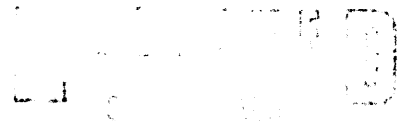


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name E.H. Gibbs Residence/"The Elms" at Ridge Place
other names/site number Griffith Hall

2. Location

street & number Wm Penn College Campus, N. Market Extension not for publication
city, town Oskaloosa vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 52577

3. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u> </u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u> </u> | <u> </u> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u> </u> | <u> </u> objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
Architectural & Historical Resources of Oskaloosa, IA Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 10/4/91
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] 12/13/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

EDUCATION/College

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival:
Neo-Classical Revival

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt Shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The E.H. Gibbs residence, originally known as "The Elms" sets on the crest of a hill facing south toward downtown Oskaloosa. It is on the east side of what is now U.S. Highway 63, and was originally built on the White/Gibbs family farm. The house is a two and one-half story structure of red orange brick, measuring approximately 58' x 65' plus porch across the south elevation. It is basically a simple brick cube with Neo-Classical details added. There is a wing to the rear, and a two story bowed bay on the west elevation. It has a hip roof with deck, and shingled dormers with pedimented gable ends. When the house was re-roofed the box gutters were covered over. Corners feature brick pilasters, a denticulated brick cornice with simple wooden brackets surrounds the house, and cornice returns are found on the side gables. Windows throughout have concrete sills and are segmental arched with a "gauged key" design like that found on the McCurdy Building on North 1st Street. The symmetrical facade has fluted engaged columns with Ionic capitals on each side of the front entrance. Above the door is a metal frieze with acanthus leaves, bead & reel, and egg & dart patterns. The porch is supported by four fluted metal columns which have replaced the originals sometime since 1983. The height and spacing of the new columns is the same, but they lack the entasis of the originals. A spindled balustrade has not been replaced between the columns.

The original site was part of the family farm, and it provided a fine view of the city of Oskaloosa to the south. This brick house replaced an earlier frame house, also known as "The Elms" which was moved to the northeast to allow for this construction. The frame house burned in 1906. The brick house and land were given to William Penn College by the Gibbs family. Renamed Griffith Hall by the college, it is used as offices and music rooms today. The Fine Arts building is just south of the Gibbs house. Highway 63 is four lanes wide immediately west of the Gibbs house, with the rest of the campus on the west side of the highway. A concrete footbridge provides access. Despite environmental changes, the integrity of the house has been maintained at a high level.

Though records show that plans for this house, dated 3/12/03, are on file in the offices of Wetherell and Ericsson, the plans have not been located. Attribution is based on the fact that these plans were drawn, and the description in the Oskaloosa Weekly Herald of these plans, matches the house as it was built.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1903

1903

Cultural Affiliation

N.A.

Significant Person

N.A.

Architect/Builder

Wetherell, Frank E. (Archt)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The E. H. Gibbs residence, "The Elms" from 1903, is significant under Criterion C as a large residential design by Frank E. Wetherell during his early professional career before moving to Des Moines (as noted in the "Works of Frank E. Wetherell: 1892-1931" context). It demonstrates his continued interest in Neo-Classical detailing. This appears to be the only example executed in brick, the others, such as the McCurdy house on High Avenue East and the Baldauf house on North 3rd Street, are of wood frame construction, and are more assymetrical in plan. There is a more massive feeling about the Gibbs house, due to the building material, and to the overall solidness of the cube-like massing. This house was considered so significant locally, that the Oskaloosa Weekly Herald went into great detail about its construction (2 April 1903). The Herald noted, "There is a bit of the classical in the general makeup of the building..." The last paragraph says

F.E. Wetherell is the architect and furnished plans and specifications for the building. The plans are for one of the finest residence places that the gentleman has ever drawn and he is to be congratulated upon the excellence of the ideas to which he has given expression in the building.

This commission was an important point in Wetherell's professional life. E.H. Gibbs was one of the most prominent men in Oskaloosa and Mahaska County at the time. Gibbs had arrived in Oskaloosa in 1869, and shortly thereafter established the first of several banks with which he was to be affiliated over the years. He organized, with Judge Crookham, the Oskaloosa Insurance Company. With W.A. SeEVERS he was one of the organizers of the Oskaloosa Coal & Mining Co., and also helped develop the Hocking mines. Gibbs was responsible for the construction of a number of fine brick commercial blocks around town, devoted time and money to bringing railroads to Oskaloosa, helped establish the Oskaloosa Times, and served briefly as its editor.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hedge, Manoah. Past and Present of Mahaska County. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1906, p. 537.

Oskaloosa Weekly Herald, 27 March 1902, p.4, c.3.
2 April 1903, p.7, c.1.
30 August 1906, p.2, c.5.
11 October 1906, p.1, c.6.
20 March 1908, p.3, c.2.
21 March 1914, p.32.

Interview with Helen Darland, 20 March 1990.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

T85N R16W Sec 12 SE SE, N 1/2 Lot A Lot 1.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the area historically associated with this residence.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743
organization Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Comm. date June 1991
street & number City Hall, P.O. Box 1010 telephone (515) 673-8361
city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52577

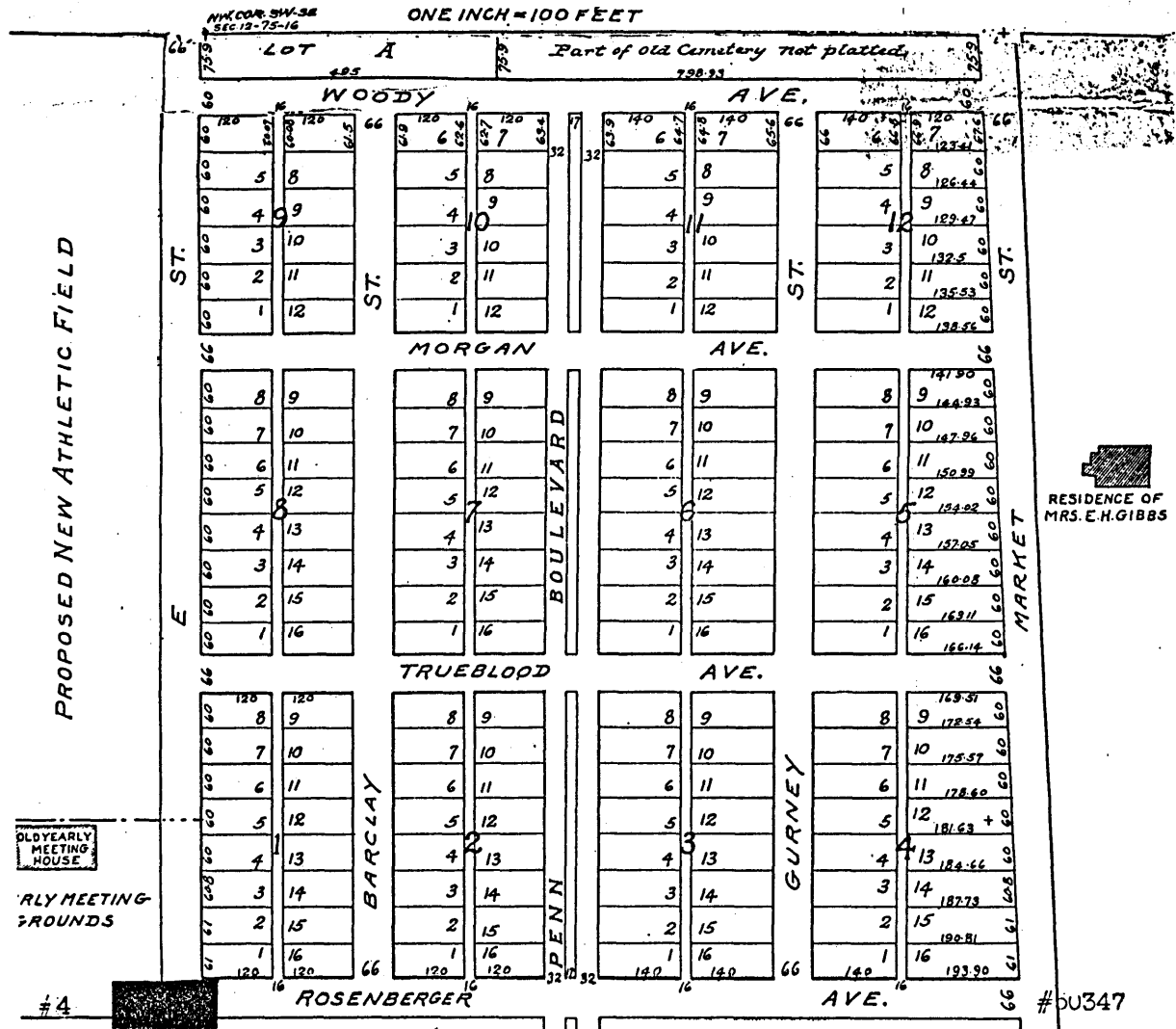
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National Park Service

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CFN-259-1116

Map shows site of Gibbs residence on N. Market.



Plat map from before the 1916 fire which caused William Penn College to move north to build their new campus.

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CFN-259-1116

E.H. GIBBS RESIDENCE, "THE ELMS"



USGS Map 41092 (C6): Oskaloosa Quad

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CFN-259-1116

The fact that E.H. Gibbs asked Frank Wetherell to design a house for him, must have been a feather in Wetherell's cap. This became the third large commission in Oskaloosa in as many years: St. James Episcopal in 1901, the Oskaloosa Public Library in 1902, and "The Elms" in 1903. Within three years Wetherell would move to Des Moines and begin to make a name for himself state-wide.

The E.H. Gibbs residence meets the integrity requirements set out in the Multiple Property Document for Wetherell related works.