

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0688 355

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RECEIVED	NOV 20 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 29 1976

**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

Thomas Jefferis House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

523 6th Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Pottawattamie

CODE

155

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert S. Kennedy

STREET & NUMBER

523 6th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 51501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pottawattamie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jefferis house is a Victorian Italianate dwelling completed in 1869. It is located in a residential section of Council Bluffs adjacent to a commercial area.

The house has three sections: the two-story, nearly square main block; a kitchen addition which is also two stories, but on a smaller scale; and a one-room section off the kitchen, perhaps once a summer kitchen. The house is of frame construction, the exterior covered with wide clapboards scored to resemble ashlar masonry. Roofs of all three sections are low hips, with bracketted eaves. The cornice friezes of the main and kitchen sections are panelled. Windows are 2/2 sash, with curved heads, set in simple wooden surrounds with narrow cornices.

The main facade is three bays, with entrance to the right of center and two flor-to-ceiling windows. A one-story porch extends the full width of the facade, and is supported by square, fluted, bracketted posts. A balustrade around the edge of the porch roof has been removed. The roofline on this site has been broken to form a shallow pediment above the center bay.

A porch along the west side of the kitchen wing has very plain square posts and no decorative features. It is of a later date than the original construction.

There were once six tall chimneys with corbelled caps, four symmetrically placed on the main block, and one each on the rear sections. All but one have been completely cut down, and the remaining chimney is truncated. Also missing from the roof is belvedere with paired, round-arched windows, which was once a major feature of the house.

The house was converted for use as a funeral home about 1940, requiring some rearrangement of space and the enlargement of first-floor doorways.

Also on the property is a small frame garage, with a jerkinhead gable roof over protruding rafter ends. It is covered in matched boards, like the house, but they are not scored in the distinctive manner of the house. This garage was built c. 1920 and does not contribute in any material way to the significance of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jefferis house is significant as a fine and highly characteristic example of the bracketted Italianate style of residential architecture. Although a prominent feature (the belvedere) has been lost, the house retains its cornice, front porch, and the most interesting and distinctive feature: the siding of matched boards scored to resemble ashlar. Examples of this use of materials are somewhat unusual, and no other example is known to exist in the Council Bluffs area.

The house was built for Thomas Jefferis (1828-1895), a native of Delaware who came to Council Bluffs in 1853. He engaged in a variety of speculative ventures during his life, holding interests in saw mills, Council Bluffs and Omaha real estate, and a silver mine at Park City, Utah. His success in these ventures was apparently quite uneven, as his obituary noted that "he had made a great deal of money in his day and through various turns of sudden ill luck had lost most of it at times." Jefferis was also a practicing homeopathic physician.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Obituary, "Death of a Pioneer", Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil 7 January 1895.
 Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil 8 October 1869.
 Sorenson, Alfred. The Story of Omaha. Omaha: National Printing Co., 1923.
 Council Bluffs City Directories, 1868-1895.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Council Bluffs North, Iowa - Neb.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	2	6	1	0	6	5	4	5	7	0	18	7	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

E

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

F

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

G

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

H

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 19 and 20, and the east half of lot 18, Block 8, Jefferis Subdivision
 Council Bluffs, Iowa

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 (also Penny Chatfield, SHPO Office, Lincoln, Nebraska)

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

November 1978

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

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

11/13/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Marsham

DATE

12/29/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Marsham 12-28-78

DATE

CLERK OF REGISTRATION