

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men, Iowa Volume. Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Co., 1878: 777-8.

Des Moines, Together with the History of Polk County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911: 227-8.

History of Polk County, II. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., Birdsall, Williams and Co. 1880: 837.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
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4	4	6	6	9	0
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4	6	0	4	4	5	0
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Ralph Gross

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1623 Center Street

TELEPHONE

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

Adrian A. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

[Signature]

DATE 4/11/97

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE 3.18.22

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maish House is a now-rare example of a once-typical dwelling -- that of the "prosperous businessman" who made a comfortable life for himself in the commercial opportunities of the mid- and late 19th century. The house exhibits many aspects of high-quality Victorian craftsmanship in decorative features (including a beautiful little burglar alarm/servants' call box which is still operative). It is also an interesting combination of a basic Italianate style with which a variety of Eastlake details, particularly on the interior, has been blended.

The house was built in 1882 by George H. Maish (1835-88), perhaps as a material expression of the successful life which was his in Des Moines. Maish, a native of Pennsylvania, exemplified the Gilded Age ideal of the self-made man. His adaptable nature and business acumen led him from a coal company and bank in Pennsylvania to a fresh start in Des Moines in 1869. His Des Moines career commenced with a partnership with his brother-in-law, Charles A. Weaver, in a drug firm. In 1875 he was a co-founder of the Iowa National Bank, beginning a career in finance which would last until his death. Among his activities were the presidency (1887) of the State Insurance Company and vice-president (1888) of the Iowa National Bank. Beyond the world of finance, Maish in his last years was the treasurer of the Iowa State Agricultural Society and a member of its executive committee.

Maish married Charlotte Weaver, also of Pennsylvania, in 1857 and together they reared seven children. Maish's life reads like the typical American success story, and the beauty of his last home is testimony to his business abilities as well as his aesthetic sensibilities.

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Maish House is a two-story frame structure in Italianate style. Its basic shape is rectangular (50' x 75'), though obscured by various irregularities due to a free-style interior floor plan. The complex hip roof, with recently replaced metal cresting on the ridge, features a number of gables which are completely filled in with glass. Wide eaves are supported with brackets, and there are three corbelled chimneys, which have been rebuilt to their original design.

Due to the plan of the house, window locations are somewhat irregular. All windows are plate glass in double hung sashes. The double-door front entrance features etched glass and gold leaf trim.

A flat-roofed porch extends around three sides of the house. It is supported by slender, square wood columns which are capped with elaborate brackets. Metal balustrading on the roof, the porch steps and balustrading have long been removed.

The interior displays a remarkable collection of decorative features, chosen by George Maish, "with serious consideration to detail" from pattern books so popular during the Victorian era. Flooring is oak or maple, woodwork mostly yellow pine. Main halls on both floors feature bracketted, plaster arches. All the original hardware, including Eastlake brass work, and lighting fixtures remain, the latter still piped for gas as well as wired for electricity. Millwork throughout the house is of very high quality and strongly Eastlake in style, exhibited particularly in the oak staircase, doors and door frames, and a number of built-in cabinets with leaded glass windows. There are five slate fireplaces, four marbellized and one grained. Victorian-era stenciling has been recently added in some areas.

Lack of maintenance over the years has caused much deterioration to the house, but all problems seem remediable. The house was converted to apartments in 1939, but with little permanent damage to the interior woodwork. The present owners are working actively to restore much of its 19th-century splendor, and hope to set an example for other house owners in this area, which is one of the city's oldest and retains much of its late-Victorian character.

PH036090X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 11 1977

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

~~George and Charlotte~~ Maish House

AND/OR COMMON

in phone call 11/2/76

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1623 Center Street

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

~~Fifth~~ 4

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Polk

CODE

3 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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ralph Gross

STREET & NUMBER

1623 Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE