

# Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
East 12th & Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Site Number W - BU - E1  
District Name Legacy In Stone TR  
Map Reference # 67

## Identification

1. Site Name Emily Hornback House
2. Village/Town/City Winterset Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Madison
3. Street Address 605 N. First St.
4. Legal Location Pitzer & Knight 13 Lot 5  
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel  
Rural: township range section 1/4 section of 1/4 section
- (Map 3B )
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 415,250 northing 4,576,730 Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name Shirley & Phillip Macumber
7. Owner(s) Address 605 N. First St. Winterset IA 50273  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Residence Original Residence

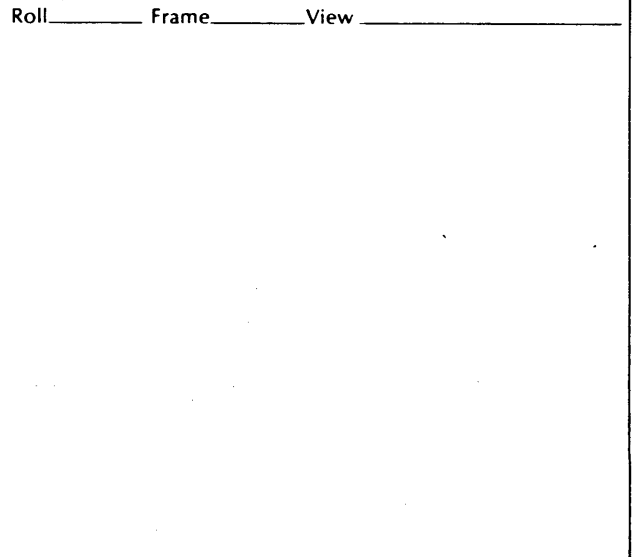
## Description

9. Date of Construction 1856 Architect/Builder David Harris
10. Building Type:  
 single-family dwelling  industrial  other institutional  religious  
 multiple-family dwelling  educational  public  agricultural  
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  
 other Native Limestone
12. Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  
 masonry load-bearing walls  iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
13. Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
14. Integrity:  original site  moved—if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:  
Barge boards removed; dormers added
15. Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  carriage house  garage  privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
16. Is the building endangered?  no  yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  densely built-up  commercial  
 industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Map



19. Photo



## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### **20. Architectural Significance**

—a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register

—b. Contributing structure

Theme(s): Vernacular Architecture

Subtheme(s) Identified Master Designer/Builder: Harris; Function: Residential

The Emily Hornback House is an example of a vernacular limestone residence built in Winterset sometime before the end of the Civil War and probably by 1857. It is one of several extant asymmetrical massed rectangle houses with entrance to the side of the gable front. Notable features include chamfered rustication, an octagonal stone chimney and a porch across the front with four ornately turned posts and with spindles around the top.

The 25' x 32' one and one-half story gabled house is constructed of locally quarried ashlar and rubble. The main public facade near the street on the west has a door on the right side of the gable front with two windows beside it and a centered double window in the gable above. The south facade is a secondary public facade facing what was a side street and having two under eave windows toward the back of the house. The north facade has three under eave windows. The east gable entrance had a window and door on the main level and a centered double window at the upper level. These are obscured by a frame addition.

The west main facade is constructed of ashlar finished with a square ended tool. Quoins and jambs are chamfered, protruding, tooled with draft lines, and finished with a square ended tool. Stones are laid two against one with broken bond within courses. There are ribbon joints. The lintels of the main facade have protruding cornices. There is a water table on the west and south facades. The south, east, and north facades are constructed of rubble laid in broken course with grapevine joints. Window treatment consists of protruding sills with axed texturing. Lintels on all except the main facade have draft lines, margin lines and are finished with a square ended tool. Quoins and jambs are finished cut quarry faced stone. The splayed windows are paneled with undecorated wood. The recessed door has cabinet paneling with three sections at each side and across the top of the reveal. Transoms and sidelights are complex, being made of many small panes of two different sizes.

The overhanging eaves and verges are closed with mitred soffits. There is coving where the soffits join the stone walls. Cut out barge boards with the same design as those used on the Shriver (W-CO-E6) and Queen (75N26W-7) Houses have been removed. The flue is within the gable wall and there is an octagonal stone chimney at the gable ridge.

This is probably the first extant house which David Harris built in Winterset. It seems to be a prototype for other Harris houses including the Shriver House which very closely duplicates it, the house at 110 E. South St. (W-SD-E2) and the Garlinger House (W-JE-W3-X). The house evidences many characteristics of Harris's work including his typical design, the two against one stonework with broken bond, and the chamfered quoins and jambs. Harris may have adopted the door transom and sidelight arrangement from the Drake House (75N29W-5.1) which he probably helped to build during the first year he came to the county. This house is a very important prototype of the Harris stone building tradition in Madison County.

**21. Historical Significance**

—a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register

—b. Contributing Structure  
Theme(s): Early Settlement

The Hornback family was a prominent family in Winterset with a wagon building business that experienced financial difficulties in the Panic of 1857. Brothers George and James and their father operated the family business. Charles W. Black obtained the land on which the house is built in 1856. Emily Hornback bought the lot and obtained the title to it in 1860. In 1865 she lost the property to Pitzer and Knight land agents who vacated it until 1873. There is no indication which of the Hornback men Emily was married to, but the historic references to the family finances suggest the Emily probably bought the land on contract in 1856 and immediately began the construction of the house.

Courthouse Records. Winterset, Iowa: Madison County Recorders' Office.

Davies, J. J. History and Business Directory of Madison Co., Ia. Des Moines; Mills and Co. Printers and Publishers, 1869.

Harvey, Robert. Historical Stone Houses of Winterset, Iowa, Prior to and During the Civil War Period. Term Paper, Iowa State University, 1960.

History of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1879.

Houlette, William D. "Madison County's Wonderful Stone Houses," The Iowan.

Koch, Augustus, artist. Bird's Eye View of the City of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, 1869. Chicago: Chicago Lithographing & Co., n.d.

**22. Sources**

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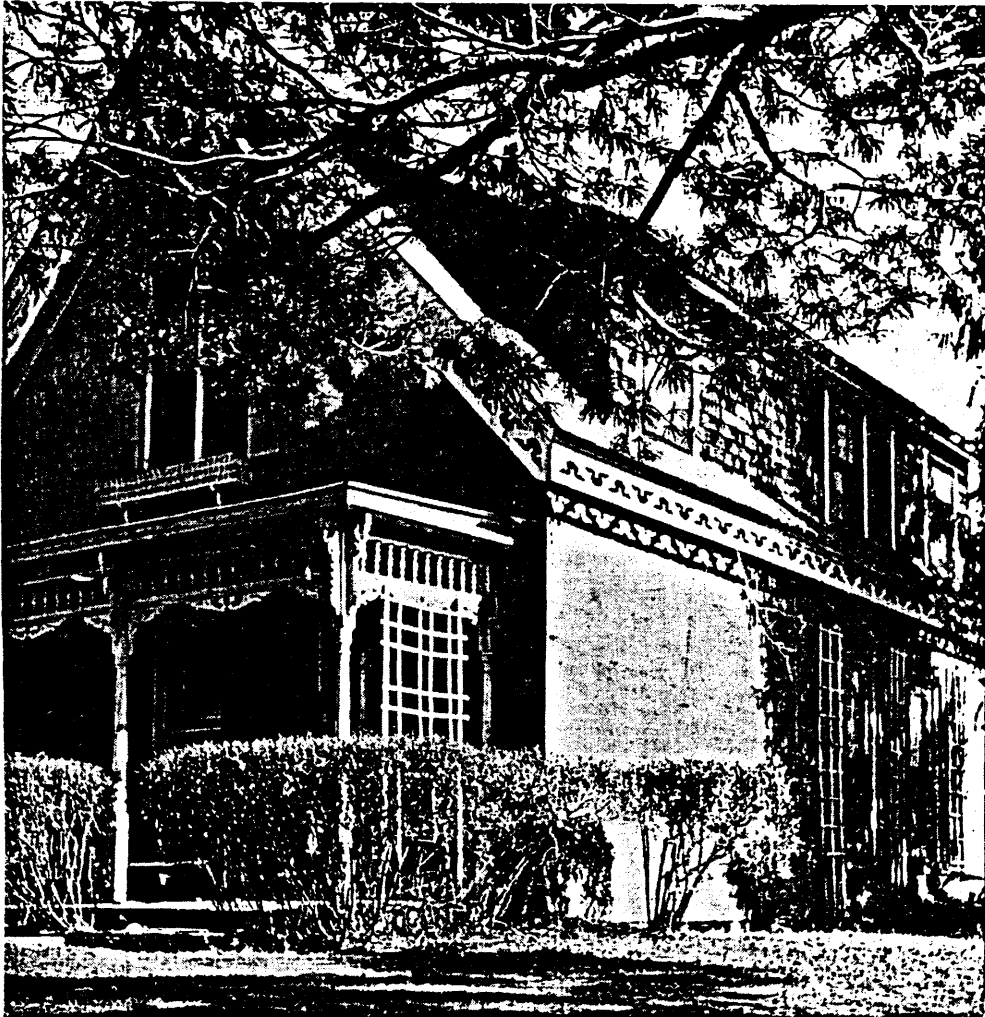
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Site Number W-BU-E1/Hornback House

## Continuation Sheet

Item Number(s)



*While remodeled, Hattle Ruth home shows original design; early, simple trim.*

Houlette, William D. "Madison County's Wonderful Stone Houses," The Iowan, Volume 2, No. 6, August-September 1954, pp. 30-35.