

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **DEC 11 1979**
DATE ENTERED **JAN 24 1980**

**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

Mary Darwin House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

537 Summer Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Iowa

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Des Moines

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Daniel and Bridgett Hoffman

STREET & NUMBER

537 Summer

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52601

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Des Moines County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Burlington Historical Survey

DATE

1977

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

SHPO, Iowa City IA

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mary Darwin House is a vernacular Italianate-style residence built c. 1866. Bearing walls are dark red brick, laid in 6-course common bond, on a basement and foundation of rockfaced limestone. Dressed limestone is used for details such as lintels, sills, and the water table. The form consists of a two-story main block, 31' x 34', with a full-height projection and polygonal bay on the north side; and a 1½ story rear kitchen wing. Both have shallow hipped roofs; wide, bracketted eaves, and brick "friezes" painted white. The two wooden verandas (one across the front, the other extending along the south side of the wing) have nearly flat roofs, cornices edged with minute dentils, attenuated columns, and quite plain balustrades.

The main facade is three bays, with the entrance, framed by sidelights and narrow pilasters, to the right of center. All openings in the main block have stone slab lintels, but those of the wing do not. The upper windows of the wing are nearly square, and about half the size of windows elsewhere on the house.

The house is in good condition, and does not appear to have experienced major alterations, although the two porches are probably later (c. 1900) than the house itself. The projection on the north side might be very slightly later than the main block; it meticulously repeats all details of the latter, but the brick is laid in stretcher, rather than 6-course common, bond.

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 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		

1866 (City Directory, 1866)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is principally significant as the residence, from about 1866 until 1886, of Mary Abigail Platt Darwin (1821-1886), a major figure, both locally and at the state level, in the women's suffrage movement of the late 19th century.

A graduate (1845) of Oberlin College, Mary Darwin came to Burlington with her husband, Charles Ben Darwin, in 1851. The first city directory reference to their living at 537 Summer is 1866, the year Charles left his wife, and Burlington, for Washington state (they were later divorced). Beginning about 1870, Mary Darwin was listed in city directories as a "professor of logic, rhetoric and English literature", subjects she taught in a "select school" run out of her house on Summer Street.

By the mid-1860's, however, Darwin was becoming best known as an "able speaker" on the subject of women's rights and in particular the suffrage issue. She first came into attention at the Ladies' Sanitary Convention in Des Moines, in November, 1863, where she made an impassioned speech on behalf of Annie Wittenmeyer, whose work for the Sanitary Commission (founded during the Civil War to provide food, medicine and clothing for soldiers) was then subject of controversy. By 1870, Mary Darwin was a significant force at the state level, that year chairing the first meeting of the executive committee of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. The same year, she organized and became president of the Burlington Woman's Suffrage Society, whose membership totalled 50. She was an outspoken defender of women's suffrage throughout the state, and became a popular speaker. However, her attitudes on such issues as free love were more liberal than those of other suffragists. As a result, she was shut out of the statewide movement after only several years of leadership. Mary Darwin returned to Burlington after a 4-year period of self-imposed banishment (1876-1880) in Washington, D.C., and immediately became involved in the WCTU both locally and at the state level. She agitated for, and succeeded in securing, a franchise division within the WCTU by 1883, by pointing out that one way to achieve many reform goals was to be able to vote.

Mary Darwin died in Burlington, in 1886, after two years visiting relatives in California.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burlington City Directories, 1856-1922.
 Land records, Assessor's Office, Burlington.
 Obituary, Burlington Hawk-Eye, 31 July 1886.
 Noun, Louise R. Strong Minded Women. Ames: Iowa State
 University Press, 1969.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Burlington, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 65 9 09 0 4 5 18 2 40

B

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Fr. Pt. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 80.87' x 151.4', Sec.5, Township 69, R 2.

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

September 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

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 H. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

December 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol O. Shuck

DATE

1-24-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William H. Graham*

DATE

1-23-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION