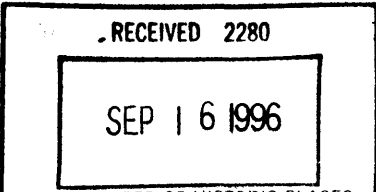


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BEESON, BYRON A., HOUSE  
other names/site number Mission Temple Academy

2. Location

street & number 1503 5th Avenue N/A not for publication  
city or town Des Moines N/A vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50314

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (X nomination request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (X meets does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ( nationally statewide X locally). See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Patricia A. Gurnea Director 9-12-96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ( meets does not meet) the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is :  
 entered in the National Register.  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- Other, (Explain)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

Byron A. Beeson House  
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many lines as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one line)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Towards a Greater Des Moines

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other Glass

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Byron A. Beeson House  
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

Circa 1890

**Significant Dates**

Circa 1890

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliography References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Byron A. Beeson House  
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 447960 | 4605980 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 |     |     |     |

Zone Easting Northing

3 |     |     |     |

Zone Easting Northing

4 |     |     |     |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth

organization River Bend Neighborhood Association date June 26, 1995

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** - Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** - (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mission Temple Church of God in Christ

street & number 1535 5th Avenue telephone 515-244-7871

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50314

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7

Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

This is a 2-1/2 story residence of balloon frame construction. Built circa 1890, this single-family dwelling now functions as an educational academy. The building features a large size, complex roof system, wrap-around front porch, and corner lot location. The integrity of this building amply conveys its circa 1890 period of significance.

**HOUSE**

The main 2-story block of the house measures approximately 30' x 33', with a 2-story extension to it measuring 14' x 15'. This total area contains 1,064 square feet on each of its two floors. A wrap-around porch is situated on the southwest corner of the building. It features a gable entryway, wide eaves, braces, and Craftsman stylistic influence. This porch contains approximately 400 square feet, about equally distributed between its south and west decks. Sometime circa 1910, this porch was enclosed and a pedimented entry added on the west elevation. A stoop porch, covered with a shed roof, is situated on the east side of the building. A 1-story wing is situated at the southeast corner of the main block. It measures 14' x 10'.

The building rests on a brick foundation, which is parged on the exterior with cement stucco. Of balloon frame construction, the house is clad with clapboard. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

On the interior, the house features five rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor. Wall finishes on the first and second floors are plaster. The walls and ceilings of the basement and the attic are unfinished. The basement contains only a one-half excavated portion of the building's footprint. The basement floor is poured concrete.

Overall the house is in good condition.

**SITE**

This house is situated on Lot 14 and the south one-half of Lot 15 in Bates Addition to the City of Des Moines, Iowa. This parcel measures approximately 75' x 125' (width by depth). It occupies the northeast corner of the intersection of Clark and 5th Streets. The house possesses two facades. One faces south and one faces west.

A stable, constructed in 1905 according to Des Moines City Assessor Office records, is situated east of the house and adjacent to an alley. The stable contains a main floor and a second floor under the roof, each having approximately 400 square feet.

The immediate site of this property is generally level in topography. Bates Park is located one block to the east. One block beyond the park to the east, Clark Street slopes steeply into the Des Moines River valley. Although the 6th Avenue corridor is situated one block to the west, the feeling of the immediate area is that of single-family dwellings. Other dwellings in that area are comparable in age

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Page 2

CFN-259-1116

---

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

and balloon frame in construction. Because the size of the Beeson House is somewhat larger than its immediate neighbors, this house stands out among them.

The Des Moines City Assessor's Office describes this property as being within a "blighted area." The federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) has designated this neighborhood as "slum blight."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

## SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Des Moines SE Quadrangle, 1956, Photorevised 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

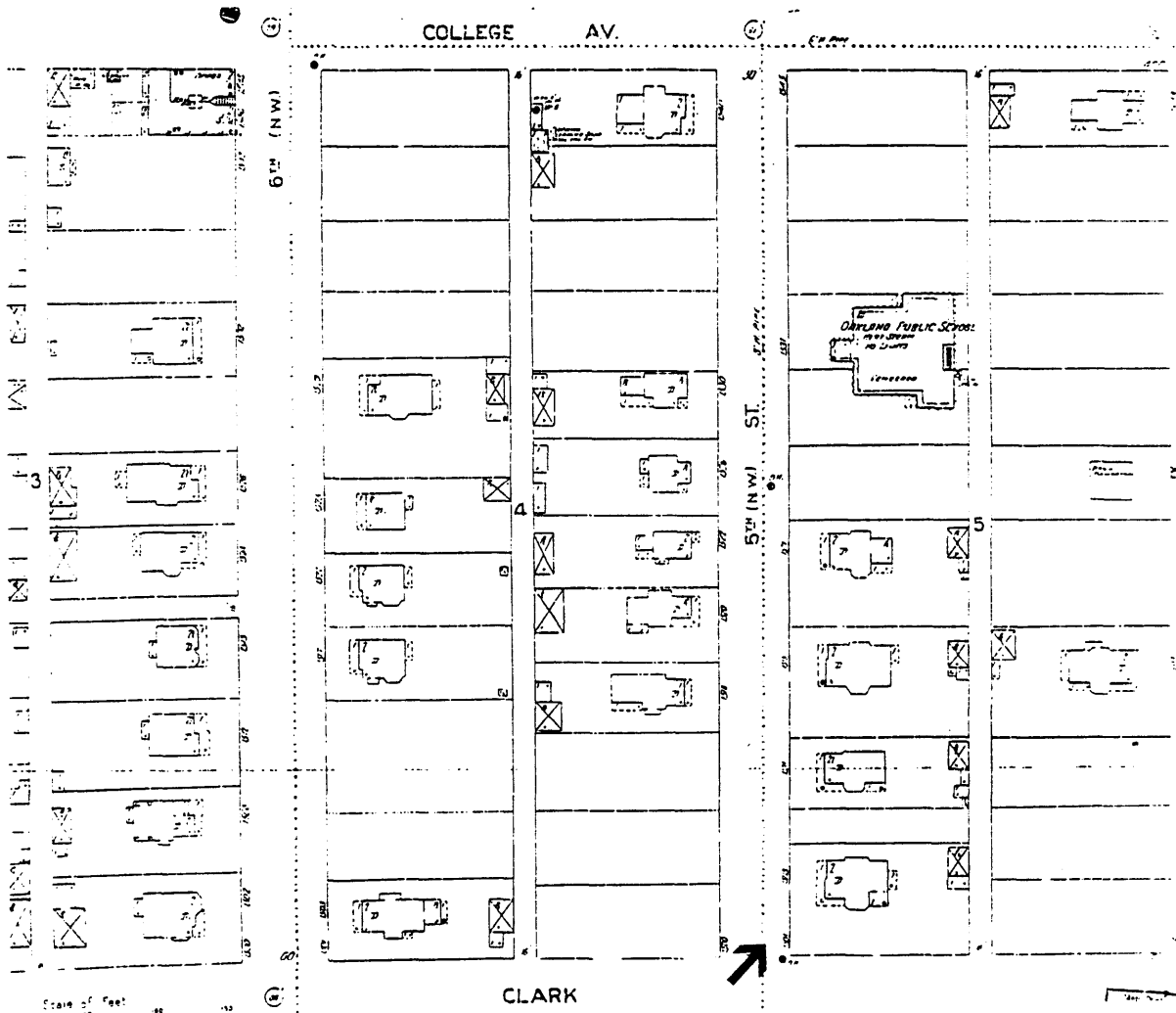
Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

## 1901 PLAT MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: Sanborn Map Company, Des Moines, 1901.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

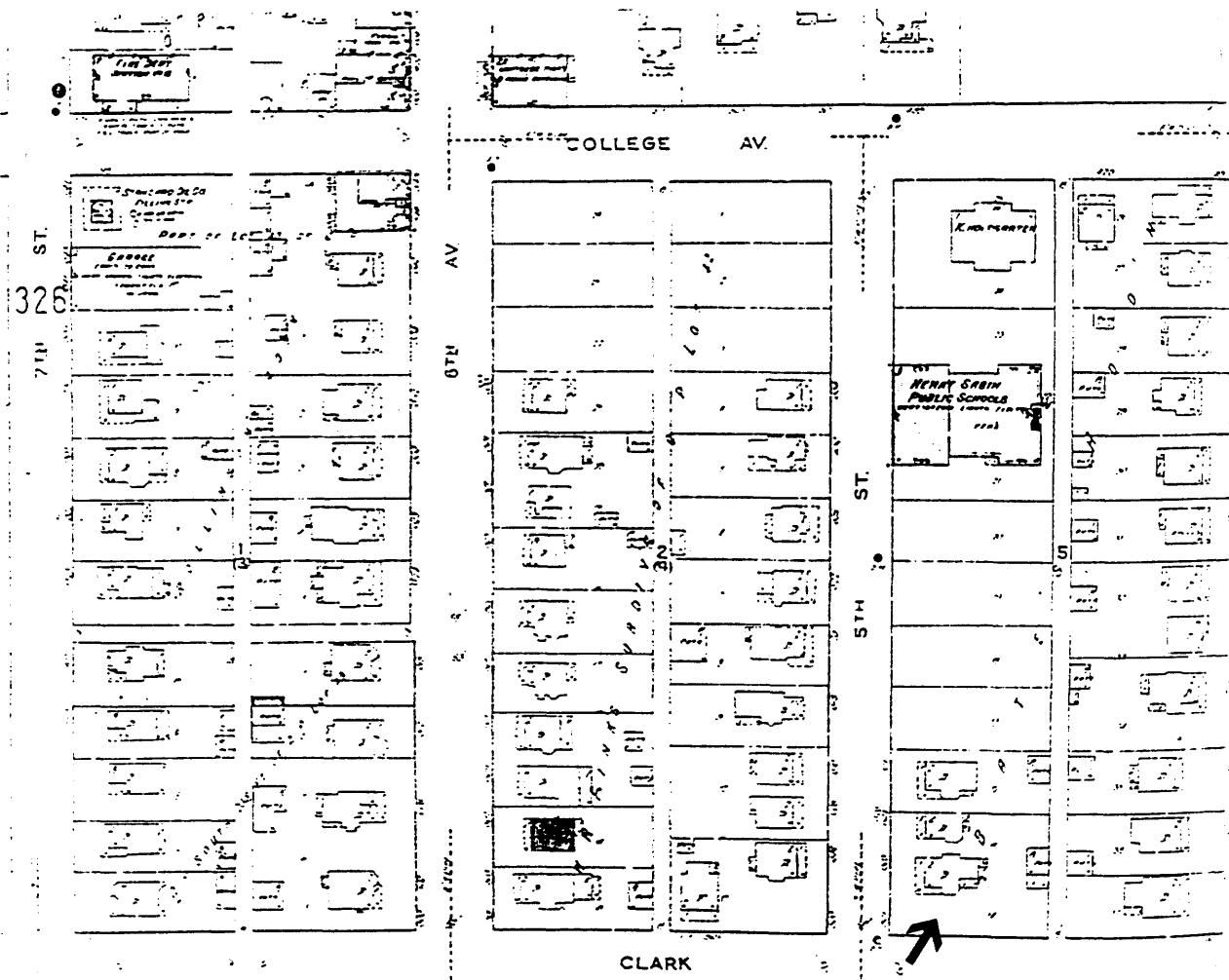
Section number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

## 1920 PLAT MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

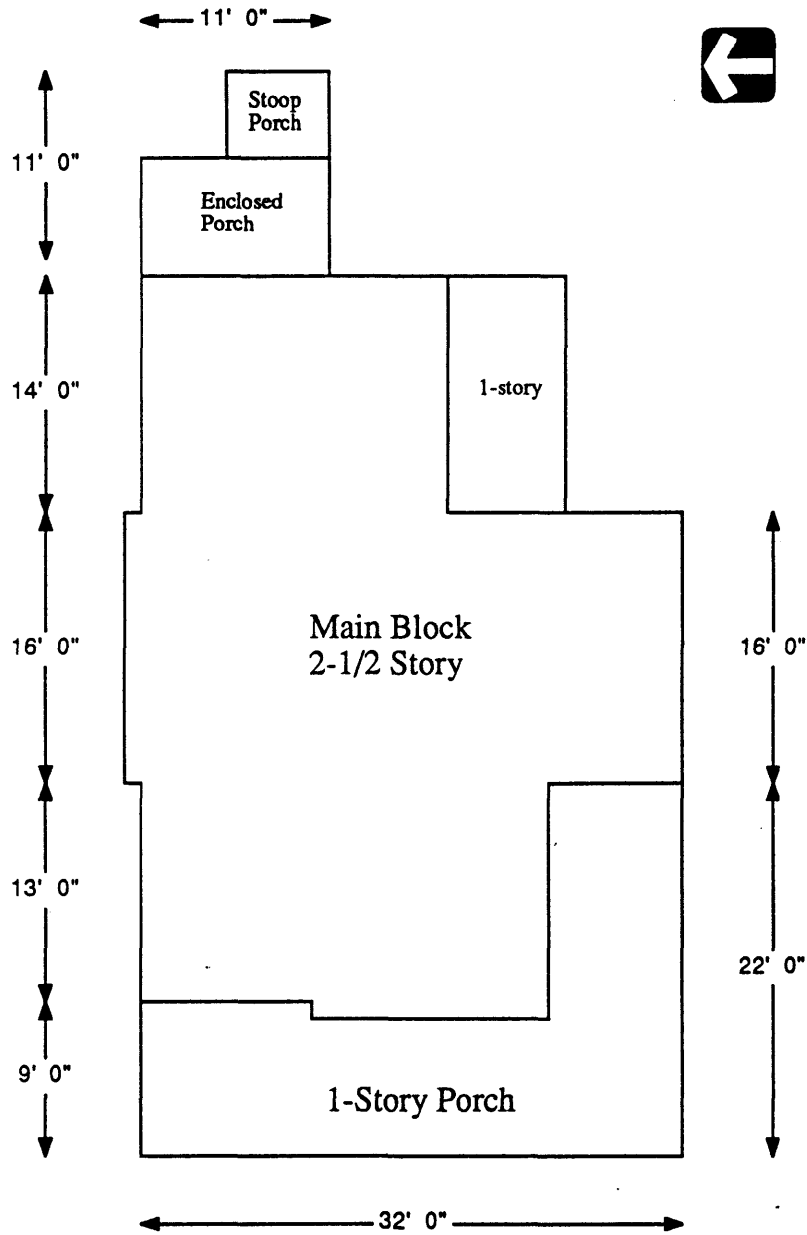
Section number 7

Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

## FOOTPRINT SKETCH



Source: Des Moines City Assessor Office Property Record Card.

Computer drawing by William C. Page, Public Historian.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

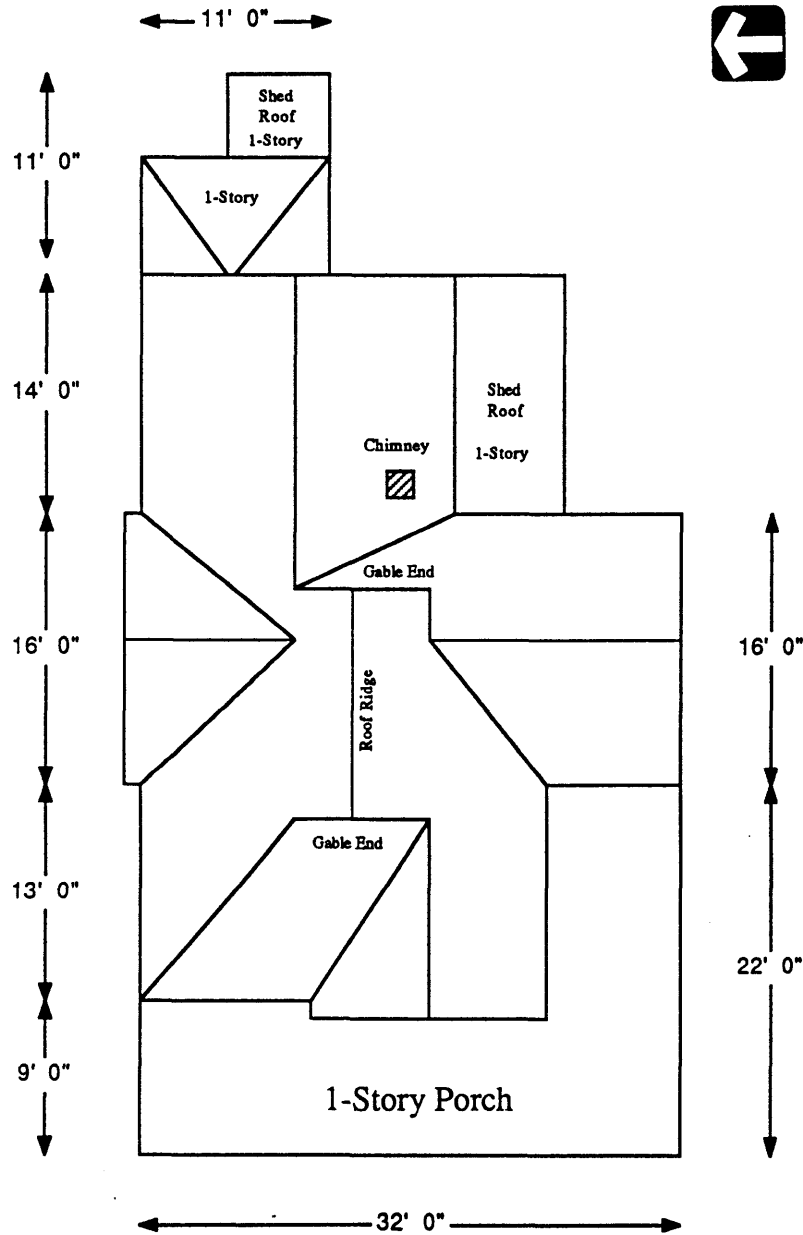
Section number 7

Page 7

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

## ROOF SKETCH PLAN



Source: Field inspection and computerized drawing by William C. Page, Public Historian.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Built circa 1890 as a single-family dwelling, the Byron A. Beeson House possesses a two-fold significance. Under National Register Criterion C the property stands as a fine example of architectural design as constructed in suburban North Des Moines. Large in scale and featuring a complex roof system, the Beeson House shows the influence of Queen Anne styling. The employment of a flared cornice is unusual. Additional research may show that this property is significant, under National Register Criterion A, calling attention to Byron A. Beeson's career as a government official and to the dominance of the Republican Party in Iowa following the Civil War. This dominance was directly affected by that conflict's galvanization of public support in the party's favor. Within this historical context, Beeson illustrates the two important aspects of that dominance--political and military. Beeson served as treasurer of the State of Iowa between 1891 and 1895 and as Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard at about the same time.

The period of significance, under Criterion C, for this house is circa 1890, when it was completed.

Criteria Consideration (Exception) A applies to this nomination. It is satisfied because this property, currently owned by a religious institution, derives its primary significance because of its architectural distinction.

The property contains two resources--the house, classified as a building, and the stable, classified as a structure. Both are contributing to this nomination.

**BYRON A. BEESON**

During the latter half of the Nineteenth Century, political life in America was dominated by former Civil War officers, whose service in that conflict had gained the public spotlight. The G.A.R. and other military organizations also served as vehicles for future office-holding, by delivering a loyal contingent of votes. This phenomenon was true from the presidency on down. Because it was perceived at the time more prestigious to be governor than to be a U. S. Representative or Senator, state politics attracted many of these leaders (often to the detriment of the national offices). Each of these trends applies to the career of Byron A. Beeson.

Byron A. Beeson was born in 1838 in Columbiana County, Ohio. Receiving his education locally in public schools, Beeson relocated to Iowa in 1854 and settled on a farm in Marshall County. He enlisted in the Second Iowa Cavalry when the Civil War began and re-enlisted in 1864. Beeson attained the rank of first lieutenant.

Having made a reputation as an officer in the Civil War, Beeson was elected treasurer of Marshall County, Iowa, where he served until 1882. In 1890, he was elected treasurer of the State of Iowa, and served in that office from 1891 to 1895 (*Iowa Official Register*:254). On the military side of his career, Beeson received a series of promotions, including captain, lieutenant-colonel, colonel, and Brigadier-General. In 1889 Beeson was appointed Adjutant-General of the Iowa National Guard. In

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

1893 Beeson became quartermaster of the Iowa Soldiers' Home in Marshalltown, in which position he served until appointment as treasurer of the National Soldiers' Home at Norfolk, Virginia (Gue:17). Each of these elected and appointed offices illustrates a progression of responsibility, as well as the on-going relationship between army organizations, veterans groups, and state and national politics lasting into the early Twentieth Century.

Byron A. Beeson evidently returned to Iowa following termination of his employment in Virginia. In 1920 he was living at 1035 18th Street in Des Moines (City Directory).

## ARCHITECTURE

### Design

The Byron A. Beeson House is significant architecturally because it demonstrates how critical a role the roof of a Queen Anne-influenced house plays in achieving the picturesque effect as sought by that mode of architecture. As the Roof Sketch Plan on Continuation Sheet 7-7 shows, this building features a complex roof system. A gable-on-hip roof covers the main block of the house. Two intersecting gables tie into that main system but at lower levels from the roof ridge. Each of these roofs is moderately steep in pitch. These elements combine to convey a picturesque feeling. A cornice surrounds the house under its eaves and calls further attention to the roof. This cornice, approximately twelve inches in height and constructed of small sloping vertical strips of wood, flares outward from its base to its top and accents the roof. The vertical elements of this cornice also contrast with the horizontal siding of the building and enrich its surface texture.

Although it is not presently known if the Beeson House was a professional design or the expression of a local contractor-builder, the complexity of its roof configuration indicates skilled craftsmanship. The house may be the work of Charles A. Coon, contractor-builder of Des Moines.

Refer to Chapter V in Section E of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for additional information about Queen Anne-influenced architecture in suburban Des Moines.

### Ownership

The changing ownership of this property illustrates the rapid development of North Des Moines during the last two decades of the Nineteenth Century and its complex real estate dealings.

Judge Bates and Sophia Bates, his wife, held title to the entire tract of land, which they had platted in 1883 as Bates Addition. In 1889 Sophia, as the judge's widow, sold a portion of that addition to Charles A. Coon through a warranty deed filed for the public record in 1890.

It is known that Coon worked as a contractor-builder and it is possible that Coon constructed the Beeson House as a speculation between October 1889 and September 1890, the period of time he

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

owned this land. If this is true, Coon provides a case study of the important role contractor-builders played in the development of North Des Moines during the late Victorian period. At the time, Coon was evidently a newcomer to Des Moines because he is not listed in the 1889-1890 city directory. By 1891, however, Coon is shown living at 1020 9th Street and occupied as a contractor and builder.

A rapid change of title followed Coon's ownership. In July 1890, Coon sold Lot 14 and the south one-half of Lot 15 to James H. McCord. In November 1891 Byron A. Beeson purchased this property from McCord and wife. Such quick property transfers are not unusual in North Des Moines during this period. In fact, they are representative of the intense speculation in real estate occurring in North Des Moines during this period.

The Des Moines City Assessor's Record Card dates construction of this building as "1894," but this is in error. According to the 1891 city directory, "State treasurer" Beeson was living at "College avenue near 6th." Moreover, a warranty deed, dated November 23, 1891, proves that Beeson had already purchased this property.

Further city directory and title research shows a continued turn-over of title to the property. The Des Moines City Directory for 1892 first shows Byron A. Beeson living at 1503 5th Street. He remains living at this address in 1894. By 1895 he moved to 1330 27th Street. According to later city directories, Catherine Mulvaney, widow of Burnett Mulvaney, began residing at this address in 1895. She was joined by John, Mary, and Michael, apparently her children. By 1898, however, Catherine boarded at 931 3rd Street, so her tenancy at the house was of short duration.

**PRESENT STATUS OF PROPERTY**

This property presently serves as a school building for the Mission Temple Academy, an affiliate of the Church of God in Christ.

**POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

The site's potential for archaeological significance is, as yet, unevaluated. Although historical archaeological investigations may uncover traces of previous construction on the site, this is unlikely. Prices fetched in earlier sales of this property suggest that the land was unimproved.

The location of ancillary structures associated with this property, such as a barn, privy, and/or other service facility, might be identified and yield information.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION**

As more information comes to light concerning Charles A. Coon, contractor-builder of Des Moines, it may be possible to flesh out this man's contributions to the upbuilding of the city.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Page 11

CFN-259-1116

---

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

The Byron A. Beeson House possesses a flaring cornice, an architectural feature, which appears on select houses in North Des Moines. This feature deserves further research and identification of other examples in North Des Moines and other of the city's Victorian suburbs.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 12

CFN-259-1116

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to Section I of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for complete bibliography.

#### PRIMARY

Des Moines City Directories for 1888-1889, 1891, 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1898.

*Des Moines Register*; "Gen. B. A. Beeson Rites to be at Marshalltown"; January 6, 1929.

*Des Moines Tribune-Capital*; "B. A. Beeson, Veteran, Dies"; January 5, 1929; p. 1.  
Includes photographic portrait on page 2.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for March 1901 and 1920.

#### SECONDARY

*Annals of Iowa*, "Byron Allen Beeson" in section "Pioneer Lawmakers Association"; State Historical Society of Iowa; Des Moines, Iowa; Vol. XVI, No. 8, Third Series, April 1929.

Beeson, Msgr.. Lawrence A.; Letter of Correspondence to William C. Page; June 26, 1995. Although no family connections emerged from this correspondence, the name sharing of Lawrence A. Beeson and Byron A. Beeson prompted this exchange.

Brigham, Johnson; *Des Moines, the Pioneer of Municipal Progress and Reform of the Middle West together with the History of Polk County, Iowa, the Largest, Most Populous and Most Prosperous County in the State of Iowa*; Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company; 1911; 2 volumes.

Des Moines City Assessor's Office; City Assessor's Record Card.

Gue, Benjamin; *History of Iowa From the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*; The Century History Company; New York City; 1903; Volume 4.

*Iowa Official Register, 1989-1990*; State of Iowa; Des Moines, Iowa; 1989; Volume 63.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *Towards a Greater Des Moines: Early Suburbanization and Development, circa 1880-circa 1920*; Intensive cultural resources report prepared for and on file at the Des Moines Historic District Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1992.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

---

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 14 and south one-half of Lot 15 in Bates Addition to the City of Des Moines,  
Iowa.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Contains all land associated historically with the resource.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 14

CFN-259-1116

---

Byron A. Beeson House, Polk County, Iowa.

### LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Byron A. Beeson House  
1503 5th Avenue  
House and stable  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
Looking north northeast  
William C. Page, Photographer  
November 23, 1995
  
2. Byron A. Beeson House  
1503 5th Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
Looking east  
William C. Page, Photographer  
November 23, 1995
  
3. Byron A. Beeson House  
1503 5th Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
House and stable  
Looking northwest  
William C. Page, Photographer  
November 23, 1995