

SECTION 13

TOUR STOP
29: THOMPSON



Above: Thompson
in 1893

The Thompson and Nance monuments are near the center of Section 13. Walkers are encouraged to stroll in for a closer look. Jeanette Thompson was 44 years old when she died in Mexico City, where her husband D. E. Thompson had been the U. S. Ambassador. Their monument is a tall, pink granite tablet with a life-size relief sculpture in bronze, depicting



Monument by
Kimball Bros.

a woman holding a wreath and draped in a cloak. F. L. Kimball signed the bronze sculpture, which is also inscribed by "Jno Walters Foundry, New York." The bronze sculpture by Daniel Chester French of Abraham Lincoln at the west side of the State Capitol, installed in 1912, was cast at the same bronze foundry.

The Thompsons had been a leading couple in the capital city in the 1890s and early 1900s. Mr. Thompson was superintendent of the division of the Burl-

SECTION 13

ington Railroad west of the Missouri River as well as president of local gas and insurance companies. He founded the *Lincoln Star* newspaper in 1902, among other ventures. The Thompsons built a spacious home at the southwest corner of South 15th and H Streets in 1892 and sold it to the state in 1899. It served as the Governor's Mansion until it was replaced by the present Mansion in 1958.

Thompson sought more direct political involvement in 1900 and 1901, when both of Nebraska's seats in the U. S. Senate were open. A protracted deadlock emerged in the Nebraska legislature between Mr. Thompson and Edward Rosewater of Omaha. At that time the state legislatures selected U. S. Senators. When it appeared the legislative session would end without filling either seat, Mr. Thompson brokered the election of Governor Dietrich to one seat and J. H. Millard of Omaha to the other. In 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Mr. Thompson as the U. S. envoy to Brazil and in 1906 appointed him to the ambassadorship of Mexico, where he served for three years. After Mrs. Thompson's death in 1911, her widower returned for a few years to Lincoln then moved to Cali-

fornia, living near San Diego for 30 years. After his death in 1944 at age 88, his cremated remains were returned to be interred at the family plot in Wyuka.



Above: Thompson in 1904