

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 13 1979  
AUG 7 1979  
DATE ENTERED

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

Baker House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

NW 1/4, SW 1/4 Sec. 25, T93N, R49W

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Akron

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NO. 1

STATE

Iowa

X VICINITY OF

CODE

046

COUNTY

Union

CODE

127

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Rollo J. Baker

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Akron

X VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elk Point

STATE

South Dakota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

October 73

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The F.P. Baker home is a large two-and-one-half story "Neoclassical Eclectic" style country house. Classically symmetrical in design, the building features a projecting temple-like portico or porch. It has a red tiled roof, a cut stone foundation, and concrete walls marked in a wave design meant to resemble stucco from a distance. Neoclassical elements include the pediment extending over the front (south) porch, which is supported by four doric columns with square shafts, capitals, and bases. A palladian window occupies the tympanum of the pediments, which also feature horizontal and vertical strap work. Modillions and dentils run beneath the cornice and around the pediments.

A denticulated string course encircles the house between each floor. Other decorations include modified pilasters on the corners, simplified bracketing in the pediments and top half story, and chimneys of dressed stone.

A one story enclosed porch surrounds the house on 3 sides. The porch has a flat roof supported by square Doric columns with bases. Porch windows are double rectangular openings with six panes each. Multipane transoms top the windows and the single leaf, one panel front door. Other first story openings have lugsills and denticulated labels. Windows in the dormers, and east and west pediments are square double hung openings.

The wall construction method is interesting to note. Plaster specifications called for a scratch coat, which is made of lime, sand, and cattle or goat hair. The hair was beaten well and then soaked in water. This coat had to stand three to four days before application. The second or "brocon" coat contained cement plus the hair, and lime. This mixture had to stand a couple of weeks before it could be applied. The final coat was of plaster of Paris.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Emigration
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1914-House built BUILDER/ARCHITECT G.W. Burkhead

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The F.P. Baker home situated on the South Dakota side of the Big Sioux River, is significant in that it is one of the few remaining structures built by English settlers in this area.

In the 1880's several English settlers settled in the LeMars Iowa area. This became one of the few English colonies in the U.S. beyond the eastern seaboard. Setting up both farms and businesses, these Englishmen built up the surrounding countryside for the next ten years. During the 1890's, however, many of these settlers returned to their homes in England.

One of the settlers to remain was F.P. Baker, a farmer and landowner by profession. He bought a farm in South Dakota just west of Akron, Iowa, and in 1912 contracted with G.W. Burkhead, a Sioux City architect to design a house as a replica of his home in England. Two years later the house was completed. Today its English country style is found nowhere else in South Dakota. Because of its uniqueness of architectural style, it is a outstanding reminder of the English settlers, and for this reason it deserves nomination to the National Register.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Edith M. Baker at her home on October 2, 1973

Anderson, G.W. Atlas of Clay and Union Counties, South Dakota. Des Moines: Anderson Publishing Company, 1924.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Akron, Iowa--South Dakota

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 697380 4746090

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property lies 4600 feet southeast of point where the west and east Union Creek fork together into the Union Creek and 400 feet south of the State Highway #48

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

Edith M. French, Researcher and Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historical Preservation Center

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Vermillion,

South Dakota

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

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 *John J. Little*

TITLE

Director/ Historical Preservation Center

DATE

June 6, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol Shuel*

DATE

8-7-79

ATTEST: *William H. Abraham*

7-18-79 DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

JUN 5 1982

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 of 2 Baker House Amendment

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AMENDMENT TO NOMINATION: CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

1. Baker House. NRIS Reference No. 79002409

2. Recent NRIS print-outs indicated a need to clarify the address/location of this property. The Baker House is sited in Union County, South Dakota, overlooking the banks of the Big Sioux River, which at that point forms the boundary between the states of Iowa and South Dakota. The closest city to the property is Akron, Iowa, which is sited on the east bank of the Big Sioux River. This property lies within one mile of the state boundary line and the City of Akron, Iowa. The preferable address/location of the property is as follows:

Off South Dakota Highway 48  
NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sect. 25, T 93 N, R 48 W

Akron, Iowa, Vicinty  
First Congr. District (South Dakota)  
Union County Code: 127  
South Dakota Code: 046

All other items of the original nomination should remain unchanged.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2 of 2 Baker House Amendment

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11. FORM PREPARED BY:

John E. Rau, National Register Coordinator  
South Dakota State Historical Preservation Center  
P. O. Box 417, Vermillion, SD, 57069  
phone: 605-677-5314.

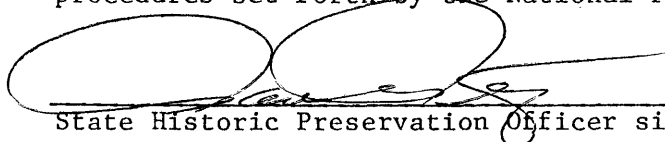
May 29, 1987.

12. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION:

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national X state \_\_\_\_\_ local.

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (PL 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

Deputy SHPO

title

5-29-87  
date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Jun 5 1987

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Baker House

STATE SOUTH DAKOTA

COUNTY Union

Date/Signature

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Change of address approval

for Keeper *Alfred Byars* 6/5/87  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_