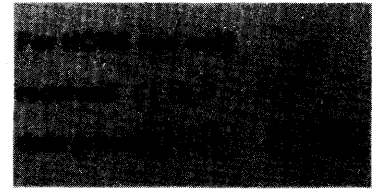


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Dr. Martin H. (Caulkins) House and Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Northwest Corner of Washington
and Main Streets not for publication

city, town Wyoming vicinity of congressional district 2

state Iowa code 19 county Jones code 105

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Mary C. and Walter C. Briggs

street & number 4540 Fremont Ave South

city, town Minneapolis vicinity of state Minnesota 55609

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Jones Courthouse

street & number

city, town Anamosa state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 Dr. Martin H. Calkins House and Office is situated at the north-western corner of a twelve-lot square block that adjoins the eastern end of Wyoming's commercial section. The Calkins house in its present form dates from around 1895. A large, rambling wood frame structure of no particular style, the edifice developed over the years simply by accretion. The oldest part of the house, dating from around 1860, is probably the large front gable, featuring an entrance to the right of center. Later construction resulted in the addition of other gabled masses on the south toward the northwest corner. The roofline is further complicated by sharply pointed triangular wall dormers. The front facade features a large veranda supported by square posts and capped with an entablature. The principal addition on the east side is the music room, believed to have been constructed around 1864. Original window surrounds, featuring shallow triangular tops, appear at the rear of the main gable, and on the east side of this section at ground floor level. Fenestration, however, is irregular, and later window surrounds are generally plain or topped with narrow, flat cornices.

The main entrance opens into a large hall that has a main staircase to the right. The section of the house beneath the wide, open gable contains the entrance hall, parlor, and two sleeping rooms. The shed-roofed projection at the southeast corner holds a small bath. Dining and sewing rooms, a large kitchen, and five bedrooms on the second floor constitute the large portions. At the extreme rear is a woodhouse and washhouse, originally a separate structure, which were connected to the house by an enclosed porch around 1910. Parquet flooring is utilized throughout the first story (most elaborately treated in the dining room) and the second story hallway. Bedroom floors are of quarter-sawn hardwood. Interior woodwork, for the most part, consists of high baseboards and simple, molded door and window surrounds. Bedroom and dining room woodwork has been painted white while in other portions it has been grained. Alterations since Calkins' death have been minimal, and the house still contains most of its original furnishings.

The office where Calkins practiced medicine is located a short distance west of the house. A small, one-story, wood frame edifice, it is nearly square in plan and capped with a flat roof. Exterior ornamentation is provided by the small brackets that support its narrow roof eaves and simple surrounds with shallow triangular tops that frame the north window and entrance. The interior has grained, beaded wideboard wainscoting and grained window frames. One wall features built-in cabinets that Dr. Calkins used for his medicines and medical equipment.

About fifty feet northeast of the house near Main Street is a monument Dr. Calkins commissioned as a memorial to the Wyoming soldiers who served in the Civil War. Dr. Calkins ordered this 32 by 48 bronze tablet shortly before his death in 1909, but because of delays, it was not erected until 1912.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" 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 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 1860-present **Builder/Architect** Dr. Martin H. Calkins

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Calkins House and Office is a visual reminder of Wyoming's first permanent physician and is representative of the life of an early rural Iowa county doctor. When Dr. Calkins and his wife of one year arrived here in 1856, Wyoming had only a dozen houses and places of business. To a large degree the growth of the town and the respect of its citizenry for their physician paralleled each other. Unanimously, they elected him as the town's first mayor, and later they helped send him to represent Jones County in the state legislature (1881-1884). For nearly a half century Dr. Calkins ministered to the needs of the people in and around the community of Wyoming, coming to personify the country doctor of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Martin H. Calkins, whose ancestors had come over on the Mayflower and had been in this country before the Revolution, was born in Oswego County, New York in 1828. After a common school education, he first turned to teaching before beginning to read medicine in his spare time while working in Oswego. He then took coursework at the College of Medicine in Geneva and the Medical University in New York City before launching his practice at Constantia around 1853. In 1855 Dr. Calkins married Lucinda Loudon of Oneida County, and a few months later, both were heading west to Iowa. After a brief stop at Maquoketa, the young couple moved on to Wyoming where he decided to establish his medical practice. Soon he constructed a modest dwelling on the block cornering on Main and Washington streets. He and his family lived here until 1864 when his successful practice enable him to start building a larger and more substantial house on the block. From this time until the end of the century, he added to this residence at various times as his needs and means permitted.

In three respects, contemporary articles and obituaries recognized the character of his life's contributions. "As a physician," writes one editor, Dr. Calkins proved "eminently successful and held his very large practice perhaps as much by his social, genial strength of character and magnetic influence and the sunshine that always entered the sick room with his presence, as by the administering of drugs." As a community spokesman, writes another, Dr. Calkins was "never an office seeker, but was more of a leader and an inspirer of progressive public sentiment" through service as a "Fourth of July and Decoration Day orator and lecturer before county institutes and farmers' institutes." Finally, as a well-educated man, he gained community respect as "a writer of unusual ability and every day for many

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet Item Number 9)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 3 acres

Quadrangle name Wyoming West Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 5 | 6 6 5 0 3 0 | 4 6 5 9 0 1 9 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| B | 1 5 | 6 6 5 0 6 0 | 4 6 5 5 6 2 0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|-----|---------------|---------------|
| C | 1 5 | 6 6 5 0 2 0 0 | 4 6 5 7 9 3 0 |
|---|-----|---------------|---------------|

| | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|
| D | 1 5 | 6 6 5 1 8 0 | 4 6 5 7 9 3 0 |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| E | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| F | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

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| G | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| H | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Block 16, Original Town of Wyoming, Iowa

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | N.A. | code | county | code |
|-------|------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historical Preservation date October 1980

street & number 26 East Market Street telephone 319-353-6949 or 353-4186

city or town Iowa City state Iowa

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Adrian A. Anderson

title Director date January 25, 1982

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 3/5/82

for Adeloua Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | FEB 5 - 1982 |
| DATE ENTERED | MAR 5 1982 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

years wrote upon some subject either scientific, historical or literary as a personal duty." A series of lectures delivered by him in 1874 on local history, for example, became incorporated in the 1879 History of Jones County, with the editor's acknowledgement that "the ground had been fully covered by the Doctor and in language and thought superior to anything the editor could hope to place in the volume."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

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Miscellaneous early twentieth century newspaper clippings, copies in Division of Historic Preservation files.

Wyoming Journal, October 7, 1909.