

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska
COUNTY: Dixon
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Cook Blacksmith Shop
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 204 3rd Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Ponca		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First	
STATE Nebraska	CODE 31	COUNTY: Dixon	CODE 051

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Ponca - Ponca Commercial Club		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Ponca	STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31

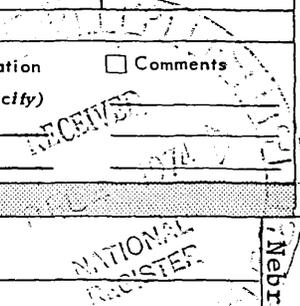
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dixon County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Ponca	STATE: Nebraska	CODE 31

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The blacksmith shop in Ponca, built in 1901 by C. O. Cook, is now owned by the city of Ponca which is in the process of restoring it. It is a one-story frame structure with hipped roof and a false front on the entrance facade. There is a sign advertising repairs and blacksmithing above the main entrance. The building is covered with tongue and groove siding. The city is now beginning to work on the stabilization of the building.

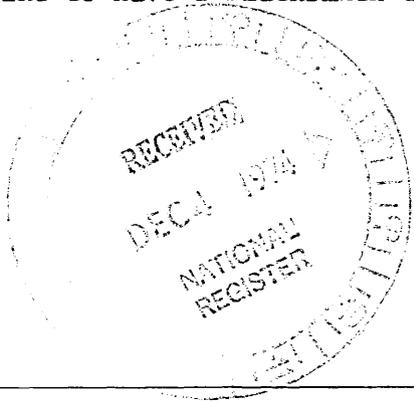
The interior of the building is unaltered but is in need of a general reorganization to get equipment back in place. The equipment in the shop is authentic and in working condition. Many of the hand tools were made by Cook as the need for them arose. This is an example of the creativity required by a blacksmith to be good at the trade. The enormous bellows are in very good condition, with only the accordion-like leather sides needing repair. Other accouterments, including a system of belt driven pulleys in the rafters to operate various power tools, are in good condition, most of them needing only to be oiled and cleaned.

An interesting feature of the shop will be the "wild horse" stall which is the only feature that needs to be reconstructed. The committee is using an old photo for reference and markings on the floor and wall for correct placement. This compartment consisted of a canvas sling hanging in a narrow box stall. The sling was placed under the animal's belly holding him in place. The horse wore a very heavy leather halter which was tied to the hitching ring with a short lead rope. Once the animal was strapped into this apparatus it was nearly impossible for him to move. Hence the blacksmith could shoe the horse with little difficulty.

Mayor E. C. Iverson of Ponca has in his possession all of the business records of the blacksmith shop. These records are an invaluable source of information for studying the early history of the shop. The catalogues from which Mr. Cook ordered his supplies were also found in the building and they have helped in the identification of tools and machinery.

This blacksmith shop has strong potential to function as a working museum. The city of Ponca would like to have a blacksmith demonstrate the trade on special occasions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1901 - 1930's

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The blacksmith has played a very important role in the history of American communities. Each town, whether a metropolis or merely a crossroads, had a blacksmith shop which carried out the necessary function of creating tools, weapons and other essential items used by farmers, craftsmen and housewives. Transportation owes its progress to the blacksmithing profession as another job of the smith was to fit wagon tires and hub rings, weld and form various wagon and carriage parts and make shoes for the horses and oxen.

The Cook Blacksmith Shop in Ponca was built in 1901 by C. O. Cook who furnished his business with the most modern machinery and tools of the day. Mr. Cook operated his business for over thirty years until tractors and modern machinery caused his standard smithing duties to dwindle to small repairs.

The shop at Ponca is one of the few remaining examples of the blacksmithing business in an unaltered condition, and when restoration work is completed, the public will have a rare opportunity to view a working blacksmith shop.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Informant, E. C. Iverson, Mayor of Ponca and long time resident.
 Bealer, Alex W. The Art of Blacksmithing (New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1969).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

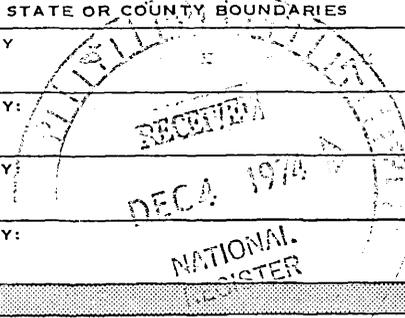
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	42	33	45
NE	0	'	"	96	42	27
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

14/688190
 4714580
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Janet Jeffries, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: Nov. 7, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

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 Martin E. Knietz

Title Director

Date 11/26/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/27/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 26 1974