

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675784

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 25 1979
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**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

Charles Berryhill House

AND/OR COMMON

Black's Gaslight Village

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

414 Brown Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: apartment

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frances D. Black

STREET & NUMBER

422 Brown Street

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

VICINITY OF

Iowa 52240

STATE

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Johnson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court and Clinton Streets

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

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 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Berryhill house is located on the extreme north edge of the original town of Iowa City. The land is rather high ground, extending in a ridge east-west along the north side of Brown Street. Most of the houses in this area are quite large, set well back from the street. They range in age from possibly the 1850's to the early 20th century.

The Berryhill house has had a long history of additions (see diagram and below). In its present state, it consists of a two-story main block, with assorted brick and frame additions to the rear (north) and east). The main block and front part of the east wing have gable roofs, with ridges parallel to the front facades. The eaves have wooden denticular cornices. Paired pendant brackets have been removed from the front and rear cornices, but are extant on the gable ends. The east wing, which is two bays long, has tall 6/9 double hung sash windows on the front facade, which is sheltered by a small-flat-roofed porch with vestiges of a denticular cornice, supported on slender wooden columns.

The main facade is three bays wide, symmetrical, with 6/6 double hung sash windows. The windows are segmentally arched, those of the outer bays topped with curved cast-metal hoods with acanthus-like "brackets" and Roccoco cresting. The center bay of the second story once was sheltered by a small porch supported on brackets and slender columns, with cornice detail similar to that of the house. The main entrance has a wide flat stone lintel above a narrow transom panel. A porch runs the full width of the front, with flat roof, plain cornice, supported on simple square posts (which simply enclose earlier wood columns similar to those on the porch of the east wing).

The Berryhill house was originally a single-pile structure, with a one-story kitchen wing and windows with interior wooden lintels. This portion may have been in existence by the late 1840's or early 1850's. Subsequently (and by 1868, given its representation in a bird's eye view of that date) the house was substantially enlarged: two full rooms were added across the front (creating a double pile plan), the east wall moved about four feet, windows with jack-arch lintels cut into the center of the side walls, and the roof correspondingly enlarged, raised and widened. At this time, too, the one-story wing was added to the east, and the rear kitchen wing extended north and given a second story. Several more brick additions were made to the rear in later years (see diagram). More recently, the area between the main house and a small structure built of irregularly shaped lime- and sandstone blocks (from the materials and method of construction probably dating from the 1840's) has been filled in with a two-story, approximately L-shaped mass, concrete block on the first floor, frame on the second. For a number of years, the property has been an apartment "complex", actually a warren of small, one-room apartments.

Remaining interior features include oak flooring, black walnut banister, and four fireplaces. Woodwork in the southwest corner room (1st floor) is classically simple, perhaps the remains of woodwork in the original house (retained and reinstalled in the "new front room", while the other rooms have woodwork of a clearly later Victorian character. Of note are the step-ends of the main staircase, which have molded plaster acanthus motifs.

# 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 c. 1850-65

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Berryhill house, in its present aspect, is a nice example of a traditional form: the simple rectangular block, roof ridge parallel to the front, to which has been added an assortment of features (bracketted cornice, decorative window hoods, columned porches) associated with vernacular Italianate architecture of the mid-19th century. It is not an unusual house in Iowa City -- similar examples, with more, or less, detail are still extant, particularly in the northern areas of the city. However, the cresting of the window hoods (rocaille), while a common feature of pattern books of the period, is not often found in actual execution.

The house is also a fascinating example of growth by accretion, the various elements (excepting the main block) simply tacked on wherever convenient and necessary. More than one old house in Iowa hide within an elaborate Victorian exterior the smaller, often ruder, remains of earlier structures. The growth of the main block is interesting, since one would expect expansion to the rear, rather than to the front. The whole presents, at first, a rather confusing assemblage, but, once the process is understood, one is given a definite feeling of the house as a continuum, rather than a building frozen in one particular time.

Also of interest is the diminutive stone structure behind the main house. The workmanship and materials place this structure among the very few remaining examples of vernacular stonemasonry construction in Iowa City, most of which occurred in the 1840's and early 1850's.

As far as dates go, the only reasonable certainty is that the basic form of the house today was present by 1868, as it is shown substantially thus in the 1868 bird's eye view. The original house could have been built in the 1850's, but the stone structure is probably earlier than this. The property was acquired by Charles Berryhill in 1864 for \$1500. It was appraised about 1877 (four years after Berryhill's death) at \$4500, suggesting significant improvements thereon.

Berryhill was born in Pennsylvania and settled in Iowa City in 1839. He was described in the county history of 1883 as a "merchant, farmer, and speculator", and was a charter member of the local Old Settlers' Association.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract of Title.

Keyes, Margaret. Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1966.

Hilland's Iowa City Directory for 1868-69. Chicago: Western Publishing Co., 1869, p.36

History of Johnson County, Iowa, 1836-1882. Iowa City, 1883.(no publisher given), pp. 212-3, 316, 641, 643.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Iowa City, West, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 622420 4614000

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Commencing at a point 80 feet east of the southwest corner of out lot 17 in Iowa City, Iowa, according to the recorded plat thereof, thence north 243 feet, thence east 100 feet, thence south to the south line of said out lot, thence west 100 feet to the place of beginning.

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

March 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

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 X

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

4/19/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William H. Brasham*

DATE

5-21-79

ATTEST: *William H. Brasham*

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

5-30-79

DATE



CHARLES BERRYHILL HOUSE  
 IOWA CITY, JOHNSON CO., IOWA

NOT TO SCALE

- A - <sup>①</sup>ORIGINAL HOUSE, 2 STORY, SINGLE FILE, WITH ONE-STORY KITCHEN WING<sup>②</sup>
- B - <sup>①</sup>MAIN BLOCK ENLARGED TO SOUTH & EAST, CREATING DOUBLE-FILE PLAN. <sup>②</sup>KITCHEN WING EXTENDED TO NORTH, SECOND STORY ADDED. <sup>③</sup>ONE-STORY BLOCK ADDED ON EAST BY 1860.
- C - (DATE UNKNOWN) <sup>①</sup>NARROW 2-STORY ADDITION AT NORTH END OF CENTER HALL. <sup>②</sup>ADDITION NORTH SIDE OF EAST WING.
- D - (MID-20<sup>TH</sup> CEN) <sup>①</sup>AREA BETWEEN STONE BUILDING AND REAR OF HOUSE FILLED IN: CONCRETE BLOCK 1<sup>ST</sup> STORY, FRAME 2<sup>ND</sup>. <sup>②</sup>CONCRETE BLOCK ADDITION TO REAR OF C<sup>2</sup>.

