

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 9 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 9 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

Smith-Johnson House

AND/OR COMMON

"The Old Brick"

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

713 High Avenue East

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Oskaloosa

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

Mahaska

12.3

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jack L. Stanley

STREET & NUMBER

713 High Avenue East

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oskaloosa

___ VICINITY OF

Iowa 52577

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mahaska County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oskaloosa

Iowa

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 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 Smith House is built in three sections, of brick on a stone foundation. There are two, two-story sections of varying height, and a one-story wing to the east. The three sections, with their flat, tarred roofs, form a compact assemblage of cubic blocks, relieved only by two square brick chimneys.

Apart from the striking massing, the most distinguishing feature of the house is the fine brickwork. Each section bears a full entablature in brick corbelling, each slightly different from the others. Windows throughout are 6/6 in double hung sash, with broad, flat lintels of stone. The northeast (rear) corner features a small patio (built beneath a protruding upper room) approached through a side, semicircular brick arch. The two-bay front elevation is marked by the small entrance porch supported by square wood posts with chamfered corners, Tudor arches, and low balustrade on the flat tin roof.

The most extensive alterations to the house took place about 1865, coinciding with a change in ownership. The rear section, which originally consisted of a large kitchen with dining room above, was extended by the replacement of a lattice porch with a matching brick section which contained a much smaller kitchen and the patio, and the former kitchen became the dining area. An exterior chimney at the extreme rear (south facade) was cut off at roof level sometime later: the remains of it form a wide, flat wall pilaster between patio and kitchen.

The interior of the house is somewhat complex, with rooms on four levels reached by stairways of varying length. The rear (dining-kitchen) section is at the lowest level, rising then five steps to the living room (1-story section), main entry hall, and library. The third level contains the master bedroom (above the kitchen-dining area), the fourth, two bedrooms above the library and entrance hall. Flooring is pegged oak or pine. Walls are plastered, and covered with paper.

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 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 1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Appears later in 19th C L. Dovich

The Smith House, although conforming to no particular style, is an unusual expression of vernacular architecture. In terms of mass, it is striking -- a compact composition of 3 blocks of varying height. The brickwork shows great attention to detail, witnessed particularly in the cornicework of each section. The interior plan is also interesting, the use of four shifting levels adding distinction to an otherwise unremarkable room arrangement.

The house was built in 1853 for William T. Smith, coincident with his election as first Mayor of Oskaloosa. Smith, born in 1824 in Pennsylvania, was an architypal 19th-century townbuilder. As a young lawyer he came to Oskaloosa (founded 1844) in 1848, and was elected county attorney the same year. Apparently he gained considerable prominence in the community, to be rewarded by his election as first mayor of the city in 1853, and reelection in 1856 and 1857. From about 1854, Smith concentrated his major commercial efforts toward banking. Oskaloosa's first bank was opened in 1855, by Smith and M.T. Williams. Until the 1870's (he was described in 1878 as "now engaged in farming"), Smith parlayed this beginning into a series of presumably ever more profitable financial ventures, serving successively as president of W.T. Smith and Co. (1857), the Oskaloosa branch of the State Bank of Iowa (1864), and the National State Bank (1865-66). From 1856 to 1865 he also headed the Iowa Insurance Company in the city. In 1870 he stood as an "unwilling" -- and unsuccessful -- Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Smith lived in the High Avenue house until 1865, when it was purchased by Abijah Johnson, a Quaker merchant from Virginia (via Ohio and Indiana) who was possibly drawn to Oskaloosa by the flourishing Quaker colonies in the city and in the surrounding area. J. Kelly Johnson (b. 1841) took over the house about 1870 and lived there until his death in 1894. This son received training at the law school at Ann Arbor (Mich.) and later in Des Moines. After admission to the Iowa bar in 1867, Johnson worked at Eddyville for a year before returning to Oskaloosa. In 1879 he was elected to the Iowa state senate, and served in the 18th and 19th General Assemblies. In 1882 he was elected judge in the 6th judicial district, service until his death. J. Kelly Johnson's son, Irving (1872-1950), followed his father's profession.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Mahaska County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Company, 1878.
 Hedge, Manoah. Past and Present of Mahaska County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke
 Publishing Co., 1906, pp. 38, 138040, 195-6.
 Oskaloosa Daily Herald. 2 June 1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
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5	3	0	4	0	0
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4	5	7	1	4	1	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 60' x 146', Lot D of Subdivision of Smith's Block, City of Oskaloosa

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack and Betty Stanley

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

713 High Avenue East

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Oskaloosa

STATE

Iowa

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 D. Adams

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

4/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. D. Smith
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Charles H. ...*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/9/77
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 11.4.77