

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SEP - 6 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
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" in the appropriate box 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 Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House  
other names/site number Cannon-Gay House, McCloskey House

#### 2. Location

street & number 320 Melrose Avenue  not for publication  
city or town Iowa City  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Johnson code 103 zip code 52246

#### 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.)

[Signature] 8/25/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State of 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] Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 10/7/94 Date of Action  
Edson B. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "NA" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House  
Name of Property

Johnson, Iowa  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" in all the boxes 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)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1884

**Significant Dates**

1884

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical 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):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House  
Name of Property

Johnson, 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 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Patricia Eckhardt, Architectural Historian

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 24, 1993

street & number 514 N. Linn Street telephone (319) 338-3386

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52245

**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 Don & Joanne McCloskey

street & number 320 Melrose Ave. telephone (319) 338-1661

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52246

**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.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7. Page 1.

Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House  
Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa

RECEIVED MB Approval No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
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## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House (Cannon House), is a two story brick dwelling on a stone foundation with intersecting gable roofs. It was built in the Late Victorian/Italianate style. While complex in shape, it might be classified generally as "L" shaped with a front block and projecting back wing. The south-facing facade has three vertical sections each one stepping back from the section to its left. A bracketed wooden porch extends across the lower story of the central and right facades. The windows are arched with decorative masonry keystones and voussoirs, and most of them are double (two arched windows side by side). There is a decorative wooden cornice with double brackets beneath the moderately projecting roof. The house sits back on its lot and close to the West boundary, allowing a generous lawn to separate it from busy Melrose Street. A fence runs along the west edge of the property and around the rear garden, giving privacy to the house from Grand Avenue Court. A porch is attached to the rear of the house overlooking the small garden enclosed by a fence. The Cannon house sits in a neighborhood hard pressed by the ever-expanding University of Iowa which has purchased and removed many of the houses in its vicinity. Nevertheless the Cannon house is a peaceful oasis at the edge of the campus. It is in excellent condition, and with the exception of minor additions to the rear wing has had very little alteration since its construction.

### DESCRIPTION

#### *Setting*

The Cannon house is a single family dwelling located on the west side of Iowa City and just south of the University of Iowa Campus. Maps on pages 11, 12, 13, and 14 show the Cannon House and its neighborhood today and at three other periods. Its setting has changed over the years, but its function has not. The house fronts on Melrose Avenue between Grande Avenue Court and Byington Rd., one of only two structures between these two closely spaced streets. Just down Melrose to the east is the new Law Building of the University of Iowa. The setting for the Cannon house itself is quite pleasant in spite of its location next to the university. The house is set back on the lot with some seclusion afforded by a broad lawn, trees and shrubs. The west side rear yards are protected by a fence which runs along Grand Avenue Court, giving privacy to the terrace on the west side. An additional fence extends along the right side of the front yard, separating it from the driveway, and the house next door.

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Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa

Cornfields once surrounded the Cannon house. Now streets enclose it, buildings and a parking lot surround it, and large university buildings loom nearby. But there remains in the neighborhood other sizable houses, some of historic importance. The Pratt house at 503 Melrose was constructed in 1884, the same year as the Cannon House and is in the same Italianate style. The Billingsley-Hills house (on the National Register), is another dwelling of note in the neighborhood.

*Exterior*

The Cannon House is a two-story brick structure on a stone foundation with wooden details: windows, porch, cornices, and brackets. Interior structural members are also of wood. The roof is composed of intersecting, low-rise gables with a modern composition shingle covering. There is a string course above the foundation, but no other moldings or string courses decorate its brick surface. All ornamentation is found in the window and porch details and the bracketed cornice. The house is configured generally in the shape of an "L" with a main block and a back wing.

The **main block**: This block comprises the major portion of the original house and remains the least changed. It also possesses the majority of the architectural detail of the house. It is composed of three parts: A broad block with a gable to the front and the back, a narrower horizontal wing extending to the east with a east-facing gable, and a small projection or bay covered by a hipped roof where the two wings join which contains the main entrance.

The front facade (facing south) reveals these three sections, the block on the left, the entrance bay in the middle, and the wing to the right. The windows on both floors of the front facade are tall, arched, double windows with two lights and simple stone lintels. Each window is topped with an in-plane brick arch with a stone keystone and stone voussoirs at the springing of the arch. On the upper story the arches of the windows project into the wide wooden cornice beneath the roof overhang. This facade is graced with double brackets under the eaves and an oculus window with radiating keystones in the gable. A one-story porch constructed of wood on stone foundation piers extends across the center and right side of the facade covering the entrance bay and the horizontal wing. Porch supports consist of square posts set on square wooden piers topped with delicately curved brackets. The front plane of this porch is about two feet behind the plane of the left block of the facade. The front door is original.

Other facades: The east facade is similar in detail to that on the south. The gable end has a projecting one-half octagon bay window with a bracketed roof on the first floor. The second floor of the gable end has a pair of arched windows, and above them, in the peak of the gable, an oculus

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Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House  
Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa

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window with keystones. Decorative details diminish in general as one moves toward the back of the house. The west facade has single arched windows on both floors, but the details are similar to the double windows of the south and east facades. There is a bay window similar to that on the south facade toward the rear of the facade. The north facade of the main block has a gable, an oculus, and single arched windows, but no brackets, no keystones, and no voussoirs. There is an entrance here into the living room.

The **back wing**: A two-story wing projects northward from the front block. It is the width of the central entrance bay and the horizontal wing. This wing has been added to over the years. The east facade of the wing extends from the plane of the east facade of the main block, but then projects forward to accommodate the garage. North of the main block it is faced with clapboard. The portion of this facade between the main brick block and the garage has a kitchen entrance. This area encloses a former side porch. The upper floor has short arched windows. The west facade of the wing has brick siding and the lower portion of the wall was probably original with the upper story added. There is an entrance and tall arched windows on the first floor, and smaller arched windows on the second floor. The north facade of the wing is part brick and part clapboard. The different wall treatments reveal many changes made in this part of the house over the years. These will be discussed in the Significance section.

### *Interior*

The interior in the front block is probably as originally built and consists of a central entrance and stair hall with one large room off each side of the hall. Sketch plans for both floors are on page 10. The hall itself is entered through an arched, double door. The stair, which ascends up the west wall of the hall, has its original decorative baluster and rail. To the left is the large living room. This room comprises the entire west block of the front section. All moldings and millwork appear to be original and all of one style. Any division of the room would be impossible because of the location of the fireplace in the center of the east wall between the doors. The fireplace moldings look original and match those in the rest of the room. To the east of the hall is the large dining room. This room comprises the entire east wing of the main block. This room is probably the size and shape originally constructed, but it was remodeled in 1920. Tall wainscoting and exposed ceiling beams were added in a "Dutch Colonial" style. At the back of the hall one enters the modern and enlarged kitchen and other service rooms. Upstairs, the bedrooms in the front block appear to have retained their original configuration; changes have been made in the back wing to accommodate studies and other specialized rooms.

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Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa

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## *Condition*

The Cannon House is in excellent condition, and has served its owners well. They, in turn, have lovingly kept it in good repair and have adapted it to suit their needs. A major remodeling took place about 1920. Either then or sometime before 1947 the exterior was painted white, and between 1947 and 1963 it was returned to natural brick with sand blasting. However, the brick appears strong. Additions match the original design details for the most part. For example, all windows in the newer parts of the north wing have arched windows to match those on the original portion. The changes over the years, as they can be discerned, will be detailed in the significance section.

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Cannon House has long been recognized by local historians as a significant example of 19th century residential architecture. Built in 1884, this finely detailed brick house illustrates the success of its owner well, Wilber D. Cannon, a member of one of Johnson County's earliest families. The house illustrates the Victorian interest in asymmetry, complexity and ornamental detail which permeated architecture of the period no matter what its style and as such meets criteria C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The house has many of the characteristics of the Italianate Style as it was built throughout America during the 1870s and 1880s. In addition it is related to other Italianate style residences in the Iowa City area built during the same period. The house was constructed in an area on the west bank of the Iowa River originally called West Lucas. This residential area became part of Iowa City by 1917 and became the area into which the University of Iowa expanded beginning in the 1920s.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Introduction: Recognition*

The Cannon house has been noted often in the past as one of Iowa City's important historic houses. It was first illustrated and discussed in a MA thesis by Edwin Charles Ellis in 1947 (Ill. 1.).<sup>1</sup> Margaret

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<sup>1</sup>Edwin Charles Ellis, "Certain Stylistic Trends in Architecture in Iowa City., MA Thesis, University of Iowa, Iowa City, June 1947, pp. 242, 268.

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Keyes featured it in her book, Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City (Ill. 2.).<sup>2</sup> Irving Weber wrote extensively about the house and its residents in October, 1984.<sup>3</sup> Most recently the house served as one of the historic houses used as dinner locations for the Iowa City Public Library Centennial Fund Drive.<sup>4</sup> It is remembered in stories about the house and its residents as well, although not all of the stories can be substantiated or chronologically identified. For example, one story relates that the house was painted purple.<sup>5</sup> This seems to have been true as remains of purple paint can be found in cracks and cervices, but it is not known what parts of the house were purple and when. Weber tells additional stories about the house and the families who lived in it.

*Historic Context*

The neighborhood above the bluffs west of the Iowa River in which the Cannon House is located has been identified as an historic neighborhood which fits into the "Country Neighborhoods" context developed in the "Iowa City Historic Preservation Plan of 1992. The Cannon House is mentioned as significant along with two other houses in the neighborhood. The Pratt house, just down the street at 503 Melrose, built in 1884, shares some details with the Cannon House. For example, the upper story and gable peak of the side gable is almost identical with the east and south gables of the Cannon house. The A. W. Pratt House and the Billingsley House, another Italianate-styled house in the neighborhood, are both on the National Register.<sup>6</sup> Country Neighborhoods like that along Melrose Avenue were originally characterized by farmsteads and country estates located at the perimeter or within a mile or two of the down town. As the town spread and absorbed these large parcels many substantial residences like the Cannon House were retained as city dwellings. A number of houses in the Italianate style were constructed in the Iowa City area during the 1870s and 1880s. This was a prosperous time in Iowa, and residents built houses in then "up-to-date" styles as they became more successful.

<sup>2</sup>Margaret N. Keyes, Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City, (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1966), pp. 77-78.

<sup>3</sup>Irving Weber, Irving Weber's Iowa City, Vol. 3. (Iowa City, Iowa: Iowa City Lions Club, 1985), pp. 173-176.

<sup>4</sup>"The Kickoff of the Iowa City Public Library Foundation Centennial Endowment Fund Drive, Saturday, April, 12, 1986." Program booklet--featuring historic houses in Iowa City as settings for dinners with literary themes, p. 20.

<sup>5</sup>Interview: Don and Joanne McCloskey with Patricia Eckhardt, Summer 1993.

<sup>6</sup>"Iowa City Historic Preservation Plan," Appendix Q: Multiple Property Documentation Form: Historic Resources of Iowa City, Iowa, p. Q-25.

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Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa*Building Style*

The Cannon House is an excellent example of a single family dwelling in the Italianate style. It exhibits the characteristics of this style in abundance. It falls into the category labeled "asymmetrical" and exhibits characteristics attributed to houses of this type illustrated in McAlester's Field Guide to American Houses.<sup>7</sup> Especially noteworthy are the typically Italianate window and door treatments, and the heavy cornice with double brackets. The use of the format called "gable-front-and-wing" is not unique to the Cannon house. Two houses published in McAlester have marked similarities. The Crim House in Clintonville, Kentucky, 1881, and a house in Salisbury, North Carolina exhibit similar plan and details (page 18, Nos. 1. & 2.).<sup>8</sup> Note the similarity of the Cannon House with two more houses published in McAlester, a house in South Stockton, New York and one in Lexington Kentucky (page 18, Nos. 3. & 4.).<sup>9</sup> Other evidence of economy appears in the decision of the builder to use more expensive ornaments like the brackets on the cornice only on the facades where they can be seen easily by visitors. Back facades have little if any ornamentation. In spite of the economies there is still room for whimsy. The intrusion of the double arched windows into the cornice of the major facades make the house look like it is raising its eyebrows at the viewer.

*Interior*

The plan of the interior of the front block is simple. It consists of only three rooms, a hall, a living room and a dining room. A bath was inserted in the back portion of the hall. This simple plan could descend from the simple plans devised by A. J. Davis for his cottages and farm houses. These types of houses were to be less embellished and to have more simple plans and fewer rooms than "country villas" for the upper classes, according to Davis. The generous entry hall runs from the front to the back of the front block. Stairs lead up along the west wall of the hall. The door, banister and all other woodwork are original. The long living room is on the west. One usually thinks of Victorian houses as having many small rooms and two parlors, but here the living room extends the entire length of the gabled block. It is possible that this room was once two rooms, but evidence points to its always being one room. There are no marks on the wall, floor or ceiling where a dividing wall might have been. Furthermore, the placement of the fireplace in the middle of the east wall would prohibit the placement of a wall there, and the moldings appear to match others in the room. The generous sized dining room occupies the entire east wing, balancing the composition. Its proportions are less

<sup>7</sup>Virginia and Lee McAlester, Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990), pp. 212-215.

<sup>8</sup>McAlester, p. 223, IIs. 2. & 3.

<sup>9</sup>McAlester, p. 224, IIs. 1. & 4.

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elongated than those of the living room. The millwork here has been changed from the original. The "Dutch Colonial" woodwork is said to have been added in 1920. The cypress woodwork was brought by rail to Iowa City from Florida. The tall wainscoting and heavy ceiling beams are stained dark and distressed with long grooves.

### *Building History*

There are no photographs of the house as it was originally constructed or architects drawings for the Cannon House. It is possible that the house plan was featured in a pattern book or was drawn up by an Iowa City architect. It is a complex design, not one designed by an amateur, although personal choice of the owner probably played a part.

**1884** - The original house probably consisted of the front block with a one story kitchen in the back with a porch facing east. Major changes to the house have all occurred in the back wing. There are three small, dark photographs of the house each of which provides evidence of changes.<sup>10</sup> The first (page 15, No. 1.) gives a view of the back wing looking toward the southwest. This photo shows the back wing as originally constructed. Although the roof seems high, it is a not two-story wing, and the roof line is not as high or the same profile of the rear of the wing today. The porch is clearly evident as well. The house appears fairly dark in color, but it impossible to say if it is natural brick or painted. This photo has the date 1918 written on the back. A second photo (page 15, No. 2.), also dated 1918 shows the front. The porch is enclosed with screening. In this photo the body of the house looks quite light in color. These two photos suggest that the house might have been painted, but that a second story over the kitchen has not yet been added.

**1920, Remodeling** - There is oral information which indicates that the house was remodeled in 1900 and/or 1920, and that a second floor was added over the kitchen.<sup>11</sup> There is photographic evidence reveals that the house was painted and a garage added to the back of the rear wing. A third undated photograph shows the house from the front. Only a glimpse of the back wing appears, but the garage is in place.<sup>12</sup> Just when all of this happened is hard to determine, but 1920 is a probable date for most of these changes. The 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the earliest map of this part of Iowa City, shows the house with a garage added (Ill. 9.). The "Dutch Colonial" dining room is thought to have been added at this time.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Photos in McCloskey House Files.

<sup>11</sup>Cannon-Gay House, Iowa Site Inventory form, McCloskey House File.

<sup>12</sup>Photograph in McCloskey House File.

<sup>13</sup>Conversations: Don and Joanne McCloskey with Patricia Eckhardt, Summer, 1993.

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**Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa**

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**1947** - The first published photograph known of the house is the illustration in the Ellis thesis (see page 8/16 following).<sup>14</sup> This shows the house painted white and the porch screened in. The roof is covered with is standing-seam tin.

**1966** - The next published photograph is in Keyes (page 17.).<sup>15</sup> The house is now without its screening on the porch and appears to be without its white paint. This implies that sometime between 1947 and 1966 the paint was removed probably by sand-blasting from the look of the brick.

**1976-1980** - Weber reports that Pam Ballard made extensive repairs and renovations to the interior and the porch.<sup>16</sup>

**1984** - Weber shows the house in 1984.<sup>17</sup> In that year the McCloskeys expanded the upper story of the back wing over the garage.

**1993** - A small screen porch was added to the rear (north) of the back of the wing.

### *W. D. Cannon and Subsequent Owners*

The Cannon Family was among Johnson County's earliest settlers. They are thought to have settled as early as 1838 in the Solon Area. Descendants continue to live in the area. Wilber D. Cannon, also known as W. D. Cannon (Sr.), born in 1840, is reported to be the first white man born in Johnson County<sup>18</sup>. The W. D. and Hattie Cannon attended the Old Settlers' Reunions faithfully 1855-1910.

### **List of Owners of 320 Melrose St., Iowa City, Iowa**

United States to Pleasant Arthur	1843-1845
LeGrand Byington	1845-1855
Charles Byington	1855-1862
Charles McCollister	1862-1883

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<sup>14</sup>Ellis, p. 268, Fig. 136.

<sup>15</sup>Keyes, p. 77.

<sup>16</sup>Weber, p. 174.

<sup>17</sup>Weber, p. 176.

<sup>18</sup>"Reports of Annual Reunions of the Old Settlers of Johnson County, 1866-1897." Old Settlers' Association Yearbooks, 1866-1925, Johnson County Iowa, p. 115.

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**HOUSE CONSTRUCTED 1884**

Wilber Dwight Cannon and Hattie Cannon	1883-1915	31 yrs.
Hattie Cannon	1915-1918	3 yrs.
Lee Koser	1918-1922	4 yrs.
Fred and Anna Fellman	1922-1928	6 yrs.
Leigh Wallace and Frances Wallace	1928-1945	17 yrs.
Virginia Wallace Warfel	1945-1955	10 yrs.
Charles and Dorothy Gay	1955-1970	15 yrs.
Constance Merker	1970-1976	6 yrs.
Pam Ballard	1976-1980	4 yrs.
Don and Joanne McCloskey	1980-	13 +

*West Lucas Township*

The history of the Cannon property is one repeated throughout the nation. It reveals the pattern of development of homesteaded land near developing towns. As the town expanded, the original property was divided and redivided into lots for development. The earliest atlases of Johnson County show the Iowa City area divided into two townships, East and West Lucas, divided by the Iowa River. The Cannon House, 320 Melrose street is located in what was West Lucas Township. Melrose was then called Snooks Grove Road. Two years after it was initially homesteaded by Pleasant Arthur, the land went to LeGrand Byington. Grand Avenue is named after him. Most of the area was probably farmland before being subdivided by LeGrand and Charles Byington.

The neighborhood of houses which grew up in this area was referred to as simply West Lucas. This beautiful neighborhood was directly across the river from the University of Iowa and the downtown of Iowa City, and it was land the University wanted for expansion. Beginning in the 1920 this area west of the Iowa River became the site of the Medical School of the University of Iowa with University Hospital and the Medical Laboratory being completed in 1928. The University of Iowa owns most of the originally Byington Tract today. It is filled with dormitories, hospitals and the field house. A number of houses still remain, many in private hands although some of the ones adjacent to campus are owned by the University of Iowa. They are held in reserve for future expansion.. All of the houses at the end of Melrose avenue, east of Byington Road were razed to build the Law College. The Cannon house and the other historic houses which remain in this neighborhood are part of our heritage and deserve to be cherished and preserved.

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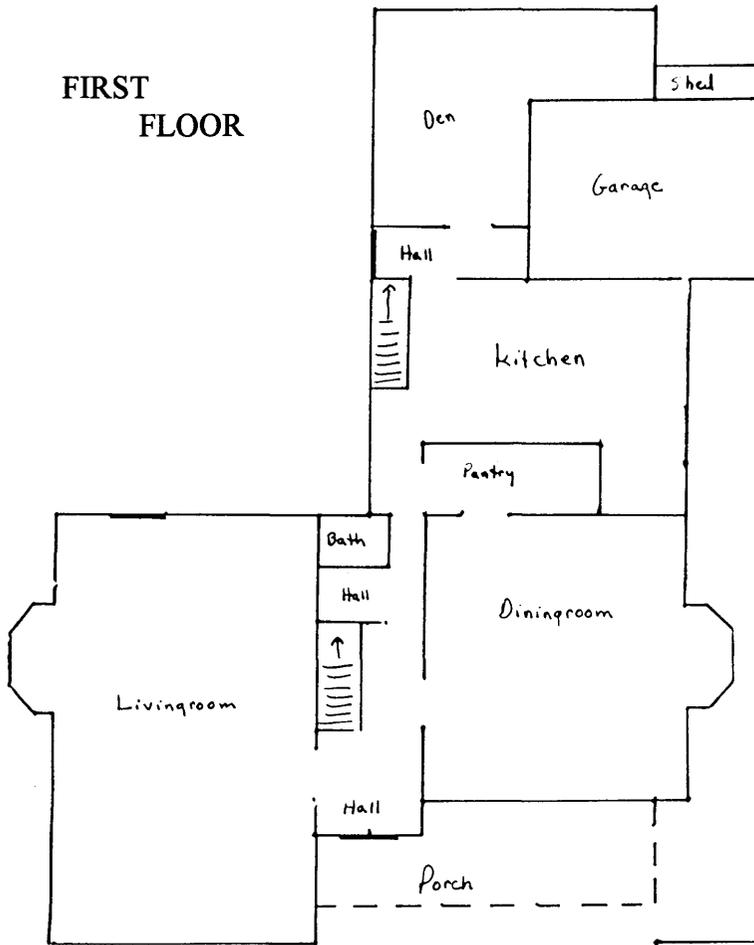
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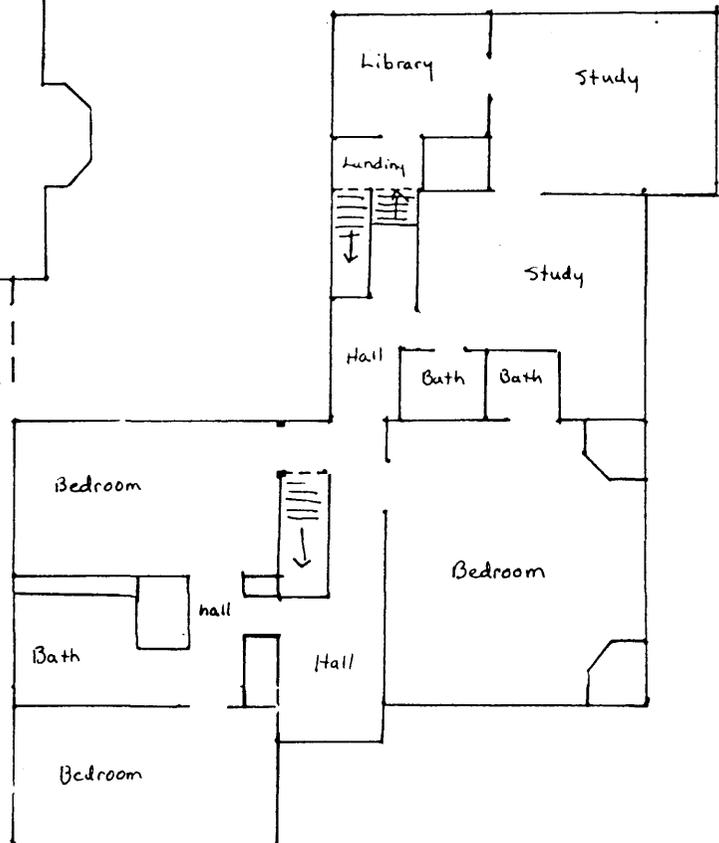
Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House  
Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa

## SKETCH FLOOR PLANS

FIRST  
FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



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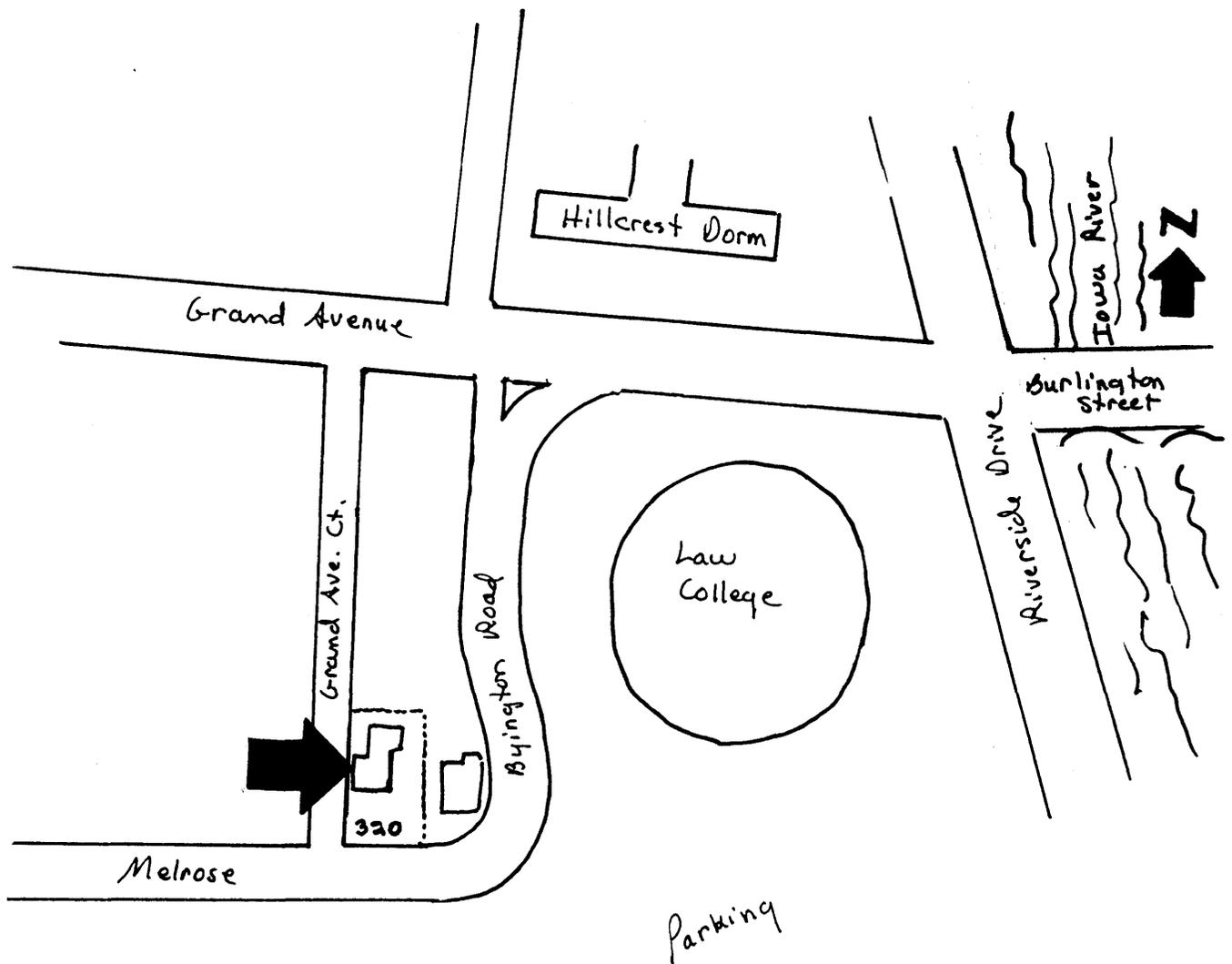
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Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House  
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## SKETCH MAP

Location of Cannon Property at 320 Melrose Avenue Today.



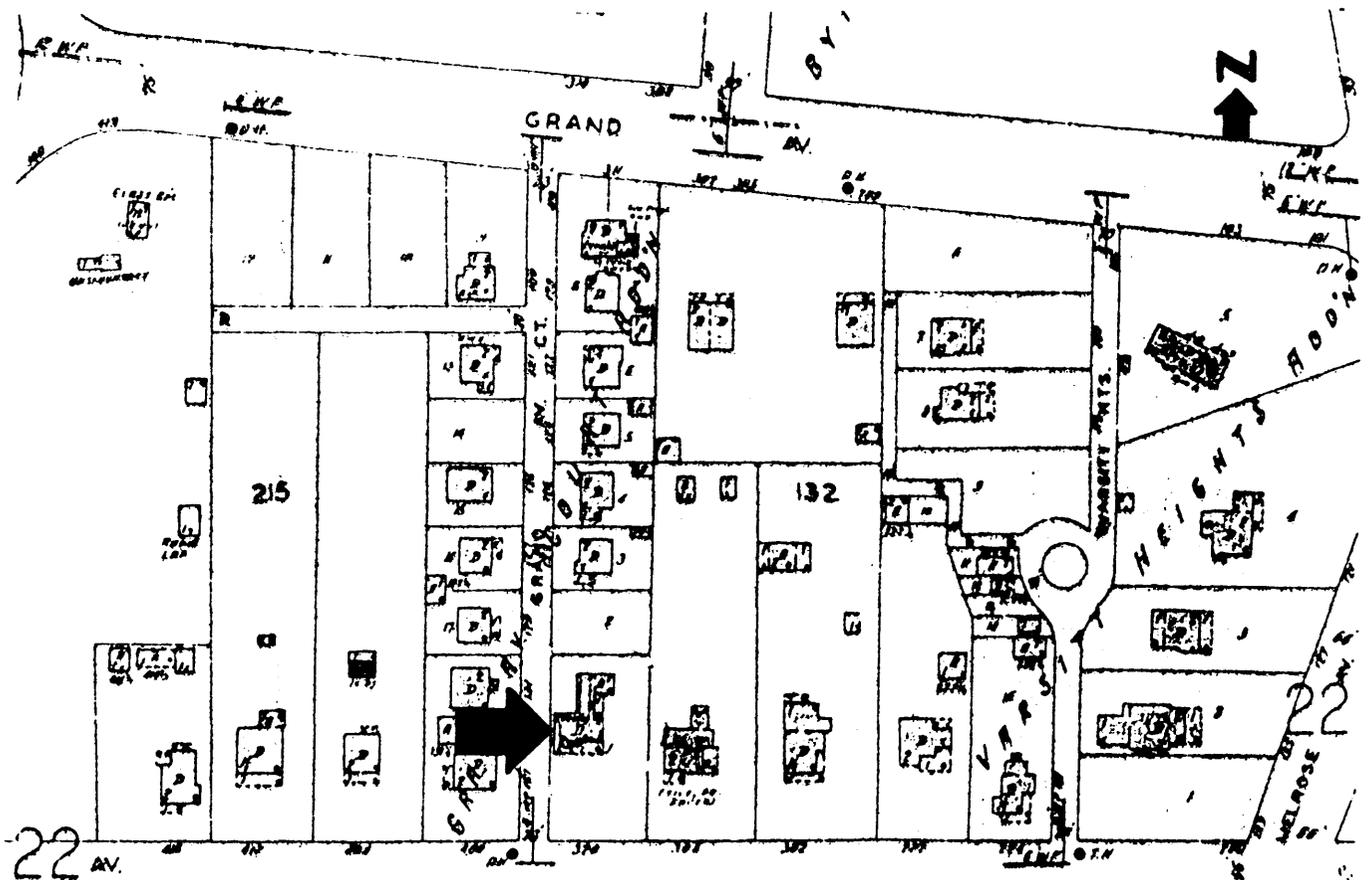
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MAP: Cannon Property, 1920  
Iowa City: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920, detail.





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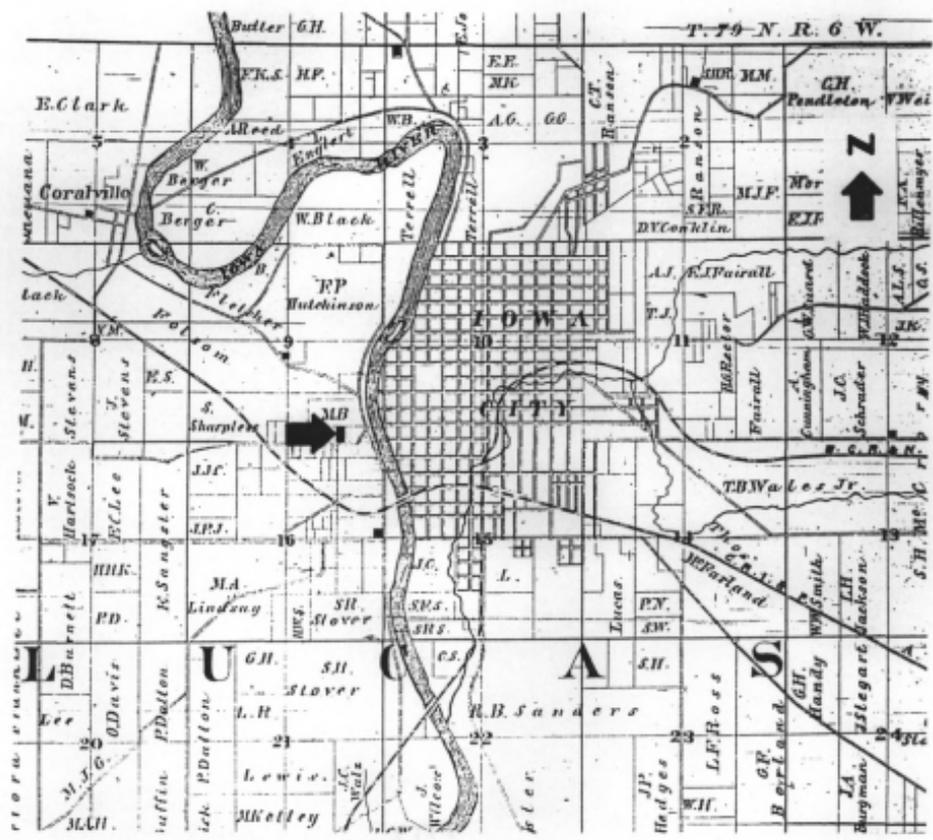
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Cannon, Wilber D. & Hattie House

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Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa

MAP: Cannon Property, 1889  
Iowa City. Novack's New Map of Johnson County, 1889, detail.



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Cannon House in 1918  
Two historic photographs from the McCloskey House File



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Cannon House in 1947  
from Ellis, Fig. 136, Page 268.



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Cannon House in 1966  
from Keyes, Ill. 55, Page 77.



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## STYLISTIC COMPARISONS



No 1., from McAlester, #2, p. 223



No. 2. from McAlester, #3, p. 223



No. 3. from McAlester #1, p. 224.



No. 4. from McAlester #4, p. 224

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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The Kickoff of the Iowa City Public Library Foundation Centennial Endowment Fund Drive, Saturday, April, 12, 1986." Program booklet--featuring historic houses in Iowa City as settings for dinners with literary themes.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1990.

McCloskey House File. This file contains correspondence with previous owners, old photographs, newspaper clippings, etc. In the possession of Don and Joanne McCloskey, 320 Melrose, Iowa City, Iowa 52246.

Novack's New Map of Johnson County. 1889.

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Weber, Irving. Irving Weber's Iowa City, Vol. 3. Iowa City, Iowa: Iowa City Lions Club, 1985.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot one and the south 20 feet of lot two (2) Grand Avenue Court Addition to Iowa City, Iowa according to the recorded plat thereof.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of the house and the property attached to it in 1915 when the large parcel of Cannon property was subdivided after Wilber Cannon's death.