

PH036112X

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 4 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUL 20 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC
** Dickinson Webster House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 609 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN: Osceola

STATE: Iowa

VICINITY OF: Fifth

COUNTY: Clarke

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth

CODE: 039

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Clifford and Ruth Carr

STREET & NUMBER: 609 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN: Osceola

STATE: Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clarke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Osceola

STATE: Iowa

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 diminutive (16' x 26') Dickinson Webster house is basically rectangular in plan, with a porch across the front, a smaller porch on the east side, and a small addition (formerly a summer kitchen) at the rear. The main block is 1½ stories high, with a steeply-pitched gable roof; the frame addition is one story, and its gable roof has a lower pitch. The foundation is stone.

Facades are symmetrical, with centrally-located doors on the south and east elevations between 6/6-light double-hung sash windows. Both doors feature sidelights and four-light transoms. The original main entrance was from the south, facing the then main road from Osceola to nearby Murray. Four, round, unfluted columns with Roman-style capitals support a shed roof. Above this roof is a door in the gable end, which appears to have been for ventilation only (several similar houses in Osceola have this same feature). On the east side, the sloping porch roof is supported by two square wood columns with capitals like those on the south.

There are two brick chimneys, located on the ridge line.

The fundamental simplicity of the house is relieved by scalloped millwork with trefoil pendants, which trim the eaves and gable ends. This decorative effort is believed to have been part of the original construction.

The interior is divided into four rooms on the first floor, two on the second. The kitchen is located in the small addition to the rear. Features include 7" mopboard in the parlor, original hardware on the parlor windows and doors, pedimented lintels over doors and windows, and a turned newell post and square balusters on the central staircase.

The kitchen ell, and the porches, were added before 1889 (no accurate date available). The only other alterations have been minor modifications of the interior to accommodate modern living styles.

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

ca. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dickinson Webster house combines native, locally sawn lumber in its basic construction, with ornate millwork and some classical influences in the porch columns. The result is an essentially simple house whose austerity is relieved by decorative elements, giving it a slightly unusual character.

The house is also locally significant as one of the few in Osceola dating from the early years of town and county history which has been continually occupied by descendants of a pioneer family. The Webster family, originally from Delaware, came to Franklin Township, Clarke County, in 1851, the year the county was organized. Dickinson Webster, Sr. (1792-1860), as one of the earliest settlers, was elected to the first board of county commissioners that year. Of his fourteen children, Dickinson Webster, Jr. (b. 1827) is best known. Webster, Jr., moved to the town of Osceola in 1854, and purchased at least one town lot. This house was built sometime thereafter, and Webster lived there until his death. He owned 900 acres of farmland, and in 1869 began a nursery business which became known throughout the county. From 1852-56 he was the school-fund commissioner for the county. Webster also founded (1866) the Webster Funeral Home, which operated as a family business until 1970, and still carries the family name.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Record of Clarke County, Iowa. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1886.
Osceola Sentinel, August 2, 1951 (Centennial edition)
 Records, George Buesch Abstract Office, Osceola, Iowa.
 Family records and documents in the possession of Ruth and Clifford Carr

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 3 0 5 5 0	4 5 4 0 2 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				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

Mrs. Gerald Cottrell

ORGANIZATION

Clarke County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

139 N. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN

Osceola

DATE

TELEPHONE

STATE

Iowa 50213

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 Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 1/12/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm. M. Stewart

DATE

7/20/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles M. ...

DATE

7-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER