

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 11 1984  
date entered JUL 12 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Alfred Hanson House

and or common Hanson/McCarthy House

**2. Location**

street & number 403 N. Frederick Ave. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Oelwein \_\_\_ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Fayette code 065

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture <span style="float:right">___ museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial <span style="float:right">___ park</span>
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment <span style="float:right">___ religious</span>
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government <span style="float:right">___ scientific</span>
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial <span style="float:right">___ transportation</span>
	N/A	___ no	___ military <span style="float:right">___ other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Stephen and Jacquelyn McCarthy

street & number 403 North Frederick Ave.

city, town Oelwein \_\_\_ vicinity of state Iowa 50662

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Fayette County Courthouse

city, town West Union state Iowa 52175

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Alfred Hanson House (1904) incorporates the basic elements of the Neo-colonial style into an eye-pleasing design. A corner recessed sun porch is an unusual feature of the house. An open portico on the main facade as well as a palladian window on the north facade further emphasize its style. The designer of the house, Harry E. Netcott, was a locally well-known architect.

The Alfred Hanson House contains many Neo-colonial features. Its essentially rectangular plan, horizontal and vertical symmetry, palladian window, hipped roof, portico, roof deck (non-extant) and dentil band along the first story cornice are the most distinctive features of this style.

The house is rectangular on plan (47' x 35'), two stories in height, and has a hipped roof with wide eaves and a flat deck top. The light brown foundation is of granite broken ashlar block veneer with limestone backing above ground level, and rubble limestone below ground. The exterior walls of narrow clapboard which are painted white as is the exterior trim work. Dormers with hipped roofs are located on the east and south facades. Horizontally paneled covers instead of more traditional lattice work fills the openings beneath the front and rear porches.

The east or main facade is dominated by a one story open portico which is supported by paired simplified Doric columns and single engaged columns which recess into the facade and recessed porch support. An interesting feature is the curved entablature of the portico which extends across the top of the sun porch and features a dentil band along the top of the cornice. The symmetrical window pattern balances the off-center corner porch visually. A centered dormer with two windows (28/1 sash) is in line with the central portico. The multi-paned dormer windows and the art glass transom in the large first story picture window typify the Neo-colonial era.

The north (side) facade presents a second public face due to the house's corner location, and the attention to detail on this front reflects the architect's recognition of this fact. The facade contains a two story centered projecting bay with a palladian window composed of art glass on the upper floor level, and a triple window grouping on the main floor. The cornerboards on the bay are matched by those on the rest of the house and serve to further define the wall mass areas. Originally these were painted a lighter color than were the exterior walls.

The west (rear) facade was not executed as originally planned. That plan envisioned an open first floor columned porch with a second story sun porch. Both levels were enclosed apparently with the original construction, although the whole was supported by brick piers in lieu of a continuous foundation wall. Paneled wooden skirts which match those beneath the front porch, provided infill between the piers. The architect strengthened the sense of multiple public facades by providing for a broad side entrance which led up to an open porticoed rear porch. A shallow single story corner wing which housed a pantry filled the remainder of the rear wall. This projection featured a dentil band.

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The south facade contains a first floor bullseye art glass window and a triple window grouping also of art glass which matches that on the opposite bay wall. The facade is asymmetrical in overall design due to the presence of the interior staircase. Two dormers with window pairs top this facade.

The house interior has undergone minimal alteration. It still retains the unique placement of the fireplace in the entrance hall, all the original main floor woodwork and finish, and Tiffany lamps. A central interior feature in the entrance hall is the stairway treatment which combines a raised stair approach, window seat, rich paneled woodwork, and an entrance with flanking pairs of Ionic columns. The only relatively major changes have been on the second floor and include the rearrangement of closets, and the partitioning of bathrooms into two separate facilities

The house has undergone two phases of alterations. Especially in the earlier phase, emphasis was placed upon incorporating the original design of the house into the altered version. In 1957 the sun porch was closed in with glass and the balustrades removed. A different front door and surrounding wall section were brought forward to enclose what had been an open recessed porch and entryway. In 1968 tornado damage to the property forced the removal of the balustrades from around the rooftop deck. The cresting and finials which highlighted the dormer roof ridges were also removed at this time. The chimney cap was removed with minimal negative visual impact. Some shingles had to be replaced and the wooden balustrade above the front portico was replaced by one of decorative cast iron. Stair railings of the same material were also added. The tornado also destroyed the older garage and its new replacement is excluded from the nomination. Decorative shutters also alter the original exterior appearance. The present owner intends to restore the lost balustrades, the chimney and the decorative roof trim.

The Hanson house rests on a double corner lot along a major thoroughfare in a residential district of Oelwein which is composed primarily of older homes of roughly the same time period. Shrubs line the main facade and several small trees landscape the property. The original elms planted in 1893 by Alfred Hanson when he first purchased the lot, were destroyed in the 1968 tornado.

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Original appearance of Alfred Hanson House, undated photo, view to west.

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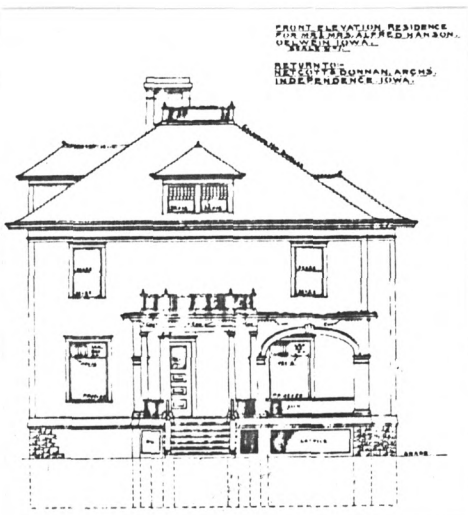
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C. 1930's view of Alfred Hanson House, showing rear of house as it differed from original plan.



Front and rear elevations of Alfred Hanson House from original plans.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1904 **Builder/Architect** Netcott and Donnan (architects)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Alfred Hanson House (1904) incorporates the basic elements of the Neo-colonial style into an eye-pleasing design. A two-thirds recessed sun porch is an unusual feature of the house. An open portico on the main facade as well as a palladian window on the north facade further emphasize its style. The designer of the house, Harry E. Netcott, was a locally well-known architect.

Alfred Hanson (1862–1921), the original owner of the house was born near Oelwein. In 1885 he married Edith Scott and he rented a farm outside of the town. In 1892 he moved to town and he purchased lots 129, and 130, the subject property the next year. In 1893 Hanson and another associate organized the Aetna State Bank of Oelwein of which Hanson served as president until 1899. Shortly thereafter, he and his two brothers founded the Commercial Savings Bank of Oelwein which in April of 1901 became the First National Bank of Oelwein. This bank continues to function under this name. Hanson also organized the First National Bank of Strawberry Point, the Readlyn Savings Bank, the First National Bank of Fayette and the Oran Savings Bank. Marion Hanson McCarthy, daughter to Alfred and Edith Hanson, later occupied the house and the property is retained by that family.

The subject house was designed by Netcott and Donnan, architects and the house was constructed in 1904. Harry E. Netcott, a regionally well known architect, of Independence, Iowa studied at Lenox College, Hopkinton Iowa, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa and lastly the at Polytechnic Institute of Chicago. Netcott is noted mainly for his public school designs, principally those at Independence, Rockwell City, Oelwein, Reinbeck and Postville. He also designed several notable banks and private residences, two of the latter being listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Wolf House, Parkersburg, C. Neessen House, Wellsburg).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Oelwein Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 129, 130, Block 13, Wings Addition to Oelwein, IA excluding the northernmost 50' of same (excluding the modern garage at north end of lot).

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jaccbsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPC

date 23 May 1984

street & number Historical Building  
E. 12th & Grand Ave.

telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines

state IA 50319

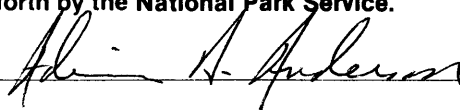
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

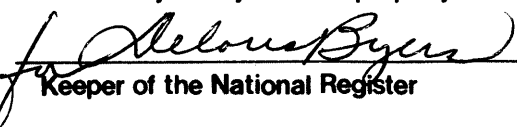


title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department

date May 29, 1984

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 7/12/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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