

PH0367222

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 14 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1977

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

Governor John Hopwood Mickey House

AND/OR COMMON

Polk County Historical Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South end of State Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Osceola

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

31

COUNTY

Polk

CODE

143

3 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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

People of Polk County

STREET & NUMBER

Polk County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Osceola

STATE

Nebraska

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Osceola

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 John Hopwood Mickey House is a 2½-story frame structure purportedly built about 1884 by the then former state legislator. The main portion of the house is tee-shaped and features a moderately pitched gable roof. An extension (probably original) to the rear (south) of the house gives the overall plan a cross configuration. This wing is 1½ stories in height and is sheltered with a hipped roof. Flanking the rear extension and filling the space between the rear extension and the main tee-shaped structure are two one-story lean-to additions which are presently enclosed porches. An ell-shaped porch enhances the main entrance facades.

On the exterior the original wood siding has been replaced with light gray asbestos siding. However, the roof, with its cresting which recalls victorian detailing, maintains its original character. Inside, the house has seen superficial alteration; however, the 14 rooms of the original house are intact, as well as much of the woodwork and three fireplaces. The house continued to be used as a residence for many years after Mickey's death. Later it was used as the St. Francis Hospital, until 1956, when it was converted back into a residence for the manager of the new Annie Jeffrey Memorial Hospital. In 1967 it became the property of the Polk County Commissioners, who have leased the property to the Polk County Historical Society for use as a museum.

The society has arranged 17 different rooms containing more than 7000 articles which have been contributed since 1967. These period rooms cover a wide variety of topics including "Bedroom of 1900," "Library," "Doctor's Office with Hospital Room," "Parlor," "Grandma's Kitchen," "Old General Store with its Post Office" and the "Enclosed Back Porch." Also included within the museum is a meeting room, and photograph, art, toy and musical instrument displays.

The Mickey House is located on its original site at the south end of State Street. Landscaping remains much the same as it was originally; however, a number of buildings and objects have recently been located or reconstructed on the property. A listing of these buildings or objects are as follows: 1) an 1872 log house originally built by John Benson of Polk County (placed on a concrete floor and foundation), 2) a "house" recently constructed of sod, 3) an early day church fitted with furniture and objects from churches all over the county, 4) the old District 17 frame schoolhouse, 5) a garage converted into Grandpa's Shop," 6) a windmill, 7) a log veneered pump-house, 8) an old school bell, 9) the old District 4A School flagpole and 10) miscellaneous frame buildings. The grounds surrounding the Mickey house, then, are intended to serve as an outdoor museum.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1883-84 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Hopwood Mickey was born near Burlington, Iowa on September 30, 1845. He served in the Civil War, enlisting as a private in Company D, 8th Iowa Cavalry in 1863. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa and attended Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant for two years.

Mickey came to Nebraska in 1868, homesteading in Polk County. In 1870 he was elected as first County Treasurer, holding his office in his home. He served in this capacity for 10 years, while farming. In the fall of 1871, a committee of three including John H. Mickey was appointed to select forty acres of land upon which a county seat could be located. Mr. Mickey and William F. Kimmel were then commissioned to survey and plat the town of Osceola.

Mickey engaged in a banking career throughout most of his life, with interruptions periodically due to his involvement in politics. In 1879 he founded the StateBank of Osceola and was its president for many years. He was elected to the state legislature as a member of the House in 1880 and served for one term. In 1902 Mickey was elected governor on the Republican ticket, and served two terms in this capacity. During his four years as governor, an outstanding feature of his administration was his record-breaking exercise of executive clemency by granting twelve pardons and sixty-five commutations. After Mickey's second term as governor expired, he and his family moved back to their hometown of Osceola, where he resumed his career in banking. He died in 1910 at the age of 43 after an extended illness.

In March of 1881, the Union Pacific Railroad deeded 160 acres to Mrs. Morinda Mickey, wife of John. A portion of this farm later became part of the city of Osceola. The house, located at the south end of State Street, was built by Mickey ca. 1883-1884. It is now leased by the Polk County Historical Society for use as a museum. Though several other buildings have been moved onto the property surrounding the house, only the Mickey house is included in the nomination.

John H. Mickey was a very influential and respected citizen of both Oaceola and Nebraska, as well as being one of Osceola's founding fathers. His home stands as a reminder to the townspeople of one of their most prominent residents.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Osceola Centennial Committee, Polk County Heritage, Osceola, 1975.
 Osceola Centennial Book Committee, Osceola 1871-1971, Osceola, 1972.
Messages and Proclamations of the Governor of Nebraska 1854-1941, Vol. 2 (1887-1909),
 Nebraska State Historical Society.
 Polk County Historical Society files

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	6, 2, 1, 8, 5, 0	4, 5, 5, 8, 4, 0, 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

Janet Jeffries, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln

DATE

April 6, 1976

TELEPHONE

(402) 432-2793

STATE

Nebraska

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Martin J. Knott

TITLE Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

4/18/77

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm J. Murdock

DATE

5/12/77

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

5/20/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEBRASKA

Date Entered MAY 12 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mickey, Gov. John Hopwood, House	Oaceola Folk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward Zorinsky
Hon. Carl T. Curtis
Hon. Virginia (Mrs. Haven) Smith
Regional Director, Midwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Marvin F. Kivett
Director, The Nebraska State
Historical Society
1500 R Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508