

PH 0066788

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	WEBSTER
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 23 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**The Vincent House**

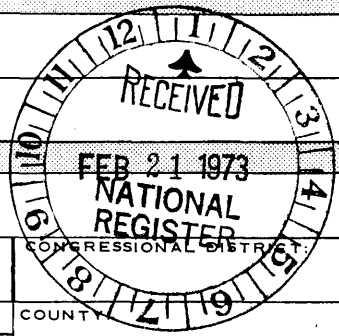
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**824 Third Avenue South**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Fort Dodge**

STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14** COUNTY: **Webster** CODE: **187**



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Young Women's Christian Association of Fort Dodge**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**826 First Avenue North**

CITY OR TOWN: **Fort Dodge** STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Courthouse -- Auditor's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**824 Third Avenue South**

CITY OR TOWN: **Fort Dodge** STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Engineering Research Institute Studies of Historic Iowa Architecture**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Iowa State University**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Ames**

CITY OR TOWN: **Ames** STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exterior of this house is red brick, a "soft" brick made from the red clay, so prevalent in this area and no doubt made in one of the local brick yards. Distinguishing features are the mansard roof and a wrap-around porch. The foundation walls are of limestone set in mortar. The stones of different sizes and roughly hewn, form a wall about seven feet high. Exterior walls are plaster applied directly to brick. Exterior walls are 30" thick. Interior walls are 24" thick. Walls on first and second floors are of lime plaster while those on third floor are a gypsum plaster, the first such plaster to be used in this country.

Ceilings on first floor are 14' high and this combined with the tall, narrow, arched and shuttered windows gives a stately effect to the 20' by 29' living room. On second floor ceilings are 12' high and on third floor they are 9'. This floor with its 20' by 50' ballroom served Fort Dodge as a place to entertain since no private rooms large enough for entertaining were available.

The flooring on the first floor is a beautiful parquet, with the dining room floor being exceptionally fine. Another interesting feature on the first floor is the children's sitting room with its small fireplace surrounded by imported tiles on which are the nursery rhyme characters.

The 30" walls are load bearing. These walls contain many windows which are tall and slender. Those on the first floor start at the floor and rise approximately 11', ending in a segmented arch and are only 2'5" wide. All the windows are covered with interior shutters (these show up very clearly in the enclosed picture of the alcove in the living room). These shutters are really in excellent condition and add much to the interior of the home. They fold back into the sides of the windows.

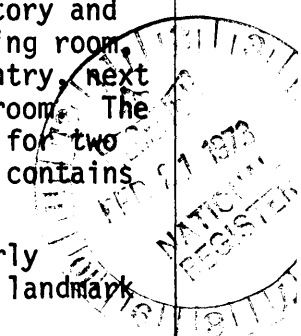
The home has three larger fireplaces, one in the living room and one in the master bedroom on second floor, and one in the children's downstairs sitting room. There is a small fireplace in the vestibule. This one does not line up with the one in the living room which is usually the rule.

The home contains a remarkable number of closets in the comparison with most houses of that period when the people used upright chests in which to keep clothing.

The basement contains a furnace room, laundry room, lavatory and several storage rooms. The main floor has the vestibule, living room, to its right, dining room, to the rear of the living room, pantry, next to the dining room, kitchen, lavatory and children's sitting room. The second floor has three east bedrooms, two baths, and quarters for two servants, on the east side of the rear wing. The third floor contains a ballroom and two large storage rooms.

We feel that this old home is an excellent example of early Victorian architecture and should be preserved as a permanent landmark in Fort Dodge.

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**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

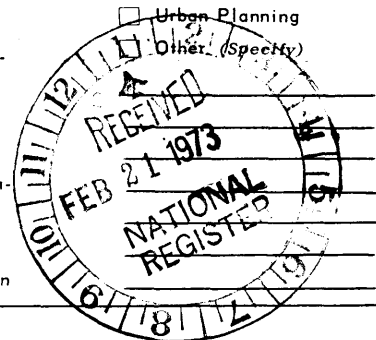
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1871**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Webb Vincent family moved into the home October 17, 1879, and it was occupied continuously by the Vincent family until the death of Mrs. Anne R. Vincent, November 1, 1969.

Mr. Webb Vincent was one of the first early promoters of the gypsum industry in Fort Dodge which has the largest deposit of gypsum in the world.

Webb Vincent's obituary shows the extent of his involvement in the forming of early Fort Dodge:

"He was in the government land office; was an executive in a coal mining company and tried retail merchandising. Pioneer in gypsum plaster manufacturing-now of national extent-developed new product (associated-George S. Ringland and S. T. Meservey). Became the Iowa Plaster Company, prospered, sold to United States Gypsum Company."

"Mr. Vincent was one of the founders and for a time was president of Associated Charities, now the Welfare Association."

In Webb Vincent's own words, he tells how their home served in the early stages of the gypsum business: "We were the inventors and originators of brown coat mortar, using stucco instead of lime for the first coat of plaster. It was first used in repairing the ceiling of the Merchants National Bank Building and on the walls of the third story of my present home. Many a prospective customer has been led up those two long flights of stairs to see it."

The third floor of this home has a 20' by 50' ballroom, and on these walls the first gypsum or stucco plaster ever used in this country was used.

In Conrad Hilton's autobiography (Be My Guest, 1957) he included excerpts from correspondence between his parents during their courtship, which told of his father, A. H. (Gus) Hilton attending parties in this home which was then owned by Mr. and Mrs. James Swain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

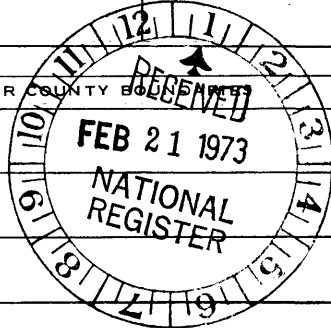
Fort Dodge Messenger, August 4, 1972. Article celebrating One-hundredth anniversary of the gypsum industry.  
 Findley, William S. "The History of the Vincent House." A report prepared for a course in the history of architecture. Iowa State University, C. 1964.  
 Shank, Wesley I. "Studies of Historic Iowa Architecture: Swain Vincent House." Engineering Research Inst., Iowa State University, Ames, 1972.  
 Hilton, Conrad Be My Guest Englewood Cliffs, N. J. Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1957, p. 25

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		42 30 10	94 11 01	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *less than 1 a.*

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO UTM CD SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Ethyl R. Rufer, Chairman of Vincent House Committee**

ORGANIZATION: **Young Women's Christian Association** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**826 First Avenue North**

CITY OR TOWN: **Fort Dodge** STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *Admin D. Anderson*

Title *State Liaison Officer*

Date *2/12/73*

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *4/23/73*

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *4/16/73*