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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, General Cass and Belle, House  
other names/site number Jacobs, John W., and Bertha, House; Smith-Jacobs House; Jacobs House

2. Location

street & number 500 West Main Street  not for publication  
city, town Lake City  vicinity  
state Iowa code 19 county Calhoun code 025 zip code 51449

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic & Architectural Resources of Lake City, Iowa: 1854-1940  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] Date 7/3/90  
Signature of certifying official  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 8/27/90  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, Brick

walls Brick

Wood Shingles

roof Asphalt

other

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet, attached.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Smith-Jacobs House is a simplified variation of the Queen Anne residences built in small Iowa towns around the turn of the century. It was built in late 1901 from plans drawn by an architect named Fligel in Racine, Wisconsin. Prominently situated on the northwest corner of West Main and Olive Streets, this well-preserved house easily draws the attention of travellers on Highway 175 (Main Street) as they pass through Lake City. There are several other two-story, 19th Century homes in the surrounding residential neighborhood, but none have the integrity of the Jacobs House.

The two and one-half story, brick house has essentially a square plan with cross-gabled one by one bays extending outward from each of the four sides. The structure's foundation is of coursed fieldstones with brick above. Its walls are brick with a higher quality brick veneer applied to the exterior. The roof is a complex design of gable-on-hip with shallow gabled bays; the whole roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A central brick chimney rises from the roof ridge of the main roof.

Fenestration throughout the house is predominantly one-over-one-light, double-hung sash. The gable peaks contain paired windows with diamond-paned glazing, and the southeast corner of the main block has a corner window with mullions. The windows are cleverly arranged so that each of the main rooms inside has a window looking out in three directions. Window sills are of a dark stone, perhaps sandstone.

The house has two main entrances, a front door in the center of the east elevation and a back, or kitchen, door in the center of the west elevation. The cellar door is on the north side of the house, hidden by the northern bay. Both the front and back doors have single lights, but the front door is distinguished by a delicately carved wood "shield" applied to the door's surface.

The Smith-Jacobs residence displays a number of Queen Anne decorative features (see McAlester, 1989, pp. 262-287). This style is known for its asymmetry, which the Smith-Jacobs House displays. One of the most visible of these is the structure's irregular plan and steeply-pitched, irregular roof shape. A beltcourse of rough-faced bricks divides the first and second stories in an attempt to avoid a smooth wall, another characteristic of Queen Anne; a high stone watertable accomplishes the same effect.

A second key feature is the one-story porch with turned posts and spindled valance which wraps around from the east to south sides. The porch has a corner entrance with pedimented gable containing a sunburst in the tympanum, a cutout balustrade, and a panelled skirt. The design of the porch skirt repeats the design in the spandrel beneath a large, slightly projecting window on the south bay, another characteristic of the style. (The porch was restored in 1989 based on historic photos of the original porch.) The rear porch spans most of the west bay, and a short part wraps around to the north side; it is similar to the front porch in design.

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Other common elements of Queen Anne are the pent gables and bracketed cornice exhibited by the four bays of the Jacobs House. The tops of the gable peaks project over the windows, and are another way to avoid the appearance of flat walls. Alternating bands of decorative wood shingles within the gable peaks also identify the style. To further promote the asymmetry of the house, one window, on the eastern bay, has a more elaborate shouldered lintel of rough-faced brick and a scrolled wood design applied between the glazing and the lintel. The distinction between the first and second floors is reinforced by two types of lintels. The first story windows have segmentally arched brick lintels, whereas the second floor windows have flat lintels; this was relatively common in 19th century homes.

The inside of the residence has been almost entirely restored. The more restrained decorations of the interior show that the building is a later Queen Anne house. The woodwork is simply molded and all original. Walls are plastered, except for the partially wainscoted front hall. The original building contractor laid the flooring in the same direction as the underflooring, and some unevenness resulted after years of wear. The present owner has refinished the floors to eliminate the bumps. The pocket doors separating the parlor and dining room from the front hall work well; doors throughout the house still have the original patterned hardware. The stairway is simple yet elegant with panelled square newel posts and turned balusters. Mullioned corner windows (mentioned above) light the front stairway; on the second floor the stair railing curves gracefully. The attic stairs are naturally less attractive but equally interesting: the bottom stair lifts up to reveal a laundry chute to the basement.

Alterations are minimal. At some undetermined date three windows were infilled, two kitchen and one basement window. The kitchen windows are at the southwest corner of the house, and are visible from W. Main Street. In addition, the chimney appears to have been modified; it probably had a corbelled cap when the house was built. These alterations are overshadowed by the excellent integrity of the rest of the house, however, and are not immediately noticeable. During the past year the owner replaced the roof shingles, but did not alter the roof itself.

In the 1970s the porch underwent great changes. The original lattice skirt and the floor were removed, and a concrete floor poured at ground level. In 1989 the present owner constructed a new floor and skirt to hide the concrete; the original skirt was lattice. The porch's balustrade may also be of a slightly different design than the original, but it still maintains the historic feeling of the porch. The roof of the porch had rotted, and needed to be replaced, but the turned posts and valance are all original. The back porch is totally new, but was built to replicate the design motif found on the front porch as closely as possible. [The small gazebo in the yard north of the house was built recently, and is not a reconstruction. It is non-contributing in this nomination.]

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One of the most distinctive features of this property is the sidewalk that borders it. George Smith of Lake City, unrelated to the Smith family who had this house built, laid the sidewalks c. 1903. They are stamped with three different designs, two of which are elaborately scrolled. The sidewalks span the south side of the lot, part of the east side, and lead from the back porch to the south sidewalk. Smith signed his work at the southeast corner of the lot and just south of the back porch. These sidewalks are unique in Lake City. Part of the sidewalk on the southeast corner of the lot is paved with bricks bearing the words "Boone B. T. P. Co." This may mean the Boone Brick, Tile and Paver Company of Boone, Iowa. These were probably laid shortly after the concrete walks.

In a town in which people moved and altered their homes frequently, the Smith-Jacobs House is amazingly intact, and in excellent condition.

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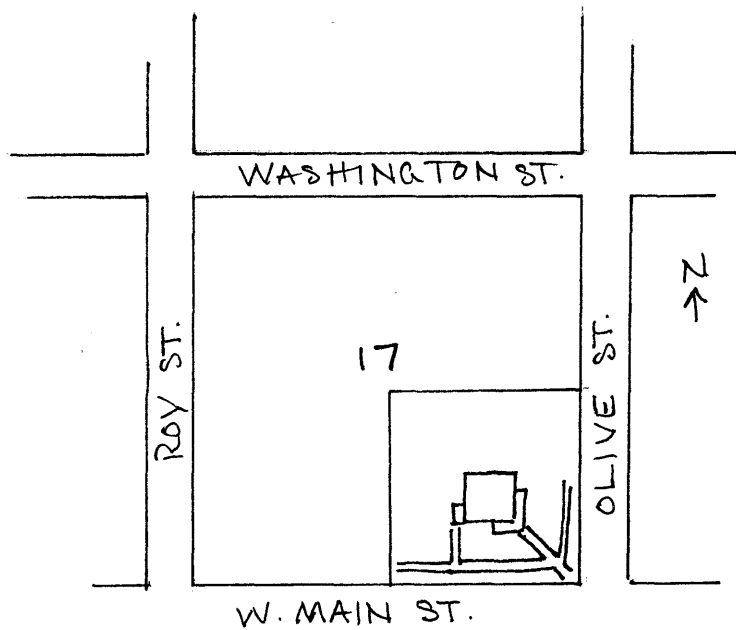
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CFN-259-1116

General Cass and Belle Smith House  
500 West Main Street  
Lake City, Iowa

SKETCH MAP OF PROPERTY

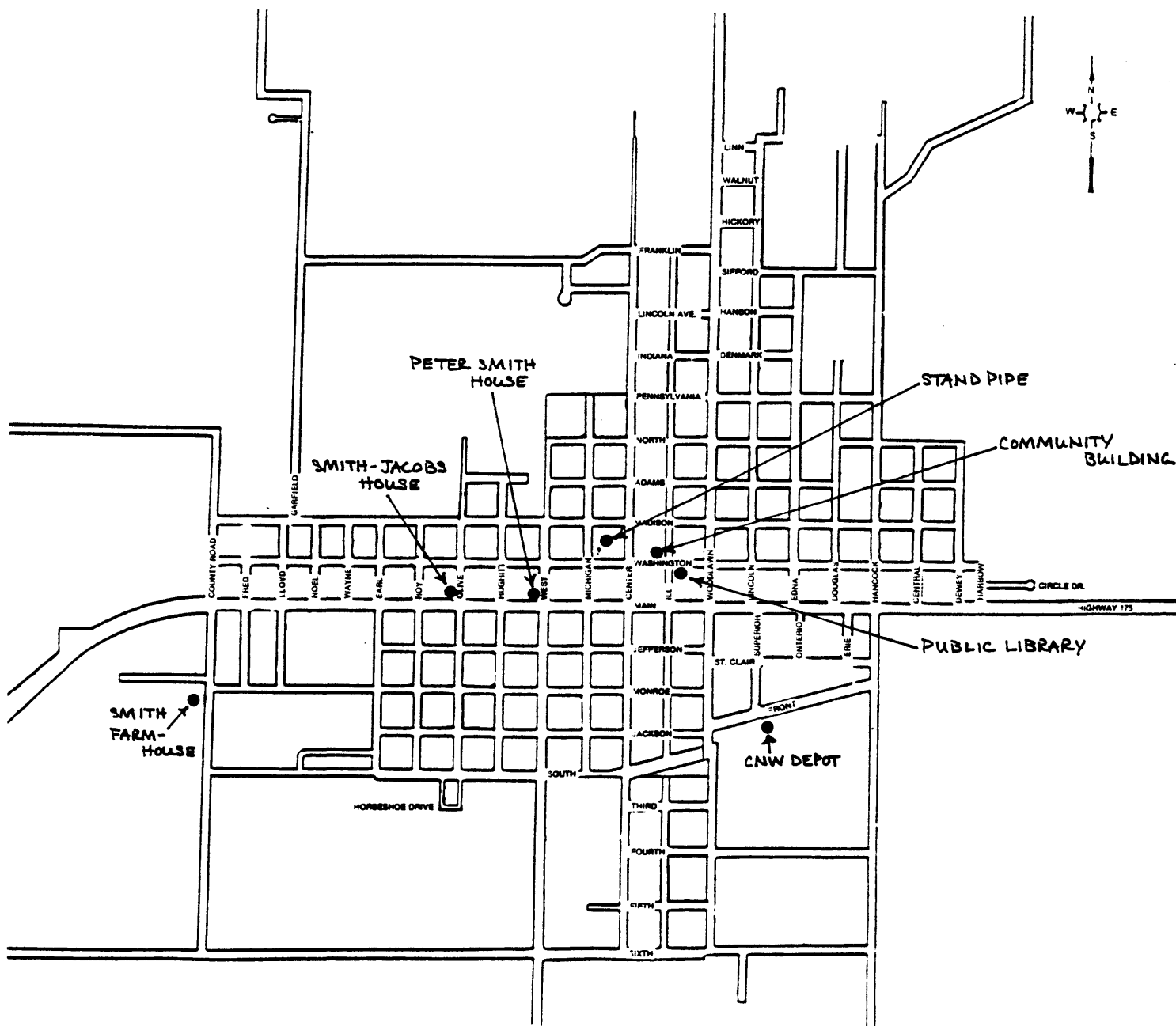


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**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
1901

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
1901

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
None

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
Mr. Flagel, Racine, Wisconsin (first name unknown)  
Unknown (unknown)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheet, Attached.

See continuation sheet



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See Continuation Sheet, Attached.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Iowa Site Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A 

1	5
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3	5	6	6	2	0
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4	6	8	0	7	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See Continuation Sheet, Attached.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nomination includes the subject house, sidewalks, and gazebo; it excludes all other structures.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Tracy Ann Cunning, w/research by Vivian Campbell, Rose Rosendahl, Rebecca Conard  
organization PHR Associates date 2 January 1990  
street & number 725 Garden Street telephone 805/965-2357  
city or town Santa Barbara state CA zip code 93101

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Smith-Jacobs House is significant under Criterion C, as an excellent example of a later Queen Anne style residence in small town Iowa. The understated plan, form and detailing of the house clearly mark it as a Queen Anne style residence built around the turn of the century. Many homes in Lake City display elements of this style or the related Folk Victorian style, but none have the integrity of design and materials that the Smith-Jacobs House does (Historic and Architectural Resources of Lake City, Iowa: 1854-1940).

## **BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE:**

General Cass Smith was born to Peter and Sarah Smith of Lake City in 1861, the youngest of five boys. His parents were well known as two of the earliest white settlers in the area, having homesteaded on the western edge of Lake City in 1855. Peter and Sarah deeded forty acres to the fledgling community in 1856, and Peter became the first Calhoun County judge in 1857, which established the Smith name in Lake City. Throughout the last half of the 19th Century the Smith family played an active role in the community as farmers, merchants, real estate dealers and members of the Christian Church.

When G. C. was fourteen years old his parents moved to Glidden, where two brothers were in the grain and lumber business. G. C. finished his schooling in Glidden, and in 1879 won a \$50 scholarship to the Iowa City Commercial College (Vivian Campbell, interview), which doubtless helped him in business later on.

G. C. married Lottie Belle Huff of Lake City, probably in the 1880s, and settled in the area. In 1889 they purchased property at the northwest corner of W. Main and Olive Streets from Peter Smith and Mary (his second wife) for \$1,000. The G. C. Smith's lived in the house already on the site, and kept a few animals in a fenced area directly west of the house. One of G. C. and Belle's sons recalled that the family lived in a small, grey farmhouse "west of Lake City" until 1900 (Vivian Campbell, interview). This may well have been the house purchased in 1889 for at that time it was on the western edge of the town.

Smith probably worked in town at this time, but what he did then is unclear, although he later owned a shoe store. Around 1890 he was the secretary of the Lake City Hotel Association, a group of businesspeople who arranged the construction of the three-story Columbia Hotel c. 1890. G. C. Smith's status in the community may have stemmed primarily from the prominence achieved by his father (who in the 1880s organized Lake City's first bank) which might explain why comparatively little is known of the younger man.

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After his father's death in 1899, G. C. probably either inherited property or purchased some of his father's holdings from his widowed stepmother, which he then turned into lots for the growing town. His living must have been comfortable, for in 1901 the Lake City News stated that "G. C. Smith has just finished putting out 200 shade trees in his beautiful addition, West View" (Wednesday, May 1, 1901). The next day the Lake City Graphic reported that

"G. C. Smith is making preparations for...a new residence upon the site of his present home on Main Street. The old house is to be moved to...West View [addition]. The new house will be new in every particular. Even the present cellar will be torn out and a new one built. The new building will be 38 x 48 over all, and will be two stories in height. The plans were received on Tuesday from the architect, Mr. Flagel of Racine, Wisconsin" (Thursday, May 2, 1901).

The house was most likely completed in late 1901. The name of the contractor is unknown to date. Scroll-patterned sidewalks by George Smith (unrelated to G. C. Smith) followed c. 1903 as the town council began advocating paved sidewalks to improve the town's appearance.

In 1913 General Cass Smith sold his house on W. Main Street and moved his family to California. He eventually sold the shoe store in 1917. John W. and Bertha Jacobs bought the house from G. C. and Belle Smith in 1913, and lived in it until the mid-1960s. The house is better known locally as the Jacobs House because of their long residence here. John Jacobs was an attorney, politician and city official in Lake City. Voters elected him mayor in 1897 for a term lasting until 1900. He then served in the State Assembly from 1909 to 1913, and was on the town council for many years.

Most residences in Lake City date to the 1880s and '90s when the town experienced a rapid growth spurt. Nearly all are of "vernacular type and construction," built by local carpenters, and possessing little ornamentation. The more affluent families naturally had homes that reflected their economic status (Historic and Architectural Resources of Lake City, Iowa: 1854-1940). The Smith-Jacobs House stands out as one of the few architect-designed, "high style" residential structures in Lake City, and shows the Smith family's standing in the community.

The Smith-Jacobs residence is a sedate version of the Queen Anne style, which grew more simplified after the turn of the century. It has the irregular plan and roof shape, spindled porch, pent gables and bracketed cornice of the style, but no "gaudy ornamentation" that characterized earlier Queen Anne homes (Historic and Architectural Resources of Lake City, Iowa: 1854-1940).

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**The patterned sidewalks bordering the house further attest to the prevailing Victorian fashions in building, and are unique in Lake City.**

**Since there is insufficient evidence that the G. C. Smith and Jacobs families made singularly important contributions to Lake City this house is currently eligible only under Criterion C. Compared to other Lake City homes, the strengths of this house lie in its great integrity and its well-executed, unique design; alterations are primarily superficial. Its well-preserved and understated Queen Anne detailing makes the Smith-Jacobs House an important element of the community's visual heritage.**

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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CFN-259-1116

Calhoun County Land Transfer Block Books.

Campbell, Vivian. Lake City Historian, Lake City Historic Preservation Commission.  
Telephone Interview, 20 December 1989.

Iowa Site Inventory, Jacobs House. Lake City Historic Preservation Commission, 1987.

Johnson, Rachel. Former Owner of Property, Lake City, Iowa. Personal Interview,  
1 August 1987.

Lake City Tax Assessment Records, 1889-1911.

"[New G. C. Smith Residence.]" Lake City Graphic, May 2, 1901, no page number.

"[New G. C. Smith Residence.]" Lake City News, May 1, 1901, no. page number.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Lake City, 1931.

Smith, Peter and Sarah, family geneology.

Stonebreaker, Beaumont. Calhoun County Past and Present. Chicago: S. J. Clark  
Publishing Co., 1915, p. 144.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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CFN-259-1116

### Verbal Boundary Description

The precise verbal boundary of the Smith-Jacobs House is a square measuring 132' on a side, or the entire southeast quarter of Block 17, Smith's Second Addition, Lake City. Beginning at the northwest corner of W. Main and Olive Streets the boundary runs 132' west; thence north for a distance of 132'; thence east to Olive Street for a distance of 132'; thence south 132' to W. Main Street and the point of beginning.