

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 17 1975

DATE ENTERED SEP 9 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

STRATTON HOUSE

## LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

303 East Washington Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Centerville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Iowa

CODE  
14COUNTY  
AppanooseCODE  
007

## 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

James E. Drake

STREET &amp; NUMBER

303 East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Centerville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Appanoose County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

City Square

CITY, TOWN

Centerville

STATE

Iowa

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Iowa Survey of Historic Resources

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Division

CITY, TOWN

B-13 MacLean Hall, Iowa City

STATE

Iowa

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Use: Private Residence

Site: The Stratton House occupies an 80 foot lot at the southwest corner of East Washington and North Fourteenth Streets, two blocks from the city square in Centerville, Iowa.

Exterior: The Stratton House is a one and one-half story brick residence three bays wide and two bays deep, with a limestone foundation, four prominent gables and a central brick chimney (a modern replacement). Suggestions of the Gothic Revival Style are evidenced by the cruciform plan, steeply pitched gables and the decorative bargeboard trim. A green composite shingle roof covering wood and a 1930's porch spanning the front comprise the most obvious modern improvements. Windows are trimmed with slim dressed stone lintels and sills. There are four lights to the windows and the central doorway is bordered by sidelights, panels and a transom. Metal disc clamps on the exterior walls indicate that tie-rods had been installed for stabilization some time ago. A 1930's frame garage appears next to the building on the east. Three osage orange trees are all that remain of the original landscaping.

Interior: The interior of the Stratton House reflects the exterior cruciform shape. Four rooms of almost equal size comprise the floor plan. A smaller room appears at the entryway on the south and another on the north. All millwork is simple but in walnut. The stair rail is also made of walnut. No major modifications exist on the interior.

# 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 checked="" 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 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stratton House derives its significance due to its Gothic Revival Style and the contributions of its owner/builder to the community of Centerville. Few Gothic Revival residences in brick remain in Iowa. Although this structure lacks the Gothic Revival lancet arches, its plan, steeply pitched gables and bargeboard trim set it apart not only from other residences in the immediate area but in the state as well.

Jonathan F. Stratton was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania in 1801. Moving to Michigan in the 1820's, he was an early community leader, working as a surveyor, commissioner of highways and Justice of the Peace. In 1841 he was the first to stake a claim in Appanoose County, Iowa, west of the Chariton River and about two miles east of Cincinnati. After moving to Udell Township in 1843, his home was the site of the first religious meeting and the first election held in the county.

He is, in addition, credited with starting the first school in the northern part of the county at his home where six or seven pupils were taught by his wife. In 1845 he erected the first grist mill and in 1846 surveyed, platted and settled in the new county seat, Centerville. It was in Centerville that he built the present house in 1858; where he died in 1884.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- The History of Appanoose County, Iowa, Published by Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1878, pages 330-502.
- Past and Present of Appanoose County, Iowa, L. L. Taylor, ed., Volume I, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, 1913, pages 83-409.
- A. T. Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa 1875, published by Andreas Atlas Co., Lakeside Building, Chicago, pages 499-500.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.149 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

U. S. Geological Survey Map Not Available  
 With UTM Reference  
 Latitude  $40^{\circ} 44' 19''$  Longitude  $92^{\circ} 52' 19''$

A	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

## 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

James E. Drake

ORGANIZATION

Appanoose County Historical Society

DATE

July 1, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

303 East Washington Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centerville

STATE

Iowa

# 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 D. Anderson*

TITLE

DATE

2/14/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Adrian D. Anderson*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *W. M. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/9/75

DATE

SEP 8 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 17 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 9 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET Two ITEM NUMBER Nine PAGE Four

---

Iowegian, Centerville, Iowa, articles in newspaper appearing in 1961 and 1970.