

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675792

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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  F.X. Rittenmeyer House

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

630 E. Fairchild St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF  
CODE

First

COUNTY  
Johnson

CODE

## 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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Paul and Marie Chelf

STREET & NUMBER

630 E. Fairchild

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52240

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

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

The Rittenmeyer House, built of brick on a stone foundation, is believed to have been built in the mid 1870's. The house has two sections: a 35' x 14' two-story main block, and a 1½ story kitchen wing at the rear, to which an enclosed frame porch has been added. The gable roof of the main block is very low-pitched, the ridge running parallel to the front facade. The roof of the kitchen wing is a broad, high-pitched gable, set at right angles to the main roof. The main roof has wide, horizontal eaves supported on paired pendant brackets. Across the front is a wooden porch with slightly sloping roof, supported on very slender turned posts with rather lacy brackets. A "frieze" below the porch roof displays an open, geometric pattern, as did the porch balustrade (no longer extant). Windows throughout the house are very plain, with flat stone lintels on the front, and narrow sills. There are two brick chimneys, one toward each end of the main roof.

The house has a center-hall single-pile plan, each room 14' x 14', with kitchen and bath at the rear. The upper floor is similarly arranged.

At the rear of the small lot is a frame garage with gable roof and tongue-in-groove siding. It is later than the house, but does not detract from it.

The house is located in a residential area on the northeast side of Iowa City. Behind the house is a public school building, and a short distance to the west is a small park, historically known as Market Square. The architectural environment of the area is quite mixed, ranging from mid-19th century brick and frame houses to very recent ranch-style residences.

# 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. 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rittenmeyer house is locally significant as a well-preserved example of a typical, modest, residential structure from the mid-19th century. Its traditional form (single pile, center hall plan) is enriched and brought "up to date" by the decorative character of the cornice with its bracketted eaves. The porch, with its somewhat unusual geometrically patterned frieze, is the nicest and most distinctive feature of the house, although it may have been a slightly later addition (a similar feature is found on a house in the Woodlawn Historic District, which dates from the late 1880's). The house is not unique in Iowa City, but is one of the simpler, more restrained examples of its type. It lacks the elaborate window hoods and broad cornices which are in many cases prominent features of this house form in the city.

The property was acquired in 1875 by F.X. Rittenmeyer (also spelled Rettenmayer, Rettenmeyer). Rittenmeyer was born in Bavaria in 1820. He came to the U.S. in 1849, and arrived in Iowa City in 1856. He owned a lumber yard for many years, and was an active participant in Iowa City real estate speculation.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Keyes, Margaret N. Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1966, pp. 62-63.  
 History of Johnson County, Iowa. Iowa City: 1883, pp. 905, 906.  
 Aurner, C.R. Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa, History. Cedar Rapids: Western Historical Press, 1912, p. 143.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Iowa City West, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 6,2,2,7,4,0 4,6,1,3,6,3,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The South One-half of Lot 6, Block 30, Original Town of Iowa City

## 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

April 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

*Charles Johnson*

DATE

5-31-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William H. Bradham*

5-29-79

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION