

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

FEB 13 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 30 1979

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

Gamble, James, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

527 Wisconsin Ave.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Le Claire

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Scott

CODE

163

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Tony G. Rees

STREET & NUMBER

527 Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Le Claire

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52753

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Scott County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Davenport

STATE

Iowa

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gamble house was built c. 1855, on a lot the size of a city block about 5 blocks west of Le Claire's central business district and the Mississippi River. Since portions of the original property have been sold off, the house now occupies an area of two lots. These are raised above street level, thus contributing to the imposing character of the house itself.

The house is a reflection of the Italianate palazzo style, built of brick laid in 6-course common bond on a limestone foundation. The main block is two stories, rectangular in form, with each side divided into three bays. On east and west sides are single-story wings, two bays wide. Their south (front) walls, stopping short of the main facade, are fronted with recessed porches. The east wing has two windows on the side; the west wing has four.

The main roof is a very low hip, with broad eaves, three brick chimneys (of four, originally symmetrically placed toward the east and west edges), and a wide modillion cornice. The roofs of the wings are also low hips, with plain, narrow cornices.

Windows are rectilinear in form, 6/6 or 4/4; those on the second floor of the main facade are casements. Windows of the side facades and the second floor front are topped with simple cornices. On the first floor front, window and door openings are set in wooden surrounds with symmetrically-molded corner blocks. The main entrance has a similar surround framing the door, sidelights and transom. This entrance is sheltered beneath a flat-roofed porch (possibly of a later date) with two wooden columns on high pedestals supporting a full entablature. A narrow, flat roof, supported on large brackets, overhangs the two tall windows to the right of the entrance. The side porches are quite simple, with square posts (freestanding and engaged) and balustrades of very slender turned spindles similar to those of the entrance porch and across the front of the main block. The west porch retains a fringe below the cornice, and extremely thin, curved brackets.

Behind the house is a small, one-story brick structure, probably once a summer kitchen, which is connected to the house by a long roof, supported on very slender posts, with fringed edges similar to those on the west front porch.

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 c. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Gamble house is perhaps the finest piece of architecture in Le Claire, and is singularly well-kept. The Italianate influence of the mid 19th century is found elsewhere in Le Claire, but only the Daniel Dawley house on Second Street, and the Headley House on Cody Road approach the sophistication of the Gamble house. The Gamble house is distinctive for its boxy form, wide cornices, brackets and modillions popular in the vernacular Italianate, and for the linear double wing form and classical detailing suggestive of the Greek Revival. In a sense, it may be seen as a simpler, certainly less grandiose version of "Clifton", J.M.D. Burrows' house in Davenport, which also dates from the mid-1850's. The Gamble house is similar in form (or was, until the wings of Clifton were given a second story), with its recessed porches, Italianate characteristics about the eaves, and the classical detailing. Clifton, however, displays a giant portico and considerably more elaborate entrances.

James Gamble was born in Ireland in 1821. His parents emigrated to the U.S. in 1823, first to Delaware and then, in 1836, to Pittsburgh. Gamble's first career was in the printing and publishing business: from 1840 to about 1842 he co-published the Warsaw (IL) Signal. He then studied medicine in New Orleans and St. Louis, and received a medical degree from Missouri University in 1847. That year, he moved to Le Claire, and practiced medicine in the community and surrounding area for nearly 50 years. Gamble was also active in local medical associations and in community affairs: he served on the Le Claire school board for over 20 years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lage, Dorothy. Le Claire, Iowa: A Mississippi River Town. Privately printed, 1976, pp. 41, 59-60.
 History of Scott County, Iowa. Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1882, p.1122.
 Biographical History and Portrait Gallery of Scott County, Iowa. Chicago and New York: American Biographical Printing Co., 1895, pp. 467-69.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Port Byron, Ill.; Iowa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 720920 4608300

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 3 and 4, Block 39, Original Town of Le Claire

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market St.

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

2/8/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-30-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3-30-79

William H. Brannan