

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic George H. Kelly House

and/or common NA

2. Location

street & number 1924 Binney Street NA not for publication

city, town Omaha NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Douglas code 55

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>apartments</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Roderick H. Davis

street & number 4414 N. 31st Avenue

city, town Omaha NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Register of Deeds

street & number Douglas County Courthouse, 1819 Farnam

city, town Omaha state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Omaha Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission, City Planning Department

city, town Omaha state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kelly house is a two-story, wood frame structure with raised brick basement and garret. It features a hipped roof with three dormers. A porch runs the entire width of the front facade and partially wraps around the southeast corner. Shallow two-story bays are located on the south and east facades.

The Kelly house is a wood frame structure with clapboard walls. The house is square (44' x 42') in shape, two stories with garret and raised brick basement. It features a hipped roof with broad eaves and central hipped roof dormers on the north, south and west. A porch with turned balusters runs the entire width of the front of the house and partially wraps around the southeast corner. The porch is supported by unfluted columns with ionic capitals. The columns are tripled at the corners of the porch. Shallow two-story bays project from the south and east elevations. The eaves display modillions and dentils. The second story of the south facade features an oval-shaped ornamental window. Double hung windows are employed throughout and multipaned windows in pairs are located in the dormers. A modern fire stair is attached to the west elevation.

In 1955 the house was divided into apartments. The interior retains little of its architectural integrity, having been altered and converted to apartments. In 1982 the house was completely rehabilitated by the current owner, R. H. Davis, creating five modern dwelling units. The house was designated a landmark in 1983 by the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1904 **Builder/Architect** ~~Arthur~~ George Kelly, J. Roys

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kelly House was built in 1904 by George H. Kelly, then secretary/treasurer and later president of the Adams and Kelly Company, manufacturers and distributors of architectural millwork. The house represents the development of the Kountze Place area. It is architecturally significant as a fine example of the Neo-Classical Revival Style of architecture popularized in America by the grand expositions of the mid and late 1890's.

In Omaha the general pattern of movement for the well-to-do has always been toward the West. Beginning with the earliest settlers on Capitol Hill and the bluffs west of Downtown, successive generations have jumped to Park Avenue and the West Farnam - Cathedral area, Happy Hollow and Fairacres, and today's Regency - Rockbrook vicinity. Perhaps the most notable exception to that trend was the North Omaha development of Kountze Place. First National Bank President Herman Kountze had owned the 160 acres between 16th and 24th Streets, Locust and Pratt, since the 1860s, but waited until the real estate boom two decades later to subdivide it and offer lots for sale.

Kountze planned the new development as an upper middle class residential suburb and soon attracted the city's professionals and big businessmen. Provisions in each deed stipulated both the minimum cost of each dwelling and its distance from the street, while prohibiting any unsavory activities in the neighborhood. Streets in the southern portion of the subdivision, particularly Binney and Wirt, were first built on in the late 1880s and contain some of Omaha's finest extant examples of Queen Anne and late Victorian architecture. Kountze Place, like other suburbs of that decade, experienced almost no growth during the 1890s Depression, but recovered after 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition held on the northern edge of the tract in what is now Kountze Park. As a result, the neighborhood as a whole exhibits several decades of popular architectural styles, from elaborate Queen Anne structures to the more subdued Neo-Classical Revival residences built after 1900.

One of the finest Neo-Classical Revival houses in the neighborhood was built by George H. Kelly at 1924 Binney. Constructed in 1904 at a cost of \$5,000., the house was designed by Kelly with J. Roys serving as the builder. Kountze Place was a logical area for Kelly to locate due to the proximity of his place of business, also in North Omaha. In 1904, when the house was constructed, Kelly was secretary/treasurer of the Adams and Kelly Company, manufacturers and distributors of architectural millwork. The firm was located at 1218 Nicholas and had first been organized in 1892 as Engler, Adams and Kelly. The Company was one of several early Omaha millworks that supplied doors, windows and architectural woodwork to local builders during the boom periods of the 1880s and early 1900s. Kelly went on to become president of Adams and Kelly in 1910 and continued to live at 1924 Binney until 1925 when he moved.

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Architecturally, the Kelly house is significant as one of the finest examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture to be found in North Omaha. The classically detailed structure was directly influenced by the grand Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition that had been held nearby in 1898, just six years before the house was constructed. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition and other fairs such as the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, had displayed classical architecture on a monumental scale. The middle-class, middle-western Americans who visited the expositions were dazzled by the cosmopolitan splendor of the grandiose buildings, electrically lighted and reflected in immense lagoons. All this had a tremendous effect on architectural taste. As Daniel Burnham, chairman of the architectural commission for the 1893 Chicago exposition is quoted as saying, "The Fair is going to have a great influence in our country. The American people have seen the "Classics" on a grand scale for the first time. . . I can see all American constructed along the lines of the Fair, in noble, dignified, Classic style." Burnham was correct. Neo-Classical architecture was to be the preferred choice for all types of buildings for many years.

The 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition reinforced the national preference for classical architecture for many Omahans. The image of the exposition was undoubtedly fresh in George Kelly's mind when he built his home in 1904. The major classical elements of the structure are its low pitched hip roof, the broadly projecting eaves supported by modillions and dentils, the porch columns with Ionic capitals, the turned balusters of the porch rail, and the oval window centered over the main entry. Although the predominant style of the house is Neo-Classical Revival, the George Kelly residence exhibits other elements that reveal its transitional nature. These include the subtle assymetry of the elevations, the shallow projecting bays and the wraparound porch, all carry over from the earlier Queen Anne style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Omaha North, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 8, Block 10, Kountze Addition to the City of Omaha. Includes all historically associated property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Meyer, Preservation Administrator
Edited by Nebraska State Historical Society staff
Omaha City Planning Department
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date April, 1983
1819 Farnam Street (402) 444-7000
street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-3850
city or town Omaha state Nebraska
Lincoln

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 Marion W. Knott 6/7/83

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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