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SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T TYPE ALL ENTRIES (				;
1 NAME					, .
HISTORIC	A.B.C. Dodd/House				
AND/OR COMMON	Thomsen House	<u> </u>			
LOCATIO					
<b>STREET &amp; NUMBER</b>	310 Third Avenue		NO	FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN				NGRESSIONAL DISTRI	СТ
STATE	Charles City	VICINITY OF CODE	CO	3rd	CODE
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• NAME	OWNERSHIP PUBLIC PUBLIC BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED OF PROPERTY	STATUS XOCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGR ACCESSIBLI YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRIC XNO	E ) TED	PRESI AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	ENT USE MUSEUM PARK X_PRIVATE RESIDE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATIO OTHER:
STREET & NUMBER		. <b>.</b>			
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COURTHOUSE,	<sup>S,ETC.</sup> Floyd County Court 101 South Main Stre	House, Recor	der's Offic	e	
CITY, TOWN	Charles City,			STATE	,a 50616
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DATE	igust, 1975	FEDI	RALSTATE	_COUNTY X_LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR	Charles City Department	t of Communit	y Developmen	nt STATE	
	Charles City			low	la

### 7' DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK	DNE
X_EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	X_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL	SITE
G00D	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The A.B.C. Dodd House, built in 1910 of Prairie School Style, is a detached dwelling located in an area of single-family houses and zoned R-2, GENERAL RESIDENCE. The house, of wood-frame construction, is two stories high plus attic space and basement. In plan, the dwelling is basically a simple rectangle with approximate overall dimensions of twenty-seven feet by thirty-two feet. The longer facade is oriented parallel to the street frontage. Attached front and rear one-story porches visually relieve the two-story building mass. The two-story house is capped by a gable roof with broad overhang. The lower story porches have shallow pitched hip roofs which also have wide overhanging soffits. The main entrance, located in the building's main facade and adjacent to the front porch sidewall, has a small cantilevered hip roof that engages the porch roof. The porches are of original enclosed design.

The upper story of the exterior walls and the end gables are clad with stained wood shingles and are set apart from the lower story by a change of materials and expression. The lower story walls are clad with painted wood ship-lap siding and framed by heavy wood trim. This trim has various profiles made up of wide pieces with smaller applied pieces of mouldings to give relief. It is used to form the corner boards, the horizontal string banding between the upper story shingles and lower story siding, and to express a water table or base.

The stone basement foundation walls are not visible on the exterior. The windows are wood casements. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The brick chimney is centrally located.

The only known exterior changes are gutter and roof shingle covering replacements. The exterior colors closely approximate the original. The upper story wood shingles, the roof fascias and soffit boards, and the wood trim are stained a reddish-brown hue. The wood siding and casement windows are painted a warm yellow-ochre. The roof shingles are green. The building is faithfully preserved.

Similarly, the interior remarkably retains most of the original design features and exhibits many of the creative, stylistic elements of the Prairie School Movement.

The open and flowing first floor plan revolves around the centrally located fireplace and core. The entry vestibule and stair hall, located at the side, permit private access and circulation to various areas of the house. The first floor has a front living room (functionally expanded by utilization of the enclosed front porch), dining area and kitchen, with the enclosed rear porch used as a breakfast nook. The upper story has three bedrooms and bath.

The central core includes a fireplace of expert brickwork, a built-in kitchen cupboard and cabinets, and an engaged book cabinet of oak with glass doors which stops short of the ceiling and serves as a space divider between the living and dining areas. The interior walls and many of the ceilings have applied wood trim and ornamental detail which create decorative wall and ceiling panelizations. The main stair is separated from the hall by a decorative, built-in wood screen. All of the hardwood floors throughout the house are intact. Except for the dining room chandelier, all of the original integrally designed light fixtures are intact and functional. The most notable of these are a living room ceiling light of creative design and decorative accent lights incorporated into the living room and dining room have cracked and the surfaces have recently been covered with wall covering of a neutral "wheat" color that closely resembles the tint of the original plaster and complements the "natural" wood finishes.

(continued on continuation sheet)

## 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	
1600-1699	<u>Xarchitecture</u>	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	XOTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		interior design
	•			

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Purcell, Feick & Elmslie, Arch. Julias Peterson, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A.B.C. Dodd<sup>(1)</sup> House is an excellent example of the Prairie School Style. It illustrates the social awareness and design principles of the Prairie School Movement as applied to common and inexpensive housing. It is one of only two buildings in Iowa<sup>(2)</sup> designed by Purcell and Elmslie,<sup>(3)</sup> important architects of the Movement who, along with Frank Lloyd Wright, were leading exponents of Prairie School design.

The house was a prototype for the kind of "everyman" housing that the idealistic architects hoped would be expressive of a true American style--a style representative of American life and respectful of nature but with utilization of industrial technology.

The simplicity and fresh design of the house is illustrative of the Prairie School's rejection of the prevalent architectural eclecticism of the time which borrowed styles from other periods and cultures. This rethinking of architectural solutions was the beginning of modern architecture.

The Dodd House designers, Purcell and Elmslie, worked for the great architect, Louis Sullivan of Chicago, who was also the mentor of Frank Lloyd Wright. Like Wright, the master of the modern movement, Purcell and Elmslie developed an open plan around a central fireplace core. Unlike most of Wright's houses, which were generally irregular in plan, the Dodd House was more tightly confined to the smaller and cheaper perimeter of the basic square.

Consistent with Prairie School practice, the exterior of the Dodd House has a broad roof expanse that suggests a strong sense of shelter, and natural materials with richly textured wood shingle upper story cladding and wood siding on the lower story. The division of the exterior walls and the wide roof overhangs emphasize the horizontal lines of the house. This horizontality is a typical Prairie School expression although not as assertive or dynamic as in most of Wright's designs of that time. Other Prairie School design features include the honest expression and richness of the natural materials, the use of casement windows, and the interior spatial and surface relationships.

The Prairie School's new approach to interior design included the flowing and functional plan; the use of wood trim applied to wall and ceiling surfaces; built-in screens, furnishings and cabinets; and, integration of electrical and mechanical components with the architecture. All of these design elements are found in the Dodd House.

Deceptively simple in appearance, the house is, architecturally, very important as a handsome and inexpensive Prairie School dwelling. Its meticulous maintenance and preservation of the original materials and colors reinforce its significance.

(1) A.B.C. Dodd was a druggist in Charles City. HIs wife, Maude, helped run the Dodd drug store and was an active horsewoman. How and why A.B.C. Dodd secured the services of the architects for the house is unknown. The present owner of the house is the wife of Frank D. Thomsen, a pharmacist who worked for the Dodds and came into possession of the house after their deaths.

(2) The other building is the Woodbury County Court House in Sioux City, Iowa designed in 1916 by Purcell and Elmslie in association with William Steele. The court house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(3) The Dodd House was designed by the firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslie of Minneapolis Minnesota. Purcell and Elmslie were the design principals and had earlier worked for Louis Sullivan. In 1913 the firm became Purcell and Elmslie.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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<u>Charles C</u>	·				50616
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#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED FEBIU 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 2.2 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE ONE

The original L-shaped kitchen cabinets have been replaced; however, the core built-in cabinet is intact. The bathroom has all of the original plumbing fixtures. At the rear of the site is a simple, detached garage structure of wood construction that was designed and built with the house. Vehicular access is via a side driveway from the street. The remainder of the site is simply, but attractively, landscaped in a manner complementary to the building's architecture.

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

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RECEIVED FEB 1	) 1978
DATE ENTERED	<b>B</b> 179

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Gebhard, David. "Purcell and Elmslie, Architects" and "A Guide to the Architecture of Purcell and Elmslie." <u>The Prairie School Review</u>, Vol. II, No. 1 (First Quarter, 1965).

Lindaman, Steven. "The Dodd House." Unpublished paper, Architectural Department, Iowa State University, February 14, 1975.

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(A reprinting of the January 1913, January 1915, and July 1915 issues of <u>The</u> <u>Western Architect</u>). The Prairie School Press, Park Forest, Illinois, 1965.

Thomsen, Julia. Interviewed by Ronald Schmitt, September 1, 1977.