

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 2

Bill Roy  
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Dickinson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Lebold, C. H., House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
106 North Vine  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Abilene  
STATE: Kansas CODE: 67410 COUNTY: Dickinson CODE: 041

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<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 (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Kessinger  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
106 North Vine  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Abilene STATE: Kansas CODE: 67410

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Register of Deeds  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Dickinson County Courthouse  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Abilene STATE: Kansas CODE: 67410

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
NONE  
DATE OF SURVEY:  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas  
COUNTY: Dickinson  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(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

The C. H. Lebold house is a two-story rectangular building with a full basement and an attic. The 20-room house faces east and is approximately 50 feet long and 50 feet wide. It features an entrance tower with an overall height of 45 feet.

The exterior walls are constructed of rough hewn limestone blocks laid in uniform horizontal courses. All the individual stones are approximately the same size. The building rests on a raised base of smooth cut limestone and features a belt line at the floor line. Large smooth cut stone quoins are used in an interlocking pattern at the building corners as well as for decorative trim at the tower and bay window.

The roof form is a truncated hip terminating in a flat center portion. Originally a decorative iron railing demarked the edge of the flat roof. A small gable roof above the south side bay window breaks the roof line and emphasizes this feature. Simple dormers with windows are used to provide light for the attic. Ornamental brick chimneys with decorative stone caps further enhance the roof line. The roof is separated from the wall below by a decorative cornice featuring closely spaced stone brackets. A large square ~~steep~~ tower rises nearly two stories above the roof line and dramatically accents the main entrance below. The tower is designed to blend with the main facade. Its roof is a steep truncated pyramid with dormers on all four sides.

Windows on all floors are long slender rectangles with one piece stone arches at the heads. These arches are delicately carved. A large porch on the east side is supported by columns with brackets.

Interior ceilings are twelve feet high. Many of the original parquet floors and the ornate staircase and chandeliers have received decades of apartment house use.

The exterior of the house except for one small addition at the rear porch and the removal of the carriage porch on the north side remains basically the same as the original. The present owners plan an adaptive restoration of the building to its original usage as a one-family dwelling.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1880-1881

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		<u>Western settlement</u>
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lebold House at First and Vine streets was erected in 1880-1881 for one of Abilene's most influential businessmen. Conrad H. Lebold came to Kansas from Ohio in 1869 and in partnership with Jacob Augustine purchased the townsite of Abilene for \$3,000. Shortly thereafter he and Augustine established a firm to sell town lots known as the National Union Land Office. In 1873 they sold the land office and purchased the banking house of Kellogg, Newman and Company and later that of W. B. Clark and Company. Augustine withdrew from the banking business later that same year, and his place in the firm was taken by J. M. Fisher. Lebold, Fisher and Company was regarded as one of the leading banking concerns in the area. Lebold's other activities during his early years in Abilene included the purchase of an Abilene newspaper and the acquisition of other Kansas townsites. He was also active in politics, holding various city and township offices, serving two terms as treasurer of Dickinson county (1874-1878) and representing the county in the state house of representatives in 1881.

On March 12, 1880, the Dickinson County (Abilene) Chronicle announced that a builder named Hallock had received the contract for constructing a new residence for Lebold. The house was built just west of Mud Creek where Tim Hersey had built the first log cabin in Abilene in 1856 and Lebold had acquired an 80-acre parcel of ground in 1873 and platted it in 1878. One contemporary newspaper referred to Lebold's new house as "the finest residence in Central Kansas," built of brown stone from Russell county and trimmed with white stone from Ellis county. Another newspaper account stated that the home "is built in the very best manner, highly ornamented, and in its finish some very fine workmanship is displayed." Furnishings for the house, all in the very latest styles available, were purchased in Chicago. The structure was completed in the spring of 1881 at an estimated cost of \$18,000. In an 1883 Kansas history, Lebold's house was termed "the finest dwelling house west of Topeka." The Lebold family resided in the house for less than ten years as he reportedly lost all his investments and was forced to transfer the property in October, 1889, to satisfy some of his creditors' claims. Records of the Dickinson county district court list 322 creditors who filed claims in his bankruptcy proceedings and the sum of \$610,605.99 as only a partial total of the amount he owed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"C. H. Lebold," The United States Biographical Dictionary (Chicago, S. Lewis and Co., 1879), pp. 658, 659.  
Dickinson County Chronicle (Abilene), March 12, April 9, 1880; January 7, March 25, 1881.  
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 684, 688, 689, 691.  
 "Home Tied Closely with Early History of Abilene," Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, May 30, 1956.  
Kansas Gazette (Abilene), May 19, 1876; January 14, 1881.  
Topeka Daily Capital, February 26, 1881.

**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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		38	54	56
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		97	13	25
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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: Richard Pankratz, Planner  
Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: December 8, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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: Nyle H. Miller  
Nyle H. Miller

Title: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: March 13, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Dickinson	
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(Number all entries)

8. After lawsuits and a court-ordered sheriff's sale in 1894, the next owner and occupant was George C. Sterl, who lived there until his death in 1918. In subsequent years the property went through a succession of ownership changes and usages. The Brown Memorial Foundation held the title from 1926 to 1945 and for part of that time it was a home for working girls. Until acquired by the present owner in July, 1972, it was used as an apartment house. The current owners have started with their efforts to restore the building to a one-family dwelling.

C. H. Lebold was prominent in Abilene's commercial and economic development in the 1870's and 1880's. And as part owner of the townsite, he was instrumental in its numerical growth. His house has long been a landmark in the community and stands as an excellent example of Renaissance influenced residential architecture in Kansas.

9. Abstract of Title to Lot One (1), Sterl's Sub-division of Lot Twenty-two (22), Lebold's Addition to Abilene, Kansas, compiled by the Dickinson County Title Co., Abilene.

"Kurt Kessingers Plan to Restore Old House," Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, August 9, 1972.

"Kurt Kessinger Purchases Old Abilene House," The Junction City Union, August 5, 1972.