United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

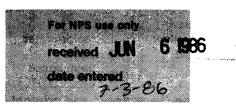
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	Dr. John H.	Adair Ho	use				
and/or common	N/A						
2. Loca	ation						
street & number	322 E. Vine	e Street			N/#	a not for public	ation
city, town	Owatonna		Vicinity of	·oongressionar dis	strict		
state	Minnesota	code	22 count	y Steele		code	147
3. Clas	sification	n					
Category district X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitie in process being conside N/A		atus - occupied - unoccupied - work in progress cessible - yes: restricted - yes: unrestricted - no	entertainmen	l ent	museum park _X_ private re religious scientific transporta other:	
4. Own	er of Pro	pertv					
name (Calvin and Magd 506 S. Cedar S		· · ·	ames H. and Ther 3831 Sorda Rd.,			91355
city, town	Owatonna		N/A vicinity of		state	Minnesota	55060
	ation of L	egal		ion			
			corders Offic	········		·	
street & number		Steele Con	inty Court Ho	use			
city, town		Owatonna		s	state	Minnesota	
6. Repi	resentati	on in	Existing	Surveys			
Minnesot title Sites Su	a Statewide Hi Irvey	storic	has this p	property been determin	ned eligi	ble? yes	<u>_X</u> no
date 1985				federal _X	state	county	local
depository for su	irvey records Sta	te Histor:	ic Preservati	on Office-Ft. Sn	elling	History Ce	nter
city, town	St.	Paul		s	state M	innesota 5	5111

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84



7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<u> </u>	deteriorated	<u>X</u> unaltered	X original site	he N/A
fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. John H. Adair House faces south on a double lot on the north side of E. Vine Street in Owatonna.

The Adair House is two-and-a-half stories with basically American Foursquare massing in Prairie style. It is sheathed in 3" clapboard up to the second story window sills with stucco above. One of its distinguishing features is a very tall hipped roof, stepped back nine times before reaching the apex. The roof is deeply overhung and has wooden eaves. It has asphalt shingles which are not original. Gables are also hipped with the stepped-back feature. On the east side is a hip-roofed porch. The grouped ribbon-type windows are typical of the Prairie style. Exterior trim is white pine painted dark brown. Decorative wood panels stand out from the exterior walls around the front projecting window in the living room on the south side of the front facade. This element is decorated with Prairie-style abstract foliated motifs painted in bright orange and yellow colors. The lot slopes toward the rear of the property and has a heated tuck-under garage in the north west corner of the basement.

The interior of the house is in virtually original condition. Oak woodwork with its original finish is found throughout the house. The living room on the southwest side of the first floor has, as a centerpiece, a round-arched Roman brick fireplace with a raised hearth. On the west wall of the living room is a built-in leaded-glass and oak bookcase with drawers and a counter. The living room and dining room have oak cornerboards and a high wainscot about 2 feet below the ceiling. French doors are leaded glass in geometric shapes between the vestibule and living room and the living room and dining room. The first floor consists of the living room, front hall, dining room, pantry, kitchen, a rear hall and toilet, and living porch on the east side. The kitchen has a maple floor and birch cabinets with glass doors painted white: in virtually original condition. The second floor consists of a master bedroom, bath and walk-in closet with a sleeping porch off the east side of the room, a second bedroom and guest room. Floors here are maple with painted birch woodwork. A second bath has been addded in the second floor hallway. The third floor consists of two bedrooms under a high hipped-roofed ceiling. Light fixtures throughout the first floor and second floor bedrooms are original as designed by Elmslie.

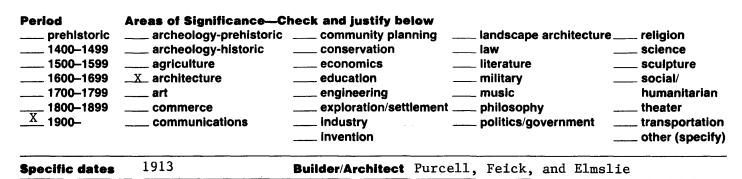
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TOPS AT

Section 1.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dr. John H. Adair House is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of the residential work of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie in southeastern Minnesota. It is as well-adapted to life today as it was when built in 1913. The house is also significant for its associations with Dr. John H. Adair, one of Owatonna's leading physicians. In the Adair House one can see the work of both of the principal designers-- the high-pitched roof and side screen porch of Purcell, and the fine detailing of the elevations, the brightly painted ornament, and the interior detailing of Elmslie. The house displays unusual integrity both on the exterior and interior, except for a second floor bathroom addition. It is in virtually original condition down to the light fixtures designed by Elmslie. The Adair House is one of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie's last commissions together as a trio, and is the most outstanding Prairie-school design in Steele County. The house is a masterpiece of the tenets of Prairie school buildings which strongly assert their visual form; honestly express structure, material and use; and moderate cost.

The house was designed in 1913 by the firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslië. William Gray Purcell (1880-1965) worked for Louis Sullivan for a short period in Chicago and established his own firm in Minneapolis and Chicago in 1906. The firm of Purcell and Feick was formed in 1906 and Feick remained until 1913. George Grant Elmslie (1871-1952) joined the firm of Purcell and Feick in 1909 after leaving Adler and Sullivan in Chicago where he had begun in 1889 and where he had become Sullivan's chief draftsman in 1894. Elmslie left Purcell in 1921 to start his own firm and the successful collaboration of the two partners ceased.

Dr. John H. Adair was one of Owatonna's leading physicians and was known for his civic-mindedness. He was one of the first children born to settlers in Steele County in 1858 and attended Pillsbury Academy and Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he graduated in 1880. He graduated from Rush Medical College in 1883 and began his practice in Winnebago, Minnesota, returning to Owatonna in 1884. Dr. Adair was Steele County coroner for many years, was a prominent booster of civic endeavors, and an excellent surgeon. No record has survived of how or why he hired the firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslie to design his home in 1913, but he may have been influenced by Louis Sullivan's design for the National Farmers Bank in Owatonna in 1907-08.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet # 1

10. Geographical Data

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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
street & numbe	er 5535 Rich Minneapol					<u>612) 929-2921</u> innesota _554	410
The evaluated	significance of	this property with	nin the state	is: local		Certific	
665), I hereby r according to th	nominate this p	roperty for inclus procedures set for	ion in the Na th by the Na	tional Regis	ter and certify that	n Act of 1966 (Pub tit has been evalua Very	
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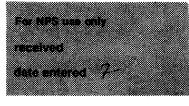
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Dr. John H. Adair House, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota

Continuation sheet Resource Count Item number 8

The Dr. John H. Adair House Nomination

contains 1 contributing building.



Page

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Dr. John H. Adair House, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota Major Biblio. References # 9 Continuation sheet # 9

Adair House file, Job # 218. Purcell and Elmslie Papers. Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota.

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed. <u>History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota</u>. Vol. 2. (Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1910), p. 1029.

Gebhard, David and Tom Martinson. <u>A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota</u>. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977) p. 303.

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