

PH0351083

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 9 1976

DATE ENTERED MAR 25 1977

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK 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 ~~Elizabeth and Henry Harcourt Horn House~~

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *n w of Decorah*

SW 1/4, Sec. 32, T99N R8W _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Decorah VICINITY OF Second

STATE Iowa _____ CODE

Winneshek COUNTY CODE 191

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" 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 William and Lucy Schemp

STREET & NUMBER Route 3

CITY, TOWN Decorah _____ STATE Iowa

_____ VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds, Winneshek County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER _____

CITY, TOWN Decorah _____ STATE Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE _____

DATE _____

_____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL _____

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

?
LEONARD
12/9/76

The Horn house is essentially Italianate in style, with reflections in its scale and proportions of middle-class, late Georgian architecture in England, from whence Henry Horn emigrated in 1869. The 2-story main block is 27' x 60', a servants' wing 23' x 20', all on a limestone foundation. Walls are double, 18 inches thick, of locally-made red clay brick, set in common bond.

The symmetrical facade is three bays wide. Centered double doors are set within a compound semicircular arch with fanlight. There are bay windows on either side of the door. Windows throughout are segmentally-arched, 4/4 lights in double hung sashes. Those on the second floor front are paired, with brick mullions and corbelled label molds.

The shingled, low-hipped roof has wide eaves and a wide, plain wood cornice. Brick chimneys are located toward the rear corners.

The servants' wing is 1½ stories, with a gable roof. Window treatment is similar to that of the main block: all have segmental arches, 6/6 lights, most with corbelled label molds. Similar molding is found over the door.

The interior, although somewhat altered in recent years, still contains a vestibule, ballroom, dining room and three bedrooms in the main house, and a kitchen, pantry and servants' quarters in the remainder. The original horsehair plaster remains intact, as do the brick air ducts for the furnace which was built in at the time of the house's construction. Remnants of a wine cellar are present in the basement. The exterior of the house is unaltered.

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Elizabeth and Henry Harcourt Horn House, Decorah, Winneshiek County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The three acres of land surrounding the house are an important visual aspect of the total character of the house. They are heavily wooded, and preserve the "estate" aspect of Horn's environment. Horn's actual holdings were quite substantial, and the present owners of the house retain several hundred acres, of forest and farmland, from the original estate. Three acres, however, suffice to preserve the integrity of the house in its historic setting.

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 checked="" 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

1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Robinson and Arboe

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architecture of this house is somewhat unusual in Iowa, being a combination of Italianate and "quasi-Georgian" features, the latter most notably in the symmetrical composition and the smaller, attached service wing which are typical of an earlier period. The house also has a peculiarly "Decorah" feature, the corbelled window hoods, which are found in many houses in Decorah of this period.

The experience of Henry Harcourt Horn in Decorah was typical of many members of the English colony there. The colony was founded in the early 1860's, by generally well-to-do Englishmen who sought the life (and land) of a gentleman farmer in America. Horn, a native of Hertfordshire, first visited the then-thriving colony in 1868, and with his bride Elizabeth, bought land and built his house in 1869. For four years, Horn prospered on his Oneota Valley acres, arranging parties, fox hunts and horse races for other members of the colony, in careful reconstruction of English country life. Henry and Elizabeth also played active roles in the organization of Grace Episcopal Church, which became the real social center of the English community in Decorah.

Like many of his fellow colonists, however, Horn was unable to sustain his prosperity. He moved into the town of Decorah in 1873, and pursued such ventures as a paper mill, a foundry, and a barrel factory. By 1879 Horn was bankrupt: his town house was sold at a sheriff's auction, and he and his family moved to St. Paul. There, Horn embarked on a wholly new career as lawyer, judge and legal writer.

The English colony in Decorah lasted only a few years more after Horn's departure. Like Horn, its members were unable to find success either in farming or in industry, and by the mid-1880's, most had returned to England or had moved elsewhere in the United States.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ramsey, S.C., Small Houses of the Late Georgian Period, 1919.
 Horn, H.H., An English Colony in Iowa. Boston: Christopher Publishing House, 1931.
 Portman, R.F.B., Decorah's English Colony of 1872, 1931 (Winneshiek County Historical Society Archives, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa)
 Svendsen, Marlys A., "A Man and His Home: Henry Harcourt Horn and the Horn House," unpublished mss., Dec. 1973 (Winneshiek County Historical Society Archives, Luther College Library, Decorah, Iowa)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 3

UTM REFERENCES

5200			9300		
A	1,5	5,9,0	5,2,0	4,7,9,0	9,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C					
B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Marlys Svendsen-Roesler, Historical Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Historic Preservation, Iowa State Historical Department

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

605 Woodside Drive, #2

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Iowa City

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

[Signature]

DATE

3/25/99

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

3/24/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER