Grant Wood
“The Mourner’s Bench”

LOCATION: CRMA
DATE: 1921
MEDIUM: Oak, carved and stained
MEASUREMENTS: 37.125”H x 18.625”H
(bench seat) X 49.25”W X 16.125”D
NOTES: Tag on front right side of seat says, “Designs and carvings by Grant Wood 1923 Built by students Vernon Van Antwerp, Obie Peal, Henry Chposky, Chester Bailey, Otto Rajtora, Fay Melbourne Under supervision of Herbert Dejten and Harold Nelson”

Mourner’s Bench is an example of Grant Wood’s great craftsmanship abilities and sense of humor. He carved the doleful and weeping children's heads for the bench while the rest was made with the assistance of his art students at Cedar Rapids McKinley Junior High School, who also helped him paint and decorate his 5 Turner Alley studio-home. This "mourner’s" bench has the look of a medieval church pew bench. It was actually created for students to sit on while they "mourned" the deeds that brought them to the principal’s office, where the bench was located.