

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received **MAR 4 1985**

date entered **APR 4 1986**

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

1. Name

historic W. C. Ball House

and/or common George W. Ball House/William M. DuBois House

2. Location

street & number R.R.#2 _____ not for publication

city, town Fairfield _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Jefferson code 101

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 |
| | <u>N/A</u> | <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 Christopher H. and Marjorie DuBois Wege

street & number R.R. 2

city, town Fairfield _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52556

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Jefferson County Courthouse

city, town Fairfield, _____ state Iowa 52556

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Area XV Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-82 _____ federal _____ state county _____ local

depository for survey records Iowa HPO, E. 12th & Grand Ave.

city, town Des Moines _____ state Iowa 50319

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

W(illiam) C(lay) and Mary ("Molly") Ball had this house built about 1876 for themselves and only daughter. The builder is unknown. The house was intended as a country residence within the suburbs of Fairfield. In 1886 the property consisted of 157 acres.

The building is frame with 2 1/2 stories. Scale of composition is large and consists of a main block 26'9" x 32'3" and 2 1/2 story west wing 25'7" x 24'7". A 2 1/2 story bay projects on the south elevation from the main block. The house has two primary facades, one facing east and the other facing south.

A low foundation of rock-faced stone is laid regular ashlar. The foundation supports a wood framing of undetermined system. A wooden water table surrounds the building. Novelty cove-siding is used on the exterior walls except on bay and east dormer where decorative shingle siding is employed. A hip roof and the dormer mentioned above cover the main block. Two other gables tie into the hip roof; one from the bay and one from the west wing. Roof pitch is moderately steep and ridges feature crenellations and finials. Asphalt shingles had replaced already in the 1920s a wood shingle roof which probably reflected the decorative treatment of the bay & east dormer. There are two chimneys.

The building features a number of architectural details. Most notable are three porches: a kitchen porch on west; dining room porch on south; and wrap-around porch on southeast. The wrap-around has two entries, each with gable roof, crenellation and finial; one entry is offset. The dining room porch also has a gable entry. Porch millwork is elaborate. Other architectural details include paired brackets; cornice; and cornice returns on bay and east and west gables. There is a false window with closed blinds on north elevation.

Interior woodwork was originally false-grained and an example survives intact on the double entry-doors and doorjamb in the hall. Other false-graining has been painted. Oak woodwork replaced the original in parlor, dining room, and hall, probably early in the occupancy of George W. Ball, a later owner of the house and Iowa state legislator 1888-1894.

The W. C. Ball House stands on 2.08 acres of land including a barn, corn crib, chicken house, garage, wood shed, and scale shed. The barn dates from circa 1885; other outbuildings date from circa 1910. The garage was built in 1983. Open land surrounds the property on north, west, and south; and a municipal park and public reservoir are situated east. The Ball property retains the impression of a farmstead although incorporated into the City of Fairfield. The fabric of the house has been well maintained throughout tenure of ownerships.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input 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 c. 1870's **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The W. C. Ball House is a fine, relatively unaltered, example of vernacular architecture which employs an eclecticism of stylistic design and architectural detail. The massive roof and polygonal bay window expand the vernacular language of Fairfield architecture. Built as a suburban residence circa 1876, the building obtains significance for the architectural context of both Fairfield and Jefferson County.

The building is difficult to evaluate in the brief format of this statement as a detailed discussion of Fairfield's architectural context is really required. Put simply, the W. C. Ball House acts as a point of transition between the Italianate vernacular and that of the later Victorian picturesque styles as interpreted locally. Comprehensive cultural resource surveys exist for Fairfield and Jefferson County and corroborate this statement.

The main block of the house faces east. It conforms to a commonly accepted Italianate convention in Fairfield (cub volume with cornice, paired brackets, cornice returns, and facade gable as architectural details). The John W. Culbertson House (1307 South Main) and Charles C. Risk House (506 East Burlington) are similar and contemporary examples among many in Fairfield. Still, the scale of the W. C. Ball House is larger than most others in the community.

In its roof design, the W. C. Ball House departs radically from the local Italianate vernacular. Low-pitched, hipped roofs and decks are gone. This house throws up high profile roof planes. Crenellations and finials on ridges call attention self-consciously to roof surfaces.

The W. C. Ball House is also innovative in bay window design. Exposed vertical and horizontal framing outlines the bay. Vertical siding is employed from water table to window sills, as is decorative siding throughout the bay.

Both the roof and the bay window design are new ideas in Fairfield. They clearly are under the influence of Stick styling. In a real sense, the W. C. Ball House reflects the character of its first owner. Ball enjoyed the public's eye. An impeccable source tells us he enjoyed public controversy.* Ball is mostly remembered now for his dramatic monologues and theatricality, although he was a university trained lawyer and stock farmer. The use of novel and unprecedented designs in his home is thoroughly in keeping with Ball's mercurial character.

There is an absence of information about the builder of the W. C. Ball House. The building is unlikely architect designed as the vernacular tradition is strong and no known, residence in Fairfield from the period is associated with an architect. The building is more likely the work of a local builder effectively employing up-to-the-minute materials with access to a patternbook or other source of Stick styling.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.11 acres

Quadrangle name Fairfield North

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Refer to Continuation Sheet 10-2

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 Nomination Prepared by William C. Page, Public Historian, (319-456-8651)
Form prepared by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 15 November 1984

street & number E. 12th Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

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 *James E. Jacobsen*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 2/17/85

For NPS use only

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

James E. Jacobsen date 4/4/85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

mass of the house, yet their gabled entries, crenellations, and finials tie the porches into the architectural detail of the main roof.

The W. C. Ball House is a fine vernacular residence fusing details of Italianate, Stick and Eastlake styling. The scale of the building is unusually large for the period. It is situated on a hill in such a way as to show off this size to greatest effect.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered APR 4 1986

Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

P R I M A R Y

- Abstract of Title; Federal Land Bank Association of Mount Pleasant (Iowa); POB 29; Mt Pleasant, IA 52641.
- Warranty Deeds; Jefferson County Recorder's Office; Fairfield, IA: Book 25, pp 104 & 106: Eliza J Campbell to W C Ball; dated 1 April 1875. Book 46, p 518: W C Ball to Geo W Ball; dated 28 Feb 1896. Book 77, p 38; Geo W Ball to William DuBois; dated 8 Jan 1919.
- Fairfield City Directories; 1886 (p 120); 1899 (p 153); 1904 (p 162).
Property Ben J Taylor; Fairfield, IA.
- Fairfield Ledger; 16 Mar 1876; p 3 c 5: "A very pleasant party was given at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Ball..."
25 April 1877; p 3 c 5: "Fairfield is on the 'improve...'"
8 August 1877; p 3 c 6: "Eight pretty pairs of our jolly young people surprised Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ball."
15 August 1877; p 3 c 5: "Fairfield is still on the 'uprise.'"
15 August 1877; p 3 c 3: "Many points of interest."
17 July 1912; p 2 c 3: "Death of Mrs. George Ball."
- Fairfield Ledger-Journal; 16 March 1920; "Death of George W. Ball."
30 March 1923; p 1 c 3: "W. C. Ball Dead."
- Standard Atlas of Jefferson County, Iowa including a Plat Book; Geo A Ogle & Co; Chicago; 1909; pp 10-11.
- Mitchell, H B; "Reminiscences: Fairfield in 1840;" Fairfield Ledger; 1 July 1903; p 7 c 1-2.
- Portrait and Biographical Album of Jefferson and Van Buren Counties; Lake City Publishing Co; Chicago; 1890. Biographical sketch of George W Ball; pp 596-97.
- Fulton, Charles J; History of Jefferson County, Iowa; Vol II; S J Clarke Publishing Co; Chicago; 1914; pp 288-90. Biographical sketch of W C Ball.
- Allen, C R, Civil Engineer (Ottumwa, IA); Highways of Jefferson County Iowa; 1897. Township maps. Ink on real parchment w/linen backing. Property Jefferson County Engineer's Office; Fairfield, IA.

I N F O R M A N T I N T E R V I E W S

- Ben J Taylor; 304 South Main; Fairfield, IA. Summer 1984.
- Scott Jordan, Esq; 1st National Bank Bldg; Fairfield, IA. Fall 1984.
Mr Jordan's mother was first cousin to Wm DuBois.
- Mrs William (Jessie) DuBois; 180A; Heritage Hill; Somers, NY. Fall 1984. Second wife of William DuBois, this nonagenarian resided at the house 1941-1979.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 3

- Catherine Vinton; 206 North 5th; Fairfield, IA. Fall 1984.
Ward Hunt; Walton Lake; Fairfield, IA. Mr Hunt lived at the house
c 1912-1918 until 7 years of age. Mr Hunt's mother, Mrs
R Day (Nellie) Hunt, was daughter to George W Ball.
Tom Hunt; R R #3; Fairfield, IA. Fall 1984. Elder brother to Ward
Hunt, Tom also lived at the house until 1918.
W B DuBois; 1004 South 3rd; Fairfield, IA. Fall 1984. Son
to Wm & Bessie DuBois (father's first marriage). Lived
at the house 1918-c1938.
Dorothy Elmore; Somers, NY. Fall 1984 telephone interview. Daughter
to Mrs Wm (Jessie) DuBois by mother's first marriage. Mrs
Elmore resided at the house.
W C Page, Public Historian, conducted all informant interviews.

M A T E R I A L C U L T U R E

- "February 1878;" Pencil on east wall of parlor and uncovered after
removal of many-layered wallpaper in 1983.
Direct Measurements & House Inspection; W C Page; Summer 1984; Fall 1984.
Antique photography; 6 3/4"x3 3/4" b&w photographs of house in 1920s; Du-
Bois family album. Property W B DuBois; Fairfield, IA.

S E C O N D A R Y

- * Welty, Susan Fulton; A Fair Field; Harlo Press; Detroit; 1968; pp
90, 101, 133-34, 221. 308-09, 410.
Naumann, Molly Myers; Architectural Survey; Fairfield, Iowa; Area XV Cultural
Resources Surveys Program; Ottumwa, IA; 1983; Unpublished re-
port for Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa State Historical
Dept.
Page, W C; Jefferson County, Iowa; An Historical Survey of Buildings; Area
XV Cultural Resources Surveys Program; Ottumwa, IA; 1980; Un-
published report for Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa State
Historical Department.
Page, W C; Burnett-Montgomery House; Fairfield, IA: An Application for
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; Un-
published report for Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

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Continuation sheet Geographical Data

Item number 10

Page 2

"Abstract of Title to

"A part of the East half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 72 North, Range 10 West of the 5th Principal Meridian, DuBois Addition to the City of Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa, that is more particularly described as follows:

"Commencing at the Center of said Section 24, thence S-00° 00' -E, 1817.35 feet along said East Line of the S.W.¼ of said Section 24 to the point of beginning; thence N-89° 09' -W, 155.7 Feet; thence N-56° 08' -W, 45.5 Feet; thence N-87° 52' -W, 174.7 Feet; thence S03° 17' -W, 209.6 Feet; thence S-00° 06' -E, 126.2 Feet; thence S-86° 48' -E, 135.7 Feet; thence N-02° 14' -E, 97.9 Feet; thence S-89° 45' - E, 57.2 Feet; thence S-00° 13' -W, 7.7 Feet; thence S-86° 45' - E, 114.8 Feet to the Westerly Right of Way Line of the presently established Road; thence N-11° 42½' -E, 182.9 Feet along said Right of Way Line; thence S-89° 42½' -E, 31.73 Feet to the East Line of the S.W. ¼ of said Section 24, thence N-00° 00' -W, 47.0 Feet along said East line to the point of beginning: containing 2.11 Acres, more or less, subject to 0.03 acres of presently established Road Right of Way.

Note: The East Line of the N.W. ¼ of said Section 24 is assumed to bear S-00° 00' -E.

Subject to present existing roads and highways and all easements of record.

"From the Root of Title being March 1, 1919."

Prepared for J Rogers Badgett, Jr by Simmons Abstract Company, Fairfield, IA.