

PH0662658

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 10 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

**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

A.B.C. Dodd House

AND/OR COMMON

Thomsen House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

310 Third Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Charles City

VICINITY OF

3rd

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

CODE

19

COUNTY

Floyd

CODE

067 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Julia M. Thomsen

STREET & NUMBER

310 Third Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Charles City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50616

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Floyd County Court House, Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

101 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Charles City,

STATE

Iowa 50616

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Buildings Survey

DATE

August, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Charles City Department of Community Development

CITY, TOWN

Charles City

STATE

Iowa

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The A.B.C. Dodd House, built in 1910 of Prairie School Style, is a detached dwelling located in an area of single-family houses and zoned R-2, GENERAL RESIDENCE. The house, of wood-frame construction, is two stories high plus attic space and basement. In plan, the dwelling is basically a simple rectangle with approximate overall dimensions of twenty-seven feet by thirty-two feet. The longer façade is oriented parallel to the street frontage. Attached front and rear one-story porches visually relieve the two-story building mass. The two-story house is capped by a gable roof with broad overhang. The lower story porches have shallow pitched hip roofs which also have wide overhanging soffits. The main entrance, located in the building's main facade and adjacent to the front porch sidewall, has a small cantilevered hip roof that engages the porch roof. The porches are of original enclosed design.

The upper story of the exterior walls and the end gables are clad with stained wood shingles and are set apart from the lower story by a change of materials and expression. The lower story walls are clad with painted wood ship-lap siding and framed by heavy wood trim. This trim has various profiles made up of wide pieces with smaller applied pieces of mouldings to give relief. It is used to form the corner boards, the horizontal string banding between the upper story shingles and lower story siding, and to express a water table or base.

The stone basement foundation walls are not visible on the exterior. The windows are wood casements. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The brick chimney is centrally located.

The only known exterior changes are gutter and roof shingle covering replacements. The exterior colors closely approximate the original. The upper story wood shingles, the roof fascias and soffit boards, and the wood trim are stained a reddish-brown hue. The wood siding and casement windows are painted a warm yellow-ochre. The roof shingles are green. The building is faithfully preserved.

Similarly, the interior remarkably retains most of the original design features and exhibits many of the creative, stylistic elements of the Prairie School Movement.

The open and flowing first floor plan revolves around the centrally located fireplace and core. The entry vestibule and stair hall, located at the side, permit private access and circulation to various areas of the house. The first floor has a front living room (functionally expanded by utilization of the enclosed front porch), dining area and kitchen, with the enclosed rear porch used as a breakfast nook. The upper story has three bedrooms and bath.

The central core includes a fireplace of expert brickwork, a built-in kitchen cupboard and cabinets, and an engaged book cabinet of oak with glass doors which stops short of the ceiling and serves as a space divider between the living and dining areas. The interior walls and many of the ceilings have applied wood trim and ornamental detail which create decorative wall and ceiling panelizations. The main stair is separated from the hall by a decorative, built-in wood screen. All of the hardwood floors throughout the house are intact. Except for the dining room chandelier, all of the original integrally designed light fixtures are intact and functional. The most notable of these are a living room ceiling light of creative design and decorative accent lights incorporated into the living room ceiling moulding near the room corners. The original plaster finishes in the living room and dining room have cracked and the surfaces have recently been covered with wall covering of a neutral "wheat" color that closely resembles the tint of the original plaster and complements the "natural" wood finishes.

(continued on continuation sheet)

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The original L-shaped kitchen cabinets have been replaced; however, the core built-in cabinet is intact. The bathroom has all of the original plumbing fixtures.

At the rear of the site is a simple, detached garage structure of wood construction that was designed and built with the house. Vehicular access is via a side driveway from the street. The remainder of the site is simply, but attractively, landscaped in a manner complementary to the building's architecture.

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Gebhard, David. "Purcell and Elmslie, Architects" and "A Guide to the Architecture of Purcell and Elmslie." The Prairie School Review, Vol. 11, No. 1 (First Quarter, 1965).

Lindaman, Steven. "The Dodd House." Unpublished paper, Architectural Department, Iowa State University, February 14, 1975.

The Work of Purcell and Elmslie, Architects, with an Introduction by David Gebhard
(A reprinting of the January 1913, January 1915, and July 1915 issues of The Western Architect). The Prairie School Press, Park Forest, Illinois, 1965.

Thomsen, Julia. Interviewed by Ronald Schmitt, September 1, 1977.