

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 11 1979
DATE ENTERED JAN 25 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Cooley-Whitney House

AND/OR COMMON Whitney House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 305 Grove Street

CITY, TOWN Decorah

STATE Iowa

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2

COUNTY Winneshiek
CODE

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Darrell & Mavis Frey

STREET & NUMBER 305 Grove Street

CITY, TOWN Decorah

VICINITY OF

STATE Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Winneshiek Co. Title & Abstract Company & County Auditors office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Decorah

STATE Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE none

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cooley House is located on the west side of Grove Street, which intersects with Broadway to the north. When the house was built it was one of the first houses on the bluff in the west part of the city. According to an article in 1866, "Mr. Cooley has broken his grounds, surrounded them with a fine picket fence, and has planted fruit and ornamental trees liberally . . . Cooley has got just the nicest site in Decorah . . ." (Decorah Republican, May 10, 1866).

Now the house is situated in an historical residential area, a part of which is known as the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District. The architectural style of the Cooley House is similar to that of the Porter House in the historic district.

The house is two story, red clay brick with wood lintels and sills. The brick may have been painted for most of the time, but has recently been removed. There are single brackets under the broad eaves, and wide, plain wooden cornice. The large wrap-around porch on the front has decorative wood brackets and roof posts. This same trim appears on the back porch, and was on the porch on the north side which has since been removed.

Extensive repair work has been done in the past few years. The wooden porch floor was replaced with concrete*, and the roof was shingled in 1977 with asphalt shingles (to replace the tin sheeting). The decorative trim has been duplicated where needed, to replace rotted or broken pieces. The house was sandblasted in 1976 to remove the buff- or yellow-colored paint from the brick. A garage has been extended two feet to the south lining the garage up with the porch to accomodate the new car size.

The downstairs is currently occupied by one family, with the upstairs rented out as an apartment. The Freys have talked about returning the entire house to a one-family dwelling.

*The Freys have discussed placing a facade of lattice work (either painted or applied to the surface of the concrete) to give the illusion of an open porch, as it was when it was wooden.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wilson, Robertson & Co./ H.O. Ball

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cooley-Whitney House is significant for its architecture and for its association with prominent early citizens of Decorah. It appears to be a blend of the Italianate, Classical and Tuscan styles, designed and built in 1867 by an architect and a builder from Decorah. The house was built for a prominent banker and businessman, E.E. Cooley. After his death in the 1890's the house was taken over by L.B. Whitney, also an important banker in Decorah.

The house appears to be an interesting blend of the Italianate, Classical, and Tuscan styles. The characteristics of the Italianate predominate: broad eaves supported by single decorative brackets, a wide wooden cornice, large wrap-around veranda with couple posts and intricately cut brackets (see p.72 Lovelace-Scheuerman-Brown House and p.76 Cochran House, in Keyes, 19th Century Home Architecture of Iowa City, 1966). The Tuscan flavor appears in the lintels and the porch posts tend toward the Gothic.

According to the contemporary newspaper, ground was broken, and general landscaping was undertaken as early as 1866 (Decorah Republican, May 10, 1866). This area of Decorah was undeveloped, therefore a considerable amount of ground work was required to prepare for the construction of a house. By spring of the following year E.E. Cooley was talking of building in the "coming season" (Decorah Republican, April 18, 1867). In June the ground was prepared and the cellar finished (Decorah Republican, June 7, 1867). The bricklayers, Wilson, Robertson & Co., of Decorah were at work by September (Decorah Republican, September 13, 1867). In a little over one month, an article stated that work was approaching completion. The article also mentioned that the architect was H.O. Ball, of Decorah (Decorah Republican, October 18, 1867), the same architect for the Ellsworth-Porter House in the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District. (See Marlys Svendsen in bibliography).

E.E. Cooley was involved with business interests shortly after he moved to Decorah. As early as 1855 he was in partnership with two other gentlemen who, together, organized a banking and real estate firm, soon to be recognized as the First National Bank of Decorah. Being a lawyer, Mr. Cooley served as organizer and attorney for a railroad company (which finally reached Decorah in 1869 under a different name), was first president of the board when Decorah first incorporated in 1857, was postmaster of Decorah, and served as an officer in the Civil War. During the War he received a commissary appointment from President Lincoln. From 1879-82 Mr. Cooley served as judge of the 10th Judicial District. Prior to this he had been mayor of Decorah for two terms. His law practice continued; for a few years he was a partner of Cooley, Akers & Cooley, in Minneapolis, but he again returned to Decorah. Mr. Cooley died in 1895.

see continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

Map: La Crosse, Wisconsin

Scale: 1:250,000

A	<u>15</u>	<u>59,740,0</u>	<u>478490,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

House is situated on the northern third of lots 8, 9, and 10, Block 35, Maynard and Snyder's addition to Decorah.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary B. Klimesh

ORGANIZATION

(Winneshiek County Historical Society)

DATE

July 2, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 223

TELEPHONE

562-3514

CITY OR TOWN

Spillville

STATE

Iowa 52168

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Adrian S. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

December 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Skell

DATE

1-25-80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Brasham

DATE

1/17/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Historical Significance
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)

Two years later the house became the property of Lewis B. Whitney and his family. Mr. Whitney was also involved with banking, being one of the organizers of the National Bank of Decorah, in 1897. This bank succeeded the First National Bank, which dissolved under the management of James H. Easton just prior to 1897. Prior to banking, Mr. Whitney served as County Treasurer. L.B. Whitney later became a stockholder, director and treasurer of the Deocrah Gas Company, and a director of the Winneshiek Hotel Company. He also was active in politics and in a number of brotherhood lodges.

According to the current owners, the house being nominated has been known and is still referred to as the Whitney House.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Bailey, E.C. Past & Present of Winneshiek County, Iowa. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1913. Volumes I and II.

Downing, Andrew Jackson. Architecture of Country Houses. New York: Dover Publications, 1969.

Gazetteer & Directory of Winneshiek County. Decorah: Edmund A. Kirby, 1875. Volume I.

Federal Census Records, for 1860 and 1870.

Plat Book of Winneshiek County, Iowa. Minneapolis: Warner & Foote, 1886.

Sheriff's Deed (dated Dec.16, 1897) in the Collection of the Winneshiek County Clerk of Court, Winneshiek County Historical Society Archives.

Svendsen, Marlys. "An Architectural Analysis of the Porter House." Ms. Summer, 1974.

Winneshiek County Assessor's Books, from 1859-1869. In the collection of the Clerk of Court, WCHS Archives.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bibliography (cont.)

Decorah Republican: May 10, 1866; April 18, June 7, Sept. 13,
Oct. 18, 1867; Oct. 2, 1862; July 30, 1863; May 25, Oct. 19,
Nov. 9, 1865; Mar. 31, June 9, 1864; April 13, 1893; Feb. 7,
1895; and Jan. 4, 1900.