

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
FEB 20 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON: Coffin's Grove Stagecoach House

AND/OR HISTORIC: ( Baker, Henry, House )

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 3 mi N of Manchester  
Rural Route 3

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: Iowa

COUNTY: Delaware

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Robert F. Phelps

STREET AND NUMBER: 829 N. Franklin

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester

STATE: Iowa

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Delaware County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester

STATE: Iowa

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 20 1975

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henry Baker house was built in the tradition of the country homes found throughout Ohio which were built during the first half of the 19th Century. These house were Colonial and were copied after the post-colonial homes found throughout the eastern seaboard states.

The Henry Baker home is unique because of its stark un-Victorian architecture and because it is one of the few buildings still standing in the state used as stage coach stops during the 1850's. It was built in 1855 from bricks kilned on the site. Most of the lumber used to trim the house is walnut and was also probably cut from native timber. (There are still standing nearby barns with solid walnut beams -- put together with wooden pegs.)

The brick structure on the exterior has had only two minor alterations-- a side porch on the rear, and a new front porch. A new chimney (evident in the attached photographs) built during the 1930's is in the process of being torn down. The original chimney on that side of the house is being restored.

Originally the home had three fireplaces. One interesting feature in the architecture is the way that channels for the chimneys begin at two separate points at the base of the house, and flow gently together atop a gothic window at the peak of the room to form a chimney at each end of the rectangular house. (The gothic window is the only curved line found in the exterior architecture.) The third chimney from the kitchen fireplace echoes the two atop the house.

Of the three fireplaces, two still remain--one needs to be restored. The huge keeping room fireplace extends across the entire north wall of the room, with a warming oven, and a wood storage spot below. A marble slab decorates the fireplace in the living room, the only marble in the entire house.

The large dining room on the first floor has been made slightly smaller with the addition of a bathroom at one end--otherwise the floor plan of the entire house is presently intact. The downstairs consists of the kitchen (keeping room), the dining room, and three other rooms, at least one of which was probably used for overflow sleeping accommodations.

Upstairs there are four tiny rooms, barely large enough for double beds, a huge room which came to be used for a community ballroom, and a tiny backroom with ceilings plastered over the roofline. On the third floor there are two rooms also plastered over the roofline which were no doubt used for sleeping accommodations when necessary.

In the past year articles about the house have appeared in the Dubuque and Waterloo papers. One of these is attached. Also attached is an article from the Cedar Rapids paper printed in 1928.

5400 4th St  
 original brick chimney

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to histories of Delaware county, Coffin's Grove was named for Clement Coffin who settled there in 1840--at the time 10 miles further west than any other pioneer. The next year his son-in-law Henry Baker joined him.

The Henry Baker house was built in 1855 to accomodate the overflow visitors who were stopping over on their way west -- their numbers swelled by the Gold Rush. Not only did the house serve as a hotel and post office, but its huge second floor room served as a dance hall and gathering place for natives of the area for a good many years.

The house is presently located on a gravel road between Masonville and Manchester, but at the time the house was built this was the main thoroughfare west.

The architecture of the house is very unusual to find this far west. Although records are not complete, it is possible that Henry Baker and his father-in-law built the house, copying it after the post-revolutionary homes found in the east.

There are few if any stagecoach stops in Iowa which come close to rivaling the Baker'House architecture. And it is highly unlikely that any house in the state which may have been built as early remains as close to its original floor plan as this house. Only a bathroom has been added to what was the dining room on the first floor.

From the limestone foundation, no doubt mined on the property, to the bricks which were kilned here, the entire house represents the best of pioneer craftsmanship.

In addition, there are remnants of barns built in 1849 onaa one-day barn raising--the first frame barns in the county. These barns were made with walnut beams, put together with wooden pegs. An old limestone foundation with these beams and pegs still stands across the road from the Baker house.

The Henry Baker house was a beehive of community activity during the third quarter of the 19th century. Settlers came from miles around to hunt prairie chickens on the property. Circuses, fairs and community gatherings took place here frequently.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Merry, Capt. John F., History of Delaware County, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914, vol. I, The History of Coffins Grove Township, pp. 285-288.
- The History of Delaware County, Iowa; Chicago, Western Historical Company, pp. 378, 555-556.

HR  
151619800  
4706150

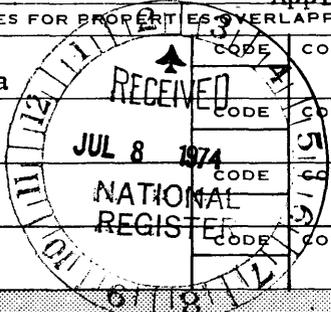
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	42	30 0	91 32 30
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximate 5 acres

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

STATE: Iowa	CODE	COUNTY: Delaware	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Robert F. Phelps, Owner

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: Feb. 10, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 829 N. Franklin

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester STATE: Iowa CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Adrian D. Anderson

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 4/25/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Winters  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/20/75

ATTEST:

Doty K. Ferguson  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: Feb 20, 1975