

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Cass	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Weeping Water Historic District	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: (see continuation sheet)			
CITY OR TOWN: Weeping Water			
STATE Nebraska	CODE 31	COUNTY: Cass	CODE 025

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: City of Weeping Water			
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall			
CITY OR TOWN: Weeping Water	STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds - Cass County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Plattsmouth	STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Preservation in Nebraska			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Nebraska State Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln	STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31	

*Second Nebraska Congressional District

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7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Listed, as follows, are the buildings included in the Weeping Water Historic District that portray a significant historical setting and background to the town's pioneer development.</p> <p>1. Congregational Church - The church was constructed in 1870-71. It is a simple and unadulterated example of early Gothic Revival architecture. The building is constructed of native, finished limestone with a steep gabled roof. At opposite ends of the sanctuary are sets of three windows each in the Gothic motif of pointed arch. Originally these windows were in hand cut glass detailing said to be copies from a church in Germany. On the front and rear are coinciding regimented windows also in the typically Gothic lancet window style with their mullions forming simple tracery in the upper portion of each window. At each corner of the church projects a well proportioned buttress, common to both walls and giving the church a finishing touch of Gothic character.</p> <p>Originally the covered entry was of wood but at a later date, when the churches roof was reframed and lowered, the entrance was redone in the form of a pseudovault of limestone covered by a shingled roof. In 1886 two class rooms were added to the rear of the structure and in 1890, when the Academy took over the entire building, partitions were added to provide for library and class room spaces.</p> <p>All the additions and alterations have been in keeping with the structures original integrity and its character has been preserved. The building is now verdant with climbing ivy which adds even more to its picturesque qualities.</p> <p>2. Heritage House Museum</p> <p>Directly accross the street to the east stands the old parsonage, now the Heritage House Museum. It is also constructed of native limestone which accounts for its 18 inch thick walls. The parsonage was built ca. 1865-1867 and is very much in keeping with the character projected by the Historic District.</p> <p>It is two stories with a low hip roof. The only interruptions in the wall surfaces are the cleanly cut window and door openings.</p> <p>The house was built for \$900 dollars and reflects the use of the materials available to this region and its pioneer builders. The architectural form is vernacular and portrays the forrunning characteristics, its low hip roof and simple lines, inherent to pre-prairie style architecture. The porch is more a reflection of the popular Victorian tastes of that period, 1880's-90's, and isn't in keeping with the vernacular form of the house itself.</p> <p>At some date after the original construction, presumably after 1880 when Dr. Fate took over the house, a small frame, with board and batten, addition was made at the rear of the house. It is unknown why the extra space was needed but the addition has since been removed leaving the house in its original form. However, the unweathered stone below the old roof line clearly outlines the additions earlier existence.</p>	

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#2 - Location

The District is in Township 10 north, Weeping Water, of range 11 east, Cass County. It extends from "H" street north to the alley of blocks 60 and 61. The district is actually defined by lots 7 and 8 of block 60 and lot 5 of block 61, in the 1st Ward of the original township of Weeping Water.

#7 - Description

Except for the removal of the ornate railing around the porch roof, see accompanying photographs, and the addition of new aluminum window framing and a modern roof there have been no alterations in the 19th century appearance of the house. The structures integrity has remained unaltered and is a fine example of the early homes which helped to inhance the settlement of pioneer towns in this region.

3. Dr. Fate Office - Buildings of this type were common to the commercial districts of western pioneer towns. The office is of balloon frame construction with clapboard siding. It has a false front which extends to the top of the pitched roof. There is a chimney in the center of the roof which served a "potbelly" stove, still in the building, and highly decorated with polished trim. The building has two rooms one evidently a waiting room and the other an examination room.

The building's ceiling and walls are intact and the roof appears to be in good repair. A few of the siding boards are split but are not of serious consequence. The building has served well and represents a good example of the early pioneer offices.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following is a brief history of Weeping Water as it relates to the historic district.

In 1857 a number of immigrants from the East, who had economically failed, settled in the Weeping Water area in hopes of retrieving their fortunes. Along with them came the claims speculators who were responsible for platting the area.

Weeping Water was incorporated on December 19, 1870. It's economic mainstay was the milling industry and the Weeping Water River provided the power for these early mill wheels. Weeping Water was well advertised in these early days because of the mills and settlers brought their grain from as much as 70 miles for processing there.

The towns growth was greatly accelerated with the coming of the railroad in 1882. Not only in expanded trade and business but also in additional settlers; first the Germans came, then the Swedes, and finally the Danes.

In contemporary writing Weeping Water is referred to as the "Stone City." This name was derived from the city's prosperous limestone industry. Limestone deposits were in early evidence by the ledge outcroppings and sliprocks on the hillsides surrounding the town. The first quarry operations were started in the 1860's and Weeping Water soon became the center of Nebraska's limestone industry. These early quarry operations were accomplished with hand tools. The products of these operations are evidenced in the buildings and building foundations throughout the town. The Historic District gives two good examples of the products of these early operations in the Congregational Church, and the Heritage House Museum, both of which are constructed of locally quarried limestone. Within the district, but not included in the nomination, is also the Weeping Water Museum Building, built in 1868-69. This structure is also constructed of native limestone and was designed in keeping with the character of the Heritage House on which it shares the lot.

The following is a brief description of the historic significance of the three buildings included in the Weeping Water Historic District.

1. Congregational Church - The Congregational Church is the third oldest of that denomination in Nebraska and was organized on November 18, 1860.

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#8 - Significance

The churches first meetings were held in a one room log school house.

In 1867 the stone parsonage was erected, now called the Heritage House, in hopes of attracting a permanent minister. Services were held in the new parsonage as well as in church members homes. This continued until June 18, 1870 when the stone gothic revival church was finally completed.

This fine gothic revival structure has not only served Weeping Water as a religious center but also as a nucleus for educational development. Probably the church's greatest contribution was the organization of a religious academy in 1884. Many of the early settlers in this area came from the east and were well educated. A large percentage came from Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, and other New England States. Their regional background led them to a collective concern for the educational preparation of their sons and daughters. They felt their children could not receive an adequate education in the local public schools of the day. So, the Reverend George Hindley, a congregational minister, was called from Boston to organize an academy to give the required preparation for entrance into the eastern colleges.

A corporation was formed in the summer of 1885, and articles of agreement adopted by which the control was vested in a body of 20 trustees. Reverend Hindley was elected president of the board and principal of the academy with a competent corps of assistants the Academy began. In 1886 two rooms were added to the church at the rear to provide class room space for the 13 initial students of the Academy. In 1887 a new brick church was under construction and in 1890 was dedicated and put to use as the new congregational chapel. The Academy purchased the stone church building and remodeled the interior into a suitable working space for the school. The Academy during the first seven years provided only a "college preparatory" course and a "scientific" course, each three years, and an "academic" course of four years designed for students not going on to college. Later the curriculum was arranged on the more conventional lines of classical, scientific, and "English normal," or teachers preparation, courses of three years each.

By the outbreak of W.W.I in 1914, public education in the Weeping Water schools had greatly improved and the enrollment in the Academy had greatly decreased. The Academy was closed in 1915 and the buildings, except the old church, which became the city library, were sold and its debts liquidated. During the Academy's 29 years of existance it had 220 graduates and the memory lingers on for the big room at the rear of the church is still called "The Lecture Room," and each year public school Baccalaureate services are still held there. Today the building serves as the Public Library and is known locally as the "Weeping Water Academy Library." The Academy books formed the nucleus of the library and \$1,000 was invested by the church for its upkeep.

2. Heritage House - The Trustees of the Congregational Church voted to build the stone parsonage and it was erected ca. 1865-1867. It was much needed for

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#8 - Significance

their minister and his family were forced to move from place to place from lack of permanent quarters. Many people in the community, not connected with the church, had contributed in the building of the parsonage.

In 1870, the trustees of the church sold the house and its double lot in order to finance the construction of the new stone church across the street, east of the parsonage; also included in this nomination.

After many changes of ownership and varying prices, the house and property, lots 7 and 8, were sold shortly after the end of the Civil War in 1893 to a veteran, Dr. Jesse C. Fate for \$850. Dr. Fate was a homeopathic doctor who subscribed to the practice of treating diseases by administering small doses of remedies that would produce, in a healthy person, the same symptoms of the disease being treated. This type of medical practice has long since been forgotten. Dr. Fate built a small frame structure, also included in this nomination, just north east of the stone house which he used as his office.

Dr. Fate died in 1929, and his heirs in 1965 sold lots 7 and 8 and the two structures thereon to a group of interested citizens of Weeping Water.

The stone house presently serves as the "Heritage House Museum." Two of the rooms have permanent displays of pioneer relics and a collection of Indian artifacts from the area. Rotating displays for other areas of the house include fossil from local limestone quarries, individual collections, hobby exhibits of young people and a history of the quarry industry which is still an important economic input to the town.

The house is the oldest in Weeping Water and except for the removal of the ornate railing around the roof of the porch and the removal of the small frame addition at the rear of the house it is substantially as it was when Dr. Fate built up his practice at the turn of the century.

3. Jesse C. Fate Office - This office was built ca. 1880's by Dr. Fate and was used as a clinic until his death in 1929. Virtually everything in the office has been left intact. There are plans of making this office part of the Heritage House Museum.

Untouched since Dr. Fate's death is his equipment; including his medicine closet, with row upon row of corked bottles containing his remedies, operating table, instruments, drug bottles, and the familiar little black bag which aided in the delivery of many of the town's population. Much of the furniture is still in the office and appears to date to the turn of the century. There is also a large upright bookcase with double glass doors which contains the Doctor's medical books.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files; Nebraska State Historical Society

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	96°	08'	33"	40°	52'	17"			
NE	96°	08'	30"	40°	52'	17"			
SE	96°	08'	30"	40°	52'	15"			
SW	96°	08'	33"	40°	52'	15"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites	
ORGANIZATION	Nebraska State Historical Society	DATE	2/14/72
STREET AND NUMBER:		1500 "R" Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	Lincoln	STATE	Nebraska
		CODE	31

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Marvin D. Knelt

Title Director, Nebraska State
Historical Society

Date

Feb 14, 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



First Congregational Church. View looking northwest. (NSHS H673.5-148)



Office of Dr. Jesse C. Fate. (NSHS H673.5-159)



Heritage House. (NSHS H673.5-157)



Heritage House. Rear view. (NSHS H673.5-156)