

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 674 427

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MAY 8 1979
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JUN 18 1979
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**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 O.P. Wickham House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 616 S. 7th Street
CITY, TOWN Council Bluffs VICINITY OF Fifth
STATE Iowa CODE COUNTY Pottawattamie CODE

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 Maurice and Carole Bergquist

STREET & NUMBER 616 S. 7th Street
CITY, TOWN Council Bluffs VICINITY OF STATE Iowa 51501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pottawattamie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 7th St. and 5th Ave.
CITY, TOWN Council Bluffs 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 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 Wickham house was built in 1888. It is 2½ stories, with outer walls of brick laid in stretcher bond. The foundation is brick, faced with concrete scored to resemble stone. Window hoods, sills, water table and belt coursing are also concrete.

The house is a long rectangle, formed by a main block and rear kitchen extension. The main roof (originally slate-shingled, now covered with asphalt shingles) is a high hip, rising to a peak, with a tall brick chimney with corbelled cap at the southeast, and two short interior chimneys toward the rear. At the front is a two-bay projection with double-curve jerkinhead gable roof. On each side are full-height projecting bays; the bay on the south side is tucked beneath a jerkinhead gable similar to that on the front. There are three porches: one across the front; another, recessed at second story level above the main entrance; and one at the southwest corner. They have shed roofs, supported by slender turned posts on pedestals, and feature "friezes" with perforated decoration and fanlike brackets.

Windows, of varying sizes, are rectilinear with concrete hoods. First floor window hoods, on south and east sides, have incised decoration. The sills of the second floor windows are extended to form a beltcourse. Another beltcourse is formed by a band of corbelling at the level of the second floor window hoods.

The rather narrow main cornice is bracketted, with vertically-incised frieze. The end of each jerkinhead is sheathed with scalloped shingles, and features a small leaded-glass window recessed beneath a diminutive triangular pediment. To the right of the ^{front} jerkinhead is a roof dormer, with bracketted triangular pediment above a pair of small windows.

The main entrance opens into a stairhall which fully occupies the northeast corner of the first floor. Main rooms (front and rear parlor, dining room, kitchen) are arranged in a staggered fashion toward the rear. On the second floor, a hallway bisects the house, with three rooms on the south side, two on the north.

Noteworthy interior features include: the first floor molded door and window trim of walnut with small corner blocks; carved walnut pediments over doors and windows in the stair hall; four pairs of sliding doors; and three fireplaces, two with elaborate mirrored overmantels and floral tiles, the third with medieval figures three tiles high.

The house is located in a residential area 7 blocks south of Broadway and two blocks west of the Haymarket (Main St.), both historically and today principal commercial areas in Council Bluffs. The main modern intrusion is the South Side Viaduct, the entrance ramp of which begins from the street in front of the Wickham house.

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 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 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wickham Bros., Council Bluffs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wickham house is a nicely kept and well preserved example of a large "suburban" residence in the Queen Anne style. Like many Queen Anne houses constructed of masonry, it presents an overall restrained and dignified appearance, while surprising us with touches of flashy detail. The most distinctive features of the house are the jerkinhead gable ends with their unusual double curving profiles, and the striking woodwork of the front porches, with their posts tapering downward, the fan-like brackets, and the syncopated spacing of the frieze blocks. This porch detail is nearly perfectly preserved, which is not always the case with 19th century houses, and serves to remind us how integral decoration could be to the design of these houses.

From the mid 1860's until the 1930's, members of the Wickham family contributed materially to the physical environment of Council Bluffs: for two generations, their construction firms dominated the city. Owen P. (1845-1927) and James (1837-1919) Wickham, natives of Ireland, came to the U.S. with their parents and siblings in the 1850's. By the 1860's they were established in Council Bluffs. The brothers (both of whom were brick and stone masons) established a contracting business in 1863 under the name Hughes and Wickham Bros., changed simply to Wickham Bros. in 1865 following the withdrawal of their original partner. Among their buildings in Council Bluffs were the county courthouse (recently demolished), and assorted banks, commercial blocks, hotels and an opera house. One of James' sons, Edward A., later established the firm of Wickham and Co. (which included several brothers and cousins) which by 1891 was termed a "leading contractor of public work" (1891 Biography, p. 649), going beyond Council Bluffs to Omaha, Denver, Nebraska City and other Plains communities.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Council Bluffs City Directories, 1876-1900.
 Council Bluffs Nonpareil, 29 Feb. 1924, 8:4 (Wickham obit.)
 Biographical Dictionary of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Lewis Publishing Co., 1891,
 pp. 642-3; 648-9.
 Council Bluffs Nonpareil, 12 April 1888, 8:1; 24 April 1888, p. 8; 14 April 1888, 8:1.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Council Bluffs North, Iowa; Neb.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 260820 4570820
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 5 and 6; Hyatt's Subdivision, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co.; Iowa

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

M.H. Bowers, Historian; S.J. Klingensmith, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

May 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

Adrian A. Fulkerson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 3/1/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William H. Braitham
 ATTENDANT
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6-18-79

DATE

6-18-79