

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 4 1979  
DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1979

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

Chickasaw Octagon House

AND/OR COMMON

Johnny Stocks Octagon House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Village of Chickasaw

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Second 3 rd

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Chickasaw

CODE

**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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Gloria Skuster; Shirley Guthart

STREET & NUMBER

401 North Jackson

CITY, TOWN

Charles City

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50616

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chickasaw County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New Hampton

STATE

Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This little octagon house appears to have been built in two phases, according to date stones inserted in the masonry. The first floor was built in 1871, the second completed in 1874. (There is also a possibility that the first floor and basement were built during the 1860's, and that the date stones refer to beginning and completion dates for the second story.)

The house is built of locally-quarried limestone (perhaps from a quarry still to be seen east of the village of Chickasaw). The 21-inch-thick walls vary in length from 9 to 12 feet. The overall masonry pattern is random ashlar, slightly more "random" on the first story, while the stones of the upper story are of more uniform size and shape. The topmost course of stone is corbelled out slightly, giving the appearance of "supporting" the eaves of the low-pitched roof. The single, central chimney is brick, covered with concrete.

The main entrance is centered in the southwest side, sheltered by a small, gable-roofed porch added c. 1905. A doorway on the north side opens into a one-story, L-shaped frame addition, also built c. 1905. The fenestration is irregular. On the first floor, there are single windows on the north and south, two each on the east and west sides, all with 6/6 double hung sash. Second floor windows are 4/4 sash, set close beneath the eaves. They are closely paired on north and south, occur singly on the southwest and southeast, and, in two's, spaced widely, on the east and west. The main entrance opens directly into one of two large rooms which occupy the west half of the first floor. The staircase is slightly to the east of center, with two smaller rooms on the west side.

The house is located in a rural area originally platted as the town of Chickasaw. The few surrounding houses are all of frame construction (although one, nearby, appears to be of 1860's vintage). To the south, along the county road, are a school and a church, neither of which is now in use. Also on this property are several dilapidated outbuildings and a windmill (inoperative).

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 1871-74

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cyrus (Johnny) Stocks (?)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is one of twenty octagon houses presently known to exist in Iowa. Of these, only three were built of stone, the majority (11) being of frame construction. The octagon at Chickasaw is among the finest examples of the style remaining in the state. Although very small -- and plain in contrast to others such as the Langworthy (Dubuque) and Sinnett (Muscatine) octagons -- its utter simplicity allows a full appreciation of its form and the texture of its fine stonework. It is also among the earlier octagons in Iowa: those dating from the 1850-70 period are either brick or stone, with the frame octagons occurring toward the end of the 19th century.

The original owner/builder of the house has not yet been firmly established, due to problems with courthouse records. According to Sissel (p. 61), William Waite acquired the land in 1854, and no change of ownership occurred until 1904. William Waite was apparently an early settler in the area, having built a grist mill in Chicasaw Township in 1855. He is also noted in the county history as co-proprietor of the Waite and Albertson dry-goods store established in New Hampton in 1860.

Locally, however, construction of the house has long been attributed to Cyrus (Johnny) Stocks. The surname appears in both the county history and local newspapers of the period, although first names are Z.T., M.T., and Charles (and Charles' brother, name not mentioned). Although Cyrus (Johnny) does not appear in either source, it is clear, however, that all the Stocks actually mentioned in the currently available sources were at some point associated with the masonry trade in this area. In particular, Charles Stocks, of Chicasaw, advertised in the New Hampton Courier from at least 1868 to 1874 as a supplier of lime and building stone. In the March 22, 1872 issue, his advertisement reads "Charles Stocks and Brother". Z.T. and M.T. Stocks, cited in the county history, came from Stephenson County, Illinois (although a relationship is not indicated), and by the late 1870's were involved in the stone and marble business in Nashua and New Hampton.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 4 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 17 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

---

Verbal Boundary Description:

That part of Lot 6 of the irregular Survey of the North  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 21, Twp. 95N Range 14W of the 5 P.M. in Chickasaw County, Iowa, described as commencing 80 feet North of the NW corner of Block 13 of the village of Chickasaw as platted, and dedicated June 17, 1856. filed July 29, 1856, and recorded in Book "B" page 142, for the point of beginning, thence North 396 feet; thence East 160 feet; thence South 396 feet, and thence West 160 feet to the point of beginning, being the West half of Block 8 of the village of Chickasaw, as platted and dedicated before any portion thereof was vacated, consisting of Lots 7 to 12, both inclusive, and the West half of the alley of said Block 8.