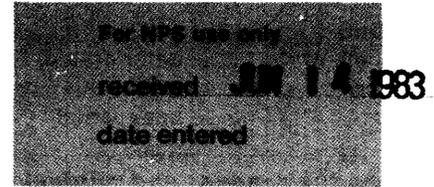


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic J. V. Banta House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 222 McLane Street not for publication

city, town Osceola vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Iowa code 019 county Clarke code 039

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Joel and Mary Erickson

street & number 19155 Yellow Pine Street

city, town Cedar vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Clarke County Courthouse

city, town Osceola state Iowa 50213

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

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Banta house is attractively sited on a large lot which is the highest point in the surrounding area and is located in a mixed residential-commercial area adjacent to Osceola's downtown business district. This 2 1/2-story edifice is of wood frame construction, is sheathed in painted wooden clapboards, and rests on a vermiculated limestone foundation over a full basement. Although casement, saddle bar, and round arched windows are utilized, most of the windows in the house are of the one-over-one wood sash variety and are set in rectangular surrounds. The irregularly massed edifice is capped with a hipped cross gabled roof clad for the most part in wooden shingles.

Unlike most of Iowa's Queen Anne houses, the Banta residence appears to have retained virtually all of its original exterior ornamentation. It exhibits a variety of rich forms, textures, materials, and colors including fish scale shingles, a two tiered porch turret, projecting attic gables, projecting bays, a tall chimney with terra cotta panels, large turned porch posts, carved wooden panels, brackets, spindles, and lattice work. Especially noteworthy are the large Syrian arches, said to be distantly related to those H.H. Richardson made famous, located on the ground floor level of the encircling porch. George F. Barber was strongly influenced by Richardson, and his towers, turrets, Syrian arches, window treatments, and porch treatments as exhibited on this house were part of an attempt to utilize wood to imitate Richardsonian Romanesque. Barber also did much to popularize the Colonial Revival and in designing the Banta house he placed a round arched and bay window on the east side which exhibit the characteristics of this mode.

Inside, the house has ten principal rooms on two floors, and a full attic and basement. Except for a 1925 remodeling which made the pantry part of the kitchen, the interior has undergone no major structural alteration. All woodwork is original and includes pocket doors, portierre grill work in the bay window, an elaborate oak staircase, wainscoting, and oak floors. In addition there are three tile fireplaces with elaborately carved mantels. Some original lighting and plumbing fixtures remain as well.

Recently, the Banta descendants sold the house to a family that plans to restore it by tuckpointing the foundation and fireplaces, removing the cellulose ceiling material that had been placed in some of the rooms and replastering, and painting the exterior in appropriate colors. A few feet south of the house is a small garage which resulted from the remodeling of the carriage house in the late 1920's. This edifice appears to have lost virtually all of its integrity, but it does not detract from the house's overall setting.

## 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 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** 1899-1902

**Builder/Architect** George F. Barber, Arch.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The J.V. Banta House, soon to undergo restoration, is the most architecturally outstanding residence in the county seat town of Osceola. Stylistically, the house is essentially Queen Anne, but it has elements of the Romanesque and Colonial Revival as well. Completed in 1902, this 2 1/2-story frame edifice was designed by George F. Barber and Company, the most important mail order architectural firm in the United States in the late 19th century. Although Barber designed houses practically identical to this one in several states, the Banta residence is the only one in this particular design known to have been constructed in Iowa.

J.V. Banta, an Indiana native, moved to Osceola from Vinton, Iowa with his wife Lillie, in 1868. Although he was an attorney by profession, Banta devoted more attention to land speculation and money lending than to the practice of law. By 1886 he was president of the Clarke County Bank and one of Osceola's leading citizens. In later years he founded the J. V. Banta Abstract and Loan Company. He and his wife were civic leaders in Osceola as well. He was instrumental in building the local Presbyterian Church and establishing the public library, and she was a major figure in organizing the Chautauqua in Osceola.

Toward the end of the 19th century, the Bantas decided to build a new residence. Like many well-to-do couples of this era, they were attracted by the designs offered by George F. Barber, who operated a mail order architectural practice from his offices in Knoxville, Tennessee. Prospective clients would obtain one of Barber's catalogs, pick a design, complete a detailed questionnaire and sketch sheet, and send this along with a fee which might range from \$15 to \$225 according to the size and complexity of the house. In return Barber furnished his clients with a full set of working drawings, complete specifications, contract blanks, color charts, and price lists of bills of material for the house.

The Bantas probably contacted Barber in 1899 and very likely received a copy of his newest catalog, Modern Dwellings and Their Proper Construction. The design they eventually chose appears here as Design No. 10 and had been developed a few years earlier for Church Howe of Auburn, Nebraska. The plans for this house could be obtained for \$70, and the house itself could be erected at a cost of \$3,800 to \$4,200. To a large degree, the Banta house is identical to the Howe residence. The only important difference between the two is that the two tiered porch and chimney side of the facade has been shifted from the right to the left side on the Banta house. The Bantas hired two local master builders, Dan Webster and Jap Smith, to construct the house for them at a later date, and it was completed in 1902. The house remained under Banta family ownership until the spring of 1983.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Des Moines

Quadrangle scale 1/250,000

UMT References

A 

1	5	4	3	2	7	0	0	4	5	0	1	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing					

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification Beg. at a pt. on south line of McLane St. due south of the SW corner of Lot 8, Block 24, original Town of Osceola, thence south 190', west to west line of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, T-72-N, R-25-W of 5th PM, thence 190' north to NW corner of said section, thence east along south line

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries of McLane Street to place of beg, except code West 66' there- of.

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Christian, Arch. Historian

organization Iowa SHPO date 1 June 1983

street & number Historical Building E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 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 Adrian S. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Dept. date 6/3/83

For NPS use only

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

Adrian S. Anderson Entered in the National Register date 7/14/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

- Barber, George F., The Cottage Souvenir No. 2 (Watkins Glen, N.Y.: American Life Foundation, 1982 with introduction by Michael A. Tomlan). Originally published in 1892.
- S.B. Newman & Co., 1899). Modern Dwellings and Their Proper Construction (Knoxville, Tenn. Biographical and Historical Record of Clarke County, Iowa (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1886).
- Old House Journal, February, December, 1980.