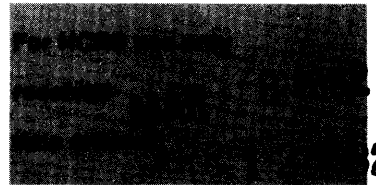


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Joseph P. Mentzer House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2233 Third Avenue not for publication

city, town Marion vicinity of congressional district 2

state Iowa code 19 county Linn code 113

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Tom Bullis

street & number 2610 24th Street

city, town Marion vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Linn Courthouse

street & number

city, town Cedar Rapids state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mentzer House, located on a corner lot in a Marion residential neighborhood, is a well-preserved example of the Second Empire style, popular in Iowa and the nation at large from the Civil War era until almost the end of the nineteenth century. Prominent Marion businessman Joseph P. Mentzer built this attractive red brick edifice in 1868. It consists of a two-and-one-half story, squarish main block, a one-and-one-half story rear wing, and a one-story edifice attached to the wing. The structure rests on stone foundations over a partially raised basement and features a continuous stone belt course. Windows are generally of the multipaned wood sash variety and are set in arched brick surrounds that feature carved stone hood moulds.

In addition to contrasting stone and brickwork and window treatments, exterior ornamentation is provided by elaborately carved brackets along the roofline under the paneled frieze boards. The edifice is capped with a mansard roof which originally was covered with wood shingles, but is presently covered with composition ones. The roof of the main block is pierced by pedimented dormers while the rear wing features flat roofed ones.

Except for the addition of an outside stairway to the attic area and an open porch, the house appears to have undergone little exterior alteration. The one-story attachment to the rear wing which presently serves as a garage was not erected in 1868, but it appears to be of late nineteenth or early twentieth century vintage.

Inside, the house follows a side hall plan with a living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms on the first floor; two bedrooms, kitchen, and living room on the second floor; and a kitchen, living room, and bedroom on the third or attic level area. Because of remodeling over the years and conversion to multi-family occupancy, much of the house's original interior fabric has been destroyed or simply covered up. Some features like marble fireplaces and woodwork remain however. At present, the house contains three apartments, but the owner is considering converting it to single family use at some later date.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1868-present

Builder/Architect * Joseph P. Mentzer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mentzer House is not only an outstanding example of nineteenth century architecture, but it illustrates the tenacity of the agrarian myth among late nineteenth century Iowa businessmen. Its builder Joseph P. Mentzer moved to Iowa in territorial days from Ohio. In the early 1840's he became a merchant in Marion, and in 1846 he formed a partnership with Henry H. Welch in that town. Mentzer soon became one of Marion's leading and most prosperous businessmen, and when the National Bank was organized in 1863, he was selected as its first president. In 1865 he and Welch decided to dissolve their partnership and close out their business operations.

Although Mentzer continued to engage in occasional business endeavors through his sons, he gave increasing attention to a 170 acre farm on the edge of Marion that he had purchased around the time he dissolved his partnership with Welch. Three years after retiring from business, Mentzer erected a home in the Second Empire Style on this farm and spent most of his remaining years supervising his agricultural operations. The house and farm remained in the Mentzer family for many years, and the house itself was occupied by his descendants until the 1930's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Linn County, Iowa (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1878).
Portrait and Biographical Album of Linn County, Iowa (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1887).

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Marion

UTM NOT VERIFIED Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 15 616670 4653890
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N.A.	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Christian, Architectural Historian
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date October 1980
 street & number 26 East Market Street telephone 319-353-6949 or 353-4186
 city or town Iowa City 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

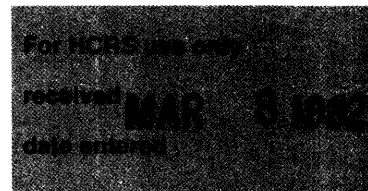
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Adrian A. Anderson

title Director date February 12, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Adrian A. Anderson</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>4/12/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page one

Lot 1, Bullis' First Addition to the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa excepting therefrom:

The east 70 feet being measured along the South line and also excepting therefrom: All that part of said Lot 1 lying North of the following described line and adjacent to Third Avenue: Commencing at a point 76.0 feet East of the NW corner of said Lot 1; thence SE along an 89.5 radius curve, tangent to the North line of said Lot 1, a distance of 64.0 feet; thence South 41' East on a line tangent to the preceding curve, a distance of 42.7 feet; thence East 11.0 feet to the NE corner of said Lot 1.