

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 7 1986  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

NOV 6 1986

1. Name

historic John R. Wheeler Jr. House

and/or common Immaculate Conception Convent

2. Location

street & number 407 South 3rd Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Dunlap \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Harrison code 085

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A	<input 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 Jay T. Randall

street & number 407 South 3rd Street

city, town Dunlap \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state IA 51529

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number Logan County Courthouse

city, town Logan state IA 51546

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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		

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

This two story white frame house occupies a prominent elevated half block site on the old Lincoln Highway on the southwest part of Dunlap. The house is elaborately ornamented with classical motifs.

This two story frame house is rectangular on plan, measuring 37' by 50'. The massing is, with the exception of the wrap around porch on the front and southwest sides, symmetrical. Gabled pairs of dormers are evenly spaced on each side of the gabled roof. A rear porch, however covers the center and north end of the rear wall. Two chimneys project from the southern roof plane, the westernmost, parallel to the roof ridge is in line with the rear dormer, the second, perpendicular to the roof ridge, is alongside the eastern dormer.

The basement (west half only) walls of red tile are set on concrete footings. The foundation wall consists of concrete stucco on tile, scored to resemble concrete blocks. A narrow (white) clapboard covers the exterior. Broad corner boards, forming square cut columns, frame each wall plane. Floor joists are 2' x 10", ceiling rafters are 2' x 6".

Colonial Revival features abound. These typically eclectic features include its Georgian corner pilasters, pedimented dormers, wooden belt courses; its Adamesque derived cornice with dentils and decorative modillions and elliptical fanlight; its Classical Greek Doric porch columns and plain dentilled cornice and Queen Anne influenced wrap-around porch and windows.

Its front gabled roof would normally be parallel with a long side wall facade. In this instance, the main facade is on the end gable, probably reflecting its corner location.

The basement is fully excavated only beneath the rearmost two thirds of the plan. Furnace and coal rooms occupy the plan's center. Two storage areas (one a former garage) and a hallway fill out the west end. A single rear stairway leads to the main floor.

The main floor is evenly divided longitudinally by a central hall. A cross hall midway in the plan includes a staircase on the north, and a hall/entryway on the south. A living room (22' x 14') fills the southwest corner, the "Oval Room" the southeast. This last named is entered through diagonally set double doors. The front of the room, a curved bay, features curved window frames and glass, radiator and bookcase, woodwork and plaster moldings. A fireplace south half is converted to burn coal and a second fireplace serves the living room, located on the north wall. Two other main rooms complete that plan. The second floor has a matching longitudinal hall but its eastern end is occupied by closets and a dressing room. The stair to the attic is located at the west end of this hall. Bedrooms occupy each corner. A fireplace services the master bedroom, (above the oval room) in the southeast corner. The attic loft area has an eleven foot ceiling at the roof ridge,

# 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/
<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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1897 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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

The J. R. Wheeler Jr. House (1897) is believed to be one of the largest and best preserved examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Harrison County. It is typical of this rather eclectic mode with its Georgian corner pilasters, pedimented dormers, wooden belt courses; its Adamesque derived cornice with dentils and decorative modillions and elliptical fanlight; its Classical Greek Doric porch columns and plain dentilled cornice and Queen Anne influenced wrap-around porch and windows. Its front gabled roof, however, is an atypical variation for the style but most likely reflects its corner location.

J. R. Wheeler Sr. (1833-1903) is said to have constructed this house for his son John Rose Wheeler Jr. (1880- ? ) and his new wife. The father was a locally noted Civil War veteran (Captain and Major, 16 Wisconsin Infantry), state legislator, and lumber merchant, beginning in 1867. The house was it is said used to advertise the range of woods which he marketed. Wheeler left the community in 1910, selling the house to the nearby Catholic Church in August of that year. For sixty-three years the house was locally known as St. Patrick's Church convent.

The convent boarded rural students, making the most of a sparse church population in the county. The highest number in residence was forty five. Four rooms in the house were dormitories. The loft area was apparently also used. In 1973 the house returned to private ownership.

**Bibliography: Continuation Sheet 9-2**

St. Patrick's Church Centennial Booklet, Dunlap, 1972, pp. 28-29.

Interviews, Ralph D. Trout with Jay Randell, present owner.

History of Harrison County, Chicago: National Publishing Company, 1891.

Obituary, John Rose Wheeler, Sr., The Dunlap Reporter, 20 February 1903.

Resolutions, John R. Wheeler, Sr. Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Dunlap Reporter, 10 April 1903

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Dunlap

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	15	2	8	13	3	19	12	4	6	3	16	3	10	10
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

Lots 9 and 10, Block 33, Original Town of Dunlap. Includes house only.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator  
Cultural Affairs Department, State Historical  
organization Society of Iowa, Cultural Affairs Bureau, date July 11, 1986  
Office of Historic Preservation  
street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137  
city or town Des Moines state IA 50319

# 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 *[Signature]*  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 26, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

*[Signature]* date 11-6-86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

