

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 20 1985
date entered JUL 18 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic George H. Gallup House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 703 South Chestnut Street not for publication

city, town Jefferson vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Greene code 073

3. 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James L. and Judith L. Sankot

street & number 703 South Chestnut

city, town Jefferson vicinity of state Iowa 50129

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number Greene County Courthouse

city, town Jefferson state Iowa 50129

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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 George H. Gallup House is one of twenty-two octagon houses in Iowa known to be extant. Completed in 1902, this 2 1/2 story wood frame house with sixteen foot sides is only one of the state's largest octagons but is perhaps the best manifestation of the octagon fad initiated by Orson Squire Fowler in the 1850's and continued intermittently by compilers of architectural pattern books and builders guides until late in the 19th century. Exhibiting neocolonial and neoclassical decorative elements and most of its original exterior fabric, the Gallup house is also one of the best preserved of Iowa's surviving octagon residences.

The Gallup house is of wood frame construction, and its eight sixteen foot sides are sheathed in wooden clapboards and rest on a rubble coursed stone foundation over a partially raised basement. Windows vary in size and placement, but all appear to be of the rectangular wood sash variety. The edifice is capped with a truncated octagonal roof covered with composition shingles and featuring a wide overhand and four symmetrically spaced gabled roof dormers. Originally the flat portion of the roof had an octagonal balustrade, but this feature was destroyed in a 1929 fire and not rebuilt. A single, unadorned brick chimney stack pierces the roof near the apex of its east central section.

In addition to its octagonal shape, other significant exterior features of the Gallup house include the placement of 16-over-1 wood sash windows on the front facade, wide eaves, window mouldings, pilastered corner boards, porch balustrades, and Roman Doric porch columns, architectural elements commonly associated with what has come to be called the neocolonial and neoclassical mode. The residence also exhibits a Queen Anne influence in the irregular placement of windows, and a somewhat asymmetrical appearance created by the placement of the front porch on the west and northwest sides, a bay window on the north side, and a two-story bay on the southwest side.

Inside, the house contains four major rooms on each floor and a large attic area. Much original fabric survives, including sliding doors, quarter sawn oak flooring, yellow oak trim and staircase, and at least one brass lighting fixture. The only major interior alteration occurred on the first floor where a bathroom has been added and the original kitchen turned into a study and the dining room converted into a combination kitchen-dining area.

Unlike most of the wood frame octagon houses in the state, the Gallup house has retained most of its original fabric. It has undergone some degree of alteration, however. A 1929 fire almost totally destroyed the original roof and attic area. Although this portion of the house was rebuilt along its original lines, the balustrade that graced the roof deck was not put back. A 1916 photograph shows that the front porch was capped with a balustrade, and this too has disappeared. In 1943 a breezeway was attached to the rear of the house to connect with a four car garage erected on the site of the old dairy barn. According to the present owners, portions of the siding need to be replaced and parts of the porch are due for renovation.

The Gallup house is located on a knoll overlooking South Chestnut Street on the west and a largely residential neighborhood. One of the oldest homes in its neighborhood, this residence with its high elevation, octagonal design, large porch, and four gabled octagonal roof is a rather imposing structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	xx architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
xxx 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1902

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George H. Gallup House is one of twenty-two octagon houses in Iowa known to be extant. Completed in 1902, this 2 1/2 story wood frame house with sixteen foot sides is only one of the state's largest octagons but is perhaps the best manifestation of the octagon fad initiated by Orson Squire Fowler in the 1850's and continued intermittently by compilers of architectural pattern books and builders guides until late in the 19th century. Exhibiting neocolonial and neoclassical decorative elements and most of its original exterior fabric, the Gallup house is also one of the best preserved of Iowa's surviving octagon residences.

Although octagon buildings were constructed by the ancients and were advocated in this country by leading architects like Robert Mills and Thomas Jefferson, the principal impetus to the construction of octagon residences came from Orson Squire Fowler, one of the more outstanding of the universal reformers in antebellum America and the leading advocate of phrenology. In 1848 Fowler published A Home for All: Or a New, Cheap, Convenient, and Superior Mode of Building, in which he introduced the octagon house to the public. In this book and several subsequent editions, magazine articles, and public lectures, Fowler argued that the octagon plan was superior to square and rectangular plans because it was closer to the forms of nature, provided more space and sunlight, eliminated square corners, and provided easier communication between rooms. Fowler's activities sparked an octagon craze which lasted until the Civil War and to a certain extent after. Many popular magazines and newspapers endorsed his concepts and published illustrations and floor plans of octagon houses, and practically every architectural pattern book carried at least one octagonal house plan.

Based on the construction dates of the thirty-three octagon houses known to have been constructed in Iowa, the fad appears to have reached the state in the mid-1850's. Fowler lectured in Dubuque, Davenport, Iowa City, and Keokuk in 1856, and his writings appear to have circulated in the state for many years afterwards. Generally, architectural historians have claimed that the octagon fad ended with the Civil War. In Iowa, however, more were constructed after the war than before, and several were erected in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although this may be due in part to the continued availability of Fowler's writings, postwar pattern books which occasionally had octagon plans and the late 19th century wave of octagon barn construction probably are equally important.

Although George H. Gallup's design source, unfortunately remains unknown, no one in the state exhibited greater commitment to the octagon houses. In 1893 he built his first octagon at 504 North Elm in Jefferson. A 1 1/2 story structure with twelve and a half foot long walls, this residence had Queene Anne detailing and was somewhat asymmetrical due to porch and bay placement. The Gallup family occupied this house until 1899 when they sold it and began planning a larger octagon. This house is still extant but has been so extensively modified that it would fail to meet the criteria of integrity.

In 1901 Gallup began construction of the property under consideration at 703 South Chestnut. By 1902, this two and a half story octagon with neocolonial and neoclassical detailing was ready for occupancy by Gallup and his family. At the rear of the house was

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Christian, Ralph J., "Octagon Search Underway," The Bracket, Spring 1983.
George H. Gallup, Jr. Interview conducted by James Sankot, June 1980.
Jefferson Bee and Herald, 8 November 1982, 11 April 1983.
Sissel, Dewey Kent, "The Octagon Form in Nineteenth Century Domestic Architecture of Iowa,"
M. A. thesis, University of Iowa, 1968.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Dodge NK Series

Quadrangle scale 1/250,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

West 150' of the south 136' of the north 285' of Lot 4, Section 17, Twp. 83-N, Range 30-W of the 5th P.M., City of Jefferson. Contains house, excludes east half of lot with c. 1930's garage and shed building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nomination prepared by Ralph C. Christian, Architectural Historian, SHPO
Form prepared by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa State Historical Department
Office of Historic Preservation date 30 May 1985

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50310

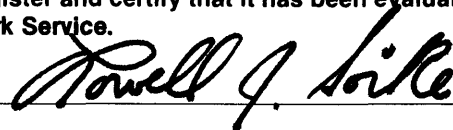
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 30 May 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered on the National Register

date 7-18-85

Keeper of the National Register

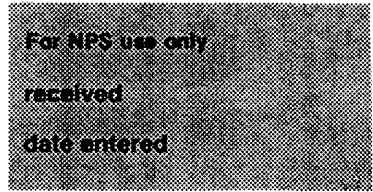
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

a large rectangular barn which housed the Gallup dairying operations. George Gallup, Jr. founder of the American Institute of Public Opinion and the famous Gallup Poll, spent much of his youth here and delivered mile to many Jefferson residents.