

PH0091772

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	MUSCATINE
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	July 18 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
~~Octagon House~~ or Sinnett Octagon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Octagon Place of Samuel de Sinnette

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: N of Muscatine near IA 38
~~Rural Route 2~~

CITY OR TOWN: Muscatine VIC. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Muscatine CODE: 139

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. Chas. G. Sleichter

STREET AND NUMBER: 302 Highland Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Iowa City STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Muscatine STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

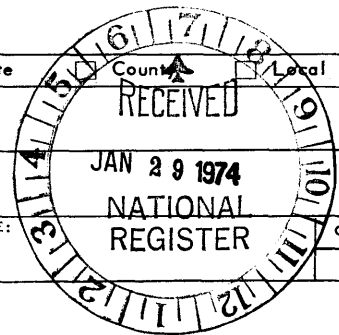
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: IOWA

COUNTY: MUSCATINE

ENTRY NUMBER: 181974

DATE: JAN 29 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A combination Italian villa and Greek Revival style this Octagon House is a two story brick building with bracketed eaves, corner pilasters and porch columns. Interesting details are the two-story south bay window area, the eight-sided brick cupola and cast-iron star clamps. The house stands as it did in the mid-nineteenth century--alone, on a knoll and at the end of a tree-lined drive.

All openings are symmetrically placed except on the west side. The main entrance is on the southeast side. The double-hung windows have wood sills. Those on the east side were once floor level and those on the main facades have flanking louvered shutters. Eight Doric-like columns support the entablature and dentiled cornice of the porch. Each corner of the building is accentuated by a 16" cap-like pilaster, a form which is repeated in the cupola.

A 19" wide sandstone random ashlar foundation supports the upper brick walls which range in thickness from 13" to 9". Each of the eight sides is 18 feet long. Ceilings are 12' 8" and, on the second floor, 9' 4". There are eight rectangular, four small triangular rooms and a viewing room in the cupola which is reached by a graceful elliptical stairway. All eight fireplaces are sealed off but the original mantels remain. Transoms appear above each doorway and the original native walnut woodwork has survived though covered in many layers of paint.

An underground tunnel with access through the basement extends quite a distance from the building.

A 1912 frame kitchen addition appears at the rear. The house itself has been painted a light green, the shutters dark green.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other. (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sinnett Octagon House or "Octagon Place" is a particularly graceful and well preserved representative of a particular planning style promoted in the 19th century.

✓ Samuel de Sinnette, descendant of a French aristocratic family of Huguenots who fled to Ireland when the "Edict of Nantes" was revoked by Louis XIV, came to Iowa and bought a 320 acre tract in 1840 and started to build the Octagon House, which he designed, in 1855.

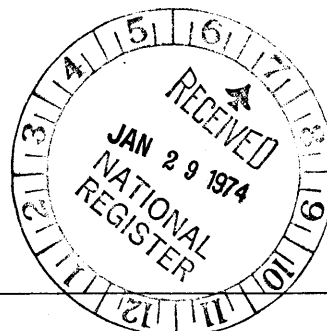
The Sinnettes lived graciously and did much entertaining of visitors and friends in their home. Samuel was a friend and co-worker of Dr. James Wee, early Iowa horticulturalist and fruit grower, who lived on an adjoining farm to the south and east.

Because of the relatively new octagon houses built in the United States, local sentiment is that "Octagon Place" should be preserved. Dr. Chas. Sleichter, present owner, is greatly interested in preserving the house and grounds around it to whatever extent that seems necessary.

The threat to the destruction of the house is the proposed by-pass of U. S. Highway 61 around the City of Muscatine. The Iowa Highway Commission has not yet made a survey for the location of the by-pass, but local interests will have to be vigilant when the planning stage arrives.

As of January 1974 the site will be incorporated into the City of Muscatine due to a passed referendum of annexation November 1972.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"City Museum Committee Views Historic Building." Muscatine Journal, February 25, 1965.
 Gallaher, Ruth A. "Octagon Place." The Palimpsest (Iowa City: The State Historical Society of Iowa), 1948, pp. 33-38.
 Shane, George. "Iowa's Eight-Sided Houses and the Legends Behind Them." Des Moines Register, February 2, 1958.
 Sissel, Dewey Kent. The Octagon Form in Nineteenth Century Domestic Architecture of Iowa, Unpublished Thesis, University of Iowa, 1968.
 Finch, Hortense. Unpublished notes to Davenport Times-Democrat article.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

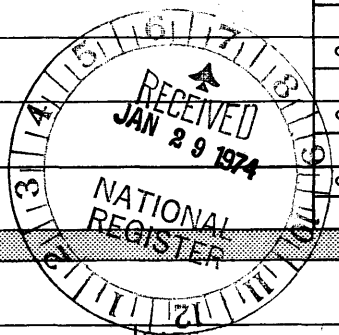
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0	0		41° 27' 15"	91° 01' 32"	
NE	0	0				
SE	0	0		12"		
SW	0	0			50"	

UTM
15/6450
4590720

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.3 acres in the fenced area

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James B. Tracy

ORGANIZATION: For Mrs. C. Maxwell Stanley, member of the Board of Advisors, National Trust for Historic Preservation DATE: January 13, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 Laurel Street

CITY OR TOWN: Muscatine STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date 8 January, 1974

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

A. R. Montross
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/18/74

ATTEST:

Wm. M. Staley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7.17.74