# **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 W. C. Ball House

and/or common George W. Ball House/WilliamM. DuBois House

### 2. Location

street & number

Fairfield

city, town

state

Iowa

code

R.R.#2

### Classification 3.

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	<u>xx</u> occupied	agriculture	museum
$\underline{\mathbf{x}}\underline{\mathbf{x}}$ building(s)	<u>_xx</u> private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	xxx private residence
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	**** yes: restricted	government	scientific
·	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
		no	military	other:

county

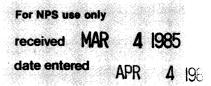
Jefferson

\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

019

### **Owner of Property** 4.

name	Christopher H	I. and Marjorie Du	Bois Wege				
street & number	R.R. 2						
city, town	Fairfield	vicinity o	f	state	Iowa	52556	
5. Locat	ion of Le	gal Descrip	otion				
courthouse, registry	of deeds, etc.	County Clerk's	Office				
street & number		Jefferson County Courthouse					
city, town		Fairfield,	state	Iowa	52556		
6. Repre	sentatio	n in Existin	g Surveys	;			
title Area XV Arc	<u>chitectural Sur</u>	vey has th	is property been deter	mined eli	gible?	yes	_ no
date 1981-82			federal	stat	e	county le	ocal
depository for surve	ey records Iowa	HPO, E. 12th & G	rand Ave.				
city, town	Des	Moines		state	Iowa	50319	



not for publication

code

101

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# 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Ch
excellent	deteriorated	xx unaltered	_X
xx good	ruins	altered	
fair	unexposed		

Check one <u>XX</u> original site \_\_\_\_ moved date \_\_

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  $26'9'' \times 32'3''$  and 2 1/2 story west wing  $25'7'' \times 24'7''$ . 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 o 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 falsegraining 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 lowa 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

1400–1499	Areas of SignificanceC archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic archeology-historic architecture architecture art commerce communications	• •	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
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 electicism 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 suveys 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 souce of Stick styling.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

# **10. Geographical Data**

	ominated proper	•	es				
Acreage of nominated property <u>2.11 acres</u> Quadrangle name <u>Fairfield North</u>					Quadrangle scale		
UT M Refere					-		
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E			I				
G			<u> </u>	•			
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Pofor to	o Continuatio	n Shoot 10.2					
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List all sta	tes and counti	es for propertie	s overlapping st	ate or c	ounty boundaries		
state N.A		code	e county	1		code	
state		code	e county	,		code	
11. F	orm Pre	epared I	Bv				
		- <b>-</b>		e. Pub	lic Historian.	(319-456-8651)	
name/title			-		1 Register Coo		
organization	Iowa SHPO			d	ate 15 No	vember 1984	
street & num	ber E. 12th	Grand Ave.		te	elephone 515-2	81-4137	
city or town	Des Moin	es		S	tate Iowa	50319	
12. S	tate His	storic P	reservat	ion	<b>Officer</b> C	ertification	
The evaluate	d significance of	this property wit	hin the state is:				
	national	state	<u>xxx</u> local				
As the desig				nal Hist	oric Preservation A	t of 1966 (Public Law 89-	
665), I hereb	y nominate this p	roperty for inclus	sion in the National	Register	and certify that it h		
according to	the criteria and p	procedures set to	rth by the National	Park Se	rvice.		
State Histori	c Preservation Of	fficer signature	Adum K	1. for	lemma		
title <sub>Execu</sub>	tivo Directo	r Town State	/ Historical De	/	at date	2/11/85	
For NPS			niscoricar de	parcille	ΠĻ		
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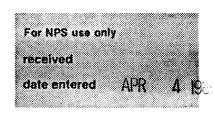
Attest:

**Chief of Registration** 

9¥.

date

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mass of the house, yet their gabled entries, crenellations, and finials tie the porhces 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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OMB No. 1024-0018

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Exp. 10-31-84

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

### PRIMARY

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 l 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. 1 INFORMANT INTERVIEWS 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.

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

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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. 1004 South 3rd; Fairfield, IA. Fall 1984. Son to Wm & Bessie DuBois (father's first marriage). Lived W B DuBois; 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. MATERIAL CULTURE "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.

9

Antique photography; 6 3½"x3½" b&w photographs of house in 1920s; Du-Bois family album. Property W B DuBois; Fairfield, IA.

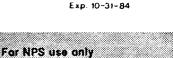
### SECONDARY

- \* Welty, Susan Fulton; <u>A Fair Field</u>; Harlo Press; Detroit; 1968; pp 90, 101, <u>133-34</u>, 221. 308-09, 410.
  - Naumann, Molly Myers; <u>Architectural Survey; Fairfield, Iowa</u>; Area XV Cultural Resources Surveys Program; Ottumwa, IA; 1983; Unpublished report 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; Unpublished report for Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa State Historical Department.
  - Page, W C; <u>Burnettt-Montgomery House; Fairfield, IA: An Application for</u> <u>Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; Un-</u> published report for Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa State Historical Department; 1982.

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"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<sup>0</sup> 00'-E, 1817.35 feet along said East Line of the S.W.14 of said Section 24 to the point of beginning; thence N-890 09'-W, 155.7 Feet; thence N-560 08'-W, 45.5 Feet; thence N-870 52' -W, 174.7 Feet; thence S030 17 -W, 209.6 Feet; thence S-000 06' -E, 126.2 Feet: thence S-860 48' -E, 135.7 Feet; thence N-020 14' -E, 97.9 Feet; thence S-890 45' - E, 57.2 Feet; thence S-000 13' -W, 7.7 Feet; thence S-860 45' - E, 114.8 Feet to the Westerly Right of Way Line of the presently established Road; thence N-110 4212' -E, 182.9 Feet along said Right of Way Line; thence S-890 4212' -E, 31.73 Feet to the East Line of the S.W. ½ 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. ½ of said Section 24 is assumed to bear S-000 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.