

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 15 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic E. H. Harrison House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 220 North 4th St not for publication

city, town Keokuk vicinity of

state Iowa code 19 county Lee code 111

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard and Allen Bowers

street & number One Mahaska Road

city, town Keokuk vicinity of state Iowa 52632

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Lee County Courthouse

city, town Keokuk state Iowa

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

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The E. H. Harrison house, Keokuk, is a remarkably early example of the application of the Second Empire style in Iowa. The house also combines Federal and Greek Revival influences and is a well preserved brick residences, frequently pictured in local and statewide publications.

The E. H. Harrison house (1857) was constructed in 1857, was designed by local architect Frederick H. Moore, and combined the Federal, Greek Revival and Second Empire styles. The Federal style is represented by the large windows, elliptical doorway arch, the bowed two story front bay, and the smooth brickwork with fine mortar joints. The Greek Revival is represented by the offset doorway. The Second Empire influence is reflected by the concave mansard roof.

The original two and a half story brick house has a "T" plan (45' x 65') with matched side wings and matched twelve foot long corner porches in the front. The porch on the southwest corner is not serviced by a door (no evidence of same having ever existed). The house has a raised stone foundation and broad stone water table, flat stone sills and molded segmental stone lintels (with cornices on the main and west facades and pediments on the first floor levels on those sides) which frame the windows. A brick string course divides the two floors, running around the west wing, along the main body of the house to the beginning of the east wing. The front and west side windows have brick surrounds on each side, and the bay lintels are cut to fit the round bay. Windows are double hung sash (6/6). A molded and dentilated frieze underscores a projecting molded cornice line. The mansard roof is concave, rises sharply to a low angled second pitch, and is covered with standing seam metal.

Three vaulted dormers, two on the front and one on the west wing project above the eavesline. Two chimneys (one on the east side cropped by present owner due to moisture condensation within the walls), with deep flutes, stand on the southwest and northeast corners. A single plain eyebrow window is located on the east second floor wall. A window pair with single stone lintel is found on the opposite wing.

The varied treatments of the window surrounds indicate some degree of alteration since construction. The west wing and front are well matched in terms of ornamentation. The ornate Victorian canopy over the front side entrance dates from prior to 1910. One chimney is partly gone. A two story rear bay was extant as early as 1900 and as late as 1931 (this is so indicated by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, but there is no evidence of their existence and the placement at that point is illogical). A rear brick addition (of very early date, but exact date not known), without mansard roof and with simplified window treatment is undated, the basement level in rear of the house being above ground level. A two story frame rear addition with shed roofed rear open porch dates from c. 1900 and its raised brick foundation dates from c. 1893 (having at one time a ground level porch on the west side). This basement area became a drive-in garage by 1931, and was only recently closed off. The rear frame addition is of interest for its state of integrity, retaining its clapboard exterior, dentilated frieze and 6/6 windows. Apparently a rear stairway once penetrated the porch roof and has been enclosed by two awkward additions on the porch roof.

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Inside, an open two story staircase connects the three levels and is self supporting. The original floor plan survives.

The house occupies a parcel in the midst of a group of notable churches in the earliest settled part of Keokuk, on high bluffs above the Mississippi River. Flanked by the Unitarian Church to the east, and St. John's Episcopal Church on the west, several other churches are within a block's distance. The early commercial center lies a few blocks to the west

## 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** 1857 **Builder/Architect** Frederick H. Moore, architect.  
R. P. Gray, Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The E. H. Harrison house in Keokuk is a remarkable early documented example of the application of the Second Empire or mansard roof style to an Iowa residence (1857). The house also combines other architectural stylistic influences, notably Federal and Greek Revival in what is today a well preserved and locally appreciated brick residence.

The City of Keokuk experienced a building boom of incredible proportions in the years leading up to the economic collapse of 1857. A list of new buildings was published locally, entitled "First Annual Exhibit, Showing the number of Buildings erected and Improvements made, their Cost, &c., in the City of Keokuk, Iowa, For The Year 1857" and this residence was listed as follows:

"Fourth Street...A three story brick building, swell front, between High and Court. This house is built in the French style of Architecture, curved roof, Lutheran windows, moulded stone window caps, sills, water table, &c., and contains in the first story, parlor, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, closets, pantry, &c.; second and third stories contain chambers, bathing room, servant's sleeping rooms, presses, closets, &c., basement contains wood, coal and vegetable cellars, wash room, furnace room, &c.; cost \$8,000; F. H. Moore, Architect; R. P. Gray, Builder; residence of E. H. Harrison.

The same source indicates that Moore and Gray collaborated on at least three other projects, including a carriage house, a three story commercial block with basement livery, and a fifteen room residence. Gray's name appears nine times in the listing and he is one of some two dozen builders. Moore is listed with sixteen projects, and he is one of five architects in town. His major commissions for that year included a basement for the Italianate styled Medical Department of Iowa State University, an Italianate residence for Mr. Hiatt, a gothic cottage, the aforementioned three story business block for McKee and Simpson, a "pretty Gothic front" for the Episcopal Church, a foundation for a "heavy castleated style" foundry and machine shop, and numerous residences and commercial buildings. Architect Frederick H. Moore advertised himself during the same period (May 28, 1857, same source) as being "Late partner of Wm. Washburn, architect of American, Revere, Winthrop and Parker Houses, and Tremont Temple, Boston; Wood's Hotel, Portland; Bay State House, Worcester and many other first class public and private buildings throughout the country, having located in Keokuk, would inform the public that he is prepared to furnish Designs, Plans, Detail Drawings, Specifications and Superintendence for Churches, School Houses, Hotels, Stores, Dwellings, and public and private buildings of all kinds with promptness and accuracy. All the modern improvements, such as Warming, Lighting, Ventilation, &c., as adopted in the eastern cities, will be especially provided for as required." This ad first appeared on January 14, 1857. Moore's recent arrival and eastern experience explains perhaps the reason for the early application of the Second Empire as well as the various then uncommon modern improvements.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Keokuk-Ia-Mo-III.

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	6	3	7	4	9	0	4	4	7	2	8	3	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

Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 1, Block 39, City of Keokuk original plat, thence east 86', thence north 110', thence west 16', thence north 40', thence west 70', thence south along east edge of alley 150' to place of beginning. Includes only house.

### 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

organization Iowa SHPO date 6 December 1983

street & number Historical Building  
E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-8152

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

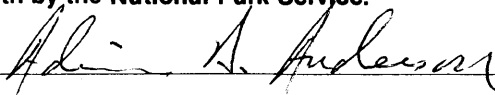
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 6 December 1983

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 1/12/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Significance

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The person who commissioned the construction of the house was Enos A. Harrison (1810-1877) who brought his family to Keokuk in 1849, and on February 2, 1855 organized the Iowa State Insurance Company (fire insurance based upon the mutual plan) and served as its first officer. Harrison was involved in the local wholesale grocery trade, local banking, helped to organize the Keokuk Branch of the State Bank of Iowa, the Keokuk Savings Bank, and other community activities which included four terms as First Ward Alderman and the establishment of the Keokuk Water Works. He is listed as residing at this address 1871-72, 1877-78 (as president of Virginia Tobacco Works, a firm which he is credited with relocating to the city from nearby Burlington) and his widow, Marie E. Harrison (1826-1894) is listed here 1882-83, 1887, 1893-94, and 1894-95. Harrison himself died in 1877. Mr. Harrison died in the house on 10 December 1877. The family was closely identified with the adjacent Unitarian Church. The family remained influential in the area but did not continue to live in this house.

The house was served as an office building since c. 1967. Among its tenants is a ghost who chased out one tenant with its voices. According to the owner "It seemed to give all sorts of signs to our secretaries and other tenants, everything from vaporous faces to voices, footsteps overhead and on the stairs, etc.. It always seemed to be friendly."

The house has been pictured or featured in numerous publications including The Iowan (September 1978, and again in 1982 in an article entitled "The Best of Iowa), and the Keokuk Daily Gate City (January 1, 1969),

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- Clemens, Orion. Keokuk City Directories for 1856, 1857. Keokuk: Clemens Book & Job Printers, 1857, pp. 41, 73, 171.
- Biographical Review of Lee County, Iowa. Chicago: Hobart Publishing Company, 1905 pp. 398-40.
- Schroder, Alan M. Directory of 19th Century Iowa Architects. Iowa City: Division of the State Historical Society, 1982, pp. 35-6.
- Keokuk Savings Bank Archives, manuscript biography of E. H. Harrison, undated, and unsigned.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Keokuk, Iowa, 1888, 1893, 1900, 1910, 1919, 1931.
- Daily Gate City, 7 July 1894, 31 Jan. 1969.