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DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 10 1978
DATE ENTERED MAR 29 1978

**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

Beck, James A., House

AND/OR COMMON

Sloca House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401 East Burlington Avenue

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fairfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

101

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The New Foundation for Peace, Charles and Joan Sloca, Mortgagees

STREET & NUMBER

401 East Burlington

CITY, TOWN

Fairfield

STATE

Iowa 52556

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fairfield

STATE

Iowa 52556

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

This nomination includes the main house and carriage house. The main house was built in 1896, the carriage house about 1875 (the house originally associated with this latter structure was torn down ca. 1895). Both are painted pale gray, with white trim and detailing, and set on a corner lot in a residential area of Fairfield.

The Beck house is a "patternbook" specimen of the Americanized Queen Anne style in frame residences, exemplifying the style in its agitated massing, its variety of decorative detail, surface materials and color, and in the penetration and erosion of the mass by covered exterior spaces. What unity exists is provided by the network of Stick Style "expressive" framing members, which divide the clapboarding into rectangular panels of varying proportions. This feature is most pronounced on the sides of the house, where horizontal members engage the tops and bottoms of the windows and tie them into the expressive skeleton, and where horizontal and vertical almost achieve a balance in an otherwise very vertically-oriented structure. The framing is only half-heartedly applied to the front of the house, where the full effect of the wide variety of massing elements is most pronounced.

Several features are particularly noteworthy. Most striking is the polygonal turret which rises from the second floor over the front veranda. It encloses a game room in the attic, and is crowned by a domical roof covered in imbricated shingles. A circular porch pavilion is covered by a flattened conical roof; two flights of stone steps around this feature give access to the veranda. Also of note are two other porches, the first located at the second level in the front which is half inset and half projecting, and is enclosed by an arcade with arches of varying curvature. The second is also at the front, on the third level, its square frame contrasting with the arcade below.

Also of interest is the keyhole window of the front parlor, into which a square frame is inscribed. The whole motif is framed with pilasters and crowned with a swan's-neck pediment. The roofscape is dominated by a high hipped mass, with a finial crest, broken by gables of various width and height.

In plan, the house exemplifies much of the residential Queen Anne of the period in its conservative irregularity, with room shape varied somewhat, but with space still compartmentalized. The stairhall, with its multi-landing staircase and alcove, admits knowledge of the concept of the living hall introduced by R.N. Shaw and characteristic of the most advanced planning of the 1880's under the general influence of this style. However, this stairhall fails to completely understand the concept, in that it is not the unifying spatial feature that the living hall was meant to be.

The carriage house, about twenty years older than the main house, appears to have been redecorated on the exterior to conform more closely with the latter. It is a two-story square structure, with a high hipped roof and gabled wall and roof dormers. The cornice is bracketted, the frame exterior clapboarded with a wide band of diamond-pattern stickwork. Windows are rectangular, with plate glass in the sash. The wide entrance is sheltered by a protruding mass, and is segmentally arched.

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 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 1896

~~BUILDER~~ ARCHITECT George F. Barber & Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beck house is superbly representative of Queen Anne residential architecture. It exemplifies all the more important characteristics of the style: the agitated mass, variety of detail, materials and color, the erosion of the mass by covered exterior spaces, the interpenetration of interior and exterior, and the conservative irregularity of the plan. The design can be traced to what may have been a very popular pattern (at least in the midwest) by George F. Barber Company (Knoxville, TN) in the last decade of the 19th century. The Linsay house in Iowa City (and a similar house in Calvert, Texas) are closer to the pattern than the Beck house; the latter is a larger, and if possible more florid, variation. Houses such as these took picturesqueness of mass and elevation far beyond what Richard Norman Shaw and the eastern arbiters of the style in the U.S. had ever intended. However, their designers failed to understand completely what was revolutionary in the then new concepts of domestic planning: thus the stairhall, although certainly attractive, fails in its expression here as a unifying element of interior space.

James A. Beck was a native of Fairfield, born there in 1849, and educated at Fairfield University. In 1870, he began a grocery business, in partnership with Thomas Bell. Two years later, Beck was sole owner. He began a second, more significant (and profitable) career in 1883, when he leased and managed the Leggett House, an already well-established hotel in Fairfield. Six years later, as a partner in the "Creston Hotel Company", he leased the Summit House hotel in Creston.

James Beck's scale of living and business increased substantially during the 1890's. In 1896, his magnificently ostentatious house was erected. That same year, Beck purchased the financially-troubled Dixon's Beach, a resort on West Okoboji Lake in Dickinson County. "The Inn", a 450'-long hotel along the shore, was opened officially in 1898. It soon became "one of the most unique and popular resorts" in this fashionable Iowa lake region.¹ A prominent feature was a large dance pavilion over the water.

Beck further expanded his resort activities about 1910, when he and H.E. Mills bought additional lakefront property. The proposed "Lakewood Park" was to be an Iowa "Venice": canals and inland waterways, dotted with islands, were intended to bring additional variety to the lakes resort. "Venice" was never completed; however, the Crescent Beach Hotel was begun by Beck in 1914, but sold two years later. Beck's first resort, The Inn, managed to survive prohibition and changing social attitudes, and functioned into the middle of this century, long after such summer watering places became unfashionable.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Portrait and Biographical Album of Jefferson and Van Buren Counties, Iowa. Chicago: Lake City Publishing Company, 1890, pp. 193-4.
 Welty, Susan Fulton. A Fair Field. Detroit: Harlo Press, 1968, pp. 219, 384.
 Smith, R.A. History of Dickinson County, Iowa. Des Moines: Kenyon Printing and Manufacturing Co., 1902, pp. 544-46.
 Ide, George A. History of Union County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1908. pp. 220-221.
 Hofsonmer, Don. Prairie Oasis. Des Moines: Waukon and Mississippi Press, 1975, pp. 27-30, 117-118.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 8 5 9 7 2 0 0	4 5 4 0 0 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Corner lot 214' by 154', bounded on two sides by Highway 34 (Burlington St.) and D Street, Fairfield

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

Charles Sloca
 ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____
 STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____
 401 East Burlington Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____
 Fairfield Iowa 52556

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 A. Anderson*
 TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE 1-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 3/29/78
 ATTEST: *Walter H. Cole* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 3-28-78