a half miles north of Oakland, Nebraska on Nebraska State Highway 77. Along the north side of the property is a windbreak of trees, planted in perfect lines. The property is surrounded on the north, west and south by agricultural farmland, much of which was historically associated with the farmstead, however has since been sold separately to other landowners. The former farmyard is planted in grass, and has four contributing outbuildings and a contributing corn crib from its historic period, and one new yet complimentary garage building that is noncontributing due to its age.

This Prairie style American Foursquare residence is a rectangular shaped, two and a half story wood frame structure with an asphalt shingle bellcast hipped roof with hipped dormers on the north, south and east elevations. It has a farinwall foundation with a brick veneer exterior covering the farinwall bricks. The façade contains an asymmetrical entrance with an oak door with beveled glass and beveled glass sidelights. The one story hipped porch has a brick closed rail with an asymmetrical set of steps leading to the door, and a hexagonal tiled floor.

Windows are all original multi-light upper sash double hung windows that reflect the house's Prairie style. The upper sash has long vertical muntins, and a horizontal muntin that creates a series of squares at the top of the sash. The number of lights in the upper sash varies from window to window, depending on the size of the opening.

In addition to the porch entry on the east façade, there are two entrances on the south elevation that faces the farmyard. One leads directly into the dining room and has another attractive oak door. The last leads into an enclosed porch off of the kitchen that no doubt was used as a mudroom. The exterior siding that forms the interior walls of this room indicate that the room was enclosed sometime after the building was built, but the enclosure of the porch happened well within the farmhouse's historic period. In fact, the siding matches perfectly.

Upon entering the house from the main entrance, which was probably only rarely used, one finds oneself in the living room which runs the width of the house. The house is rife with oak floors and Craftsman woodwork, such as broad oak baseboards. A paneled stair on the north side of the room leads to the second story bedrooms. A Craftsman colonnade with battered piers such as one might see on a bungalow porch separates the living room from the dining room on the south side of the house. One of the cabinets of the colonnade is a traditional glassed in bookshelf, while the other conceals a secretary desk with pigeonhole cubbies. The dining room has a large built in buffet with four cabinet doors above and drawers below, and an oak top with a beveled glass mirror behind and on the sides.

A doorway from the dining room leads into the kitchen, which largely honors its original configuration. Its original broad porcelain farmhouse sink is still in place, and some cabinets have been rearranged. The room has a tall narrow door that conceals a built in ironing board. A small room off of the kitchen was originally the sewing room, but now houses laundry facilities. A laundry chute from the second floor and the kitchen allowed the family to deposit laundry into the basement, although a carefully placed board now stops the laundry on the first floor. A doorway from the kitchen leads to the butler's pantry, which has built in cabinets, drawers, kneading boards, and flour and sugar bins. In addition, the pantry has a built in oak ice box with a door to the outside for the delivery of the ice. The ice would slowly melt and the water would run through a pipe to the basement and into a drain.

Another door in the kitchen provides access to the stairs into the basement. The basement is the full footprint of the house, with eleven foot ceilings. There is a coal chute visible on the outside of the house that leads to a room that is still full of coal. The family received a delivery just before switching to heating oil, the equipment for which is still present as well. A back room has some original canning cabinets.

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There is one bedroom on the first floor, located behind the kitchen between the butler's pantry and the stairs to the second story. It had a deep walk in closet which was long ago converted into a first floor bathroom. Before this conversion, the only bathroom was located on the second floor.

Upon ascending the stairs to the second floor, the stairway spills out into an open rectangular landing, from which all of the bedrooms and the bathroom are accessed. The bathroom still retains all of its original fixtures. The landing space has a linen closet and a built in cabinet with drawers. The oak door for the laundry chute is located between the bathroom and one of the bedroom doors. There are five bedrooms upstairs, of various sizes. Two of the bedrooms have built in dressers in the closets. Some of the closets have windows to provide light. A bedroom on the back side of the house has a door to a second story porch over the enclosed porch off of the kitchen. Standing outside, it merely looks like the roof of the porch, however it has a tin covering and is perfectly flat. It is missing its railing that would prevent people from falling or even straying too far over into the eaves, but the owners intend to reconstruct it, and one can see a discoloration in the tin that provides evidence of where it had been.

A door on the landing provides access to the attic story. The attic space is finished with oak floors and stairs, Craftsman railing on the stairs, and plaster finished walls. The west side of the attic and the northwest and southwest corners of the attic space were framed off of the main room to create storage space. Light is obtained through the dormer windows on the north, south and east elevations.

The Guhl property also contains four other contributing buildings, one contributing structure and one noncontributing building. As a former farmstead, the property had many outbuildings that supported the agricultural pursuits of the farm. There is a 1914 shop building, that is a one story gabled building that is a wood frame structure built of board and batten construction. The shop has a large garage door under the gable end to allow for large machines to enter and exit the building. There is one one-over-one double hung window on the gable end by the garage door, as well as a number of small fixed four light windows for light. The roof is covered in tin, a common roof covering for Nebraska's agricultural buildings.

There is also a 1916 garage building which was originally located closer to the house. It was moved further away to allow for the construction of the noncontributing modern, but sympathetic garage that now stands in its original location. The original garage has a sliding carriage door, upon which has been burned the date "1916." It is a one story, gabled, wood frame structure. The only decorative features on the garage are two vertical boards under the gable that provide a bit of visual interest, as well as a little structural stability.

Adjacent to the garage is the 1929 corn crib, which is a tall, two bay crib with all the mechanical equipment still found inside. It is wood frame and some kind of concrete tile or block which allows for the passage of air. Corn cribs had to allow air to move through the corn, or it would spoil. The purpose of the crib was to allow the corn to dry out completely. These concrete "blocks" have large spaces that would allow for the passage of air for this purpose. The ends of the crib are rounded, and the roof creates a half-cone shape on each side.

Further west on the property, behind the shop building, is an undated machine shed, which also contributes. It is much smaller in profile and footprint than the shop, with a gable roof and vertical wood siding. It also has a tin roof. To the north of the house, there is a small undated, yet contributing potting shed. It is a small, wood frame building with an asphalt shingled, gabled roof. It was built on skids in order to be able to move it about the property to wherever it would be most useful.

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The modern garage was built within the last five years. It is a one and a half story, two car garage. It is wood frame with a gabled, asphalt shingle roof. It was designed to mimic the decorative features of the original garage; namely the two vertical members under the gable.

Historic Integrity:

The Guhl Farmhouse has excellent historic integrity. The house has changed very little since it was built in 1922. A back porch was enclosed sometime in its distant past, and it has lost its railing on the porch roof/second floor porch. One closet has been repurposed as a bathroom on the first floor. Aside from these changes, nothing substantive has been done to the house itself. As a farmstead, the property has lost its aspects of association with the farmland, as it was sold off and the property is now essentially an acreage. Additionally, several of the larger agricultural buildings that would help tell its agricultural story, the barn and the hog barn, have been lost. While several of the buildings, specifically the potting shed and the garage, have been moved around on the property constituting a loss of integrity of location, agricultural buildings often did move around a property and were repurposed according to need. In fact, the potting shed was built on skids for this purpose, so this "loss" of integrity of location does not negatively impact the property's eligibility.

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The Guhl Farmhouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The farmhouse is an exquisite example of a Prairie style American Foursquare house. It exhibits fine appointments that far outstrip the details that are present in most of Nebraska's historic farmhouses. Its period of significance is 1914-1929, encompassing the years the buildings and corn crib were built, and the property is locally significant.

The Prairie style is one of few American styles that did not take its inspiration from European styles that had gone before. It was purely American in invention. The Prairie style originated in Chicago, developed by a creative group of architects that have come to be called the Prairie School. Frank Lloyd Wright's early work helped to establish the features that would come to be thought of as common to the style. As the popularity of the style spread, vernacular versions of Prairie style became popular and spread throughout the United States in the form of American Foursquare houses, which were popular from approximately 1905 through the first several years after World War I.¹ Built in 1922, the Guhl Farmhouse would have been a late example of the style. It exhibits all of the most common features for identifying a house of this style: a low pitched hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, a two story house with a one-story, full width porch, also hipped, and fenestration featuring multi-light upper sashes. In addition, the hipped dormers and the conspicuous front entrance are typical of the style.

Part of the appeal of this style was that it was such a departure from the Queen Anne houses of the Victorian era and thus implicitly a departure from Victorian ideals. The 1890s ideals of home and family were a common litany, however Progressive social activists such as architects and feminists were starting to protest features about the Victorian house that were out of date. Particularly they questioned the Victorian emphasis on decorum. Queen Anne houses had different spaces for entertaining people of differing stations, and there were conventions that had to be observed, such as calling cards and multiple-course meals. Additionally, Victorians saw the home as a piece of art, and decorated every surface. Photographs of the era show homes with photographs and paintings and objet d'arte on every available surface and wall space. Modern homemakers became concerned with the difficulties in being able to keep such a house clean, and worried that the formalities of these specific spaces in a Queen Anne house would keep family apart rather than bring it together.²

Architects began designing Craftsman and Prairie school homes to not only change how people were living, but also to challenge Victorian beliefs. In place of elaborate design, architects substituted a more spartan design ethic. This is certainly visible on the exterior of this house. Where a Queen Anne house would emphasize differing wall surfaces and projecting elements to break up the wall plane, the Guhl Farmhouse has a simple rectangular footprint with plain clapboard siding. The designer emphasized balanced proportions and minimal decoration, at least by comparison to a Queen Anne.

On the interior, there were changes from the Queen Anne floor plans as well. Instead of sophisticated entrance halls and front and back parlors for entertaining guests, these new houses replaced them with a multi-purpose "living room" which was designed to accommodate an informal lifestyle.³ This is certainly true of the Guhl Farmhouse, which has a main entry which allows entrance directly into the broad living room without any transitional space at all. All were welcome in the new living room. Additionally interior spaces were expected to be more efficient and easier to clean. To achieve this, the architects replaced Victorian furniture with built-in elements that could be used to store china, and updated kitchens for

¹ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 440.

² Clifford Edward Clark, Jr., *The American Family Home: 1800-1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 131.

³ Clifford Edward Clark, Jr., *The American Family Home: 1800-1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 132.

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sanitary food preparation. Eliminating the need for furniture allowed the rooms to serve multiple purposes and eliminated clutter. All of these things were true of the Guhl House as well. It was modern in every sense. It has a large living room with a built-in bookcase and a desk in the colonnade, and had at one time a built-in seat/storage by the paneled stair. Although not currently in place, the owners have found all the original pieces and have reconstructed the seat. The elaborate buffet in the dining room would hold china for the family, and the butler's pantry would accommodate all of the storage needs for the kitchen. The built-in ironing board and laundry chute illustrate the new emphasis on cleanliness and efficiency during this time period.

In at least one way, this house was more modern than many farmhouses. Perhaps it is more appropriate to say that this seems more like a house that should have been built in a city. In addition to all of the modern features already mentioned, the house had a small door on the outside that allowed for the delivery of ice directly into the icebox in the butler's pantry. It seems quite an extravagance to have ice delivered almost four miles out of town and placed directly into your icebox without the farmwife having to be involved in the process.

One additional philosophical facet of the Progressive era is the philosophical tenet of Nationalism, which may be defined as the attitude that members of a nation have when they care about their national identity. The concept of a nation is often defined in terms of common origin, ethnicity or cultural ties, and while one's membership in a nation is often involuntary, this is sometimes not the case. In the case of the Guhls', German immigrants to the United States, America was their nation of choice. For a period of time, immigrants proudly maintained their cultural heritages, but during and after World War I, Germans in particular found it uncomfortable to maintain strict adherence to their previous cultural identity, and often abandoned the German language in their churches and family life, and found other ways to assimilate more completely into the American culture they had chosen for their home. In the case of the Guhls, the choice of architectural style of their home was a way to embrace a completely American style of domestic building.

The property has excellent historic integrity. A back porch was enclosed sometime in its distant past, and it has lost its railing on the porch roof/second floor porch. One closet has been repurposed as a bathroom on the first floor. Aside from these changes, nothing substantive has been done to the house itself. As a farmstead, the property has lost its aspects of association with the farmland, as it was sold off and the property is now essentially an acreage. Additionally, several of the larger agricultural buildings that would help tell its agricultural story, the barn and the hog barn, have been lost, preventing its nomination under Criterion A for its association with the history of agriculture in Burt County. Although the property is being nominated under Criterion C for the architectural significance of the farmhouse, the boundaries include the entire property, and thus the outbuildings that remain as part of what was the historic farmstead, as they help illustrate the integrity of setting, feeling and association of the property.

While several of the buildings, specifically the potting shed and the garage, have been moved around on the property constituting a loss of integrity of location, agricultural buildings often did move around a property and were repurposed according to need. In fact, the potting shed was built on skids for this purpose, so this "loss" of integrity of location does not negatively impact the property's eligibility. That changes that this property has seen do not preclude its ability to convey its significance for its architecture.

The Guhl Farmhouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The property is an excellent example of Prairie style architecture, specifically the American Foursquare variant of the style. Its period of significance is 1914 to 1929, encompassing the years of construction of the buildings and structure of the property. The Guhl Farmhouse is locally significant.

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Bibliography:

Clark, Clifford Edward, Jr. *The American Family Home: 1800-1960*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 22 North, Range 8 East, Burt County.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the William and Emma Guhl Farmhouse include all of the property currently associated with the farmhouse and remaining associated outbuildings. The farmhouse has been disassociated with the farmland for a number of years, so the nomination encompasses just the historic farmyard.

Farm Ground

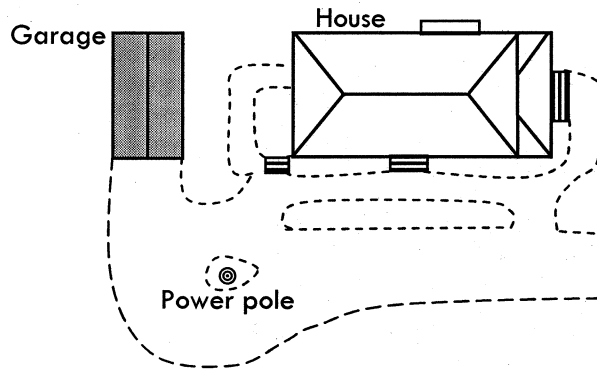
The Guhl House
NeHBS #BT00-094
Rural Burt County, Nebraska
Site plan – not to scale

■ Non-contributing

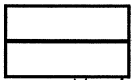
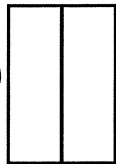


Farm Ground

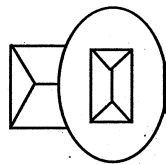
Farm Ground



Shop
(1914)



Machine shed



Corn Crib
(1929)



Garage
(1916)

Highway 77

Farm Ground



View: NW
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS



View: SW
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS



View: SW
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS

View: NW
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS



View: SW
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS



View: NW
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS





Interior
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS



Interior
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS



Interior
Photo by Stacy Stupka-Burda, 8 April 2008, NSHS



Interior
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