

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

AND/OR COMMON

Porter Hall

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

706 Drake Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Centerville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

4

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Appanoose

CODE

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

Joseph and Shirley K. Hammond

STREET & NUMBER

706 Drake Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Centerville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52554

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Appanoose County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centerville

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house dates from just after World War I, and is an example of that era's "period house", in this case modelled on medieval and Tudor forms. The house is 2½ stories, of wood frame construction, the exterior worked in half-timber and stucco, on a base, rising to the level of the first floor window sills, of brick.

The main facade features a large front gable, intersected by full-height open gables on each side. Each gable features molded vergeboards culminating in finials. On the south side, the second story overhangs a first-floor screened porch which extends beyond the upper floor and is topped with a deck at the SE corner. The screened openings of this porch have shallow pointed arches of Tudor influence. At the rear, the house is extended by means of overhanging second-story masses supported on large triangular brackets. There are two chimneys, both fairly tall, with corbelled caps and double flues.

Fenestration is irregular, but characterized for the most part by the use of multi-light casement windows that open out. Standard double hung sash windows are used on the front elevation.

The main entrance, to right of center in the front gable, is set beneath a small shed roof supported on triangular brackets, and within a wide wood frame of pilasters supporting a shallow Tudor arch.

The interior is characterized by very plain molded doorframes and exposed beams, all of oak, as is the flooring. The beams are carried on flat oak pilasters with narrow molded capitals. The main stairhall is open a full two floors, with shallowly-vaulted ceiling that repeats the broad, shallow arch above the second story landing.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is locally significant as a well-kept example of early 20th century picturesque revival domestic architecture, the style represented here being an adaptation of the English medieval half-timber form. Porter Hall displays the more obvious elements of the style, including the half-timberwork, cambered "tie beam", overhanging second stories, "Tudor" arches, and multilight casement windows. Treatment of the interior is suggestive of Craftsman influences; noteworthy elements include the exposed posts and beams, windows in interior walls for increased ventilation, craftsman-style main staircase and built-in cupboards. The medieval theme is not fully carried through (for example, the use of double hung sash at the front, and the shallow, flat-roofed rear additions), but the overall intention to emulate a picturesque medieval form is clearly expressed.

The house achieved its present aspect under the ownership of Dr. Charles James. The present owner believes Dr. James began work on the house in 1917, but Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate major expansion of the main block as early as 1913, with further expansion to the rear by 1924. The present owner believes that the present form of the house derives from a major remodeling of a house built here in 1882 by George Neuse. To date, no illustrations of the earlier house have been found, and there is no clear physical evidence of an earlier house within the present structure. Confirmation of this theory would require detailed investigation of the premises.

The property holds local interest historically, in that Claude C. Porter lived at this address from 1906-1909 (thus the origin of the common name for the house). Porter (1872-1946) had an active political career at the state level, and in his later years achieves appointive posts in Washington. He was born in Centerville, and after schooling at Parsons College and law school in St. Louis, opened a legal practice in his home town, in 1893. Although a Democrat in a heavily Republican district, Porter was elected in 1895 to the state House of Representatives, and he served two terms before being elected to the Iowa Senate (also for two terms, 1900-04). For 20 years (1906-26) Porter was a perennial candidate (governor, senator) for the Democrats.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sage, Leland L. A History of Iowa. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1974.

Hammond, Shirley K. "The History of Porter Hall", typescript, 1979

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Centerville, Iowa; Mo.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 | 5, 1, 0 | 8, 0, 0 | 4, 5 | 0, 8 | 2, 0, 0

B | | | | |

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 13 and the North half of Lot 16 in Block 2, J.W. Lane's Second Addition to Centerville, Appanoose 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

September, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

319-353-6949

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

Iowa 52240

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City,

STATE

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. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

December 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D. Stahl

DATE

1-24-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Abraham

DATE

1-23-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION