

PH036138X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977  
DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1977

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

Cavanagh House

AND/OR COMMON

Cavanaugh-Zetek House *Wastling*

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

704 Reno Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY  
Johnson

CODE

103

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gary Gaines

STREET & NUMBER

704 Reno Street

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

VICINITY OF

Iowa

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Johnson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Clinton Street

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cavanagh House is a simple, vernacular version of the Gothic Revival style, which reached the midwest in the 1850's and was popular here until after the Civil War. The house is built of brick, on a stone foundation, in an L-shaped plan. It is 1¼ stories, with a one story addition to the left of the front facade. The main roof is steeply pitched, gable, covered with sheet metal; that of the small addition is flat and slightly sloping for drainage. There are two brick chimneys; one on the main roof (now covered with cement), and a taller chimney at the rear of the addition. The gable roof of the main section has a narrow bargeboard with a perforated scalloped edging; eaves elsewhere on this section have an edging of lobe-like forms. The flat-roofed addition has a narrow wooden cornice. There is a wood porch set within the angle formed by the two sections of the main house, which is reminiscent of Greek Revival influence in its use of square pilasters and columns to support a full entablature beneath the flat roof.

The Gothic Revival influence is most strongly seen in the high pitch of the roof and in the pointed-arch tracery windows of the south and west facades. The shape is repeated in both entrances.

The house is set on a wooded lot at the end of a street in a residential area.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cavanagh House is one of two brick Gothic Revival houses remaining in Iowa City. Its simple, concise lines and details contribute to its significance as an example of the vernacular use of Gothic Revival influences. Also, the integrity of the house and its wooded setting have remained intact, thus reflecting the character of this northwest corner of the original city plan.

The original owner of the house, James Cavanagh (or Cavanaugh) (1806-1879), was born in Ohio and lived in Cass County, Michigan, before coming to Iowa and Johnson County around 1840. For a number of years he farmed in the Solon area (northeast of Iowa City) then established residence in this house on Reno Street, probably in the late 1860's. Cavanagh was active in local politics, serving at various times as county auditor, county commissioner, Justice of the Peace, a member of the 7th General Assembly. One of Cavanagh's eight sons, Matthew (b. 1832), carried on his father's political and civic activism in Iowa City, as a local attorney, county sheriff, city council member (1862) and mayor (1878).

After James Cavanagh's wife, Amy, died in 1902, the house was purchased by Joseph Zetek, and remained in the possession of the Zetek family until 1976.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Keyes, Margaret N. Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1966.  
 Lafore, Laurence. American Classic. Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Society, 1975.  
 Leading Events in Johnson County History: Biographical. Cedar Rapids: Western History Press, 1913.  
 History of Johnson County, Iowa, 1836-1882. Iowa City, 1883.

City Directories for 1901-2, 1904, 1912-13.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 623360 46131860  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Sieberling

ORGANIZATION

DATE June 1975

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

North Liberty

STATE

Iowa 52317

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian H. Fisher*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

1/27/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles [Signature]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/16/77

DATE

9-15-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER