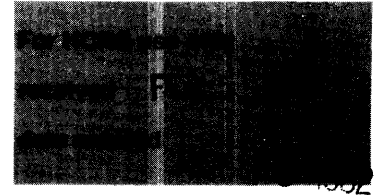


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Donahoe, Daniel J., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 302 S 7th St. N/A not for publication

city, town Ponca City N/A vicinity of congressional district No. 6

state Oklahoma code 40 county Kay code 071

3. 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Jim Richey

street & number 302 S 7

city, town Ponca City vicinity of N/A state Oklahoma 74601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Kay County Courthouse

city, town Newkirk state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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	(basically)		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Donahoe House is a fine example of the "Craftsman" style, a product of the American Arts-and-Crafts movement imported from England by Gustav Stickley, a designer and furniture manufacturer. He rejected Victorianism's decorative excesses, promoted his own stark Mission furniture and his boxy, practical house plans in his influential magazine, The Craftsman, from 1901 to 1916.

He based his designs on an honest use of material, a hand-crafted look, and a lack of decoration save for that "revealed" by the structure. "Craftsman" houses are characterized by a solid squarish profile, brick and/or stucco walls, wide, open eaves and a spacious porch. Construction features include exposed rafter ends, large columns, brackets and beams for decoration. Virtually all of these revealed construction/decorative features are found in the Donahoe House. Built in 1910, it is boxy, relatively plain, almost aggressively solid, as if flaunting a no-nonsense approach to the business of providing maximum space at a minimum cost. At the same time, however, it reflects genteel affluence and comfortable graciousness.

Construction details include native limestone foundation, red bricks with grey mortar (Layton had called for brown bricks with purple mortar), stucco and half-timbered gable ends and dormers on the third story, Spanish tile roof with copper guttering (Layton had specified wood shingles), exposed decorative rafter ends and massive brackets, squared porch columns, Kansas limestone steps and window sills, cast concrete flower pots on porch step columns.

Interior details include oak floors and woodwork, oak veneered interior doors inlaid with geometric patterns, beaten brass fireplace hood in the Craftsman style, original lighting fixtures (installed in the early 1920s), mostly original plumbing fixtures, white hexagonal floor tiles in the bathrooms.

The only major alterations were made in 1917 - the sleeping porch on the rear - and in 1920 - the south wing that added a bedroom and solarium. As a testimonial to Builder Keck's craftsmanship, it should be pointed out that after 70 years there has been virtually no settling of the foundation nor any other construction-related problem.

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 checked="" 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	1910-1946	Builder/Architect	Architect: Solomon A. Layton Builder: O. F. Keck
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Donahoe House has both historical and architectural significance ... historical because its builder, Daniel J. Donahoe, was an active and influential community leader for more than half a century ... architectural because of the towering reputation of its creator, Solomon L. Layton, and its standing as a textbook example of the "Craftsman" style promoted by Gustav Stickley. Also of more than passing note is the figure of Ponca City's first and most prolific builder, O. F. Keck. Keck modified some of Layton's designs and left, in the Donahoe House, a solid testimonial to both his construction philosophy and his superb craftsmanship. Finally, thanks in large measure to the fact that it had stood empty for 35 years, the house remains in remarkably "mint" condition, from floors and woodwork to lighting and plumbing fixtures.

*

D. J. Donahoe was 28 when he made the run into the Cherokee Outlet in 1893. Before statehood (1907) he practiced law in both Perry and Ponca City. Later, settling down in Ponca City, he built a fortune through ranching, grain milling, and real estate development. Active in civic affairs, he founded the Chamber of Commerce and was influential in bringing the Rock Island Railroad to Ponca City.

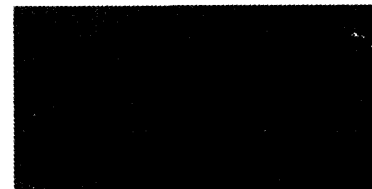
He built his house in 1910 at the peak of his career. He chose a fine neighborhood of impressive late-Victorian houses, but with his selection of Layton he made a distinct break with the past. Donahoe raised two sons in the house. One moved to New York to become a writer of sorts and the Ponca City visits of some of his artist friends add peripheral significance to the house. Among those visitors: Joseph Cotton, Somerset Maugham, and Robert Penn Warren ... who, the Donahoe family claims, wrote his first novel in the house during an extended visit.

D. J. Donahoe lived in the house until his death in 1946 at the age of 81. Until 1979 the house remained in the family, standing empty but for periods when it was rented to family friends. The present owners have carefully restored it.

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DANIEL J. DONAHOE HOUSE

Sol Layton has been described by architectural historian Walter Nashert as "the daddy architect, one whose work stood alone, Oklahoma's greatest architect." Over a long and prolific lifetime he (with various partners) designed more than 100 offices, schools, and other public buildings. Many of those still standing are already in the National Register ... the Oklahoma State Capitol, Central High School, Mid-Continent Insurance Building. Layton, however, designed only four houses. He was deeply influenced by the Arts-and-Crafts movement and its founder, John Ruskin, whom he liked to quote. During the period of the Donahoe house he also was evidently influenced by the American Arts-and-Crafts philosophy of Stickley and his design for the house (the blueprints are in the possession of the present owners) could easily pass as a "Craftsman" house, right from the pages of Stickley's magazine, The Craftsman.

O. F. Keck was long the city's most important builder. Many downtown business buildings - and two nearby National Register residences - are a lasting tribute to his sturdy construction techniques and attention to details. He was a solid craftsman with ideas of his own and he made a number of significant revisions in Layton's original plans (see No. 7)... in most cases substituting longer-lasting, plainer materials for the more decorative materials called for by Layton.

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DANIEL J. DONAHOE HOUSE

No. 9 Major Bibliographical References

- Nelson, Mary Jo, The Buildings of Solomon Andrew Layton, The Oklahoma Historical Society
- Sanders, Barry (ed.), The Craftsman, An Anthology, Peregrine Press, Salt Lake City, 1968
- Stickley, Gustave, Craftsman Homes, Architecture and Furnishings of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, Dover Publications, New York, 1979
- The Last Run, edited by the Ponca City Chapter DAR, Ponca City, 1938, pp. 6-10, 84-85