1. Name

historic    Brandeis-Millard House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number    500 South 38th Street

__ vicinities of    congressional district    Second

city, town    Omaha    Nebraska

state    code    county    code

3. Classification

<table>
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4. Owner of Property

name    Max B. Kiltz

street & number    500 South 38th Street

city, town    Omaha    Nebraska

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.    Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

street & number    1819 Farnam Street

city, town    Omaha    Nebraska

state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title    Historic Preservation in Nebraska    has this property been determined eligible?    __ yes    X no

date    1971

__ federal    X state    __ county    __ local

depository for survey records    Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town    Lincoln    Nebraska

state
The 1904 Brandeis-Millard House is a substantial Jacobethan Revival residence at the southwest corner of South 38th Street and Dewey Avenue. The situation is within a section of Omaha known as the "Gold Coast," formerly a very fashionable residential neighborhood. Newer construction is interspersed throughout the section now, and the area has converted to mixed use.

The walls of this two-and-one-half-story house are of brick construction; stone trim is in the forms of coping, fenestral surrounds, window mullions and transom bars, lintels above and below gable-end attic windows, and triangular buttress blocks. Also, there is a gabled and protruding second-story section of stuccoed-frame construction with imitation half-timbering on the north wall and a similarly treated two-story section with a bowed end on the south wall.

The gabled roof sections are covered with French tiles, as are roofs of two shingle-clad dormers on the east (main facade), a hipped porte-cochere on the north, and a hipped one-story porch at the southeast.

The main entrance is an elliptical-arched opening that has a stone frontispiece treated with sculpted foliage in recessed spandrel panels. Centered over the entrance is stonework that incorporates a cartouche amidst foliage within a tabernacle. A thin stone molding runs above the heads of the main facade's first-floor openings, and there is a two-story bay window on the protruding gabled wall near the southeast.

A low, stone-coped wall surrounds a terrace that spans the one-story corner porch and the two southern bays of the front facade.

The interior of the Brandeis-Millard House is furnished with a wide array of fittings: oak and mahogany wainscoting, leaded-glass cabinets, stenciled and painted-cloth-covered wall sections, plaster moldings, marble-sheathed bathroom walls, and stone and tiled fireplaces. Material richness extends to the solarium behind the main staircase on the first floor; the flooring in this space is green marble and two walls and the ceiling are fitted with stained glass.

Despite a change in use from a residence to a commercial operation, the Brandeis-Millard House's exterior and interior remain essentially unchanged.
8. Significance

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Specific dates 1904; 1909–22  
Builder/Architect Albert Kahn

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brandeis-Millard House, designed by the renowned architect Albert Kahn, is of commercial and political significance to Nebraska for its association with Senator Joseph H. Millard, a pioneer Omahan who held prominent business and political positions. Architecturally, the house is an early and fine product of the Jacobethan Revival in Nebraska, and it serves as an emphatic statement of Kahn’s conventional views on domestic architecture: internationally famous for his modern industrial designs, Kahn nevertheless adhered to those Period Revival forms in residential architecture that were gaining popularity when his career began.

Built in 1904 for Arthur and Zerlina Brandeis, members of an established Omaha mercantile family, the house on the southwest corner of South 38th Street and Dewey Avenue was purchased in 1909 by Jessie H. Millard as a residence for herself and for her father, Senator Joseph H. Millard.

Joseph H. Millard (1836–1922), born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, arrived in Omaha as a young man two years after the community’s founding. He became involved with a land company that proved successful enough to transfer its interests to banking. Financial acumen led to Millard’s presidency of the Omaha National Bank and to involvement in other business and social concerns: he was an incorporator of the Omaha and Northwest Railroad and of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railroad; served as treasurer for a deaf institution which grew into a large state-owned facility; was a member of a capitalist syndicate that erected the Millard Hotel; was an organizer of the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway and Bridge Company; organized and incorporated the South Omaha National Bank, serving as president for a number of years; and was a Director of the Union Pacific Railroad for fifteen years (Morton, Watkins, and Miller, pp. 305–06).

Politically, Millard was Mayor of Omaha for a brief period between 1871–72, and he was a member of the United States Senate between 1901–07. In the Senate his most important service was as Chairman of the Inter-Ocean Committee: "It was largely due to his [Millard’s] and the then Secretary Taft that the lock-level type of canal building was decided upon for the Panama Canal" (Obituary of Millard (Omaha) Morning World-Herald, Jan. 14, 1922, p. 1). While in the Senate, Millard was also instrumental
In securing a $400,000 appropriation for the rebuilding of Fort Omaha and
the establishment there of the chief training station for the Army Signal
Corps (for additional information see the Fort Omaha Historic District,
Douglas County, Nebraska, listed in the National Register, March 27, 1974).

With his daughter Jessie, Millard resided in the house at 500 South
38th Street for the last thirteen years of his life. The two political
interludes were behind him and he quietly pursued business interests during
this period, suffering a fatal stroke in 1922 while attending a board
meeting of the Nebraska Power Company. The period of residency on South
38th Street was the Senator's time of ultimate prominence and respectability,
and the Jacobethan Revival house, despite a change in use, remains in a
virtually unaltered state, conveying a feeling of the period of its
association with Senator Millard.

The house's designer, Albert Kahn (1869-1942), was an "internationally
famed industrial architect... and for many years was the foremost designer
of automotive plants in the United States" (Withey and Withey, p. 329).
Kahn's non-residential buildings combined utility and beauty in an innova-
tive manner, but his residences are rather unsurprising "Period Houses,"
reviving Georgian, Jacobethan, and French forms and details.

The Brandeis-Millard House is readily identifiable as a Jacobethan
Revival house, having such perfunctory elements as brick walls with stone
trim, parapeted gables, a two-story bay window, pseudo-half-timbered sections,
chimneys with multiple flues, and stone mullions and transom bars.

The twenty years between 1910-30 are generally regarded as the era of the
The Brandeis-Millard House, however, precedes that span by several years.
Although of limited appeal and success at first, the revival of historic
styles such as the Jacobethan actually began in the 1890s, the decade during
which Kahn's career began. The architect evidently found Period Revival
forms to possess propriety: "The charm of the Tudor style appealed to Kahn
so much that in 1928 he added a large Tudor gallery to his own house in
Detroit" (The Legacy of Albert Kahn, p. 22). Like other period houses
constructed before World War I, the Brandeis-Millard House was built for a
well-to-do family and it reflects a new character that suburban houses were
achieving: treatment as a country residence on a small lot, rather than as a
modified city dwelling (Lane, pp. 170-71).

The Brandeis-Millard House is the only building in Nebraska designed by
Albert Kahn, and it is among the few residences outside Michigan for which he
was responsible.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one

Quadrangle name: Omaha North

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9 and 10, Block 20, Smith's Addition, Omaha, Nebraska

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

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<tr>
<th>state</th>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

organization: Nebraska State Historical Society
date: October, 1980

street & number: 1500 "R" Street
telephone: 402/471-3270

city or town: Lincoln
state: Nebraska

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]
date: 10/7/80

title: Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:
date

Chief of Registration


Morton, J. Sterling; Watkins, Albert; and Miller, George L. *Illustrated History of Nebraska,* Vol. II. Lincoln: Jacob North and Co., 1906.


Photo 1 of 2—view looking southwest.
Photo by Persis Kolberg, 1972, Nebraska State Historical Society (H673.5-4548)

Photo 2 of 2—view looking southeast.
Photo by Persis Kolberg, 1972, Nebraska State Historical Society (H673.5-2186)