

PH0663417

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 21 1978  
DATE ENTERED APR 14 1978

**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  
Oakes-Wood House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Grant Wood House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1142 East Court Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Iowa City  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF  
First  
COUNTY  
Johnson  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CODE

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
James P. Hayes  
STREET & NUMBER  
1142 East Court Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Iowa City  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Johnson County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Clinton Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Iowa City  
STATE  
Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 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	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			

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

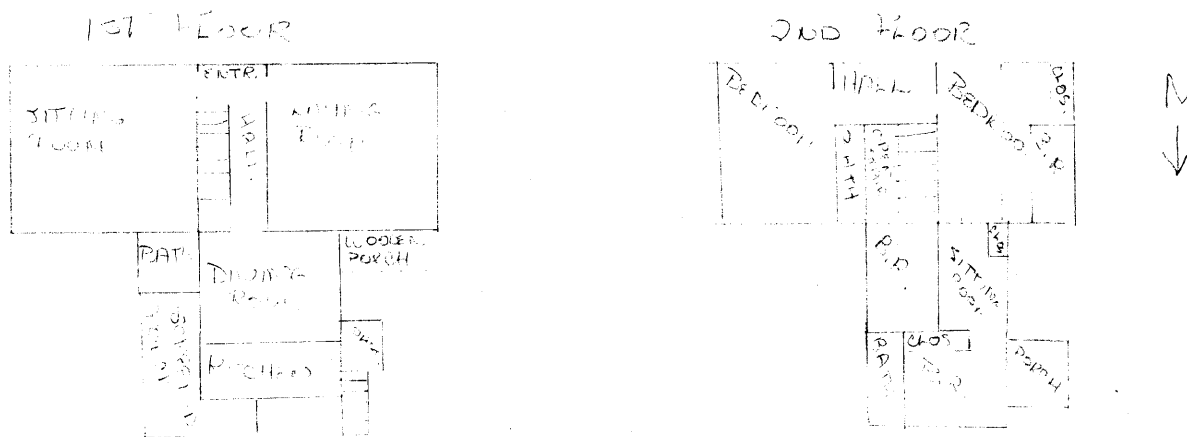
The Oakes-Wood house is a two-story brick structure in the Italianate style, with a low, gable roof, three brick chimneys and a T-shape floor plan. Although the impression made by the facade of the house is one of symmetry, the entrance is actually several feet to the right of center. Italian characteristics include this indication of asymmetry, the coupled brackets with pendants under the eaves, and the first floor windows which are tall and narrow with framing which extends to the floor level. Instead of the typical decorative caps of the Italianate style, the window headings which are segmentally arched have voussoirs of brick. The top rail of the shutters repeats the form of the segmental arch. The entrance has a segmental-arched heading above a doorway which features a fanlight, narrow sidelights, and paneling that is classical in character. Cast iron star supports indicating tie-rods are visible on the facade of the house at the second floor level.

The house, made up of twelve rooms, has a more or less typical 19th century floor plan (see diagram below), with two parlors, entrance hall, dining room kitchen, and pantry on the first floor and five bedrooms on the second.

The white picket fence was a part of the original architecture of the house. It employs finials on top of the large square posts that are similar in design to the pendants on the eave brackets.

The carriage house at the rear of the property, measures 28' x 32', and is simple in design with a gable roof. A two-car garage and tool room are on the first floor. The upper floor is an apartment with a kitchen area, shower-bath and studio area with a window wall, in which Grant Wood did much of his painting.

Changes made in the house itself after Grant Wood bought it in 1935 are few. No major structural alterations were made, except for the removal of a ca. 1900 front porch and the construction of a screened porch on the northeast corner. Interior modifications by Wood include the addition of a livingroom fireplace, modern bathrooms, bookcases, closets, shelves, and wainscoting throughout the house.



# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1858; 1936-42

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Nicholas Oakes

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was the home of American regional artist Grant Wood (1891-1942) from 1936 until his death. Although Wood began painting during his childhood, and exhibited in Paris in the 1920's, his early impressionistic style brought little notice. In 1928, Wood went to Munich, and while there became interested in European primitive styles, particularly in their use of the artists' own environments as vehicles for expression. Out of this experience, Grant Wood produced first "Woman With Plant" (1929) and "American Gothic" (1930), the latter work winning him the Norman Wait Harris medal at the Chicago Art Institute and immediate national recognition. In 1932 Wood co-founded the Stone City (Iowa) Colony and Art School, and in 1934 was appointed lecturer, later associate professor, in art at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

During the last years of his life, while he lived in the brick house he had restored himself, Wood experimented with lithography, producing "Seedtime and Harvest", "January", "December Afternoon", and other prints. He made four lithographs in color during 1938, small studies of vegetables and flowers. Among the paintings completed by Wood here were "Portrait of Nan" (1938), "Haying", "New Road", and "Parson Weems' Fable--Washington Cherry Tree" (1939) and "Adolescence" (1940). Also during this period, Grant Wood wrote Revolt Against the City, in which he discussed the enormous potential of the rural Midwest landscape and people to provide "the richest kind of material for a truly indigenous style" of painting. The work was a direct statement of his personal belief in the value and importance of regionalism in art, and expressed the sentiments of several of his friends and fellow artists, including Marvin Cone (also of Iowa) and the great Missouri regionalist painter, Thomas Hart Benton.

Architecturally, the Oakes-Wood house is an interesting mixture of the elaborate and the plain. To a straightforward, basic American house plan were added the complicated brackets and long windows, which foreshadowed a future American mania for elaborate, structurally useless decoration and high ceilings, which at the extreme reached 15' or more in height.

The house was built in 1858 by Nicholas Oakes, who established the first brickyard in Iowa City in an adjacent lot. Oakes also manufactured drain tile, possibly the first to do so in Johnson County.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brown, Hazel E. Grant Wood and Marvin Cone: Artists of an Era. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1972.
- Dennis, James M. Grant Wood: A Study in American Art and Culture. New York: Viking Press, 1975.
- Green, Edwin B. "A Grant Wood Sampler," The Palimpsest, LIII (Jan. 1972), pp. 1-32.
- Keyes, Margaret N. Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1966.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Lafore, Laurence. American Classic. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1975

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	6,2,3,3,9,0	4,6,1,2,5,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the southeast corner of lot A, in the subdivision of a portion of Oakes' First and Second Addition to Iowa City, Iowa, according to the recorded plat thereof, running thence West along the North side of Court Street 102.1 feet, thence North to the alley to a point 102.16 feet west of the Northeast corner of said lot A, thence East along said alley, 102.16 feet, thence South along the East line of said lot A, to the place of beginning.

## 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

Dr. Laurence Lafore, Chairman

April 1973 (rev. Aug. 76)

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Heritage Committee, Project GREEN

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

9 Parsons St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

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

*Laurence D. Anderson* (M.B.)

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 11.11.78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Laurence Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/14/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-12-78