

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Rose Hill  
other names/site number Irish-Goetz House

### 2. Location

street & number 1415 East Davenport Street  not for publication N/A  
city, town Iowa City  vicinity N/A  
state Iowa code IA county Johnson code 103 zip code 52245

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 3/16/92  
State or Federal agency and bureau: State Historical Society of Iowa

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Entered in the National Register: [Signature] 4/28/92  
Signature of the Keeper: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Other: Georgian form double pile

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other limestone lintels, sills, water table; wood porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet, attached.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1849  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1849  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet, attached.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet, attached.

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

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

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	5
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6	2	3	4	7	0
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4	6	1	3	5	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 19 and 26 of Walden's Subdivision of Irish Tract, Iowa City, Iowa.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nomination includes the lot on which the dwelling sits, Lot 19, and the lot immediately adjacent to the south, Lot 26. Both are owned by the same individual and were once part of a larger farm. Lot 26 is wooded, has no structures, and presents the unobstructed historic view of the dwelling's facade.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jan R. Nash  
organization *Jurmat* date September 11, 1991  
street & number 906 S. Lucas St. telephone 319/351-5156  
city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52240

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Rose Hill is a two story, rectangular shaped, red brick dwelling with a one-story rear wing, built by or at the direction of Frederick Irish in 1849. It has a slightly raised rubble stone foundation and dressed stone lintels, sills and water table. Its low-pitched side-gabled roof, wide cornice with returns, original entablatured portico supported by piers and pilasters, and small second-floor facade windows all suggest Greek Revival styling. Surrounded by farmland when it was built in the mid-nineteenth century, Rose Hill sits on a hill in eastern Iowa City, framed now on two sides by a modern subdivision. Despite the adjacent subdivision, the site from which Rose Hill's facade was historically viewed has been preserved undisturbed by its present owner who also purchased the undeveloped wooded lot on the south slope from the dwelling. Though owned by others, the lot adjacent to the west of this south slope also remains undeveloped. Directly across the street to the north of Rose Hill lies an undeveloped lot on which once stood the barn associated with the farm. A half block to the east, a portion of the original farmland is now a wooded city park. No outbuildings or other structures from the farm survive. The stone from the barn's foundation was reused for landscape retaining walls.

The massing and interior form of Rose Hill are consistent with a "double-pile" house (Wood, Brick and Stone, p. 103). Its main mass is rectangular with gables to the sides. The first floor is two rooms deep and two rooms wide, divided by a central hall passage and stairway. The second floor room arrangement mirrors the first floor. The formality created by this interior arrangement is apparent on the exterior as well, where the Georgian tradition of strict symmetry and balance predominates. The front entrance is centrally located and flanked by two windows on either side. Overhead, five windows align with the 5-bay first story. Foundation windows are vertically aligned as well. On the roof, opposing pairs of gable-end chimney stacks (one-pair nonextant) added to the symmetry.

Exterior details reflect the Greek Revival style popular during this period and include the low-pitched roof, the wide cornice with returns, the flattened roof and complete entablature of the original one-story portico (historic photograph), the porch piers and pilasters, the central entrance transom- and side-lights, and the raised foundation and water table. Six over 6-pane first floor windows are complemented by smaller 3 over 3-pane second floor windows. The half-windows create an appearance not unlike the very small friezeband windows of many Greek Revival buildings.

Significant interior details include battered door and window frames in the formal front parlors flanking the central hall. Such battered door jams and window frames were used by architects and builders of this time period, both in buildings classified as Greek Revival and as Egyptian Revival. The interior length of the windows in these rooms is accentuated by paneled window aprons. Most wood trim throughout the interior is original, as are most of the

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doors which have white porcelain knobs and black metal hardware and locks. One door knob set has the Rockingham glaze. Several doors have been stripped of paint and appear to be pine; a partially built-in walnut wardrobe in the first-floor northwest room is original to the Irish occupancy. Floor planks in the first floor central hall are about 5" wide and appear to be pine. Molding on the main staircase, the newel, and a large section of rail and balusters are original. A thin, flat, cavetto veneer decorates the outside of the staircase.

Construction of the dwelling is based on load-bearing north and south walls supporting hewn oak floor beams and upper story frame wall partitions. The rubble stone foundation is approximately two feet thick and capped by a dressed stone water table. The brick walls above the water table are laid in an irregular 8-course common bond pattern and are of brick thought to be made on the Irish farm. When a city park shelter was constructed in the early 1960s on nearby land (not a part of this nomination) once a part of the Irish farm, remnants of a circular brick structure were exposed which may have been a kiln. The modern structure was built directly over this site. Alternatively, beginning in 1840 Sylvanus Johnson supplied the bricks for many Iowa City structures and Frederick Irish acknowledged this fact in his 1868 history of Johnson County (Annals of Iowa, vol. 6, no. 2, p. 111). However, there is no documentation to link the red bricks of Rose Hill to Sylvanus Johnson's brick kiln. The long north and south walls of the house are three bricks thick on the first floor and two bricks thick on the second. The east and west exterior walls and the first floor interior load-bearing masonry walls are all two bricks thick. Window and door openings are supported by dressed stone lintels. The roof, covered with what appear to be wood shingles in historic photographs, is now covered with brown asphalt shingles applied in the summer of 1991.

The primary alteration to the exterior of Rose Hill was the widening of the portico which occurred sometime between 1905 and 1963 (historic photograph), while the house was still owned by the Irish family. The shed roof was replaced with a gable roof; the entablature was replaced by a simple fascia. The original piers and pilasters were re-used and the original rubble stone foundation can still be found behind and within the new ashlar foundation. The pair of original chimneys on either side of the roof ridge on the east gable have been replaced by one large, square chimney. The original chimneys were probably similar in appearance to the extant west gable chimneys in keeping with the formal symmetry of the overall design. A severe storm in 1877 likely damaged the east stacks (Gilbert Irish writings in Goetz Collection, historic photograph) and rather than reconstruct them a new larger stack was built in a more central location to vent the heating stoves previously serviced by the damaged stacks. Changes made in 1969 when the current owner purchased the house include: replacement of all window glass, front entrance transom- and side-lights broken by vandals; muntins

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reconstructed using historic photos; replacement of fire damaged, 4-panel front entrance door; roof shingled; exterior fascia boards replaced where necessary; brick walls repaired and re-pointed where necessary; north porch reconstructed; addition of modern metal chimney to service fireplace in southeast parlor; installation of modern heating, electric and plumbing systems; reconstruction of some interior woodwork (primarily in the southwest parlor) and some doors which were fire damaged in the 1950s; doorway from east central first-floor room to hall sealed. The basic floor plan of the dwelling remains the same as when the house was built, but some space functions have changed. Bathrooms added in 1969 took space at the north end of the second-floor hallway and in the first-floor northwest room. The rear wing, perhaps once a bedroom, now is a modern kitchen. The north porch now operates as the main entrance to the house and reflects the practical effect of the new city street running past the north side of the house.

Floor plan sketches based on measured drawings taken in 1969, and a sketch of the area immediately surrounding Rose Hill noting possible locations of various structures and landscape features are attached. Locations on the area sketch are based solely on references noted in early family letters and journals, and do not indicate dates of construction or demolition, or years of use. Three generations of the Irish family lived at Rose Hill, from 1849 until 1964.

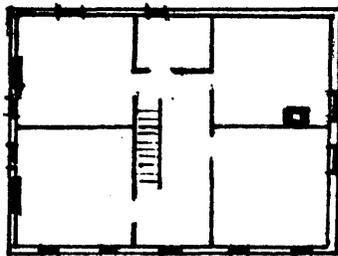
Rose Hill was constructed just below the crest on the south slope of a hill. It is about a half a mile from downtown Iowa City. In 1849 Rose Hill was a farm and included not only the dwelling, but the surrounding farm land as well. The land to the south and west of Rose Hill is fairly level, while the land to the north and east becomes more rugged, with ridges deeply cut by streams. The farm structures which once stood near the dwelling have been replaced by a modern subdivision, with new houses on the east and west sides of Rose Hill. There remains an open, wooded lot to the south and to the north is a modern paved street beyond which is an open lot and more new construction. The boundary of a large city park begins a few houses to the west of Rose Hill. This park, some of which constitutes land once a part of the Irish farm, largely remains in its natural state. While it is crisscrossed with hiking trails, most of the park is heavily covered with mature hardwood trees and other flora and fauna native to Iowa woodlands.

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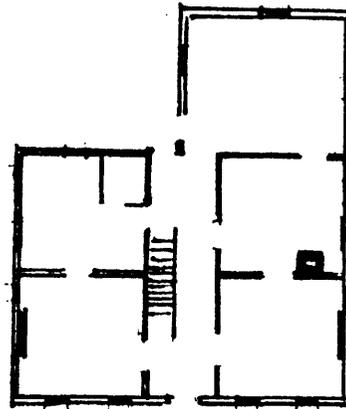
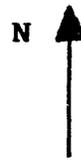
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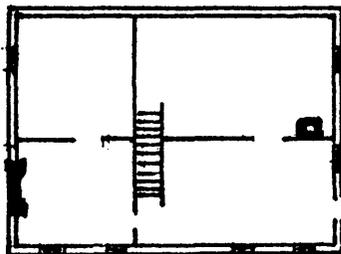
ROSE HILL Floor Plan(current)



Second Floor



First Floor



Basement

1" = about 23'

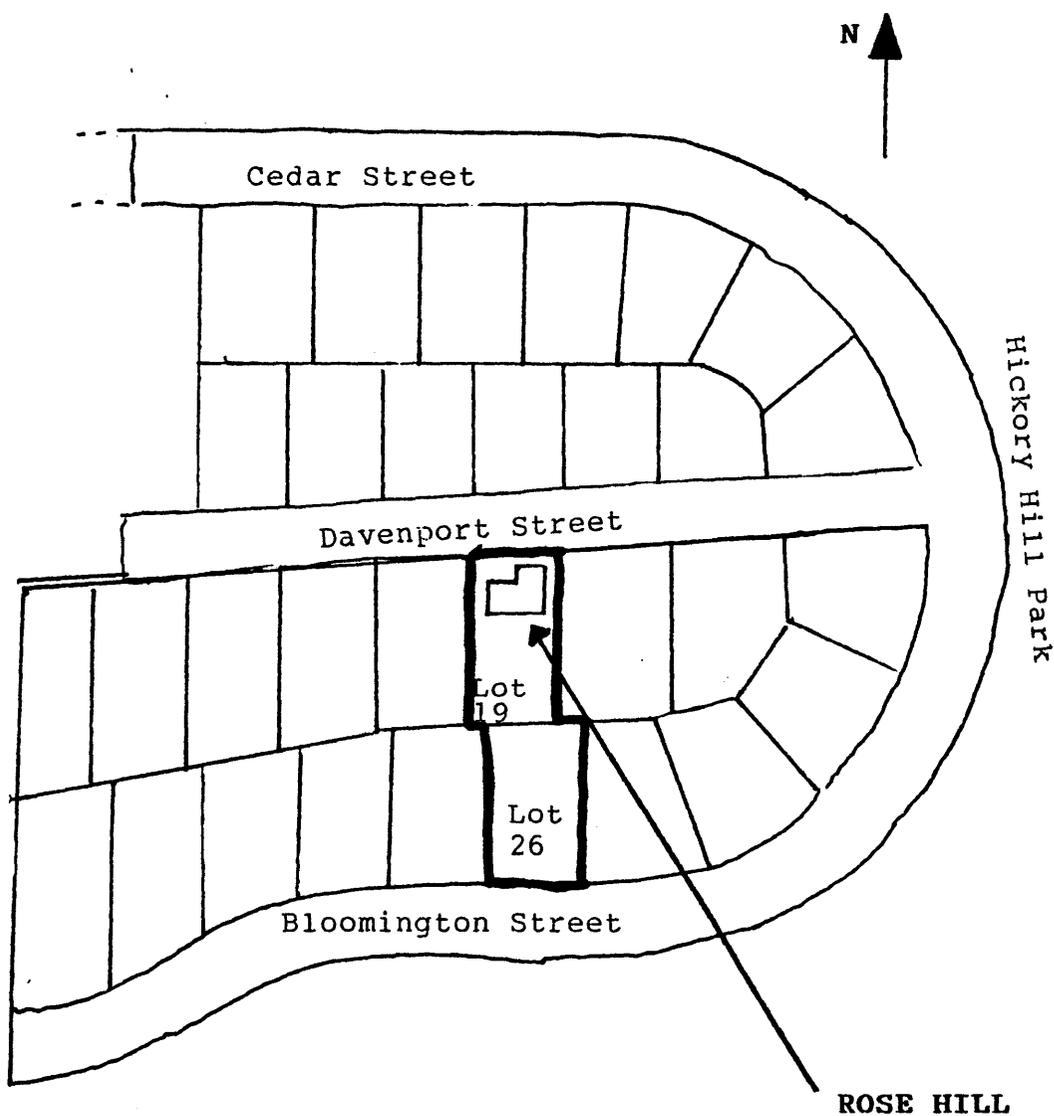
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## WALDEN'S SUBDIVISION OF IRISH TRACT



1/2" = about 60'  
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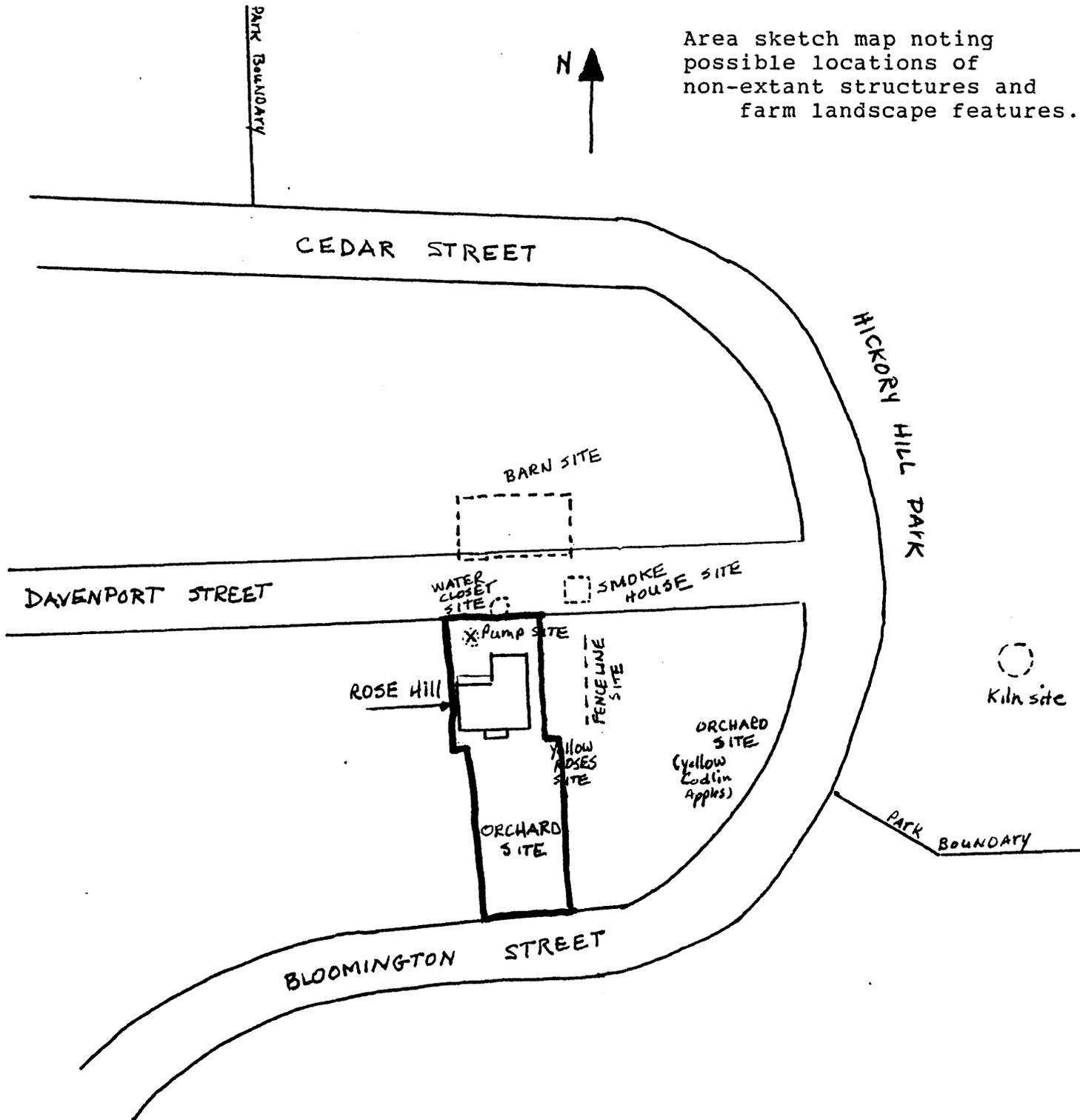
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Area sketch map noting possible locations of non-extant structures and farm landscape features.



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## SUMMARY

Rose Hill is locally significant under Criterion C as one of the earliest extant dwellings in Iowa City displaying the Greek Revival style. This is exhibited in details such as the window trim, the stone entablature or water table, the entryway and its transom and sidelights, the cornice with returns and plain entablature. Its Greek Revival styling reflects the presence of that popular style in Iowa City from the town's very inception when a design by architect John Francis Rague was selected for the new territorial capitol. While its style is Greek Revival, Rose Hill's form and floor plan are consistent with the New England origins of its original owner. This dwelling is not of the earlier Georgian time period, but it does exhibit a tradition of order, symmetry and balance in the formal treatment of floor plans and exterior details and fenestration, which tradition first developed and survived from the Georgian period of American architecture. Despite now being flanked on two sides by modern dwellings, Rose Hill's integrity of location, setting and design remains good with minimal alterations over its 142 year history. It survived as the principal dwelling of an early settler's farm, held in the same family from 1849 until the last descendent living in the Iowa City area died in 1964; its current owner purchased it in 1969.

## ARCHITECTURAL PATTERNS AND SIGNIFICANCE

When Rose Hill was built in 1849, the most likely source of Greek Revival influence in Iowa City was the dominating presence of the Iowa capitol building designed in 1839 by John Francis Rague and largely constructed between 1840 and 1842. Rague's presence in Iowa City increases the likelihood of certain builders' books also being present in Iowa City and the possibility that Rose Hill's design was taken from one of these books. The railroad, while a key player in the diffusion of popular culture and in the development of the Greek Revival style as this country's first national architecture, is not a factor in the early appearance of the Greek Revival style in Iowa City. The capitol, Rose Hill, and most other extant Iowa City dwellings of this style were built years before the railroad's arrival in 1856.

While there is no documentation to attribute Rose Hill to Rague's pen, his background and life so parallel Irish's that it is likely these two men had substantial contact with each other while in the tiny frontier settlement of Iowa City in 1839-1840. They were born within two years and 100 miles of each other; Rague in 1799 in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, Irish in 1801 in Hudson, New York. Both men found themselves in New York City as young adults in the 1820s; Rague working in the building trade and eventually apprenticed to the prominent Greek Revivalist architect, Minard Lafever, and Irish working in New York harbor after a stint as a Nantucket whaler traveling to the Sandwich Islands, San Francisco, and the Northwest coast of this country. During the

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1830s, both men began their westward migration which would see them eventually settle in Iowa. Irish first settled in Terre Haute, Indiana, where he successfully built and operated a foundry and machine shop. Rague first stopped in Springfield, Illinois, where he built the new state capitol after successfully beating the likes of A.J. Davis and Ithiel Town in the design competition.

Irish and Rague arrived in the Iowa City area at about the same time. Irish arrived first, in 1839. Almost immediately the rough cabin he built housed the meetings of the same commissioners who first would pick the site for the new territorial capital and then the design for the new Iowa capitol building as well. Rague followed Irish, arriving sometime between May of 1839 when the design competition was advertised and July 1840 when construction based on his winning design commenced. Iowa City was a town of 700 people when the construction of the Greek Revival capitol (a National Landmark) began and "Irish was one of the very first of the pioneers of the county and a prominent figure when the capital was located here" (Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa History, p. 36).

In 1849, when Rose Hill was built, Rague had long since moved on. But Frederick Irish remained a prominent citizen of Iowa City, now the bustling capital of the newly admitted State of Iowa. While Rose Hill was under construction, Irish served on a committee of local citizens concerned with bringing the railroads west of the Mississippi River and anxious that the rapid settlement of the land between Iowa City and the river would leave little public lands available. He was appointed to serve, along with former Governor Robert Lucas, to a subcommittee charged with petitioning Congress for land grants for the railroads. Despite these men's efforts, the railroad would not reach Iowa City for another seven years, long after completion of Rose Hill.

The style Irish chose for his new brick house repeated in residential form the style of the monumental capitol building 1/2 mile to the west at the heart of Iowa City. Its form and floor plan were undoubtedly comfortable reminders of his New England roots and suitable for housing his large family. A design from one of Minard Lafever's builders' books, *Young Builder's General Instructor*, published in 1829 just before Rague left New York City and traveled west, bears close resemblance to Rose Hill both in style and form (see attachment). It is probable that the student, striking out on his own, would take with him the master's published instructions and examples. It is possible Rague brought Minard Lafever's books to Iowa City and Irish, a prominent citizen in a small settlement whose age and background would have made Rague a familiar acquaintance, saw and discussed Lafever's designs with Rague.

The Lafever design from *Young Builder's General Instructor*, identified as a "farmhouse elevation" (Greek Revival Architecture in America, pl. XXXVIII), contains virtually the same design elements and components as Rose Hill. The

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one exception is that it contains three bays and Rose Hill has five (an accommodation perhaps to the growing Irish family--Mrs. Irish was pregnant in 1849 with her seventh child--and the memory of the more common 5-bay Georgian large houses in New England). Both designs have gables to the sides, symmetrical and balanced facades with gable-end chimneys, windows flanking a central entrance, vertical alignment of second-story, first-story and foundation windows. Both have raised foundations marked by a surface or textural change; both have the smaller, second story windows reflecting interior space limited by the slope of the ceiling. The central entrance of both is covered by a flat-roofed porch with full entablature, and supported by columns or piers and pilasters.

Settlement pattern studies confirm that Irish's New England background is a likely source for the house form Rose Hill represents; its two-room depth, two-room width divided by a central hall, the balance achieved in both the interior floor plan and the facade fenestration, the Georgian sense of formality and symmetry. This house form originated in the New England area about 1750 and spread with decreasing frequency over time to the Midwest, especially the upper Midwest. At the same time, population studies show two coastal source areas for the migration of settlers into Iowa, the North or New England area and the Middle Atlantic area (Common Places; Pattern in the Material Folk Culture). Local studies confirm the "original population [of Iowa City] was a mixture of native born midwestern and eastern stock (primarily from Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York)..." (Historic Resources of Iowa City, p. 11). Irish was from New York. One might expect other Iowa City houses to also exhibit the house forms common to these source areas as well as Greek Revival styling popularized in Iowa City by the early capitol.

Perhaps the other extant dwelling most clearly exhibiting the influence of Greek Revival styling in Iowa City is the Downey-Glasgow house at 834 N. Johnson Street. Known to have been built by 1854, but thought to have been actually constructed as early as 1844, its integrity has suffered from 20th century alterations. However when constructed it clearly referenced Rague's capitol building. Pedimented side-gables are complimented by a complete entablature; its facade is dominated by a pedimented portico supported by columns. The non-extant Folsom house, built in 1851 on the west ridge overlooking the Iowa River (and facing eye-to-eye Rague's capitol across the river on the east ridge) was an excellent example of a Greek Revival-influenced Iowa City dwelling. Its form represents a another subtype of Greek Revival architecture found in Iowa City, having a gabled front and wing. Its 3-bay facade is marked by an offset front entrance. Wide bands of trim at the cornice fully encircle the main block and result in a pedimented front gable. Its brick walls and stone lintels and sills are similar to Rose Hill's. Another front gabled, red brick house which exhibits Greek Revival influence, more in its form than in its details, is the extant home of former governor Robert Lucas at 1030 Carroll Street. Built in 1844 just beyond the southern edge of Iowa City, Plum Grove (National Register listed) as Lucas's house is

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known, represents the front-gabled subtype without a wing.

While red brick in combination with dressed and rubble stone were common construction materials in Iowa City for houses of Greek Revival styling, variants were also common. Rose Hill, Plum Grove and the Folsom house were red brick; the Downey-Glasgow house is clapboard. Three- and five-bay Georgian house forms in Iowa City at the same time, with or without classical details, were commonly executed in a variety of materials also: limestone or brown sandstone, clapboard frame, and red brick like Rose Hill.

Frederick Irish's 1849 Rose Hill, then, is significant because it is an excellent example of a building form poised at the edge of the transition in American architecture between traditional folk dwellings employing the building lore of previous generations, and dwellings influenced by the burgeoning nineteenth century technologies which resulted in the development popular culture and national styles of architecture.

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Possible design source for Rose Hill, taken from Greek Revival Architecture in America, plate XXXVIII:



"Farmhouse elevation from [Minard] Lafever's Young Builder's General Instructor [1829]."

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### PUBLICATIONS

Aurer, Charles Ray. Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa History. Two vols. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Western Historical Press, 1912.

Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1944; reprinted New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1964.

Irish, F.M. "History of Johnson County, Iowa." Annals of Iowa, vol. 6, no. 2, 1868.

Keyes, Margaret N. Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City. Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1966.

Kniffen, Fred B. "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion." In Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, eds., Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986. Pages 3-26.

Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape. Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

Woodman, Betsy H. "John Francis Rague: Mid-Nineteenth Century Revivalist Architect (1799-1877)." Unpublished masters thesis, University of Iowa, 1969.

### MATERIALS LOCATED IN THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA, IOWA CITY, IA

Irish-Preston Collection.

Iowa City Republican, 1849-1850.

Historic Resources of Iowa City (Partial Inventory) National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by the City of Iowa City, James E. Jacobsen, 1981.

### PRIVATE COLLECTIONS AND INTERVIEWS

Goetz Collection [contains Irish family letters, journals, manuscripts, and photographs]

Interviews by Jan Nash of Janet Goetz, multiple dates, June-October, 1991.

Interviews by Jan Nash of Bob Howell, Iowa City Parks Superintendent, 11/2 and 11/7/90.

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Photograph Descriptions:

1. Rose Hill (all photographs)
2. 1415 E. Davenport, Iowa City, Iowa (all photographs)
3. Jan Nash, photographer (photographs 1,2,3,4,5)  
Bertha M. H. Shambaugh, photographer (photograph 6)
4. November 1990 (photographs 1,2,5)  
June 1991 (photographs 3,4)  
1889 (photograph 6)
5. submitted with nomination (photographs 1,2,3,4,5)  
State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  
(photograph 6)
6. Photograph 1: south elevation, camera facing north (historic facade);  
Photograph 2: west elevation, camera facing southeast;  
Photograph 3: north elevation, camera facing southeast (current entrance  
and wing);  
Photograph 4: east elevation, camera facing northwest;  
Photograph 5: interior window trim and apron; east window in east front  
parlor;  
Photograph 6: south elevation, camera facing northeast (historic facade).
7. n/a