

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name LOUDEN, WILLIAM AND MARY JANE, HOUSE
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 501 West Washington Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Fairfield N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Jefferson code 101 zip code 52556

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally statewide locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Laura C. [Signature] 05/10/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property (meets does not meet) the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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)

[Signature] 2/22/99
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

William and Mary Jane Louden House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/
Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Metal

roof Asphalt

other Glass
Metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

William and Mary Jane Louden House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1897-1931

Significant Dates

1897

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Louden, William

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ward, C. E.

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository _____

William and Mary Jane Loudon House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 5 8 6 6 8 0 | 4 5 3 9 7 2 0 |
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

2 | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

3 | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth, Project Associate
organization Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission date January 15, 1998
street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740 (Page)
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313-5017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs - Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items - (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Frank A. and Margaret Wintroub
street & number 1000 East Burlington Avenue telephone 515-472-1939
city or town Fairfield state Iowa zip code 52556

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Constructed and first occupied in 1897, this is a 2-1/2 story, frame, single-family dwelling. It features a steeply-pitched, hipped roof with intersecting gables and dormer windows, and a wrap-around porch. The property is situated on a corner city lot. Although the house presently is clad with cover-up siding and the porch enclosed, the overall condition of the building remains good. A barn once stood at the rear of the property but is now nonextant.

HOUSE

Roughly speaking, the footprint of this house consists of a rectangle, which measures approximately 28' x 57' (width by depth). The building rests on a limestone and brick foundation. A 1-story, wrap-around porch is situated on the south and east elevations of the building. It contains an area of about 500 square feet. This porch is covered with a low-pitched shed roof. The porch features a pedimented entrance on the south elevation, a semi-circular feature at the southeast corner, and a pedimented entrance on the east elevation. These elements contribute to the double facade configuration of the building. This house also features a series of smaller, 1-story porches. One is located at the northeast corner of the building. A second is located near the northwest corner of the building. A third is located near of center of the building's west elevation.

The roof of this building is a dominant architectural element of the house. The house is covered with a steeply pitched, flared, hipped roof. Two lower gables intersect this main roof--one on the east and one on the west elevation. A dormer window on the facade also intersects the main roof. The lower gables and the dormer window feature corner returns and a flared configuration. The eaves of the main roof and those of the gables and dormer are wide. All of these architectural features draw the viewer's attention to the roof, whose visual weight integrates the building's irregular massing.

The house features numerous architectural details, including a classically-inspired oval window in the dormer window, a pedimented entryway with corner returns on the south elevation of the wrap-around porch, and a pedimented entryway with corner returns on the east elevation of the wrap-around porch.

In the interior, the first floor and second floors each contains a total area of approximately 1,516 square feet. The first and second floors feature softwood floors. The walls are plaster-finished. A full attic is situated between the roof and the second floor. The basement, which is also full, features a concrete floor and unfinished walls.

Although the house has been converted into a four-unit multiple-family dwelling, the integrity of its original exterior fabric remains good.

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Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

SITE

This house is situated on Lot 7 and Lot 8 in Block 2 of Grimes Addition to Fairfield, Iowa. These parcels of land are located on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Washington Avenue and 5th Street. The house stands on the west side of South 5th Street and faces both south and east. The use of two lots as the site of this house adds dignity to its appearance. This visual impression is strengthened by the fact that the site also occupies the corner of an intersection. A concrete driveway forms a loop at the rear of the property. It appears to date from the 1920s.

This property is pictured on a 1927 Sanborn fire insurance map. (See Continuation Sheet 7-4.) This map shows a 2-story automobile garage with 1-story wing situated in the northwest corner of the property. This building is nonextant. The map also documents how the property embraces the entire southeast quarter of Block 2 in Grimes' Addition to the City of Fairfield.

The immediate surroundings of the Louden House are generally level in topography. Although a church building is situated across the street from the house, the overall feeling of the immediate area is residential. Most of the dwellings in the neighborhood date from the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries. West Burlington Avenue, which is an east-west artery in Fairfield and serves as the route of U.S. Highway 34 through the community, is located one block to the north.

This house is located within walking distance of the Louden Machinery Company. (See Continuation Sheet 7-4.) The site of that office and factory at 607-609 West Broadway Avenue is about two blocks to the north. This house is also located near the R. Bruce and May W. Louden House (William and Mary Jane's son and daughter-in-law) at 501 West Adams Avenue, one block to the south.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

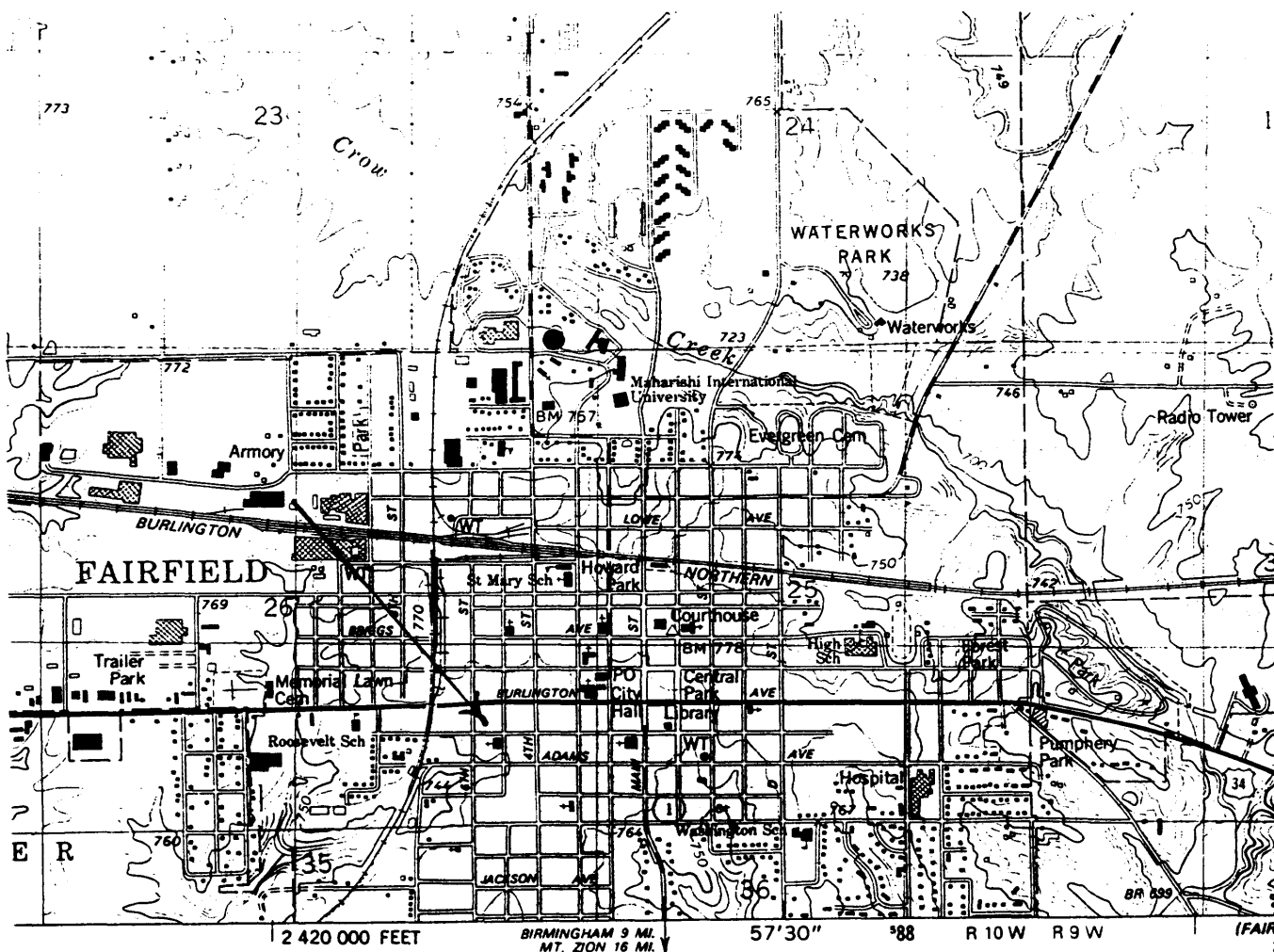
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William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Fairfield North Quadrangle, 1980.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

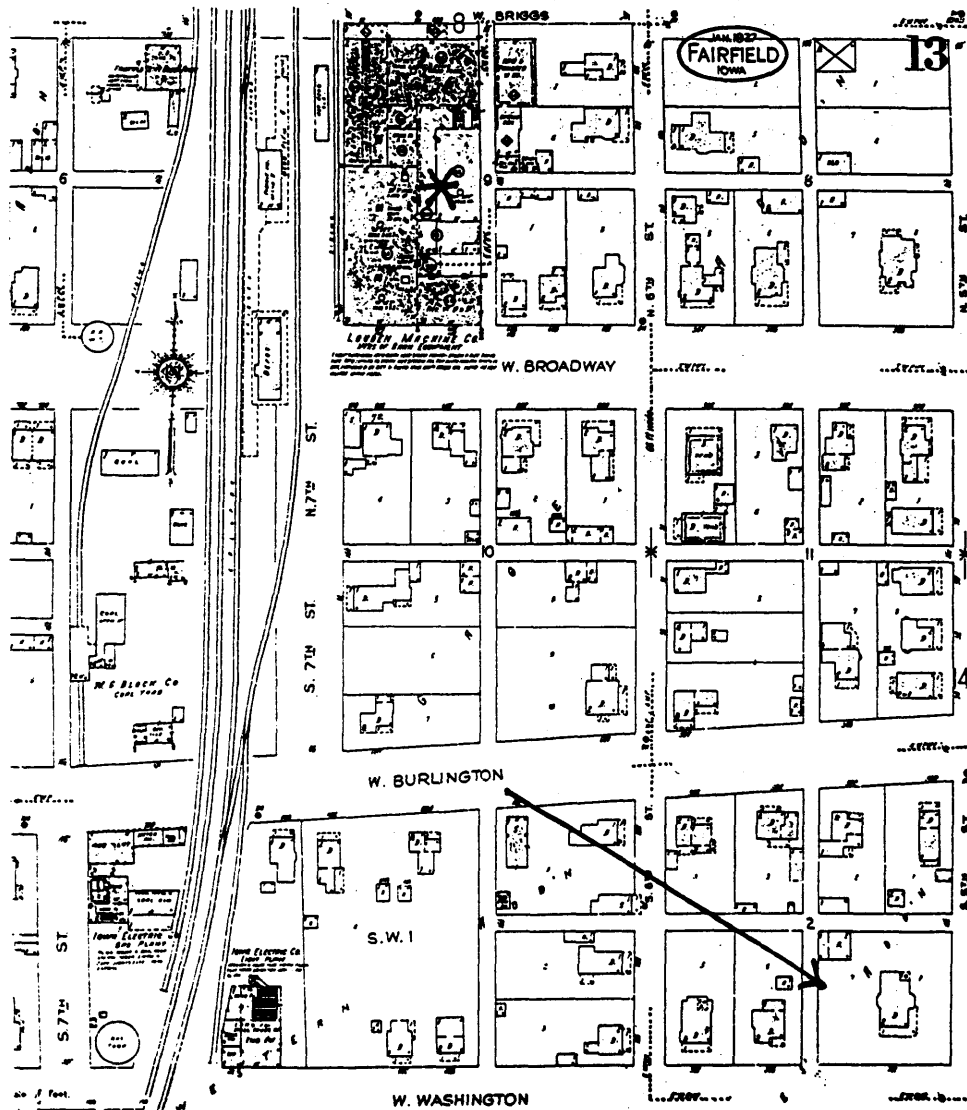
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William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

1927 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY. ASTERISK LOCATES LOUDEN MACHINERY COMPANY.



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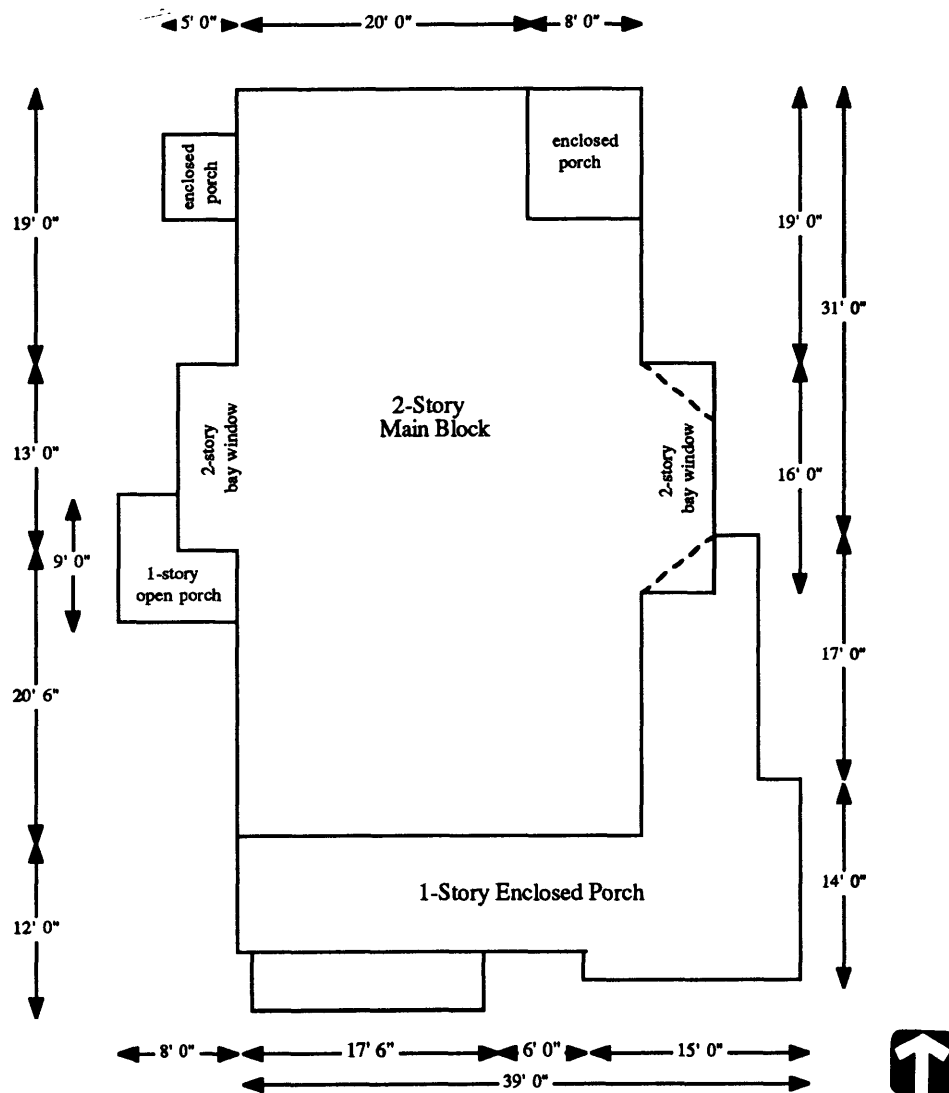
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

HOUSE SKETCH PLAN



Source: Jefferson County Assessor Office measurements and William C. Page.

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CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

WILLIAM AND MARY JANE LOUDEN HOUSE

LOOKING NORTHWEST CIRCA 1900



Pictured (left to right): Arthur Louden, Agnes Louden, William L. Fry [seated], William Louden, Mary Jane Louden, unidentified. This posed photograph portrays the Victorian ideal of the family. Men are working--Arthur edging the lawn and William mowing grass--and the women are engaged in genteel pursuits--Agnes playing croquet and Mary Jane holding a book. "William never mowed a lawn in his life," according to his great nephew Thomas A. Louden.

Source: Courtesy of Thomas A. Louden, Fairfield, Iowa.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Loudon House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Begun in 1896 and completed in 1897 as a single-family dwelling, the William and Mary Jane Loudon House is historically significant, under National Register Criterion B, because it calls attention to William Loudon and his career as the inventive genius behind, and co-founder of, the Loudon Machinery Company. His service to the firm propelled it into national prominence. (See cover document.)

The period of significance, under Criterion B, for the William and Mary Jane Loudon House is 1897 through 1931. This period reflects the time in which William lived in this house.

The property contains one resource for this nomination--the house.

INDUSTRY

The William and Mary Jane Loudon House is historically significant because it calls attention to William Loudon (1841-1931) and his prominent role in the Loudon Machinery Company. William Loudon was the genius whose inventiveness formed the core of the firm's product lines. He owned fifty-one percent of the company's stock and remained its president until his death in 1931. This building remained the home of Mr. and Mrs. Loudon from its completion in 1897 until the death of Mrs. Loudon in 1938. During this long period of time, the house became a primary social center for the large Loudon family, many of whom participated in the company's business. As such, the house calls attention to the Loudon family as a clan, an important aspect of the Loudon Machinery Company's business history.

The William and Mary Loudon House is also historically significant because of its siting. Situated only several blocks south of the Loudon Machinery Company factory, this location calls attention to a common pattern among Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century industrialists in America--the owner living near his factory. Such proximity facilitated monitoring the security of business property and provided convenient access to it. William Loudon's personal habits document his want for convenient access. He never learned to drive an automobile and preferred to walk where ever and when ever possible. A descendent recently related: "I can remember as a kid--William walking to work. He walked everywhere. He carried a cane, and you could hear him coming. Everyone knew when he was coming into the office." (Thomas A. Loudon personal communication)

Both William Loudon and R. B. Loudon, his brother, undertook house construction at about the same time. R. B. Loudon substantially remodeled the Elliott House at 107 West Washington Avenue in Fairfield circa 1897. Both dwellings are architecturally impressive, convey financial capability, and may have been motivated, in part, by the brothers' desire to make a positive statement about their worth. They lived in these houses the rest of their lives. (See R. R. and Lizzie L. Loudon House nomination in this MPS.)

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CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND

The William and Mary Jane Louden House features a Louden ventilation system, designed to cool the building during hot weather. A Louden patent ventilator is situated on the west slope of the roof near its peak. Other inventive devices designed to facilitate domestic efficiency may also remain within the building.

The William and Mary Jane Louden House shows some influence of the Free Classic mode of the Queen Anne taste on its design, as defined by Virginia and Lee McAlester. These characteristics include the classically-inspired details such as the oval window in the dormer, the pedimented entryways with corner returns of the wrap-around porch, and the 2-story bay windows on the east and west elevations. A study of this house and the R. Bruce and May W. Louden House at 501 West Adams Street shows a transition from the Free Classic styling to that of the closely related Colonial Revival taste. Constructed about five years later, Bruce and May's house is more tightly massed. The projecting bay windows of William and Mary Jane's house, for example, are absent. Bruce and May's house also strives for more symmetry in its design. For example, its pedimented entryway on the wrap-around porch is more centrally located than that of William and Mary Jane's. The roof of Bruce and May's house provides another example of this building's attention to symmetry. There is no effort to introduce intersecting gables and the dormer windows are centrally placed. Compare this simple hipped roof design with that of William and Mary Jane's.

The William and Mary Jane Louden House was constructed by C. E. Ward. According to a contemporary newspaper announcement:

Wm Louden is erecting a two story frame residence 38x53 on W Washington St. It will be a house of nine rooms, and will have all modern conveniences. C E Ward is the contractor. (*Fairfield Ledger* 1896:3)

It should be noted that one source dates the construction of the William and Mary Jane Louden House much earlier. Writing in 1933, local antiquarian Oscar Herring recorded that:

WM. LOUDEN ESTATE

501 West Washington. Built by Mr. Louden in 1881, and his residence until the end this year [1932]. He was one of the most prominent men in the city in his later years.
(Herring)

Although Herring's information is generally reliable, the building could not have been constructed in 1881 on stylistic grounds. The newspaper report, cited above, provides definitive proof of an error in this instance.

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CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Loudon House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

This building was surveyed on Iowa Site Inventory Form #51-012-254 in 1981 as part of an architectural survey of Fairfield, Iowa, by the Area XV Regional Planning Commission. That survey evaluated this resource lacking sufficient architectural significance for National Register eligibility. (Area XV Architectural Survey) These survey evaluations were made largely on stylistic grounds.

This house was also surveyed in 1996 as part of the "Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa" hybrid reconnaissance and intensive surveys of that historic context within Jefferson County, Iowa. As one resource within that survey, this house was evaluated as individually eligible, under Criteria A and C, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State Historical Society of Iowa was informed of this determination through the survey report and an Iowa Site Inventory Form.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

As an inventive genius, William Loudon might have equipped his house with practical gadgets to simplify domestic work. The presence of such gadgets might be discovered upon further survey of the building's interior.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for historic archaeology is, as yet, unevaluated, the site identification of other ancillary structures associated with this property is limited. Evidences of the barn, which stood at the rear of the property, might be uncovered.

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CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Louden House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to Section I of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for complete bibliography.

PRIMARY

Herring, Oscar; *The Homes of Fairfield: An Account of Builders as Well as their Owners and Occupants, Past and Present*; *Fairfield Daily Ledger*; January 13, 1933.

Fairfield Ledger, December 2, 1896, announces construction of the William and Mary Jane Louden House on page 3 column 1.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fairfield, Iowa.
1885, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1913, and 1927.

SECONDARY

Area XV Regional Planning Commission; Architectural Survey of Fairfield, Iowa; 1981.
Report on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

Jefferson County Assessor's Office, Assessor's Property Record Card.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee; *A Field Guide to American Houses*; New York: Alfred A. Knopf; 1984.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *The Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa*; Intensive cultural resources report prepared for and on file at the Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1996.

ORAL HISTORY

Louden, Thomas A.; Oral informant interview with William C. Page, April 12, 1996.

McCoid, Roberta Loudon; Oral informant interview with William C. Page, January 22, 1998. Loudon is the daughter of R. B. and Lizzie L. Loudon.

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Section number 10 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Loudon House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 7 and 8 in Block 2 of Grimes Addition to the City of Fairfield, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Contains all land associated historically with the resource.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CFN-259-1116

William and Mary Jane Loudon House, Jefferson County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. William and Mary Jane Loudon House
501 West Washington Avenue
Fairfield, IA 52556
Looking northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 15, 1997

2. William and Mary Jane Loudon House
501 West Washington Avenue
Fairfield, IA 52556
Looking southeast
(Note Loudon aerator on ridge of roof.)
William C. Page, Photographer
November 15, 1997