

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 21 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 18 1979

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

Lafayette Lamb House

AND/OR COMMON

Clinton YWCA

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

317 Seventh Avenue South

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

Iowa

CODE

Clinton

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

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

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Clinton YWCA

STREET & NUMBER

317 Seventh Ave. South

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52732

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clinton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

This house was built in 1877, and for nearly 30 years was a local showcase example of Victorian Second Empire residential architecture. Around 1905, Lafayette Lamb directed a major remodelling of the exterior, which, while retaining the basic plan, resulted in almost total obliteration of the house's original architectural character.

Basic features: The house is of heavy wood frame construction, with exterior walls veneered in brick, and a stone foundation. It has full-height projecting polygonal bays on north (main) and east sides, and main entrance to the left of the north bay. Original window openings and main entrance have segmentally-arched tops. A broad veranda is wrapped around the northeast corner, between the north and east projecting bays. Arrangement of windows on east and north sides appears unchanged from the original construction. (West and south sides do not appear in available photos. However, fire insurance maps indicate there was a full-height rectangular bay on the west side.)

Features original to 1877 construction: During the 19th century, the house displays many features typical of its time and style. The high mansard had small gabled dormers, and iron cresting around the perimeter. Windows and main entrance were topped with keystone hoods. The wide eaves were bracketed. Tall panelled chimneys with corbelled caps sprouted from the roof. The north side polygonal bay had an immense mansard, topped with cresting, which extended well above the main roof. The front veranda had a sloping roof with bracketed eaves, supported on rather elaborate posts, and a spindle balustrade

Present features (after 1906): The original red brick veneer, the veranda, the tower and main mansards, and the window hoods were completely removed. The walls were re-faced with a pale, sand-lime brick, and concrete hoods, flush with the walls, were placed over first and second story windows and the main entrance. In place of the mansard, the walls were raised above a narrow concrete beltcourse to form a low third story, with simple cornice and brick parapet (originally balustraded). The new veranda featured thick brick pillars on high concrete-block pedestals, supporting a nearly flat roof with broad wood cornice. At intervals, fluted Ionic columns on wood pedestals were set beside the brick pillars (probably more for decoration than for structural purposes). On the east side, the veranda is bowed out in a shallow semicircle. The west side of the house features distribution of windows at irregular levels and in various sizes. The beltcourse between second and third stories is broken toward the rear of the main block, reflecting the fact that this portion of the house was slightly lower than the front, and had a shallow hip, rather than mansard, roof. On this side, too, is a two-story oriel window, added between 1909 and 1917.

Originally, the rear of the house extended, irregularly, to an immense carriage house and stable, with details reminiscent of the house itself. This carriage house also experienced alteration in 1906. The foundation appears to be original (roughly-dressed limestone blocks), and in scale the carriage house of an early photo appears similar to that of the existing structure, which was converted to a gymnasium about 1925. In the photo (published 1912), the two-story carriage house has been faced with the same brick used on the residence, and a low, parapetted third story (also like the residence) added.

The Clinton YWCA acquired the Lamb property in 1920. The women left the house much as it was on the exterior, while reworking portions of the interior to suit their needs (although today, vestiges of the original interior may be found in the parlor on the west side and in the main hall and entrance area). The old carriage house was converted to a gymnasium, and given a shallow hipped roof. A series of brick additions toward the rear, on east and west sides, connected the residence to the gymnasium. All these elements were in place by 1925.

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Lafayette Lamb House, Clinton, Clinton Co. Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recently completed is a new addition and swimming pool, attached to the house on the east side. The addition obscures the rear of the house, and the former carriage house, from the northeast, but its low, one-story character is not overwhelming. The immediate environment of the Lamb house is rather unfortunate, consisting of a supermarket to the west and a large parking lot to the north. Southeast of the house, however, is Clinton's Carnegie library, built in 1903, which, with its smooth, limestone facade and parapetted broad cornice, reflects certain elements of the Lamb house in its present form.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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

SPECIFIC DATES - 1877; 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W.W. Sandborn, Clinton (1877)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is principally significant as one of a handful of structures remaining in Clinton that may be associated with Clinton's late 19th century history as one of the biggest lumber milling cities on the Upper Mississippi. In the 1870's there were 12 lumber mills in the Clinton area, four of which were owned by Chancy Lamb and his sons Artemus and Lafayette. C. Lamb and Sons was the largest of Clinton's lumber enterprises, and among the most innovative. The firm was among the first to tow log rafts downriver with boats (previously, the rafts were simply floated on the current); and the "Clinton nigger", a double-spooled steam winch used to steer log rafts and which later evolved into the steam cargo winch, was designed by Chancy Lamb himself. Besides the mills and appurtenant structures (now long gone), the Lambs built appropriately lavish houses for themselves along Seventh Avenue South. Of these, only Lafayette Lamb's house remains, and in its present form is a reflection of his later life, rather than of the Gilded Age boom years of the lumber milling industry.

Chancy Lamb and his family came to Clinton in 1857. His second son, Lafayette (1846-1917) was born in Carroll County, Illinois, where the Lambs had farmed a short while before returning to New York, Chancy Lamb's native state, in 1851. Once in Clinton, Chancy Lamb bought a sawmill and lumber yard, and Lafayette began to work there while still a boy. At age 22 he was made a foreman, and in 1872 took charge of the raftboats that delivered logs to the mills. Two years later, Lafayette was made a member of the firm of C. Lamb and Sons, and vice president when the firm was incorporated in 1878. After 1882, Lafayette took over many other facets of the milling operations, and oversaw the gradual closing of the mills, due to the depletion of Wisconsin and Minnesota pine forests, at the turn of the century. The Clinton mills, however, were only one of many enterprises in which the Lambs were involved. In the later years of his life, Lafayette Lamb was an officer in companies located in the midwest, Rocky Mountain region and the Pacific Northwest, which included logging, lumber milling, financial institution cattle ranches, and railroads.

The Lafayette Lamb house, when originally built in 1877, was a fine, yet typical, example of Victorian residential architecture in the Second Empire style, its elaborate facades and tall mansard suitable advertisements for the wealth derived from the lumber mills, and for the status, thereby gained, of its owner in the community. The remodeling of 1906 produced a remarkable change in the character of the house. Stripped of its distinctive late-Victorian embellishments and refaced with light brick (a product of Lamb's own enterprise, the Iowa Granite Brick Co.), the house took on a peculiarly urban aspect, rather like a townhouse. It is now somewhat of an architectural oddity, the result of its owner's desire to update a then "old fashioned" structure, and, perhaps, to advertise his company's product.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Wolfe, P.B. Wolfe's History of Clinton County, Iowa. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1911.
- History of Clinton County, Iowa. Clinton: Clinton County Historical Society, 1978.
- Clinton, Iowa Coliseum Souvenir Album, 1914 (in collections of State Historical Society of Iowa)
- Clinton Retail Grocers Association. Retail Merchants of Iowa Annual Convention, May 21-23, 1912.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885, 1890, 1897, 1902, 1909, 1917, 1925.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Clinton; Ill.-Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 7153 200 4655 440

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 733

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 20 and 21, Block 23, Original Plat of Clinton, Iowa

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market St.

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

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

Austin A. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William H. Brashman

DATE

10-18-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

10-17-79