

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 5 1987

date entered FEB 5 1987

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

**1. Name**

historic Doctor George A. Jenkins House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 223 South C Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Albia \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Monroe code 135

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name John and Annette Scieszinski

street & number 223 South C. Street

city, town Albia \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state IA 52531

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Monroe County Courthouse

city, town Albia \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state IA 52531

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Area XV Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation

city, town Des Moines \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state IA 50319

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Dr. George A. Jenkins Residence (1926) is the largest and one of the best preserved examples of Tudor Revival architecture in the City of Albia. The symmetrical two and a half story wood frame structure features the steeply pitched gable roof, gable dormers, and half-timbering associated with that style. The use of concrete and stone for cladding is unusual.

The house sits on a large, 3.5 acre, lot in the western part of Albia and faces due east. Third Avenue "T" intersects with C street here, so the house has a view for several blocks to the east. The lot is fairly flat to the east and north, sloping downward to the west toward the Oak View Cemetery. Across C Street the land slopes downward to the southeast.

The Jenkins house is primarily Tudor Revival in character, but combines elements of other popular early 20th century styles as well: Classical Revival in the rounded pediment, Roman Doric columns and the sidelights flanking the front door; and Craftsman in the use of highly textured exterior surface and the exposed rafter ends.

Structurally, the house is not concrete as it might initially appear. It is balloon rame with studs 24" on center. Metal lath is used on the exterior to hold the concrete which was hand set with hen's egg sized cobblestones (river gravel). On the interior metal lath was used to hold plasterwork.

The house features a gable roof on the symmetrical main block (approximately 42' x 32'), with a slightly projected gabled entrance centered on the eave side. This entrance is highlighted by the rounded pediment with columns, sidelighted doorway, and half-timbered treatment. On the rear is a cross gabled wing which creates an asymmetrical west elevation. On the south end is a two story flat roofed solarium. While windows in the main block are 12/1 double hung (often banded in groups of three), those in the solarium are casement windows, paired in the east and west walls, a band of seven on the south elevation. Cast concrete panels (1'8" side) are used to define the solarium walls. On the north end of the house is a two story stepped wing which houses a den and breakfast nook on the first floor and a bath and balcony on the second. Both wings have the same concrete and cobblestone treatment as the main block. The foundation is poured concrete scored to look like stone, with a cast concrete watertable above. The roof is of composition shingle.

The interior of the house reflects the symmetry of the facade. A wide (9'9") central hall divides the house from front to back. To the left, or south, of the hall is the living room (running from front to back), to the right, or north, is the dining room in the front, and kitchen in the back. Four pairs of French doors are used on this main level: One pair from hall into living room; one pair from living room into solarium; one pair from hall into dining room; and the final pair from the dining room outside to the terrace on the northeast corner. The four set of doors are aligned on a north/south axis. There is a half bath opening to the north off

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Continuation sheet Description

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the hall, between the dining room and kitchen. The front hall is unusual in that approximately 15' from the front entrance it rises two steps to form a landing the width of the hall. This extends 11' west to the wall where the open staircase rises up to and past the second floor. Snuggled beneath this staircase on the south side of the hall is a built-in corner bench. All the woodwork, French doors, staircase, etc. is golden oak in color. Two simple, but heavy oak mantels top the back to back fireplaces in the living room and solarium. These are served by one chimney. Another chimney, serving the furnace, is located near the northwest corner of the house. Floors throughout the house were originally polished oak. All floors except that in the southeast bedroom (solarium wing) are now covered, but the coverings are removable.

On the second floor are six bedrooms and two baths. The original floor plan was modified somewhat on this level to provide a master bedroom suite. The third floor has oak flooring and the plumbing has been roughed in, but it remains one large, undivided room. Dr. Jenkins had the contractor build a large model of this house as a doll house for his youngest daughter Zoe, and this third floor room is where she played with it.

Immediately to the northwest of the house, across a wide driveway, is a large, 35' x 29' garage which was constructed at the same time as the house. It has a gable roof with garage door located at the south gable end. Half-timbering is used here just as it is on the residence, and the walls are concrete and cobblestone. The major alterations to this garage have been the paving of the dirt floor, and the replacement of the original car doors. Though the new garage door may be considered visually intrusive, this structure should be included as part of the nomination because it was obviously designed and built to match the house. Replacement of the present garage door with more sympathetic doors is recommended.

The Area XV Regional Planning Commission Architectural Survey conducted in 1983 identified several "concrete" houses in Albia constructed during the 1920's. Most are stucco, some have a pebble dash finish, and one on South Clinton used large cobblestones. These houses are primarily small in size, and are bungalow in design. Four of these houses are located within two blocks of the Jenkins house. However, the Jenkins house is by far the largest and most elaborate of these, and is the only one utilizing river gravel in a cobblestone manner. Stylistically, there are only a handful of Tudor Revival designs, the Jenkins house appears to be the only large house constructed in Albia during this period. The other substantial houses from the first half of the 20th century were built prior to WW 1, are located on Benton Avenue East, and are Four Square and/or Classical Revival in design. The Jenkins house represents a direct departure from all of these.

## 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 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		

Criterion: C, Architecture      Contributing Count: 1

**Specific dates**    1926      **Builder/Architect**    John Jones, builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dr. George A. Jenkins residence is the largest and one of the best preserved examples of Tudor Revival architecture in the City of Albia. The symmetrical two and a half story wood frame structure features the unusual exterior cladding of concrete and cobblestone, while exhibiting the steeply pitched gable roof, gable dormers, and half-timbering associated with Tudor Revival design.

The most significant feature of the house is the use of concrete and cobblestone. The wood frame was covered with metal lath, to which the concrete could be attached. Each of the hen's egg sized stones was individually set in the wet concrete. Though no absolute documentation has been located, it is thought that the cobblestones (river gravel) came from the Des Moines River near Eddyville, since almost identical stones can be purchased there today. The use of concrete for residential architecture was not a new idea. Gustave Stickley has advocated it in his two Craftsman Homes books in the early years of the century. The Portland Cement Association published plan books for concrete houses. A 1925 Portland publication contains a plan for a two and a half story Tudor Revival residence very much like the Jenkins house except that stone was used only on the first floor, and the solarium was only one story high. The obvious difference between the houses proposed by the Portland Cement Association and the Jenkins house is that the Jenkins house is not a "concrete" house in the truest sense since it is balloon frame with concrete cladding. While the major decorative elements are Tudor Revival, there are several characteristics of Craftsman design as well, such as the exposed rafter ends, interest in highly textured exterior surface, and the lavish use of oak woodwork on the interior. The classical treatment of the front entrance illustrates the eclecticism of the 1920's. The large auto garage located just northwest of the house was built at the same time, utilizing the same style and building materials as the house. The plans for this house were selected from a magazine by Dr. and Mrs. Jenkins and ordered by mail. It was constructed by local contractor John Jones. The Jones family had long been associated with the construction business in Albia. The 1915 Albia City Directory featured two full page ads for W. A. Jones and Sons, Contractors and Builders (W. A. Jones was the father of John.)

Viewed in the context of the Area XV Regional Planning Commission Architectural Survey which inventoried 1039 structures built in Albia prior to 1930, three facts concerning the Jenkins residence become important:

- #1 - Of the "concrete" houses built in Albia during the 1920's, this is the largest, and is the only one to utilize cobblestone (river gravel) in this manner.
- #2 - This is the only large example of Tudor Revival design in the community, other houses are small English Cottage types.
- #3 - This appears to be the only "large" house constructed in Albia during the 1920's. The other large houses of the first quarter of the 20th century date prior to WW 1. These are located primarily on Benton Avenue East, and exhibit characteristics of Four Square and/or Classical Revival design.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to continuation sheet 9 -2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Albia

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 15 of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 72 North, Range 17 West of the 5th P.M., except portion of same Lot described on Continuation Sheet 10-2. Contains house and garage only.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

Text and Research, Ms. Molly Myers Naumann, Public Historian  
name/title Form: James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization State Historical Society of Iowa date  
Bureau of Community Programming

Office of Historic Preservation  
street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state IA 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 David Cron

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/10/86

### For NPS use only

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

for [Signature] date 2-5-87  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Significance

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Dr. George Allen Jenkins (1880-1962) was born in Iowa City, and graduated in 1901 from Marion Sims Medical College (which later became part of St. Louis University). He practiced medicine in several small Monroe County coal mining communities before establishing his practice in Albia in 1906. For a period of time he used the den at the north end of his residence as his medical office. It is said that Dr. Jenkins kept a very close eye on the construction of his house. He insisted that the foundation be poured and allowed to cure for one year before the upper floors were constructed. He visited the site each morning to examine the materials to be used that day, and it is said that he personally selected each of the individual cobblestones used. Dr. and Mrs. Jenkins moved into their new residence in October, 1926. Each of their three daughters (Margaret, Aileen, and Zoe) was married in this house, coming down the open staircase, with the ceremony performed in front of the living room fireplace.

Few alterations have been made to this property since it was constructed in 1926. The integrity of the house, garage, lot, and neighborhood has been maintained at a high level. In addition to being a good example of Tudor Revival using unusual building materials, the house serves as a statement of the Jenkins' social position in the community.

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Abstract of Title, Property of John & Annette Scieszinski, Albia, Iowa.

Albia Centennial Corporation. Historical Sketch Book of Albia and Monroe County, 1859-1959. Albia, Iowa: 1959.

Albia City Directory, 1915. (This is the only year available). W.H. Hoffman Directories.

Albia Union-Republican. Wed 5 Sept 1962.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940: An Illustrated Glossary. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1985.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Naumann, Molly Myers. Architectural Survey of Albia. Ottumwa, IA: Area XV Cultural Resources Survey (unpublished report), 1983.

Ottumwa Daily Courier. Wed 5 Sept 1962.

Portland Cement Association. Plans for Concrete Houses. (Third Ed.), 1925.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1922 and 1933.

Stickley, Gustave. Craftsman Homes. New York: The Craftsman Pub. Co., 1909.

\_\_\_\_\_. More Craftsman Homes. New York: The Craftsman Pub. Co., 1912.

Universal Millwork Design Book No. 20. Dubuque, IA: Universal Catalogue Bureau, 1920.

Interviews were conducted between September 1985 and February 1986 with the following people:

Margaret Jenkins Bovenmeyer, Daughter of G.A. Jenkins.

Joe McInnes, Member of the 1926 construction crew for the Jenkins residence.

Aileen Jenkins Pabst, Daughter of G.A. Jenkins.

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Continuation sheet Geographical Data

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The following parcel is excluded from Lot 15 and this nomination:

Commencing at a point 25.5 rods West of the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 21, which point is also the Southwest corner of Townsend's Addition to the City of Albia, Iowa, running thence West 8.14 rods to the Southwest corner of said Lot 15, thence North along the West line of said Lot 15 a distance of 18.18 rods, thence North 11 degrees 30 minutes West 4.73 rods, thence north 19.18 rods, thence East 2.91 rods, thence North 7.27 rods to the Northwest corner of said Lot 15, thence East along the North line of said Lot 15 a distance of 9.81 rods, thence following the boundary line of said Lot 15 South a distance of 10 rods, thence along said boundary line East a distance of 12 rods to a point 157 feet East of the East line of said Section 21, thence South 13 feet, thence West approximately 262.24 feet to a point due North of the West line of Townsend's Addition to the City of Albia, thence South to and along said West line of Townsend's Addition a distance of approximately 630 feet to the place of beginning.