
* NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Nov 2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historical name Wishard, Henry, House

other names/site number Fenton House

2. Location

street & number 406 West Jefferson Street not for publication NA
city or town Bloomfield vicinity NA
state Iowa code IA county Davis code 051 zip code 52537

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald J. Link October 29, 2004
Signature of certifying official Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Edson H. Ball 12/15/04

Edson H. Ball

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof wood
walls brick

other wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

architecture
commerce

Period of Significance 1910

Significant Dates 1910

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Wishard, Henry Arthur

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Carroll, Wilbur H.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1, 15, 548980, 4511120, 3, blank, blank, blank. Row 2: 2, blank, blank, blank, 4, blank, blank, blank. Includes 'See continuation sheet.'

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Nancy Squire and Michael Wagler
organization _____ date- 02/21/04
street & number 406 West Jefferson telephone 641-664-1807
city or town Bloomfield state IA zip code 52537
=====

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Richard Squire
street & number 406 West Jefferson telephone 641-664-1807
city or town Bloomfield state IA zip code 52537
=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa**

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

HENRY WISHARD HOUSE

The Henry Wishard house, in Bloomfield, Iowa, is a magnificent example of late Victorian/Queen Anne architecture of the early 1900s in America. Constructed in 1908 for Mr. Henry Wishard, a prominent businessman in Bloomfield, this large ten room house was built using native Davis County lumber from a farm owned by Wishard's parents. The exterior utilizes buff, iron infused bricks that were fired especially for Mr. Wishard in Kansas City, Missouri. The tile was molded from native clay and fired in Bloomfield, Iowa. The house remains one of southeast Iowa's premier examples of the many Queen Anne styles with its large wrap-around porch, picturesque setting, and highly irregular floor plan. It also contains many colonial and other revival influences in its form and design.

The house was constructed on a wooded plot just west of the historic town square on a small rise facing the major east-west thoroughfare in the town, Jefferson Street (formerly State Highway 2). The beautiful Queen Anne house is surrounded by many large trees original to the house's construction, and a large, sloping yard east of the house. The house remains open and free from the crowded restraints of normal urban house proximity.

A hand chipped limestone foundation firmly grounds the house. The foundation is decorated with beaded mortar joints and a thick limestone water table, which visually separate the house from its foundation. Each of the many windows is decorated and accented with flat (jack) arches above and rusticated limestone sills below. The house is crowned with a pyramidal hipped roof, originally capped with clay tiles. A large, interior brick crown chimney is located in the center of the roof.

SOUTH/FRONT FACADE

The south (front) facade of the house faces Jefferson Street and reveals the true size and mass of the house to the public. It evokes the spirit of the Victorian era with its half-hexagonal turreted area and large wrap-around porch dominating the front facade. The turret contains six large windows, three on each story. All windows on the turret contain leaded, beveled glass transoms. At each juncture of the turret, craftsmen added accents of rusticated brick ends to act as a quoining (pitched faced brick quoining) along the edge. The turret is crowned with a pediment at the end of the front facing gable. It is decorated with red tile shingles within the tympanum.

A large wrap-around porch spans the east two-thirds of the front facade on the first level of the house and covers 614 square feet with the floor and ceilings both tongue and groove wood. The porch is reached by six limestone steps, which are flanked by two large chipped (rusticated) limestone pedestals, much like the foundation. The rail of the porch is made from brick and contains an alternating brick and open space pattern resulting in a positive/negative design. The porch is covered with a shed type roof and is supported by seven Doric order columns each placed on chipped limestone pedestals.

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**Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa**

The roof of the porch doubles as a balcony reached by a large double hung sash window located on the second story. A beautiful front entrance is located on the porch and is centered on the facade. A winding front walk leads to the wide front staircase and this provides a sense of procession to all who enter this grand residence.

EAST FACADE

The east facade of the house faces the original sloping side yard, giving a picturesque view from the porch. The facade is dominated by half of the wrap-around front porch, and a back entrance with a smaller porch. The east view shows the full range of sizes, shapes, and designs of the different windows in the house, including small beveled glass windows on the porch and large double hung sash windows with beveled glass transoms above. To reach the wrap-around porch on the east, one travels along an extension of the winding front sidewalk leading to another wide, grand staircase identical to the front stairs. There is also an entrance to the house at the top of the east stairs. The door is an exceptional example of beveled, leaded glass craftsmanship with its full-length glass.

At the rear of the east facade is a back porch and entryway to the kitchen. This porch covers 144 square feet and is surrounded with a squared, wooden, spindled railing. It is topped with a flat roof supported by two Doric order columns (smaller than the front porch columns), and is crowned by a wrought iron railing above that is identical to the railing around the front porch.

The exterior of the house is beautifully constructed with masterful craftsmanship and brickwork. There are many interesting examples of this brickwork on the east facade including different textures, colors, and designs of brick. The end of the wrap-around porch is an angled wall, which perfectly joins a flat wall. It is ornamented with finger-locked brickwork, another variation of the quoining ornament. At one of the few ninety-degree wall junctions, located just before the rear porch, a darker brick color is used to create a small scale quoining design all the way up to the roofline.

NORTH FACADE

The north facade is dominated by the projection of a rectangular kitchen area. The kitchen has a large plate glass window (96"x48"), which was added in 1950 during a remodeling of the house by the Fenton family. Just below the large window is a small one at the foundation level which floods light into the basement. The kitchen projection is covered with a gable facing towards the rear, and has a double hung sash window in the pediment looking into the space above the kitchen. Just to the west of the kitchen projection is a ground level door, which leads to the basement or the main floor.

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**Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa**

WEST FACADE

The west facade's most prominent feature is the house's large hipped roofed *porte cochere*. Two large Doric columns placed on chipped limestone pedestals mimicking the columns and pedestals of the front porch and foundation are the support for the magnificent portage. Under the *porte cochere* is a side entrance to the house elevated by a stoop with five steps on either side. The west facade, like the east facade, shows a wide range of the window styles and shapes, with eight windows present on this side of the house. This facade has five right angles, at all junctions having a darker brick used to create quoining. This accents and defines a great sense of depth on the relatively plain west facade.

GARAGE/BACKYARD

A contributing detached double door garage built a few years after the house sits at the end of the driveway. The garage, nearly identical to the main house in design and detail, is a nice complement to the house's Queen Anne style. It contains a matching brick color and the original clay tile roof. The garage is two stories with the second story being a loft space that is currently used for storage. A crown chimney and interior fireplace were once used to keep the loft and garage warm during the cold winter months.

Another contributing feature of the backyard is an in-ground swimming pool, which was built in the early 1930's. The pool is one of the few in the community even today, and was the first in-ground pool in Bloomfield. Currently it is not in use and is temporarily covered for insurance purposes.

INTERIOR

The interior of the house is quite magnificent. It is constructed of at least eight different types of wood although most rooms utilize one type to create a beautiful motif throughout the room. The doors of the house are all original and most have two different types of wood to carry out the decor of the room it faces. All interior doors have a six cross panel design to them. Each of the exterior doors is constructed of solid oak, and also has the original solid oak screen door. The entry doors have large rectangular or oval windows beveled around the edges. They are ornamented with scrollwork above and below the windows. The house boasts ten-foot ceilings on the first floor and nine-foot ceilings on the upper story.

As is typical of Queen Anne homes, the first story of the house is very open with five doublewide doorways connecting the foyer, living room, library, parlor and dining room. The abundance of windows and 2,400 panes of beveled, leaded glass make the house exceptionally bright. In addition to the windows, there are three doors with full-length glass panes. The condition of everything in the house is excellent, especially the woodwork. The baseboards are all nine inches high and the door and window crowns are also nine inches high. The Greek-Revival design with square notched dentils in the woodwork is repeated throughout the first floor. It is seen on the door and window crowns, the trim around the newel posts, and the trim around the built-in cherry china cabinet.

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**Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa**

Entry to the house is gained through a solid oak door decorated with scrollwork beneath a full-length rectangular window. One enters into a foyer area decorated with oak trim and furnishings. This oak motif is carried out through much of the first story, with the living room, library, and parlor using the same wood. The focal point in the front foyer is an oak dogleg staircase located on the east wall. A series of turned balusters line the staircase and a square newel post with a raised panel design ends the stairs at the top and bottom. A bench is built along the staircase and a coat closet is tucked underneath the stairs. Inside the closet is a window that faces the front porch. Beside the coat closet is a very large mirror starting sixteen inches from the floor extending upward as a rectangle but finished with a gable shape at the top to fit under the stairs. The foyer allows entry into the parlor straight ahead, and entry into the living room on the left.

From the foyer west you enter the living room through an open divider created by two large decorative columns done in the Ionic order with a low open shelf beside each. Each pedestal is ornamented with a raised panel design. A large hexagonal bay window area highlights the living room, with the three large windows topped with leaded glass transoms. The design in the windows is a flower motif that is used throughout the house in its many original leaded glass windows. This room is crowned with a thin cornice molding, which is used in many of the first-story rooms.

The library sits north of the living room and is entered through a wide opening originally decorated with an ornate wooden divider. The divider was removed during the remodeling of the house in 1950. The library contains beautiful leaded glass windows above four built-in bookcases along the west wall. The bookcase doors also have leaded glass. The library is very open with entries directly into the living room on the south, the parlor on the east, and the back foyer on the north.

The parlor is entered through a set of oak French doors from the library, or through an identical set from the foyer on the south. Each half of the French door set contains twenty-four panes of glass. A fireplace in the northwest corner of the parlor is a major focal point of this room. The surround is brick with a semi-circular design around the firebox. The mantle above is oak, and the hearth is pink and black Oklahoma granite. The parlor also has a door to the front wrap-around porch. This door mimics the front entry door with its solid oak design, large oval beveled window, scrollwork, and its original oak screen door. The room is crowned with the same oak cornice and molding as the foyer, living room, and library.

Just north of the parlor is the dining room, which is entered through a five-foot opening using oak facing wood on the parlor side and red cherry on the dining room side. The entire dining room is done in beautiful red cherry. It is decorated with a 54 1/2" handmade cherry wainscoting in a raised panel design topped with a double grooved plate rail. One of the most outstanding features of the house is the built-in cherry china cabinet on the north wall. This measures 48" by 60" and has curved glass on the sides, and leaded double doors in the center. It is backed on four of the five shelves with beveled mirrors, and on the bottom shelf is a sliding door, which is accessible from the butler's pantry in the kitchen. The hand-screened wallpaper in the dining room was installed during the 1950 renovation and features unusual "birds of paradise". The room has two double hung sash windows on the east wall which are separated by a 42" by 32" mirror above the plate rail. A large crystal chandelier adorns the center of this room.

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

From the dining room you can access the back foyer on the west and the kitchen on the north. The door leading into the back foyer is cherry on the dining room side and walnut on the other side, matching the woodwork in each room. The dining/kitchen door is solid cherry.

As you enter the kitchen from the dining room, the butler's pantry is on your right. This is back to back with the built-in china cabinet in the dining room. The pantry has a small double-hung sash window in the east wall looking out on the back porch and a built in cabinet on the lower south wall. Above the cabinet is the sliding door, which was used as a pass through serving station to the dining room.

Much of the kitchen was modernized during the 1950 renovation. The most obvious change is the large picture window (96" x 48") over the double sinks on the north wall, which offers a beautiful view into the back yard. Formerly there were two pantries and a small window on this wall. The kitchen has birch cabinets and woodwork. The east wall beyond the butler's pantry has a double-hung sash window and a door, both opening to the back porch. A large curved bar runs east from the west wall, and then back north. The bar was widened, and a built-in stove was installed in 1993. A double-hung sash window is on the west and a doorway to the back foyer is located in the southwest corner of the kitchen.

The back foyer is constructed with black walnut woodwork. The most unusual feature of this space is a curved wall near the dining room entrance. A half bath or powder room, tucked within the convex curve of the wall, is accessed through a solid walnut door with a frosted glass window. The back foyer has its original built-in stick and ball telephone shelf near the kitchen door. A small crystal chandelier lights the foyer from overhead. The west entry (under the exterior portage) brings guests into the back foyer. The entrance door is black walnut on the interior and oak on the exterior with a large oval beveled glass window and scroll work below, all similar to the designs found on the front and parlor doors. The door also has its original oak screen door. Brass chimes hanging on the south wall of the foyer ring the "Westminster Chimes". The back stairway is also in the back foyer. The staircase is done in all black walnut and is ornamented in a scaled down fashion from the front staircase. The stairs turn 180 degrees halfway up to reach the second story. There are two hanging glass prism lights in the stairway and two small windows, one on the landing looking west and another near the top looking north over the kitchen roof. The stairs lead to the back of the central hallway on the second story.

SECOND STORY

The second story has a total of four bedrooms, a large bathroom, a playroom, and a sitting area at the top of the front staircase. The sitting area is large enough for an antique love seat, two side chairs and a table. Natural lighting comes from a south window, and it is through this window that the front balcony is accessible. Helping light the sitting area is a leaded square window on the first landing of the stairs, which is at a level with the east side of the balcony.

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

As is typical of Queen Anne floor plans, the upper story has a central hallway with all rooms branching off. The hall is five feet wide for the majority of its length, with the front stairway at the south and the back stairway at the north. The woodwork is oak throughout the hall. On the east wall there is a large built-in linen storage area, which has doors at the top and drawers at the bottom.

Once again the raised panel design from the first story is repeated on all bedroom doors, and the technique of two kinds of wood on the doors is repeated, using oak on the hallway side and the room's corresponding wood on the interior. At the north end of the hall is a curved wall mimicking the convex curve in the back foyer below. This feature emphasizes the love of the irregular floor plan in Queen Anne houses of the time. At that end of the hall is an oak door, which leads to the half story area above the kitchen. This was once used as a maid's room and is now used as a children's playroom.

Starting from the front staircase or south end of the hall, a large master bedroom is in the southwest corner of the house. It has a double-hung sash window on the west wall. The south wall has three large windows that make up the interior of the half hexagonal turret at the front of the house. These correspond to the windows in the living room just below the master bedroom. The woodwork in the master bedroom is all honey locust. There is a pink glass overhead light fixture. A closet on the north wall of the room has a full-length mirror built into the honey locust door. The interior of the closet is done in pine woodwork and has a pine doorway leading to the attic. The floor of the room and the closet is narrow hardwood, probably maple.

Moving north through the hall, a second bedroom is found on the west. This room also has maple flooring and honey locust woodwork, including the closet door. The closet woodwork has recently been refinished and is yellow pine and ash. There is one double-hung sash window facing west over the portage.

Directly across the hall is the third bedroom of the house. The bedroom also has honey locust woodwork. The hardwood floor in this room is covered by carpet, but is assumed to be maple. There are two double-hung sash windows on the east wall facing the side yard. Lighting the room is a small, low hanging cranberry glass shell covering a single light bulb. A walkthrough closet is located on the north wall of this bedroom. The woodwork here is oak. The closet contains built-in cupboards added in the 1950 redecoration.

Through the north door of the walkthrough closet at the northeast end of the hall is the fourth bedroom in the house. This room has a door leading onto a back balcony located over the roof of the back porch. On the east wall of the room is a double-hung sash window looking out over the side yard. This room is said to have been Mr. Wishard's bedroom during his residence in the house. The woodwork in the room is dark hedge. The floor is an unusual combination of hedge and maple using one and one half inch wide boards. The random wood pattern of dark and light creates a beautiful and unusual floor design.

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

A full bathroom is directly across the hall from the fourth bedroom. It has a large built-in dressing table with an extra large mirror above. The built-in seat doubles as the opening to a laundry chute which goes to the basement landing near the north entrance. The bathroom also has a large built-in cupboard. All of the woodwork is currently painted.

The fixtures were updated in 1950 for modern convenience. The large double-hung window on the west wall is totally frosted for privacy. Hanging in this room is a cranberry light fixture with hanging prisms. The light fixture was found in the garage attic. 1950 photos published in the 1976 Davis County History Book show this fixture originally hanging in the kitchen.

The Henry Wishard house remains a prime example of Queen Anne architecture in southeast Iowa. The condition of the house is one of its greatest triumphs. The house and grounds have aged timelessly and now, nearly a century later, the elegance of this property is a stately reminder of the early 1900's.

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**Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Henry Wishard House in Bloomfield, Iowa is significant under Criterion B because of its association with Henry Arthur Wishard, prominent businessman of Bloomfield, Iowa and reputedly the first man to advocate tax on gasoline as a large source of revenue, thus making it possible for the present good highway systems. He is known as the father of the gasoline tax in the United States. Mr. Wishard also built more than 100 buildings in Bloomfield, Iowa and Dighton, Kansas. The Wishard house is also significant under Criterion C, as the work of a master, and a work possessing high artistic values. The unique late Victorian/Queen Anne style brick home and its surrounding beautifully landscaped grounds have remained essentially unchanged since it was finished in 1910. The house was built from eight different varieties of native timber, white oak, red oak, walnut, cherry, maple, birch, osage (hedge), and honey locust, all wood coming from the family farm in Davis County Iowa except the 27inch diameter hedge tree, which came from neighboring Van Buren County. No other house in Davis County surpasses its exterior grandeur or interior finishing.

SIGNIFICANCE OF HENRY WISHARD

Henry Arthur Wishard was born in 1859 in rural Davis County Iowa, the son of William and Margaret Breeding Wishard, immigrants from Kentucky. He was left an orphan at the age of ten years after his father died from injuries resulting from his service in the Civil War. He lived with his brother for a short time, and then worked on farms at various jobs in several Iowa towns. In 1880 he married his childhood sweetheart when she was 16. In 1884 and 1885 they pioneered in western Kansas, staking out a claim and living the first winter in a sod house. While in Kansas he owned and operated a lumberyard, started the first brickyard, (the first brick ever burned in the western half of Kansas), operated a real estate brokerage and building business, and built and operated the Wishard Opera House in Dighton, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Wishard returned to their roots in Davis County Iowa in 1890.

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Mr. Wishard was considered an outstanding businessman in 1903.

From the *Bloomfield Democrat* newspaper, May 1903:

Enterprising Business Men

May 1903



A young man can succeed without money. Brains and energy is a capital stock that can not be valued. If the pioneers who settled this Country had not possessed brains and energy they would have succumbed to the rugged elements out of which they converted their homes and wealth. Their courage and manhood has been inherited by many of their children, and business is being successfully carried on in our community. Henry

Wishard was left an orphan at the age of ten years. The father returned from the fields of patriotic blood, and fell by the hand of disease contracted in the service of his country, and in a few years the "hand that rocks the cradle, and controls the world" was gone, and a youth of tender years was left to be the "architect of his own destiny." In this cold business world we pass each other by and know not the struggles, disappointments, or successes of our neighbors.

Here is a good business, established and a good trade enjoyed by a merchant. It may have taken years of toil and careful business "methods" to bring the success desired. It looks easy, but if you win you must go down among the men who try, for there is no danger of winning a race if you never enter.

Henry Wishard is a Davis county boy. Forty-four years ago he enlisted in the infantry, and is at the present time one of the leading business men of our city. Enterprising, full of push and energy, and is familiar with the principle of close application to business. In ten years he has not lost five days. From a capital of \$450.00 he now owns one of the best businesses of the city. Lives in a comfortable home and enjoys a large circle of friends and is a good business man. Fair dealing has been his motto, and in his special line he has been successful.

Sheppard's place. Mrs. Sheppard had has business a native of above lines that is

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

In 1911, when a paved road was a rare blessing, Henry A. Wishard of Bloomfield, Iowa began his effort to secure a gasoline tax to finance paving the country over. Paving was not regarded as a universal need in those days, and Mr. Wishard was looked upon with amazement whenever he repeated his idealistic prediction, "I will live to see the day when I can dip my rear tires in the Atlantic and put the front ones in the Pacific without ever driving on dirt roads." The State of Oregon was the first state in the Union to adopt such a tax, and in compliment to the man whose fertile mind gave birth to the idea, the tax was made effective in that state on Mr. Wishard's 60th birthday, February 25, 1919. Unfortunately, the state of Oregon is unable to document Mr. Wishard's involvement in the idea because a fire burned down the state capitol building in the late 1930's. Previous legislative records were lost. The correspondence of Secretary of State Ben Olcott, and Governor James Withycomb, both in office in 1919, was also lost in the fire.

In 1908 Mr. and Mrs. Wishard began the construction of a new home, which was to become one of the most prominent in the town. It took over two years to complete. The home is located at 406 West Jefferson Street on the main thoroughfare in a new part of town called "Kister's Addition" and was less than one block from the original town boundary. The home is still considered to be a significant structure in the history of Bloomfield and one of the town's most elegant.

The Wishard property originally included a barn, a chicken house and another small out-building. The barn was replaced with a garage built in complement to the house. The chicken house and outbuilding were removed. Mr. Wishard, being a man who looked to the future, built a swimming pool near his house sometime before 1933. His grandson, Buddy Hall, recalls in a personal interview how proud his grandfather was to share the pleasure of the water with many residents of the town. It was the first pool in Bloomfield and Mr. Wishard swam laps in this pool until he was nearly 90 years old. And, to verify the very early date of the pool, his grandson shared this photo of the two of them cleaning the pool in the spring of 1933:



Henry A. Wishard and Buddy Hall cleaning the pool in 1933

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Another photo Mr. Wishard's grandson shared shows the 1925 Franklin car, which Mr. Wishard bought and used for many years. The Franklin was a very distinctive car and probably the only one in Bloomfield. It was, however, a temperamental car, and when Mr. Wishard's grandson was asked why there was a chimney in the garage, he explained how his grandfather warmed the garage to keep the car running.

Henry A. Wishard's 1925 Franklin
with grandson Buddy Hall in front
(picture dated March 1933)



Mr. Wishard was very thrifty and was known to have torn down the old Drake Governor's home in Drakesville, Iowa and used the bricks to build one of his gas stations. He employed many transients from the railroad just down the street to help him in his construction business. He allowed them to sleep in the upper story of the garage where it was warm. Mr. Wishard was a man who pioneered in many businesses including groceries, queensware, farming, poultry buying, dry goods, cattle and sheep ranching, lumber and coal, brick burning, real estate, theaters, general stores, buggies, wagons, harnesses, automobiles, shoes, moving pictures, dance pavilions, restaurants, ice cream parlors, hotels, and service stations. Many of these businesses were in buildings he built, having built over 100 in his lifetime.

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Section 8 Page 12

Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Mr. Wishard's home was insured by the Western Mutual Fire Insurance Company in Des Moines, Iowa. The company featured Mr. Wishard and his home in their brochure "Contact":

April 1940 "Contact", published by Western Mutual Fire Insurance Company

April 1940
Contact
A Man and His Home

On February 23rd, 11 years ago, Davis County, Iowa, lost a home and a resident, for it was then that H. A. Wishard insured his first home in Iowa, which policy later developed into a home which is famous in Davis County and made the wish a better place in which to live.

Mr. Wishard has been a prominent resident of Bloomfield in Davis County all of his life, with one exception of a few years spent in Kansas, a graduate of Iowa State University and a member of the Order of the Sons of the American Revolution. He has been a member of the Order of the Sons of the American Revolution since its organization in 1898 and has been a member of the Order of the Sons of the American Revolution since its organization in 1898.

First to Pay Tax

Mr. Wishard was the first man to introduce a tax on gasoline in a large amount of revenue from which disabled and crippled people could be helped. He was the first man to introduce a tax on gasoline in a large amount of revenue from which disabled and crippled people could be helped. He was the first man to introduce a tax on gasoline in a large amount of revenue from which disabled and crippled people could be helped.

The State of Iowa was the first State in the Union to introduce such a tax and it was introduced in the year 1917. The tax was introduced in that State on Mr. Wishard's 50th birthday.



H. A. Wishard
Davis County, Iowa



Pictured here is the Wishard Home, which has been recently insured by Western Mutual Fire Insurance Company. It is built of brick and has several rooms on the first floor, including a living room, dining room, kitchen, and a bathroom. The house is a two-story building with a prominent chimney and a porch.

In this country home in Iowa, Mr. Wishard has a beautiful view of the country.

Insurance Will

Over this grand home were years of planning and effort and now protected by a Western Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the home will be a permanent home for the family of Mr. Wishard and his home in Iowa. The home is a beautiful home and the family of Mr. Wishard and his home in Iowa. The home is a beautiful home and the family of Mr. Wishard and his home in Iowa.

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

In 1940 the local *Davis County Republican* ran a similar article to that published by the Western Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Davis County Republican, June 1940

Henry Wishard Pioneer Advocate for Gas Tax

When a paved road was a rare blessing and a good horse could outrun some cars—back in 1911—then Henry A. Wishard of Bloomfield began his campaign for a gasoline tax to finance paving the country over. Today he contemplates with pride the thousands of miles of paved roads the tax made possible.

Mr. Wishard is saluted in a column-long article in the current issue of "Contact," publication of the Western Mutual Fire Insurance company.



The Wishard Home

Mr. Wishard recalls the often-debated question of how to raise money for paving. First suggestion was to vote bonds. Another faction proposed a tax of \$1 per acre on land adjoining the highway, with land off the highway taxed in decreasing amounts. Then Henry Wishard suggested a tax—two cents—on each gallon of gasoline, which amount he still considers more satisfactory than the higher revenues.

• Oregon was the first state in the Union to try out the new tax, and it so happened that the tax went into effect there on Feb. 25, 1919. Mr. Wishard's sixtieth birthday.

Paving was not regarded as a universal need in those days, and Mr. Wishard was looked upon with amusement whenever he repeated his idealistic prediction, "I will live to see the day when I can dip my rear tires in the Atlantic and put the front ones in the Pacific without ever driving on dirt roads."

After thirty years, Mr. Wishard looks back upon that prediction with a justifiable "I-told-you-so" air. "Today," he said, "I could go on two different routes from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

Pointing to the accomplishments resulting from the gasoline tax, he declares,



Henry Wishard

"When we consider the largest amount of money raised for any one thing in the history of the world, with practically not a single objection (especially if they had left it at my figure, two cents) we should all say, let it stand until all roads of any importance are covered with a good cement slab."

The insurance publication carries a picture of Mr. Wishard and of his home, which has been continually insured in Western Mutual for over fifteen years. Built of brick and tile, the house is finished in eight different varieties of native timber consisting of white oak, red oak, walnut, cherry, maple, birch, osage hedge and honey locust. All the wood came from Davis county, with the exception of one hedge tree, 27 inches across, which could not be found in Davis county. It was brought in from Van Buren county.

All but a few years of his life have been spent in Davis county. After engaging in the show business for a number of years, he entered the automobile and gasoline business, but stopped selling automobiles, when as he relates, "It got to where I could not sell a new car without taking in an old car as part pay." He has continued to sell gasoline.

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

In the 1940 Iowa Press Association's publication "Who's Who in Iowa", Mr. Wishard and his home were given a noteworthy mention on pages 353 and 354. That article is reprinted below:

From the 1940 "Who's Who in Iowa"

WISHARD, HENRY ARTHUR: Retired; b Davis Co, Iowa Feb 25, 1859; s of William Wishard-Margaret Breeding; ed Davis Co; m Dora Bell Devault Oct 14, 1880 Bloomfield (dec 1935); s Harry A; d Ollie Dell (Mrs P H Palmer), Hazel M (Mrs Roy A Brown), Helen F (Mrs Edgar Hall); m Florence Hill Young Nov 2, 1936 Bloomfield; left an orphan when 10 years, 1869-72 made home with brother; 1872-80 worked on farms, odd jobs & clk in various Iowa towns; 1873 walked over SE Iowa

swimming, flower garden; his house was built from wood coming from family home farm in Davis Co, home finished in 8 different varieties of native timber, white oak, red oak, walnut, cherry, maple, birch, osage hedge & honey locust, all wood came from Davis Co except 1 hedge tree from Van Buren Co; house represents material value of \$15,000, has been insured with Western Mutual more than 15 years, the Insurance publication carried picture of Mr Wishard in Apr issue; res West Jefferson, Bloomfield.

selling patent medicine; 1880-81 owner & opr groc & Queensware store, Bloomfield; 1881-82 farmer, Davis Co; 1882-83 ptr in dry goods store Howard-Wishard & Mowrie, Bloomfield; 1883-84 ptr of brother-in-law J B Lester in groc store, Bloomfield; 1884-85 homesteaded sheep & cattle raiser, Lane Co Kas; 1885-86 owner & opr Pioneer Lbr Yard, Dighton Kas, lbr stock hauled overland 65 miles from Wakeeney Kas; 1886 started first brickyard, burning brick with coal hauled from Garden City Kas, first brick ever burned in west half of Kansas; 1886-90 opr real est, brokerage & bldg business, Dighton Kas; 1887 built & oprd The Wishard Opera House, Dighton Kas; 1890-1925 owner & opr gen store later developed into shoe store, Bloomfield; 1917-24 owner & opr Wishard Theater, Bloomfield, now Iowa Theater; 1918-24 owner & opr Wishard Hotel, Bloomington; past owner & opr wagon & buggy, auto, harness shop, cafe, bldg & contracting, has built more than 100 bldgs in Bloomfield & Dighton Kas; 1917- owner & opr H A Wishard Oil Co, Bloomfield; was the first man to advocate tax on gasoline as large source of revenue which made it possible for present good highway systems, is known as father of the gasoline tax in US, Ore was 1st state to put the gas tax law into effect, was made effective on Mr Wishards 60th birthday Feb 25, 1919; the original tax he suggested & which was first used was 2c; KP; Meth Ch; Rep; hobbies:

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

At the age of 84, Mr. Wishard realized his dream to drive from Atlantic to Pacific on paved roads only and declared, "When we consider the largest amount of money raised for any one thing in the history of the world, with practically not a single objection (especially if they had left it at my figure, two cents) we should all say, let it stand until all roads of any importance are covered with a good cement slab."

Mr. Wishard continued to enjoy life in his own beautiful home until the age of ninety in the town of Bloomfield, Iowa where he had been a self-made influential businessman and a great asset to the community.

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

SIGNIFICANCE OF HENRY WISHARD HOUSE

One of Bloomfield, Iowa's most elegant and best preserved early 20th Century homes is the Henry Wishard House at 406 West Jefferson. The Wishard House is Late Victorian/Queen Anne style made of buff colored bricks over a hand chipped stone foundation. The house has a large wrap-around porch, a smaller back porch, and a *porte cochere* on the west. Its setting is on a spacious and shady lot which has remained unchanged in dimensions since 1908. Although the architect is unknown, construction was by Wilbur Carroll, a local builder, and took two years to complete. The iron-infused bricks were fired especially for Mr. Wishard in Kansas City and the tile was molded from native clay and fired in Bloomfield, Iowa. The timber, consisting of eight different varieties, came from Mr. Wishard's parents' farm just north of Bloomfield. Woods used were red oak, white oak, walnut, cherry, maple, birch, osage or hedge, and honey locust. The interior finishing is expertly crafted with each room featuring a different wood. The house was said to cost \$15, 000.

The house has been featured in at least seven different publications. The first was the Standard Atlas of Davis County Iowa 1912. This is the reprinted picture and caption:

From the Standard Atlas of Davis County Iowa, 1912



RESIDENCE OF H. A. WISHARD,
BLOOMFIELD, IOWA.

The lumber used in the construction of this building is cut in Davis County. Each room is finished differently and the interior finishing is not excelled in the state of Iowa. The following woods are used in its construction—White Oak, Red Oak, Cherry, Walnut, Maple, Birch, Osage or Hedge, and Honey Locust. Most of this lumber was cut from Mr. and Mrs. Wishard's parents Farm. It took over two years to prepare the lumber and build this residence.

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**Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa**

In 1914 the house was pictured in the book "Beautiful Bloomfield". It cited some of Bloomfield's businesses and the finest homes in the town. Many of the other homes featured in this book have been lost or altered significantly. Here is the picture of the Wishard home in the 1914 book:

"Beautiful Bloomfield", 1914



RESIDENCE OF H. A. WISHARD.

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Section 8 Page 18

Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

In 1915 the house was the subject of a black and white postcard. The only known copy is in the possession of the present owners, a gift from Mr. Wishard's grandson. He does not know what the occasion for printing the postcards was, but guesses they were used as business cards.

Postcard of Henry A. Wishard House, dated 1915, original size.



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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

The publication "Who's Who in Iowa 1940" by the Iowa Press Association not only listed Henry Wishard as a prominent Davis County resident, but went on to describe his house in great detail. No other distinguished citizen listed in this publication has a description of his house included.

(Please refer to Section 8 Page 14)

In 1940, the Western Mutual Fire Insurance Co. featured the house and Mr. Wishard in the April issue of its brochure named "Contact". (Please refer to Section 8 Page 12)

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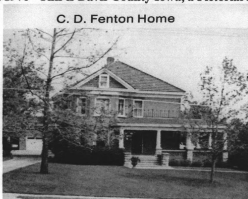
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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County,

Iowa

"This is Davis County Iowa, a Pictorial History", 1976 has a large article about the Wishard House with pictures including this section reprinted below:

From 1976 "This is Davis County Iowa, a Pictorial History"



C. D. Fenton Home

C. D. Fenton home built by Henry Wishard about 1915.

Well proportioned sycamore, black walnut, ginoak and other trees provide an appropriate and picturesque setting for the modified Victorian home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles D. Fenton at 408 West Jefferson street in Bloomfield.

This large ten room house, built by H. A. Wishard in 1908 and taking two years to complete, is of buff colored, iron infused brick, the brick having been specially made in Kansas City. The foundation is of white hand chipped stone; the roof is of red tile and the original windows are of beveled plate glass, some of them containing over 1000 pieces of leaded prism glass. Seven kinds of native wood, including oak, walnut, red cherry, honey locust, hedge, birch and bird's eye maple, were used in finishing the rooms and two stairways.

The house was purchased by the Fentons in 1950 and has been their home continuously since that time. It consists of a full basement, two stories and a large attic, surrounded generously by porches and patio.

Shortly following its acquirement by the Fentons, the home was completely remodeled on the inside, the front room and the library-music room being thrown together; in this room the wood is oak, finished in greenish gray pigment with striped wall paper and matching fern green carpeting. Prominent in the family room is the original and well appointed brick fireplace.

The back stairway and floor is of solid walnut with scenic wallpaper and striped carpeting; the beauty of the impressive dining room is enhanced by use of solid white red cherry wood; the front bedroom is finished with honey locust. Colors in this room were taken from a very old picture which hangs on the wall.

Providing a charming all seasons' view of the back yard and surrounding area is the kitchen with its 8 foot picture window on the north, above the sink and cabinet work space. A tube light at top of the window floodlights the back lawn. A curved food bar sets out in the middle of the black and white Koroseal covered floor; the walls are pink, curtains are red organdy, aided by striped shades and draperies.

Attached to the double driveway is a portico and to the rear is a two car garage. There is also a large swimming pool, further beautified by surrounding white ferns, lilacs and evergreen shrubbery.

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Section 8 Page 21

Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

The Wishard House has had only four owners in ninety-six years. It has retained its exterior and interior integrity with only minor exceptions. At some unknown time the wooden railings on the upper porches were replaced with wrought iron. The second owners, while updating and redecorating in 1950, removed a wooden divider between the living room and the library. The mirror over the fireplace was removed and two pantries in the kitchen were also removed. A large picture window was inserted on the north where the pantries had been. The next owners replaced the tile roof with shingles, although the garage retains the original tile roof. The present owners are continually working to restore the beauty of the interior by stripping paint from woodwork in closets, and by removing carpet and refinishing the wooden floors.

In summary, the house is a prime example of early 20th Century expert craftsmanship using native materials. Quoting from the 1912 article "Each room is finished differently and the interior finishing is not excelled in the state of Iowa". The 1940 "Contact" article states the house "is molded from native clay fired in Bloomfield, and finished in eight different varieties of native timber consisting of white oak, red oak, walnut, cherry, maple, birch, osage hedge, and honey locust." Also quoting from the same article "Is there another home in Iowa finished in this same manner?" The Wishard House is also a representative example of Late-Victorian/Queen Anne style architecture. The masonry, wrap-around porch, *porte cochere*, leaded windows, and the turret crowned with a pediment, are indicative of the time period 1908 when it was built. Both the exterior and interior are virtually unchanged since 1908. To all who see it, the house makes a statement about the grandeur of the Queen Anne home.

1912 Davis Co. Atlas Picture



RESIDENCE OF H. A. WISHARD,
BLOOMFIELD, IOWA.

The lumber used in the construction of this building is cut in Davis County. Each room is finished differently and the interior finishing is not excelled in the state of Iowa. The following woods are used in its construction—White Oak, Red Oak, Cherry, Walnut, Maple, Birch, Osage or Hedge, and Honey Locust. Most of this lumber was cut from Mr. and Mrs. Wishard's parents' farm. It took over two years to prepare the lumber and build this residence.

2003 Picture



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National Park Service

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**Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa**

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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A tract of land described as commencing at a point 100 feet East of the Southwest corner of Block Nine (9) of Kister's Addition to the original town, now City of Bloomfield, Iowa and running thence North 220 feet, thence East 105 feet, thence South 63 feet, thence East 5 feet, thence South 24 feet, thence East 45 feet, then South to the North line of Jefferson Street thence, in a Southwesterly direction along the North line of said Jefferson Street to place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries are the same as described in the original Deed Record "L", Davis County Iowa page 462, dated December 5, 1907. Mr. Wishard purchased an addition to the original plot of land on January 13, 1908 as recorded in Book "L" page 477.

Boundaries are also justified by the photo in the CSR report from the Davis County Assessor's Office, 2002.

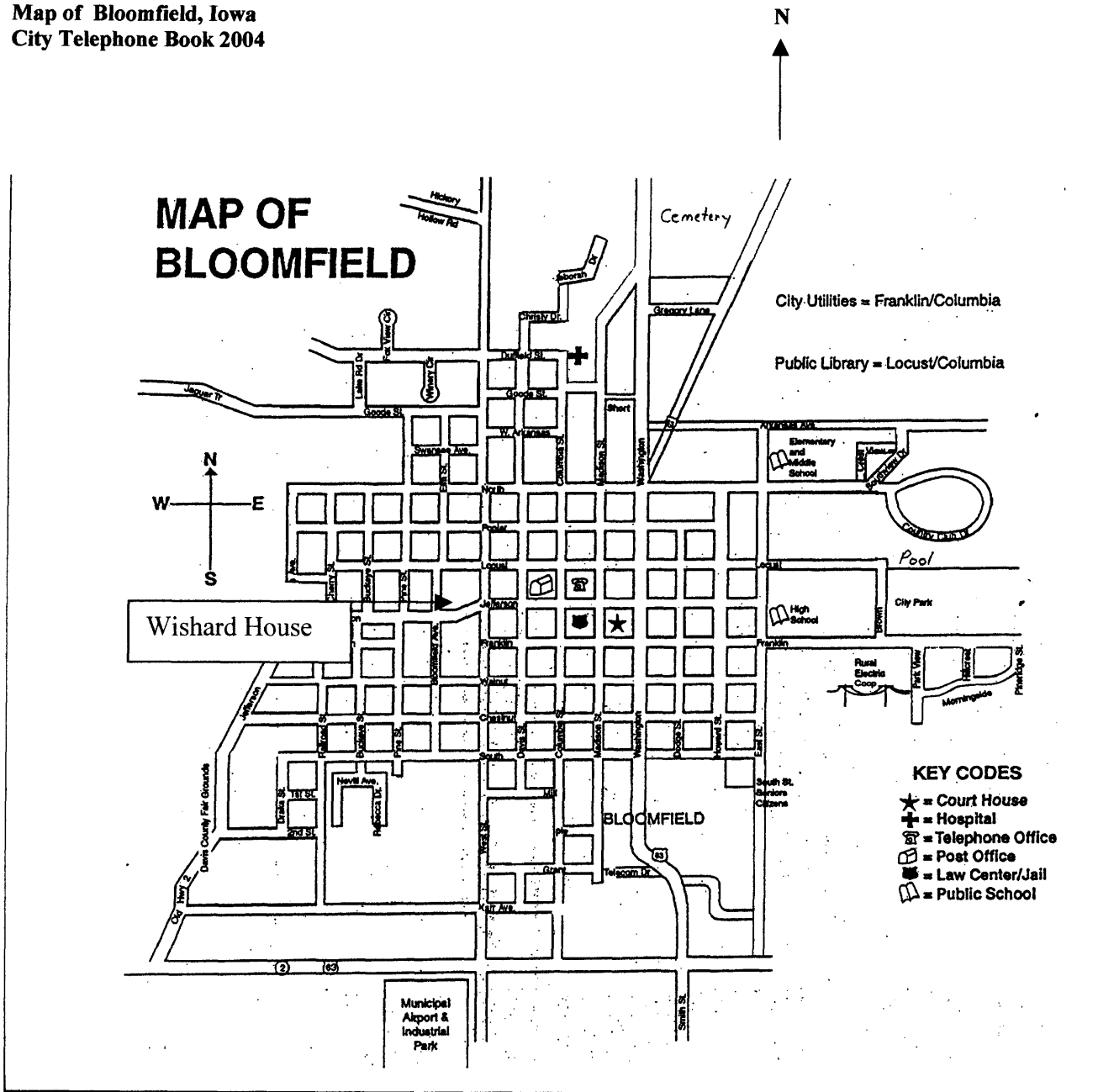
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Section MAPS Page 24

Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Map of Bloomfield, Iowa
City Telephone Book 2004



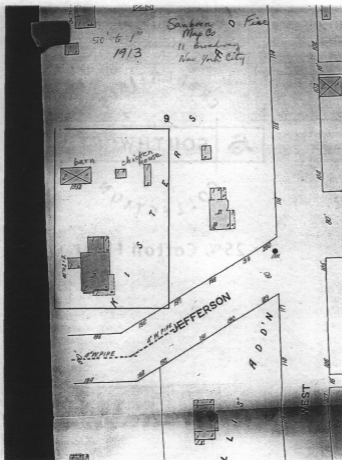
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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

SANBORN FIRE MAP 1913



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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Henry Wishard Property
CSR Report Map
Davis County Assessor's Office 2002

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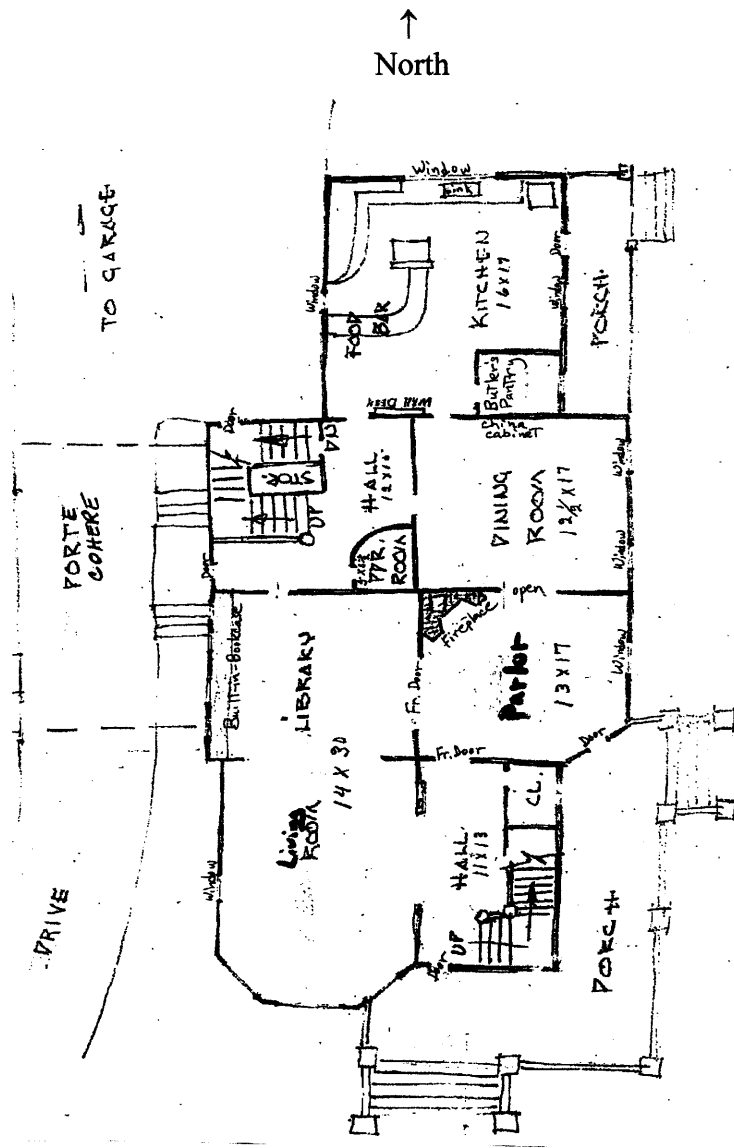
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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Floor Plan - Main Floor
Henry Wishard House
2003



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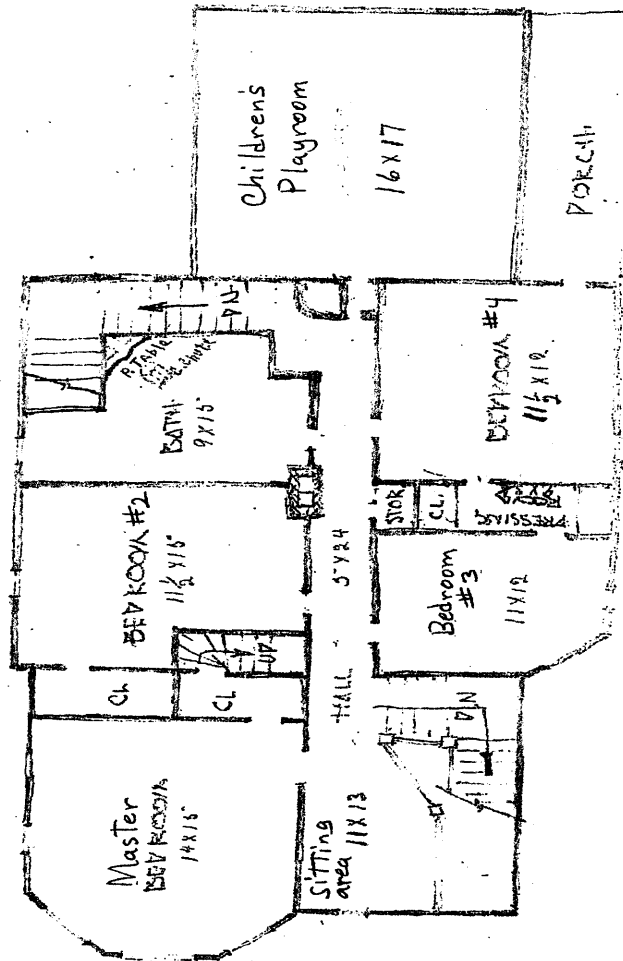
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Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Floor Plan - Second Story
Henry Wishard House
2003

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North



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Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 29

Henry Wishard House
Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

The following information is common to photographs 1 – 10:

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT SPURGEON

DATE: MARCH 28, 2003

ORIGINAL NEGATIVES IN POSSESSION OF RICHARD AND NANCY SQUIRE

1. South (front) elevation. Camera facing north.
2. Southeast elevation. Camera facing northwest.
3. East (side) elevation. Camera facing west.
4. North (back) elevation. Camera facing south.
5. Northwest elevation. Camera facing southeast.
6. West (side) elevation of garage. Camera facing east.
7. Southwest corner of house showing brick quoining, stone stills, and leaded windows.
8. View of cherry china cabinet with leaded doors located in the dining room.
9. Front entry and oak stairway with raised panel design and built-in bench.
10. Library west wall showing leaded windows and leaded bookcase doors.
11. South (side) elevation of garage. Camera facing north.
12. View of pool. Camera facing east.