

1206

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED
JUL 13 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith Farmhouse

other names/site number Smith Homestead Farmhouse

2. Location

street & number Rural Route 1, Rainbow Road South

not for publication

city, town Lake City

vicinity

state IOWA

code

19

county Calhoun

code

025

zip code 51449

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

1

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic & Architectural Resources of Lake City, Iowa, 1854-1940

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]

Signature of certifying official

7/3/90

Date

Bureau of Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]

8/27/90

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Brick

roof Asphaltother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet, attached.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Smith Farmhouse, built c. 1877, is one of the more clearly identifiable Italianate homes in Lake City. It lies on the western outskirts of town, with farm land opening up to its west and south beyond the windbreak that surrounds the house. It faces east and a gravel driveway south of the house links it to Rainbow Road.

The house has an Italianate cube plan although it is actually rectangular, measuring 36' wide by 31' deep or three by two bays. It is two and one-half stories tall, has brick walls and a truncated, hipped roof with slightly flared eaves. Since Lake City possessed four brick yards in the 19th Century, it is possible that the house was built of local brick. The foundation is stone and extends upward only to ground level; it is faced with concrete in many places along the ground. Two interior brick chimneys rise from the central part of the roof; the roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A one-story, shed-roofed porch spans the front elevation, sheltering the central entry and windows. The window above the front door has been converted to a second-story door with a makeshift balcony in front of it.

A one-story, two by one-bay addition is attached to the west side (in the right-bay). It has brick and tile block walls and a hipped roof covered by rolled asphalt; both north and south sides of the addition have entrances. Windows throughout the house are one-over one-light double-hung sash, except for the window in the addition which is four-over four-light. The two windows flanking the front door are wider than the rest, unusual on Italianate residences.

The Smith Farmhouse exhibits the Italianate Style in several ways other than its cube plan, hipped roof, and central entry. Most noticeable of these is the cornice. The house has a wide, panelled frieze (no architrave, however), and a molded cornice supported by scrolled brackets with a molded bedmold in between. Another feature of this style is found in the windows, whose lintels are of two segmentally arched rows of header bricks; sills are stone, probably limestone, and without decoration. The front door with its two round arched panes of glass is also characteristic of this style.

Alterations to the farmhouse exterior number only three. The previously mentioned rear addition has a concrete foundation and looks about fifty to sixty years old. A rectangular window in its west side is missing. The addition was probably used as a "mud-" or washroom. The front porch is the second modification. It has square, boxed posts and a wooden apron, and it rests on a brick foundation. The porch is deteriorating, and difficult to date because of its lack of ornamentation; it may date to c. 1920 or c. 1930. Third, concrete covers what appear to have been two basement windows on the north side.

What the house originally looked like is unknown because no photos from its early years exist. It is rumored that iron cresting once adorned the top of the roof, which is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

entirely possible. The front porch may have sheltered only the entrance, or it may have spanned the east facade. In any case, the Smith Farmhouse retains most of its design and materials integrity. While in need of some repairs, it is, nevertheless, an excellent example of a modest Italianate home built in Lake City during the last quarter of the 19th Century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

c. 1877 _____

Significant Dates

c. 1877 _____

Cultural Affiliation

None. _____

Significant Person

None. _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

Unknown _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheet, attached.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, attached.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Iowa Site Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.17 Acres

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

3	5	5	9	8	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	8	0	4	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet, attached.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes only the Smith Farmhouse; all other structures are excluded.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tracy Ann Cuning
organization PHR Associates date 7 May 1990
street & number 725 Garden Street telephone 805-965-2357
city or town Santa Barbara state California zip code 93101

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

INTRODUCTION:

The Smith Farmhouse is locally significant under Criteria C. It is one of the last remaining structures in Lake City from the Prairie Settlement period (1854-1880), as well as one of the better examples of Italianate architecture in the area (Historic and Architectural Resources of Lake City, Iowa: 1854-1940).

BACKGROUND:

Peter Smith, his first wife, Sarah, and their four young sons arrived in Calhoun County from Cass County, Michigan in 1855, and were among the earliest white settlers of the area. They established a farm near the present Smith Farmhouse on the western edge of Lake City. The first two buildings were a log cabin, 18' by 24', and a log horse barn, probably erected north of the existing farmhouse. A few years later Smith built south of the log cabin, a house of lumber chopped and sawn on the premises. The probable locations of these two structures lie outside the present boundaries of this property.

In 1856 Calhoun County residents selected "the area of greatest settlement" (now Lake City) for a county seat, and landowners "deeded land for the sale of town lots" ("Prairie Settlement: 1854-1940"). That year the Smith's gave forty acres of land to the town, the beginning of several additions they and their children deeded to Lake City between the 1850s and the turn of the century. Smith also served as the first Calhoun County judge. For the next twenty years the Smith's were a prominent family of farmers, real estate dealers and merchants. Both Sarah Smith and later Peter's second wife, Mary, also bought and sold their own land.

Initially, Lake City drew its economic sustenance from the surrounding farms, and many of its leading citizens during this period actually lived outside town ("Prairie Settlement: 1854-1880"). Peter and Sarah lived on their original claim for sixteen years before moving into Lake City proper. Then in 1871, Peter and two of his sons started a general store in town, leaving the homestead in the care of James Oscar, the fourth son.

Settlement and development in Lake City proceeded slowly during the 1860s, despite its county seat status. The strength of the town's claim on the county seat weakened during the early 1870s, due to increased settlement in other parts of Calhoun County, and in 1876 the county seat was moved to Rockwell City, a more centrally located town. Perhaps because of the greater economic opportunities that a railroad town provided, the Smith's moved to Glidden before 1875. There, according to an 1874 advertisement, Peter Smith engaged in the grain storage and shipment business (Lake City Journal, November 14, 1874). Sarah died in Glidden and one year later Peter married Lake City widow Mary Orr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

James O., meanwhile, farmed the homestead for his parents from 1871 to 1874, when he moved to another farm east of Lake City. He alternately operated a farm and a grocery store in town for the next twenty years or so. The present farmhouse was built sometime after 1877, according to tax and land transfer records. It is not known at this time who built the house or even who lived on the property between 1874 and 1890, although Peter owned it until his death. In March of 1890 Clark M., Peter's third son, "moved onto the old Smith Homestead Farm" (Smith Farmhouse site sheet), for an unknown length of time.

Peter and his second wife returned to Lake City in 1881, and shortly thereafter he and Cyrus established the first bank in Lake City. Peter and Mary moved into a new brick house at 304 W. Main Street around 1887; he lived in that house until his death in 1899. Mary inherited the farm property, but sold it to her stepson James O., who resided there until 1921. The Hatfield's then bought the house and land, and in the 1960s they sold it to the late Hazel Craigmile.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Smith Farmhouse is important in the category of Exploration/Settlement under Criterion C in that it is a "second generation" farmhouse. When pioneers like the Smiths arrived in the Lake City area, they first constructed log cabins and barns. They platted the town and organized a local government. Agriculture was the base of early Lake City's economy although many farmers practiced subsistence farming until the 1880s. Finally in 1881, Lake City received its own link to regional markets for grain and livestock via the railroad. With the subsequent influx of new businesses and people, fresh ideas, and modern fashions, the town's commercial and visual landscape changed dramatically. Farmers and townfolk alike could now afford to replace their original, "first generation" homes with larger and more stylish new ones. The Smith Farmhouse is one of the few structures in Lake City remaining from the later part of the Pioneer Settlement period, from its transition to a railroad boom town. The house represents the economic maturation of Lake City as a whole, as well as the financial stability of the Smith family, during the late 1870s and early 1880s.

The Smith Farmhouse is even more significant under Criterion C since it displays a particular architectural style to a degree no longer seen in Lake City. Most of Lake City's housing was constructed between 1881 and 1895, and many were probably decorated with elements of the Italianate style, but few retain as much of their historic appearance. The Smith Farmhouse is a good example of a c. 1877 residence modestly decorated with Italianate features. It retains most of its integrity of design and materials. Given that most other Italianate buildings in Lake City either lack integrity or have disappeared altogether, the Smith Farmhouse assumes greater importance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Archival research has indicated that two structures dating to the earliest period of Lake City's settlement were located in the immediate vicinity but outside the current parcel boundaries (also the NRHP boundaries) of this property. Subsurface features and historic artifacts associated with the Smith family's original homestead may be present, but the area has not been tested.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Biographical and Historical Record of Greene and Carroll Counties, Iowa. Chicago:
Lewis Publishing Co., 1887.

Calhoun County Land Transfer Block Books.

Campbell, Vivian. Lake City Historian, Lake City Historic Preservation Commission.
Telephone Interview, 20 December 1989.

"Here's to Peter Smith, The Oldest Settler." Lake City Graphic, June 6, 1899; item dated
May 6, 1890.

Lake City Journal, November 14, 1874.

Lake City Tax Assessment Books, 1877, 1889-1911.

Smith, Peter and Sarah, family genealogy.

Stonebreaker, Beaumont. Past and Present of Calhoun County. Chicago: Pioneer
Publishing Co., 1915.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Smith Farmhouse
Rural Route 1, Rainbow Road South
Lake City, Iowa

Verbal Boundary Description

