

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 21 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 1 1979

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

Charles Wolf House

AND/OR COMMON

Parkersburg Historical Home

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401 5th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Parkersburg

VICINITY OF

Third

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Butler

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Parkersburg Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

401 5th Street

CITY, TOWN

Parkersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50665

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Butler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Allison

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Charles Wolf house is a large, late-Victorian residence. It is one of the few brick houses in Parkersburg, and in size and elaboration compares only with the community' Methodist church.

The house has an irregular plan, with overall dimensions approximately 38' x 50'. The structural system is heavy wood frame, with exterior walls veneered in red-brown brick. The slate-shingled main roof is a high hip with deck, the edges flared to meet the broad band of a brick frieze corbelled out slightly from the wall plane.

There are full-height projecting semicircular bays on the north and south sides, and a round, three-story tower with high conical roof at the northeast corner. The north bay, and also the small dormers on north, south and west sides, have gable roofs with metal cresting and curved finials. The roof of the north bay has flared eaves which are supported on large brackets.

There is a tall, panelled chimney with corbelled cap toward the southwest corner. At the rear, a portion of the second story overhangs the first, forming a small porch with rather heavy turned posts.

Windows are primarily rectilinear, with stone sills, flat brick arches, and, in many cases, edges quoined in a brick slightly darker than that of the walls. First and third floor tower windows, and a window immediately to the left of the tower, have round arched heads.

On the south side is a small gable-roofed porch, with decorative bargeboards and slender, turned wooden posts. A small brick vestibule toward the southwest corner opens onto stairs to the basement, and is a later addition.

After Mary Wolf died in 1926, the principal facade experienced major alterations. A large semicircular veranda which wrapped around the northeast corner was removed. This veranda featured a spindle frieze and pairs of wooden posts set on high stone pedestals. On the east side, the veranda abutted a large brick entrance porch, with round-arched openings on three sides and a flat, balustraded roof with large brick corner posts. Above this was a second brick porch, also with round arches, and with a crested gable roof ending in a shoulder parapet. Both these porches were removed and a new ground-floor porch built, in form and detail very like the original second story porch. (It is conjectured, but not proven, that the existing porch is the second story porch, simply moved down to ground level from its original location.)

The main entrance opens directly into a large hall, with staircase to the left and a fireplace situated on the diagonal beneath the stairs. The front parlor is to the right. Beyond the stairhall and parlor were two large rooms (each ending in a semicircular bay). The walls of the hall which separated these rooms have been removed, creating one long space across the full width of the house. At the rear are kitchen, pantry, servants' stairs and music room. The second floor has a similar configuration, again with walls of the center hall removed to create, in this case, an auditorium, with stage located across the north end. At the extreme rear, where the second story overhangs the first, was a billiard room. Original woodwork and hardwood floors are extant, as are several elaborate mirrored fireplace overmantels, and a zinc sink in the kitchen. The main floor is now furnished with items of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Harry Netcott

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Charles Wolf house is a locally-significant example of large-scale, late-Victorian residential architecture. It represents no particular style, although the three-story corner tower with high conical roof is suggestive of the Chateausque, and the use of the round arch, and the brick entrance porch, as well as the overall character of the house, are vaguely Romanesque Revival. Other noteworthy features are the two large projecting bays on north and south sides, and the use of brick, exclusively, to provide touches of decorative detail. The loss of the semicircular veranda and the second-story brick porch is unfortunate, as both were very prominent features of the facade; but removal of the former, at least, has permitted appreciation of the large round-arched windows at the northeast corner.

The house was completed about 1895, and constructed from plans by Harry Netcott, an architect who practiced in Independence and Dubuque. Charles Wolf (1857-1912) was a native of Freeport, Illinois, who came to Parkersburg in 1875 as a partner, with his father and brother-in-law, in the Exchange Bank, which they had purchased in this town the previous year. Wolf and his wife Mary Wilson were active local philanthropists: they contributed substantially toward the construction of the local Methodist church, which, as part of the agreement to contribute, contained special rooms to house the community's public library. Following Mary Wolf's death in 1926, the house was acquired by Gus Pfeiffer, who in turn donated it to the city. From 1930 until 1967, the house served variously as an elementary school, church, community center, fraternal hall and library. It was empty for three years, then taken over as a museum by the newly-organized Parkersburg Historical Society.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Parkersburg Eclipse, Dec. 1, 13, 1905; 26 May, 1921 (Wolf obit.).
Butler County History. Privately printed, 1976.
 Hart, Erving H. History of Butler County, Iowa. Chicago: F.G. Clarke Publishing Co., 1914, Vol. I.
 Butler County Tax Records.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Waterloo

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 511741010 4,71,35,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The North 92 feet of Block 14, of Howell, Campbell and Sargent's Addition to the Town of Parkersburg, Butler Co., Iowa. (Lots 1 and 2 of Block 14)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 A. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John C. Shull
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

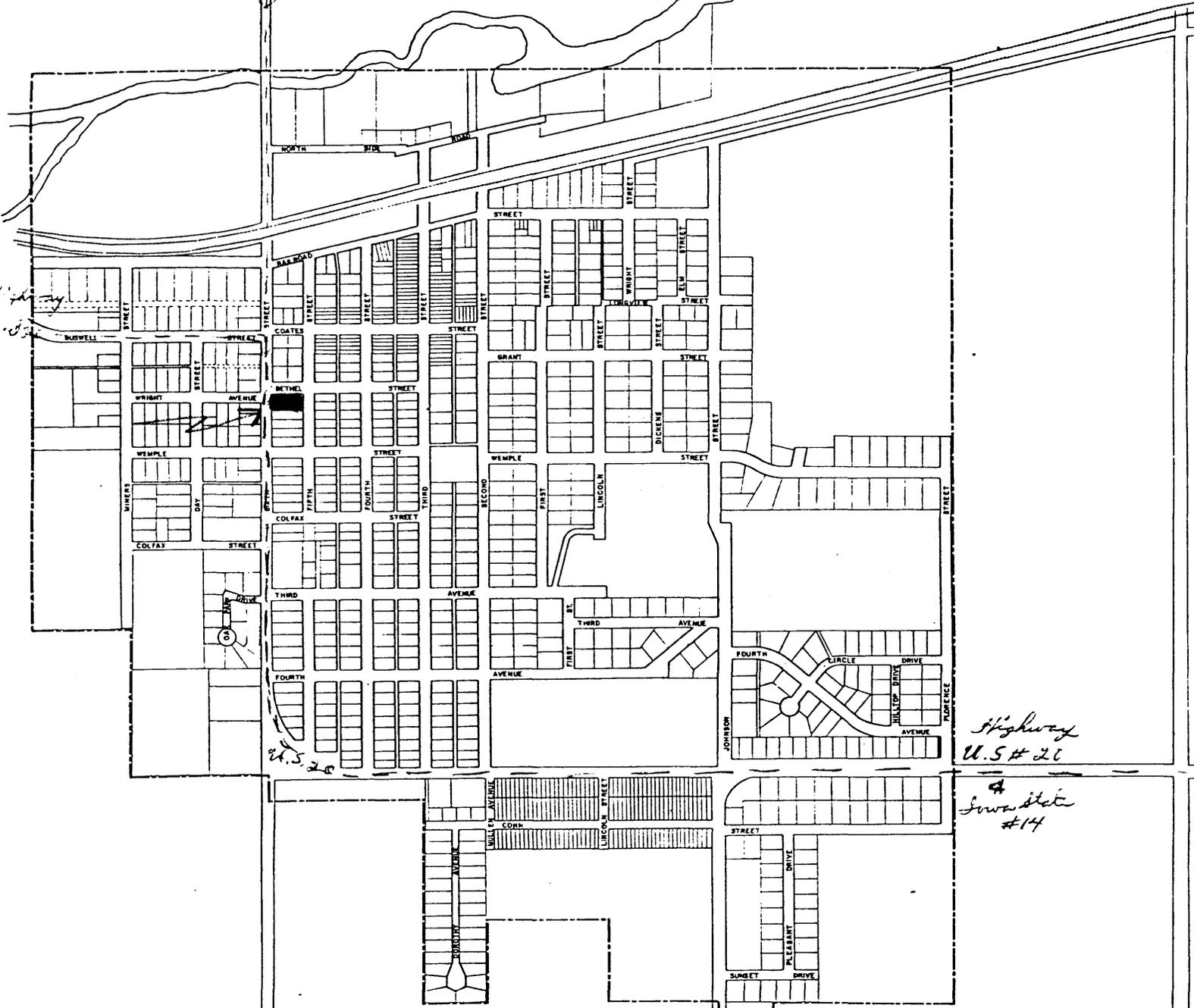
DATE 10-1-79

ATTEST: *William H. Brennan*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 9.27.79

The preparation of this map was substantially completed through a contract award from the Department of Planning and Urban Development under the Comprehensive Planning Act of 1964, as amended, by Chapter 19 of the Acts of 1964, as amended, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 42, Code of Iowa, as amended. By Iowa National Register of Historic Places, Inc. 1979.

lowa State #14



Highway U.S. #20

Iowa State #14

PARKERSBURG

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Charles J. Wolf House
Parkersburg, Butler County, Iowa

RECEIVED
AUG 21 1979
NATIONAL REGISTER

SCALE IN FEET
0 200 400 600 800

OCT 1 1979