

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 11 1986
date entered APR 10 1986

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

1. Name

historic Arthur Hillyer Ford House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 228 Brown Street _____ not for publication

city, town Iowa City _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Johnson code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Alfred Friedrichsen

street & number 1104 Chimneywood Lane

city, town New Orleans _____ vicinity of state Louisiana

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Johnson County Courthouse

city, town Iowa City state IA 52240

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title North Side Residential Neighborhood Survey has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date 1981 _____ federal _____ state _____ county xxx local

depository for survey records Iowa OHP

city, town Des Moines state IA 50319

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 Arthur Hillyer Ford House is a two-story dwelling with full-facade porch, full basement, and attic, situated on an elevated corner lot. A steep hillside to the west slopes to the Iowa River. The lot has no large trees, and the house is prominent as one approached from the east on the brick-surfaced Brown Street, or from the south on Linn Street. This north side residential area was settled early in Iowa City's history, but experienced continued development and re-development well in to the twentieth century. The neighborhood exhibits an eclectic mixture of architecture in which the house's Mission-style features are conspicuous.

Exterior walls are constructed of hollow clay tile coated with stucco. The framed hipped roof is covered with glazed tile. The house is nearly square in plan with approximate dimensions 36 feet x 38 feet. The symmetrical triparted facade is dominated by a slightly advanced central frontispiece, rising to a scalloped parapet that displays a quatrefoil attic light above two pairs of sash windows. The front porch has three flattened arches with a scalloped pediment surmounting the center arch.

The side and rear elevations have an informal, functional fenestration. Openings are set back from the exterior wall plane in shallow reveals that are carried from below the eaves to ground level, thereby providing a clear vertical delineation of bays. Window sills, however, are projected beyond the exterior wall plane. There are two projecting bay windows: a shallow polygonal unit toward the rear of the west side, and a rectangular unit toward the front of the east side. A rear entrance porch displays flattened arches similar to those on the front. Wide, round arch openings, now filled in, mark the location of a second story porch that originally occupied the northwest corner of the main block. Below this is a one-story, one-room addition.

The first and second floors are divided roughly into quadrants. On the main floor an entry vestibule and hall occupy the southwest quadrant, with dining room (opening into the rear addition) and main staircase in the northwest quadrant; the kitchen, pantry, and service stairs in the northeast quadrant; and living room in the southeast quadrant. On the second floor the master bedroom is in the southwest quadrant and a dressing room and the former porch occupy the northwest quadrant, with a larger bedroom in the southeast quadrant. The principal alterations in the spatial arrangement have occurred in the kitchen area which has been modernized and expanded to include the pantry space.

The interior retains a variety of original features. They include a living room inglenook in which simple built-in wooden benches with hinged seats flank a brick fireplace, a shallow bay window and plate rail in the dining room, the upper floor stair rail, and built-in cupboards (extant on the second floor, removed from the kitchen and pantry). There are also several

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1909 **Builder/Architect** Orville H. Carpenter

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C: Architecture

The Arthur Hillyer Ford house is one of the best preserved examples of Mission style architecture in Iowa City. This symmetrically-shaped residence expresses the style in the scalloped parapets of the two wall dormers and the front porch, red clay tile roof and stuccoed walls, a full-facade porch featuring square piers and flattened arches, wide overhanging eaves, and a quatrefoil window. (The window is mentioned as a common variant of the style in McAlester: A Field Guide to American Houses.) The Craftsman influence is seen clearly in the well-preserved interior fabric, which includes a "Wrightian" fireplace inglenook with simple benches, a bay window and plate-rail in the dining room, an upper floor stair rail, and built-in dressing room cupboards on the second floor. The house is further significant for its use, at the time of construction of Sackett Plaster Board.

The house was designed by Orville H. Carpenter, an architect practicing in Iowa City from about 1890 until his death in 1938. In 1898 an issue of Commercial Magazine featured five of Carpenter's designs, four of which exhibit a "Princess Anne" theme, with a square (or nearly so) hipped main roof block, a full-height gabled pavilion projected from the front and one or more sides, and simplified Colonial revival details. The fifth house is a combination of Shingle, Princess Anne, and Colonial Revival styles. Very little more is known about the development of Carpenter's practice, except that he advertised regularly in the city directories of Iowa City. His obituary mentions that "the Iowa Citian had designed many large buildings throughout the state during his career, especially schoolhouses." Unfortunately, no other note of his school designs was found.

The house was built for Arthur Hillyer Ford, at the time a Professor Electrical Engineering at the University of Iowa. Ford was born in Chicago in 1874, attended the University of Wisconsin, and received his B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering in 1895. He studied at Columbia for a year and then worked briefly as an engineer, first for General Electric and then for Western Electric Company. He joined the faculty at the University of Colorado in 1900 and taught in the Electrical Engineering Department there for a year. He then taught at Georgia School of Technology for four years, before coming to Iowa in 1905 as the head of the Electrical Engineering Department at the University. In June 1908 he married Sadie Murray Hess of Iowa City, and the newlyweds soon moved into their new home. They raised three children at the Brown Street house. Ford remained at the University of Iowa until his death in 1930. A eulogy published in the Engineering College's Iowa Transit after his death notes that he was an inventor of glareless automobile headlights.

Sackett Plaster Board (Patent pending 1896) was used throughout the house with the exception of the attic and closet areas, where then-traditional plaster on wooden lath. This consisted of three thin layers of gypsum with intervening and exterior layers of paper. This material was used chiefly for the construction of partitions, but was generally uncommon until after 1900. Two layers of plaster were applied on top of this bonding board.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Iowa City West

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	2	2	3	1	7	10	4	16	1	14	0	12	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 Commencing at SE corner Out lot 19, Iowa City, thence west along Brown Street 85', thence North 92', thence west 8', thence North 38', thence West 27', thence North 35' to the alley, thence East 40', thence South 60', thence East 80' to Linn Street, thence South 105' to the place of beginning. 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

Form: James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator
name/title Text: Dennett, Muessig & Ryan Associates, Ltd., Iowa City

organization Iowa Office of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department date 26 February 1986

street & number E. Grand 7 12th St. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state IA

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 *Towell G. Soble*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date February 28, 1986

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

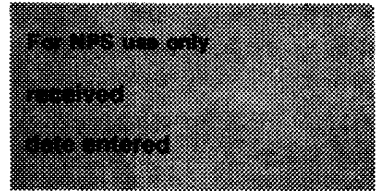
George M. McPherson Entered in the National Register date 4/10/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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leaded glass windows with rectilinear diamond and lozenge patterns, and two electrified gas wall light fixtures by the stair and in the living room.

Two relatively early alterations have been made to the exterior of the house. Shortly after its construction, a room was added to the northwest corner of the first floor. This provides space off the dining room. A date of 1915-1925 is suggested for this change, based on window molding, soffit detailing, and the tile foundation. A garage was inset on the east side of the lot, with an entrance directly to the basement. Construction materials indicate that this was added 1925-1930. The garage was removed in 1985. The garage was removed in 1985.

Later alterations to the exterior include closing in of the arches on the second floor porch, and substitution of a door for a window on the west elevation. Both of these changes were probably made by the previous owner, who purchased the house in 1965. The exterior surface was originally a gray pebbled ash stucco. This has been recently covered with a slightly textured tan stucco, also apparently by the previous owner.

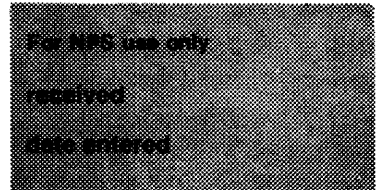
Interior alterations include division of the pantry to provide both a bathroom and additional kitchen space. A partition has been removed in the attic, as well. Both of these changes were made after 1965.

The distinctive characteristics of the early twentieth century "post Victorian" period in American popular domestic architecture are embodied in the house. Its architect, O. H. Carpenter of Iowa City, drew from three design idioms, two of which (the "four square" form and the Craftsman approach to interior spaces and finishes) have become diagnostic features of domestic construction of that time. The third, the Mission style, was one of a variety of "colonial" and picturesque revival styles whose application ranged from studied authenticity to the more widespread use of superficial detail.

The Ford House combines these idioms in a manner such that it stands clearly as a product of its time. The shape is that of the "four square", characterized by the nearly square form with each floor divided into roughly equal quadrants, pyramidal hipped roof, and full-facade porch. The exterior treatment is derived from the Mission style, which is expressed in the scalloped parapets of the two wall dormers and the front porch; clay tile roof and stuccoed walls; and the variously round and flattened arches of the front, rear, and (now enclosed) second floor porches. The Mission theme is seen in the interior only in the recessed arcaded panels of the stair rail in the entrance hall. Instead, Craftsman influences predominate throughout the interior. They are seen most notably in the open first floor plan, the "Wrightian" inglenook, dining room window and plate rail, upper floor stair rail, and built-in dressing room cupboards. In keeping with the utilitarian

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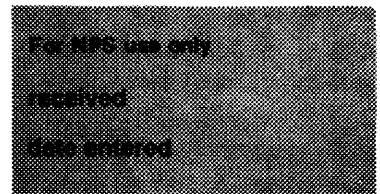
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approach to interiors characteristic of the Craftsman style, "ornamentation" is restrained to the leaded glass windows.

Iowa City has a very limited range of structures reflecting Mission/Mediterranean influences, unlike, for instance, the City of Davenport. The Ford House appears to be the most overt expression of these styles. Another structure, the Christian Science Church (722 East College) borrows tiled hipped roofs and an arcaded facade (within which is the entry) and some simple wrought iron railing, but is clad in polychrome tapestry brick and otherwise shows no clear style. The stuccoed house located at 116 South Dodge Street has a main entrance deeply recessed behind a scalloped archway in the facade, but otherwise appears to be influenced largely by the Prairie style, with battered piers supporting a second floor sun room, long bands of windows, and second floor windows set close beneath wide eaves. A residence located at 214 South Summit Street has a stuccoed exterior and wide round arches at the porch, but these just do not convey a Mission/Mediterranean influence. And that house as a whole (apart from a Prairie-style battered foundation) lacks any clear stylistic theme.

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