

PH 0666491

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**

RECEIVED **APR 5 1978**

DATE ENTERED **JUL 20 1978**

**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

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
304 - 304½ East Mulberry St

___NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

CITY, TOWN
Fort Collins

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Colorado

CODE
08

COUNTY
Larimer

CODE
064 69

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Norman Ginther

STREET & NUMBER
404 Rover

CITY, TOWN
Los Alamos, New Mexico

___ VICINITY OF 87544

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Larimer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
200 West Oak

CITY, TOWN
Fort Collins

STATE
Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE ongoing
___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Colorado

CITY, TOWN
1300 Broadway Denver

STATE
Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Baker House was built in 1896 by Frederick R. Baker and is one of the few Queen Anne structures in Fort Collins. The house is two and one-half stories in height and irregularly rectangular in shape; a two story turret projects from the south end of the west facade, and the porch projects out from the center of the south facade to the center of the east facade. The foundation is three rows of natural sandstone. The first two stories are of red brick set in stretcher bond with three rows of ornamental coursing at the first floor sill and transom levels and the sill level of the second floor. The gable roof is high pitched and covered with wood shingles. Both the east and west facades have projecting central gables, and the south facade is a series of two gables projecting from the main roof. The gables are of wood painted beige and sport a variety of decorative shingle treatment--diagonal, horizontal and fish scale. The lower walls of the east gable on the south facade, which also form part of the porch roof, are covered with similar shingling. This gable is a glass-enclosed balcony. The raking trim on each gable is a plain, boxed cornice, with a return. There are two single, straddle ridge chimneys, also of stretcher bond. The one story porch extends from the center of the south facade to the center of the east facade. The porch wall is of brick with decorative panels and is topped with sandstone identical to the foundation. The porch roof is covered with the same wooden shingles as the roof of the house, and is supported by nine bracketed square wooden piers, above which is a row of turned wooden spandrels. All the woodwork is painted the same beige as the gables. The semicircular two story turret which projects from the south side of the west facade is perhaps the building's most distinctive feature. It has nine rectangular double hung windows, with lugsills and lintels of the foundation sandstone. The ornamental brick coursing continues throughout its circumference. The large rectangular first floor windows are one sash and transom, also with lugsills and lintels of the foundation sandstone. The second floor windows are double hung, with sandstone lugsills and projecting carved wooden heads. There are a total of five small square or rectangular windows in the gables or beneath the eaves, in addition to several casement windows in the basement. The wooden window frames and trim are painted either beige or dark green. The main entrance, in the south facade, is a double leaf wooden door with a flush light transom. There is a total of two bays on the first floor main facade.

The appearance of the house is essentially unchanged since its construction. The only alterations are the enclosing panes of glass on the east gable on the south facade and the removal of the original wooden eave trim (presently stored in the attic).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick R. Baker

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baker House is significant in two areas: the builder/owner's importance in the establishment and development of Fort Collins and in its architectural uniqueness in the community.

Frederick R. Baker, 1844-1902, was a native of Ohio, who enlisted in the Union Light Guards Seventh Independent Troop, Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, in 1863. This company became famous as the "Black Horse Squadron," Abraham Lincoln's military escort. Baker's assignment was the carrying of dispatches to and from the White House, the War Department and the Army, a post which led to a personal acquaintance with President Lincoln. For a time during the war, Baker also served with the secret service. He was mustered out of the army in September of 1865 and returned to Ohio.

He moved to the Cache la Poudre Valley in 1873, only nine years after the founding of Fort Collins, and soon became one of the leading farmers and stock raisers, introducing thoroughbred shorthorn cattle into Larimer County. Baker's importance to the community can be seen in his election to the Larimer County Board of Commissioners, 1890-1893, and in his election to the post of mayor of Fort Collins for four terms, 1895-1902. Baker's influence was decisive in the establishment, after a long struggle, of the first city park and in the location of the city's first library, a Carnegie institution, in that park.

The house itself, which Baker built after he retired from farming, is one of the few local examples of the "Queen Anne" variety of Victorian architecture. Fort Collins's architecture is somewhat lacking in the imagination and flamboyance that characterized much of Victorian building; the surrounding communities such as Boulder and Greeley possess a great deal more nineteenth century architectural style and variety. Many of the Fort Collins residences that did qualify as showpieces have been torn down; the Baker House is one of the relatively few remaining local examples of a fairly affluent nineteenth century lifestyle. As such, it is important in the community's sense of itself and its passage through time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Richard S. Baker, 23 November, 1976.

Bass, Jane. "Avery House Mixes Victorian Styles, Fads and Fancies," in Fort Collins Centennial-Bicentennial Commission, The Fort Collins Chronicle, April, 1975, (p. 3).

Miller, James R. Index to Historical Sketches, Fort Collins and Larimer County, Colorado. Fort Collins Public Library, 1965, (p. 107).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .270891

UTM REFERENCES

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4	9	3	8	0	0
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4	4	9	2	1	1	0
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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Baker House stands at the northeast corner of Mathews and Mulberry Streets. (The latter is also State Highway 14). The lot extends 110 feet north on Mathews, and 100 feet east on East Mulberry.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Richter

ORGANIZATION

DATE

8 April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

515 South Grant

TELEPHONE

303-493-8623

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Collins

STATE

Colorado 80521

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

TITLE

Colo SHPO

DATE

1/14/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles E. Hume

DATE

7.20.78

ATTEST:

Mathew Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Watrous, Ansel. History of Larimer County, Colorado. Courier Printing and
Publishing Company, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1911, (p. 359).