

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

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received **DEC 13 1983**
date entered

**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 Sturdivant-Sawyer House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 707 Drake Avenue not for publication

city, town Centerville vicinity of

state Iowa code 19 county Appanoose code 007

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	N/A	<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 Jerry and Wilda Malin

street & number 707 Drake Avenue

city, town Centerville vicinity of state Iowa 52544

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Appanoose County Courthouse

city, town Centerville state Iowa 52544

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 Sturdivant-Sawyer House exemplifies the influence of the Colonial Revival style of architecture, combined with a large scale turn-of-the century Italian villa-like plan. The house survives today in a relatively intact condition and the large lot retains many of the original landscaping details. The architectural style is unmatched in the town, and the house constitutes an important local visual landmark.

The house has a rectangular plan (40' x 36'), with a shallow two story rear wing (11' x 24') on the east side. The public facade faces west and the house has a very deep setback, being located in the center of an oversized lot measuring 165' by 296'. The exterior is a veneer consisting of St. Louis Red Granite Roman brick.

Colonial Revival stylistic elements most strikingly consist of two cyrtostyle porticos which are centered on the west and north sides. Both are balconied, having curved railings and round railing posts which are vertically in line with the Corinthian columns which support the porticos. On the main facade, the portico is centered on a nearly full sized front porch, and is flanked by end stairs. The front door is flanked by narrow side lights. The plan of this face is symmetrical, being centered on the portico, a palladian-style second story window, and a pedimented dormer with a bull's eye window with diamond shaped panes. Pedimented dormers, with decorative urns on each side, flank the central dormer. The large windows have lower sash which comprise two thirds of the window mass. The upper sash are multipaned with diamond shaped designs. Ashlar Bedford limestone sills and smooth faced flat Georgian veneer lintels define the windows throughout the house. Brick pilasters with Corinthian capitals define each corner of the house and each side of the main facade's portico. A two part dentilated frieze underscores the broad enclosed eaves.

An ashlar stone foundation is capped with a stone water table, and a second stone water table, set ten brick widths above, encloses the basement windows and supports the stone pilaster bases. Three tall nine foot wide chimneys project above the red tiled roof on the north, east and south sides. The roof is an early example of the use of tile, being in keeping with the Italian villa concept. The northern portico has a curved brick base and central stair approach. The east wing has a ground level entrance. The roof form combines hipped and flat surfaces.

The house exterior is relatively intact, major alterations being limited to the addition of a picture window (c. 1948) on the east wall, and the pre-1924 construction of a two car basement garage on the south side. A sunporch, above the garage added c. 1953-55 replaced an open patio area. The railings atop garage and porch, while matching in scale, were executed with square railings. Aluminum storm windows remain but are to be replaced. The original tinted mortar has been replaced with white mortar, with some evidence of deterioration of brick work between floors and around the picture window. The north portico has some settling problems. A large ventilator has been centered on the roof. Originally a widow's walk surmounted the roof.

The lot landscaping reflects the changes wrought by the addition of the garage. A front drive, from Drake Avenue, passes along the north side of the house, and circles sharply

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 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sturdivant-Sawyer House (c. 1903) represents the application of Colonial Revival stylistic elements to a large Italian-villa type plan. This well preserved house is unmatched in Centerville, and constitutes a major visual landmark on a primary residential street. The house employs an early date tile roof and boasts interior features of outstanding quality and integrity.

Francis M. Drake (1830-1903), noted military veteran, lawyer, merchant, state governor (1896-98), and founder of Drake University in Des Moines (1881), resided in Centerville following the Civil War, and acquired a homestead known as Block 18, in what became Drake's 4th Addition. Drake constructed the subject house as a gift for his daughter Mary Drake Sturdivant. The contractor was possibly C. E. Eastman of Des Moines. The exact construction date is elusive, the property having been transferred at the time of the daughter's wedding in 1901, and again in early 1903, and the house being placed on the tax rolls in 1904. The Sturdivant family owned the house until 1908, and briefly 1914-17.

J. L. Sawyers, who married another Drake daughter, owned the house after 1907, and used it as a medical clinic, while living in the Drake house. He served as president of Centerville National Bank until his death in 1914. Frank S. Payne (1869-1933) was the next and the longest occupant of the house. Payne, an Iowa-born lawyer, located in Centerville in 1894, served two terms in the state legislature, as president of Iowa Southern Utilities Company, and president of the Centerville National Bank, and purchased this house in 1917. Mrs. Grace Dickinson Payne, his wife, was locally noted for her leadership in various women's social organizations. It was during the Payne occupancy that the garage was added and a maid was employed. The house was most recently owned by the Norris family (to 1952), and the Beck family (until 1982)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.12 acres

Quadrangle name Centerville East

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	1	0	8	0	0	4	5	0	8	3	6	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 the SW corner of Block 18, Drake's Fourth Addition to Centerville, thence east 296', thence north 165', thence west 296', thence south 165' to place of beg. Includes only house and associated lot/grounds.

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. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 8 December 1983

Historical Bldg.

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-8152

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 A. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 8 December 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/12/84

for Melvyn Byers
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**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

around the east side to the garage. The drive also exits to the south, or to Wall street. On the south side concrete stairs descend down a series of terraces to a sunken garden where the remains of a circular walk with pergola foundation marks survive. On the east side, a covered walkway originally led to the driveway. Many of the original trees survive on the property. Originally the house shared a double block with the Drake mansion to the immediate north, the latter house having been razed in the 1950's, and the remainder of the property except for this parcel was developed with housing of fairly recent date.

Inside the house the original room arrangement and surfaces survive with very little alteration. A living room with ten and a half foot tall ceilings features fireplaces at each end, and a fine oak staircase with boiseries. The Corinthian column theme is continued in the fireplace decoration, and on the stair landing as well. A glass enclosed dumbwaiter was original to the house, and evidence of servant's quarters were found on the second floor and in the attic.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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