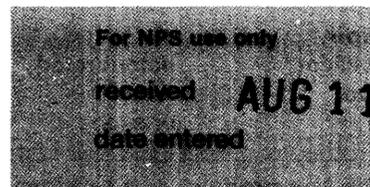


100-100-10000000
EXP. 12/31/84

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 Thomas C. Carson House

and/or common Alpha Phi Sorority House

2. Location

street & number 906 East College St. _____ not for publication

city, town Iowa City _____ vicinity of _____ ~~congressional district~~ 1

state Iowa code 19 county Johnson code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alpha Phi Sorority House

street & number 906 E. College

city, town Iowa City _____ vicinity of _____ state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds Office

street & number Johnson County Courthouse

city, town Iowa City _____ state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date n.a. _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records na.

city, town n.a. _____ state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carson House is one of the few remaining Second Empire houses in Iowa and a superb example of the style. A visual confection of decorative detail, the Carson House provides an insight into late nineteenth century styles and also calls attention to the career of Thomas C. Carson, a pioneer Iowa City resident and prominent businessman.

A mansard roof with a concave slope and elaborate dormers tops the imposing three-story square block of the main house. The window headers vary from floor to floor and provide much of the textural richness although the alternating rectangular and diamond shingle patterns of the mansard and the cornices of the roof, porch and between the second and third floors also contribute to the effect. Like other Second Empire buildings, the Carson House features paired dormer windows, an arched double door at the entrance, and a central pavilion. The pavilion's convex shape provides another layer of intricacy as it contrasts with the shape of the principal mansard.

Set on a corner lot in the heart of a university student area, the Carson House enjoys a resolutely collegiate setting. Many nearby Victorian houses have also been converted to apartments or sorority houses, and a residential impression pervades the area. Some new apartments have been constructed, including a two-story one with a modern mansard next to the Carson House. The sorority that now uses the house has provided black-topped parking and a newer garage for its residents, but these additions do not seriously intrude into the residential setting.

As one would expect with the conversion from a single family dwelling to a sorority house, there have been some changes and enlargements to accommodate the increased resident population. However, most amendments have been sympathetically undertaken and do not harm the integrity of the facade. Several one- and two-story additions trail out to the rear and one wraps partly around a side of the house. On the other side, a two-story sun porch has been added; a modern squared dormer has replaced two dormers above this sun porch. Over the years, some decorative detail has been changed, such as removal of iron cresting, a side porch on the east, a five-sided entrance on the west (designed to connect a never built conservatory), and a small railing atop the main porch. Photographs dating from Carson ownership show that some of these changes occurred during their residency (1875 to at least 1913).

The present owners have returned a parlor and living room to their original dimensions, while enlarging the dining room and kitchen. Many original features remain, including the staircase, interior windows and doors, seven light fixtures and some fireplaces.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1875

Builder/Architect: *****

Thomas C. Carson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As one of the passengers on the first train to arrive in Iowa City, on December 31, 1855, Thomas Carson is associated with the early growth and commercial development of the city. His long (1855-1905) and successful career marks him as one of the important early businessmen in the county, and his elaborate home emphasizes his financial success.

Carson opened a hardware store upon his arrival, soon expanding to include agricultural implements. Besides his role as a merchant, Carson invested in numerous local financial ventures. He was one of the organizers of the Johnson County Savings Bank in 1872 and served as president of that institution from 1877, when he replaced former Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood. Carson continued in the position for 28 years until his death in 1905.

Carson was also one of the stockholders in a company that purchased a venerable eastern Iowa newspaper company, the Republican Publishing Company, in 1879. The list of 29 owners, which includes former Governor Kirkwood, reads as a virtual Who's Who for Iowa City. Carson was also involved with various utilities and with his sons controlled the gas light and electric light companies of the city.

The successful businessman was also active in community affairs, as a city councilman and one of the builders of the courthouse. He was secretary in 1864 and a leader of the Johnson County Agricultural Society which organized the county fair and promoted county farming interests.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Iowa City West Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	2	3	0	3	0	4	6	1	2	7	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N. A. code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Beving Long and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historians

organization Division of Historic Preservation

date July 1982

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue

telephone 515/281-5111

city or town Des Moines

state Iowa

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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



title Director, State Historical Department

date July 29, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

entered in the National Register

date

9/9/82

Keeper of the National Register

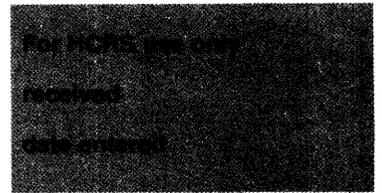
Attach

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9.

Page 1.

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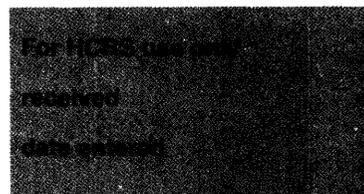
History of Johnson County, Iowa (Iowa City: n.p.), pp. 321, 342, 369, and 641-2.

*Hoover, J.F., et.al, Souvenir and Annual for 1881-1882 (Iowa City: Republican Steam Printing House, 1881)

Iowa City Republican, 22 January 1873.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page one

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Out Lot Three(3), Iowa City, Iowa, according to the recorded plat thereof, thence North One Hundred Ninety Five and Nine-Tenths(195.9) feet, thence East One Hundred Sixty (160) feet, thence South One Hundred Ninety Five and Five-Tenths(195.9) feet to the North line of College Street, thence West One Hundred Sixty(160) feet to the point of beginning; subject to right of way over the North Twelve (12) feet there of; and further subject to easements and restrictions of record, if any.