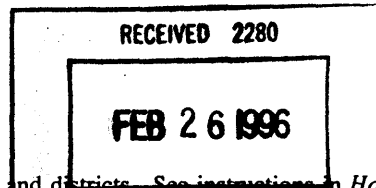


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 15A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name THOMAS J. CONOVER HOUSE

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1010 North Market Street N/A not for publication

city or town Oskaloosa N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 52577

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ( nationally  statewide  locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Fabricea Ostrum DSHP 2-21-96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ( meets  does not meet) the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of Keeper

3/28/96  
Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

Thomas J. Conover House  
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many lines as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one line)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Wood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other Glass  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Thomas J. Conover House  
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1925-circa 1937

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)**

**9. Major Bibliography References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

- State Historical Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas J. Conover House  
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 529780 | 4572340 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 |     |     |     |

Zone Easting Northing

3 |     |     |     |

Zone Easting Northing

4 |     |     |     |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth

organization Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Commission date October 28, 1994

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** - Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** - (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dennis J. and Robin S. McCoy

street & number 1010 North Market Street telephone 515-673-5831

city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52557

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is a 2-story, frame, single-family dwelling. Built circa 1910, it features a gable-end facade roof with hip-on-gable roof embellishment. The gable end is clad with fishscale shingles. The building also features a full-length 1-story facade porch with hipped roof supported by brick piers. Windows are either single or paired and feature 1/1 double-hung sash. The front entryway features sidelights.

### HOUSE

The main portion of the Conover House possesses a rectangular footprint measuring approximately 26' x 38' (width by depth). The front porch measures 26' x 7' and is unenclosed, as originally constructed.

The building rests on a brick foundation. Of balloon frame construction, the house is clad with clapboard siding, which is not masked by cover-up siding, as is so often the case with Oskaloosa dwellings. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

On the interior, Floors 1 and 2 feature some rooms with hardwood and some rooms with softwood floors. Some of these are currently covered with wall-to-wall carpet. The attic contains a hardwood floor. Interior wall finishes are plaster on Floors 1 and 2. Four rooms are situated on Floor 1 and four rooms are also situated on Floor 2. There is a fireplace on Floor 1. The house contains a full basement, with unfinished walls and ceilings, and features a concrete floor.

This building presently is used as a multi-family dwelling with one apartment on Floor 1 and at least one apartment on Floor 2.

This building appears to retain high integrity, although in need of painting and other repairs. The front porch railing and columns have been replaced with wrought iron. Modern, fixed awnings are situated on the south and west elevations. Although these features are distracting visually, they are easily reversible.

### SITE

The Conover House is situated on a portion of Lots 10 and 11 in Block 6 Ninde and Searles Addition to the City of Oskaloosa. This parcel consists of the south 55 feet of those two lots and measures approximately 55' x 117'. The parcel abuts North Market Street on the west and the house also faces the west.

As such, the property is conveniently located about four blocks due east of the old-site Penn College Campus. Its location on North Market Street, the primary entrance to downtown Oskaloosa from the north, provided ready access to both campus and town.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

---

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

Topography in this area is gently rolling. North Market Street runs from a high point near the Oskaloosa City Square in an undulating pattern until it reaches the northern city limits, where the road climbs a ridge before dipping into the Skunk River valley. The Conover House is situated near the crest of one of the rises within the city limits.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

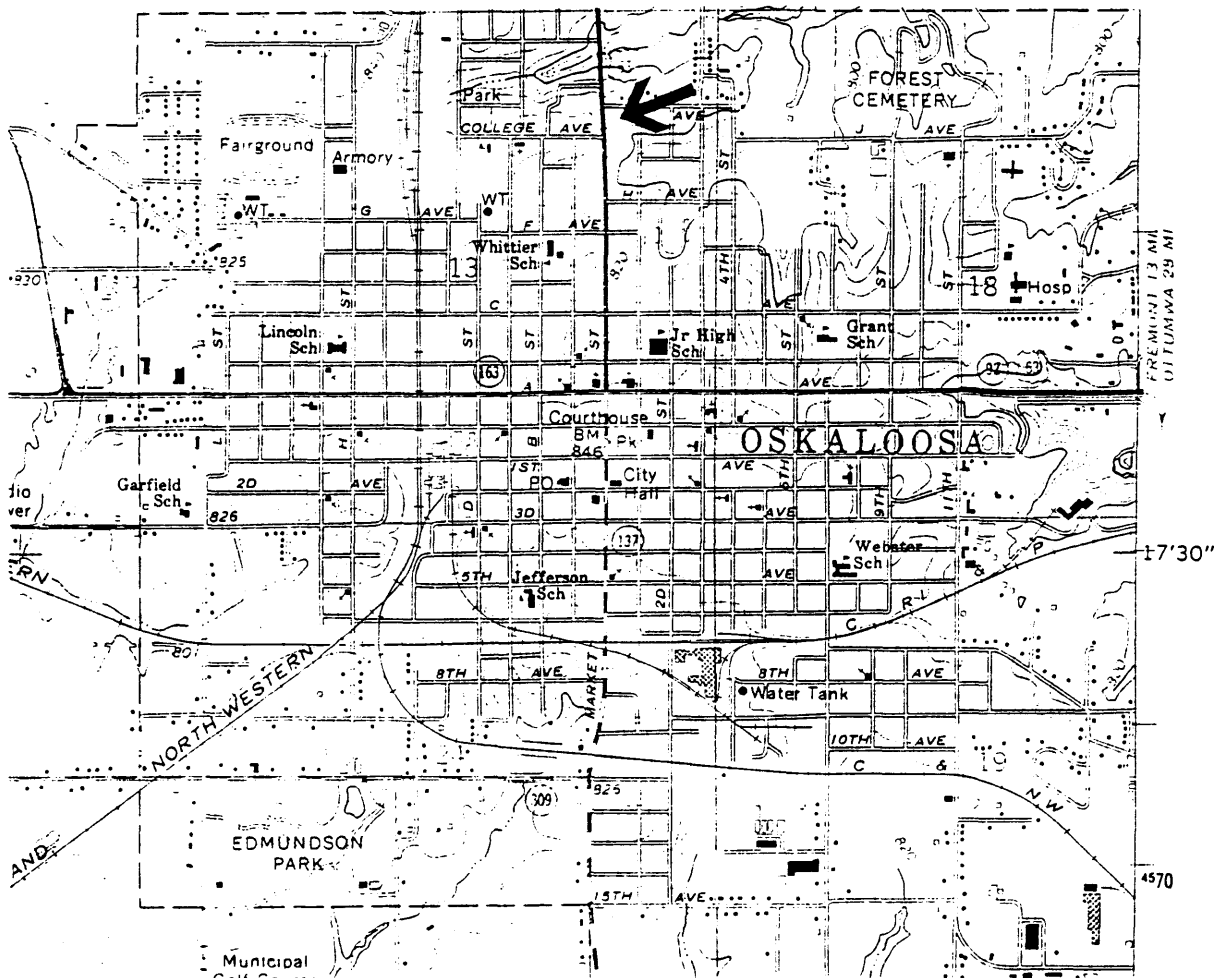
Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

## SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

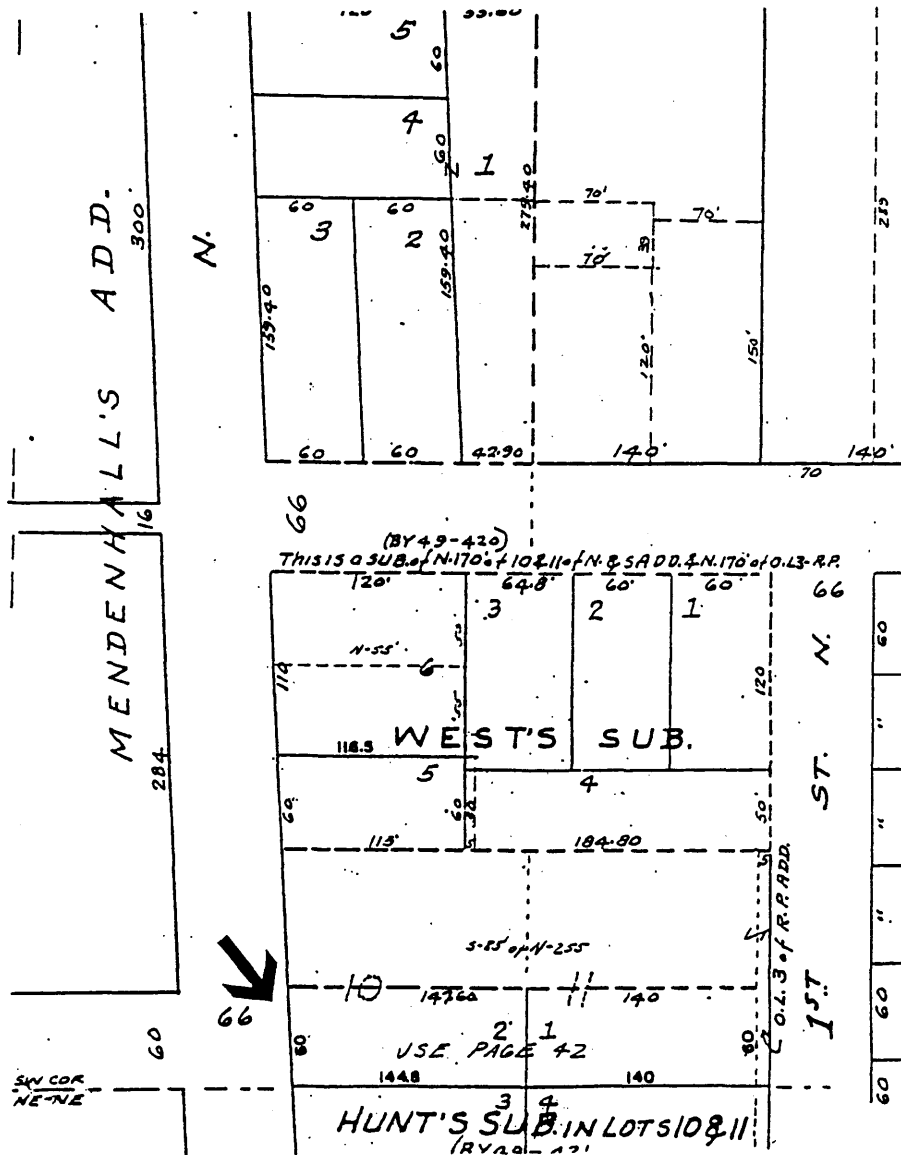
Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

## PLAT MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: Oskaloosa City Engineer's Office.





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built circa 1910 as a single-family dwelling, the Thomas J. Conover House possesses historic significance, under National Register Criterion A, because it calls attention to events and patterns associated with the administration and faculty of Penn College within the historic context "The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa." The Conover House is significant to women's history among Oskaloosa Quakers. Single women employees at Penn College rarely owned homes of their own. This strongly suggests a pay differential between men and women employees at the institution. It might be asked if this is distinctive to Penn College or to other institutions of higher education generally during this era. This begs the question. Discrimination against professional women employees was wide-spread throughout higher education in Iowa and elsewhere during much of the Twentieth Century. The difficulties of these women to find suitable housing reflects this fact. What distinguishes Penn College from most of other institutions is that that institution actually espoused gender equality. That such an institution as this imposed financial burdens on women underlines the discrimination under which they suffered. Cassa M. Conover's case is particularly poignant. Although she lived for many years in the Thomas J. Conover House and worked for Penn College many of them, she did not purchase this house following her father's death but moved into rental housing.

The period of significance, under Criterion A, for the Thomas J. Conover House is 1925-circa 1937, the time in which Cassa M. Conover occupied the building as a Penn employee.

The property contains one resource for this nomination--the house, which is contributing.

Although architectural significance for this property is not claimed under National Register Criterion C, the building provides a good example of Colonial Revival influenced architecture in Oskaloosa.

### EVENTS AND PATTERNS

Cassa Mae Conover was one of the twenty Penn College faculty and administrators who served the school the longest, from 1925 to 1951. Between 1925 and 1937, Conover lived in this house. It belonged to her father, Thomas J. Conover, a farmer by occupation, who retired as a widower to Oskaloosa about 1910. Cassa Conover graduated from Penn College in 1908. She went on to earn a master of arts degree. Returning to Penn College in 1925, Conover became a teacher of religious education, the assistant registrar, secretary to the president, and the registrar, serving from 1931 to 1951 in that latter position.

The Conover House also calls attention to the difficulty of single female faculty members at Penn College to purchase housing on their own.

Despite Cassa Conover's many years of service to the school, she was not able to purchase a home of her own, living, instead with her father and caring for him during his old age. These facts reinforce the pattern of pay differential between male and female college employees at Penn College. Although

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

such a pay differential may not have been unusual at other small colleges in Iowa during this period, Penn College is significant in this regard because it espoused the long-held Quaker belief in the equality of men and women, but, in matters as important as money, the institution failed its women.

Women's experience in Ames, Iowa, relates to this historic context. As women joined administration and faculty positions at Iowa State College during the 1910s and 1920s, they experienced difficulties in finding suitable housing. To address this concern, a Faculty Women's Housing Company was organized with the purpose of erecting a modern, comfortable, and convenient apartment building. Reportedly designed by a woman architect and named the Cranford Apartment, this building was completed in 1922. Located on Lincoln Way, the cost of the building amounted to \$100,000. The need for such a facility is illustrated by the fact that most of its units were rented before completion. (Page, "Cranford Apartment Building.")

### ARCHITECTURE

Influenced by Colonial Revival styling, such as the sidelights by the door, the hip-on-gable roof, and the lattice sash windows in the gable end, this house nonetheless lacks sufficient architectural significance for individual nomination under National Register Criterion C.

### REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

The Cassa Conover House was surveyed in 1981 as part of the Area XV Regional Planning Commission's then comprehensive cultural resources surveys of Mahaska County. At that time, the Historical Survey did not identify or evaluate the building within the context of education in Oskaloosa. The Architectural Survey evaluated the building as not eligible for nomination, under National Register Criterion C. In the intervening years, more information has come to light regarding the Cassa Conover House and its place within the historic context "The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa."

### POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated, there appears to be little if any in this regard.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

Page 7

CFN-259-1116

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### PRIMARY

#### Oskaloosa City Directories

1910-11	Thos. J., retired, Miss Cassie M. teacher, and Miss Ada M. student, residing at this address
1914-15	Same. Ada now shown as housekeeper
1919-20	Same. Ada not listed
1921-22	Same. Miss Cassie, steno, Penn College
1931	Same. Cassa asst. registrar, Penn College
1934	Same. Cassa registrar, Penn college
1936	Same. Cassa stenog, Penn College
1937	Conovers not listed at this address

### SECONDARY

Housing list prepared by Oskaloosa Monthly Meeting volunteers; 1992.

Naumann, Molly Myers; *Architectural Survey of Oskaloosa, Iowa*; Report prepared by the Area XV Regional Planning Commission and on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa; 1981.

Page, William C.; *Historical Survey of Mahaska County, Iowa*; Report prepared by the Area XV Regional Planning Commission and on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa; 1981.

Page, William C.; "Cranford Apartment Buiding, Site Number 7D-52." *Historical and Architectural Resources of Ames, Iowa*. Report prepared for the Department of Planning and Housing of the City of Ames; 1992.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, also including the Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific Railroad Area*; Report prepared for and on file at the Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1992.

Watson, *William Penn College*, pp. 301, 313.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

---

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### ORAL INFORMANTS

Rains, Marion, with Joanne R. Walroth; April 28, 1992.

Johnson, Martha Berry, with Joanne R. Walroth; February 27, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

---

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Thomas J. Conover House  
1010 North Market Street  
Oskaloosa, IA 52557  
Looking northeast  
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer  
April 24, 1994
2. Thomas J. Conover House  
1010 North Market Street  
Looking northwest  
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer  
April 24, 1994

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

---

Thomas J. Conover House, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The south 55 feet of Lots 10 and 11 in Block 6 of Ninde and Searles Addition to the City of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land associated historically with this resource.