Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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	DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	_	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
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	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	-	_ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
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CONDITION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Windrem House is a two-story dwelling of traditional plan and mass. The plan is rectangular, 35' x 24'. It is side-gabled, double pile, with two rooms on either side of a center hall, and with a five-bay front and two end chimneys. The house is set on a slight slope with the rear of the house built about 7-8 feet into the ground. The first floor is of limestone, the second of brick. The earliest known view of the house dates from 1895, and shows the front essentially as it is today, with wooden lintels (painted white or near-white) over windows containing 6/6 sash.

Formal front entrances are found on both stories, and consist of sidelights above panelled aprons, with no toplights, and, again, finished with wood lintels. The lower entrance is set within deep single-panel reveals. These remain unchanged except for the later replacement of the doors (the original door on the first floor would have been a stylish single or double panel, as indicated by the single panel of the reveals). The 1895 photograph shows a small wooden porch in front of the lower entrance with a balcony above. This has since been replaced by a longer, narrow redwood balcony supported in cast-iron brackets. The house in 1895 had no windows on the west side, and probably none on the east side.

The cornice is especially handsome and consists of a frieze board which misses touching the lintels of second-story windows, a cornice soffit well-hidden to create a line of deep shadow, a corona separated from the cymatium by a fillet. The cymatium is in the form of a generous quirk ogee. The cornice itself is returned along the sides; the frieze board is not.

Various changes were introduced as part of a 1941 remodelling. The two chimneys were rebuilt, and windows were cut in the west wall. Other than these minor changes, and the change in balcony form, the house remains essentially as it must have looked originally.

The original plan of the interior was two rooms to each side of a central hall, on both floors. The present disposition is: first floor, central hall with study and furnace room to the left, and dining room and kitchen to the right; second floor, central hall with two bedrooms on the east and one large living room on the west (part of the 1941 remodelling). The staircase, originally extending from the front of the house to the back, was reversed in 1941. The following interior features are still intact: original oak wide-board flooring on the second story; original wainscoting in the dining room, and two early mantel pieces (fireplaces on the east side of the house were removed).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	•
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	es ca. 1850	BUILDER/ ARKS	William Windre	em

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Windrem House is one of the few remaining houses from the earliest period of Iowa City, which was chosen in 1839 as the location of the Iowa Territorial capital. The house is most interesting for the fineness of its exterior detail, and for the unusual variations on traditional elevational schemes and use of materials.

William Windrem was born in Ireland, and came to this country in 1830. He learned the carpenter's trade in Ogdensburg, New York. Windrem came to Iowa City in 1842, and worked on the construction of the first territorial capitol building. In 1845, he purchased land in the town, and shortly thereafter began work on this house. The interior carpentry is probably Windrem's own work, with the stone-and brickwork of the exterior done by other local craftsmen.

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Aurner, Charles (Clarence) Ray. Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa, History. Vol. II, Biographical. Cedar Rapids: Western Historical Press, 1913.

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

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