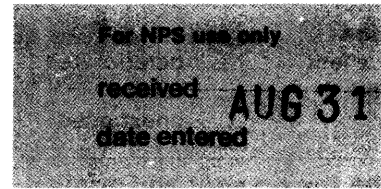


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Jackson-Swisher  
Louis H. Jackson/Stephen A. Swisher House and Carriage House  
and/or common The Old Swisher Place

2. Location

street & number 120 E. Fairchild Street  not for publication  
city, town Iowa City vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 1  
state Iowa code 19 county Johnson code 103

3. Classification

<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Elizabeth A. Keyser Means  
street & number 120 E. Fairchild Street  
city, town Iowa City vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnson County Recorder's Office  
street & number Johnson County Courthouse  
city, town Iowa City state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

HABS Inventory; Iowa Historic Resource Survey; North  
title Side Preservation Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1971; 1973; 1977  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation  
city, town Iowa City state Iowa

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## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Jackson/Swisher house uses "more characteristics of the Gothic Revival than any other house in Iowa City," according to Margaret Keyes. Indeed, the wood house and carriage house exhibit many fine details of the style. Bargeboards pierced with quatrefoils and circles highlight the steeply pitched roofline, a hallmark of the style. The use of pairs of windows, or varying design, and the dormer-like tops for the second story windows contribute to the highly prized picturesque quality as do two bays, the front porch with tracery ornament, and the fluted chimneys. Of special note is the addition of another gable above the entrance porch, at the juncture of the main wings of the house.

The former carriage house (converted to a garage in 1946) continues, in a much simpler manner, some of the house's motifs. Like the house's second story windows, here too are pairs of narrow windows whose tops are cut diagonally at the corners. Rooflines for both house and carriage house flair gently at the eaves.

Located in what was originally a fine residential area, the site retains the impression of commodious single family housing. However, proximity to the university has prompted conversions to multiple family housing, including the Jackson/Swisher house. A sorority house and a residence flank the narrow landscaped lot, and the effect is residential.

The original plan of the house was a regular cruciform shape, but changes, most of them associated with conversion to rental housing, have altered the shape. Still, the house is remarkably well preserved; most of its intricate ornament remains. The most jarring modification is the enclosure of one of the two small front porches. Other changes have also filled out the original cruciform plan, including enclosure of a northeast rear porch in 1949, enlargement of a room to the northwest in 1958-59, and addition of a large family room to the northeast in 1968. Most of these changes are to the rear, however, and are of clapboard to match the original siding. There is also a fire escape in evidence, and the chimneys have been modified somewhat.

Inside, room arrangements have been altered to suit the needs of multi-family housing. Most original woodwork (oak and walnut) remains, although a wood bannister and nearby wainscoting have been removed.

County records date construction of the house as 1877, while the carriage house was apparently not built until after 1906 and before 1912. The latter structure appears on Sanborn Fire Maps of this time.

# 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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce - insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) history-hist. society

**Specific dates** 1877-present **Builder/Architect** \*\*\*\*\* Louis H. Jackson

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Although primarily of architectural significance, the Jackson/Swisher house calls attention to the successful legal career of Louis H. Jackson and also to the twin interests of Stephen A. Swisher, insurance and the Iowa State Historical Society.

Jackson, who was born in Jacksonville, Illinois in 1846, came to Iowa with his father in the early 1860s. From 1863 to 1866 he attended the State University of Iowa and then read law in the Iowa City office of Fairall and Boal. When the firm reorganized, he and Boal became partners. By 1877 he was successful enough to build this house, where he lived until 1887 when he and his law partner moved to Denver. Jackson served on the school board and was active in Presbyterian church during his stay in Iowa City.

Stephen A. Swisher occupied the house for over forty years, from 1889 to 1931. He was raised on the family farm settled in 1841 and was educated at the Iowa City Academy and the State University of Iowa. In 1879 he started an insurance agency, representing twelve companies. But his true interest was the State Historical Society where he served as one of the Curators and from 1931-1933 as its president.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Iowa City West

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UMT References

A	1 5	6 2 2 1 1 0	4 6 1 3 6 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 and justification

Lot 7, Block 72, Original City of Iowa City

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

state	code	county	code
N. A.			

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Beving Long and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historians

organization Office of Historic Preservation

date August 1982

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue

telephone 515/281-5111

city or town Des Moines

state 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



title Director, Iowa State Historical Department

date August 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 11/14/82

Keeper of the National Register

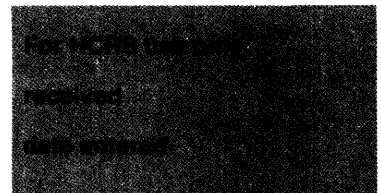
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9.

Page 1.

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