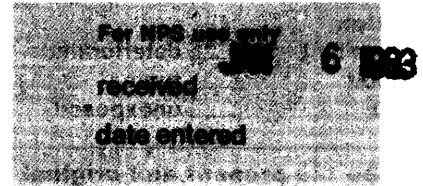


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic A.W. Pratt House

and/or common Pratt-Soper House

2. Location

street & number 503 Melrose Avenue not for publication

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

state Iowa code 19 county Johnson code 103

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Ronald Van Orden/Myles Braverman

street & number 503 Melrose Avenue

city, town Iowa City vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnson County Courthouse

street & number South Clinton Street

city, town Iowa City state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Nineteenth Century Home Architecture
title Of Iowa City. Key es, M. N. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1966 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Margaret Keyes states that A.W. Pratt built this house in 1885. Though close to Iowa City, the area was in the countryside at that time and the few other houses were not close together. Today the house, which is set back on its nearly one acre lot, is located on a corner of a busy street. The University of Iowa owns nearby property, including the medical complex, and its presence threatens to encroach upon the site. The proposed law school building is to be a few blocks away. Most other houses are considerably newer than the Pratt house.

The house combines two disparate styles of ornamentation. The main body has Italianate details such as large paired brackets along the broad cornice and round windows having four keystones in the gable ends. There are round-arched windows with single stone keystones on the second floor while those of the first floor are segmentally arched. Two gabled projections enlarge the basic brick shell, which has a hipped roof.

The porch is a later addition, probably a replacement for the original around the turn of the century. Notable are the groups of columns with Ionic capitals and shafts that are two-thirds fluted. The cornice of the flat-roofed porch is unadorned but for a row of dentils. It is possible that the large room additions were built at about the same time, possibly when Walter I. Pratt lived in the house. A keyboard musician, Pratt built the two-story addition on one side to house pipes for his pipe organ. On the other side, he constructed an oak-paneled music room with a skylight for the organ. His endorsement of the Kimball organ is dated at November 22, 1907 (although the date of the advertisement itself is unknown). It is likely that the organ was therefore in place in the additions at the house on Melrose Avenue by 1907.

Around 1966 the former pipe room was converted to bedrooms and baths on both floors. Large, rectangular windows dissimilar to others of the house were cut into the front walls. There is also a second story sunporch that has been added to the rear. The front porch once had a rather heavy balustrade.

Oak paneling, both as wainscoting and covering entire walls and some ceiling, is the principle interior feature. It was added at the time of the turn of the century additions. The music room also has two skylights. A staircase is walnut and oak is used throughout.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input 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 1885 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pratt family was among some of the earliest settlers in the Johnson County area. The widow Fanny Pratt taught school and raised seven children, including Albert W. Pratt. S.W. Pratt was reportedly an Iowa City businessman, although his biography is not included in the county histories.

Walter I. Pratt enjoyed music to the extent that he built additions for his pipe organ and its pipes. Copies of musical programs from 1922 show that he put on concerts in his home. The Kimball pipe organ endorsement dated 1907 included a picture of his fine keyboard instrument in his home.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Iowa City West

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 9 in LuCon Subdivision of part of NE 1/4 of Sec. 16, Twp. 79N, R.6 West of 5th P.M. See Plat Book 4, page 184, Plat Records of Johnson County, Iowa.

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

state Iowa code 19 county Johnson code 103

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date October 26, 1982

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

city or town Des Moines state Iowa

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John A. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 1/3/83

For NPS use only

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

John A. Anderson Entered in the National Register date 2/3/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

