

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received NOV 9 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Asa Wilson House

and/or common Retherford House, Rutherford House, Ball Law Office

2. Location

street & number 207 S. Washington not for publication

city, town Bloomfield vicinity of congressional district

state IOWA code 19 county Davis code 051

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"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Vern M. and Helen M. Ball

street & number 506 N. Washington

city, town Bloomfield vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Davis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Bloomfield state Iowa 52537

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

This two-story house has been converted to a law office and abstractor's office. It is an appealing vernacular example of the Italianate Style. Among the Italianate features are the boxlike shape, hipped roof, stacked porches, brackets at the corners and over the second story porch columns, transomed doors and long, 2/2 windows. The slender fluted columns feature around their capitals bull's-eye bosses and dentils that correspond with those of the cornice.

The Wilson House is located a block away from the Bloomfield Square Historic District and the Davis County Courthouse, also listed on the National Register. It apparently was built by 1884, the first year it was assessed; a photograph of the town taken in 1892 shows the house. The area is mixed newer residential and commercial, and the corner lot of the Wilson House is on a heavily traveled roadway.

Despite the change from dwelling to office, the building retains many interior features and few structural changes. A focal point is the cherry staircase which has slender turned brackets and carved risers. The present owners have attempted to retain as much of the original as possible. They removed a rear window and rear door, but covered the space with clapboard to match the original. They replaced the crumbling sandstone foundation, the front chimney (original location), added a railing to the first story porch (although none shows in a 1904 picture), and adjusted the entry steps from the center to align with the front door. Inside, one large opening between two rooms was made smaller to accommodate a door. Near the stairs a short wall was removed and another added to the rear to create an office. The basement was paneled and made into usable space. On both floors, room arrangement is unchanged, having the stairs along the north wall, two rooms along the south and a smaller room behind the stairs. A one-story rear appendage probably originally housed the kitchen, although the presence of a stained glass transom over the large south window (perhaps added later) suggests other or later use for the room.

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 1884

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The property passed through several hands before Asa Wilson bought the lot in 1864. the year after he arrived in Bloomfield. He owned 203 acres of farmland and also property in town. Wilson also owned and apparently operated the Wilson House, a hotel originally known as the American and built in 1853 (extant on Bloomfield Square).

Wilson died at the age of 73 in December of 1884, the suspected year of construction for this house. He left behind his second wife and two very young children, and the property remained in the family until around the turn of the century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Davis County

Extensive scrapbook present owners compiled; includes copies of old photographs, land transfers, contemporary newspaper articles, etc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Bloomfield South

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

A

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

South one half of Lot Five in Block Thirty One of Original Town, Bloomfield. House is on this property.

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

state Iowa code 19 county Davis code 051

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date October 28, 1982

Historical Building

street & number East 12th and Grand

telephone _____

city or town Des Moines

state Iowa 50319

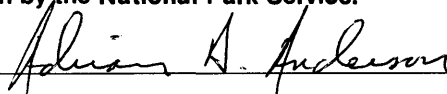
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state XX 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



title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Dept

date November 1, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 12/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration