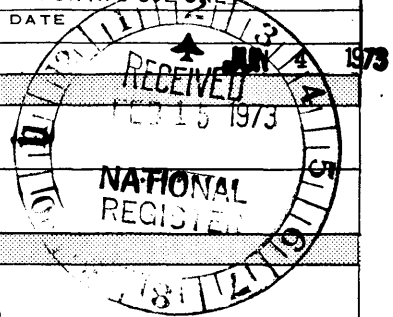


PH 006675

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	WASHINGTON
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	JUN 4 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Blair House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Washington Street and South Second Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
14

STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 183

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Washington

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Washington Street and South Second Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Main Street and B Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUN 4 1973

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Blair House is a two and one-half story building of brick with mansard roofs, a two-sided porch (added in 1903) and a variety of striking white window-hoods. The general plan is asymmetrical. Formerly adorned by decorative roof cresting and two smaller entrance proches. Blair House for the most part maintains its original appearance.

On the interior, all partitions have been added or removed as various uses dictated, two fireplaces were removed from the first floor but the second and third floor remain unchanged. A gymnasium and club rooms have been added to the south side (not visible in photograph).

FEB 15 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1880-1881**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blair House was designed and built in 1880-1881 by Iowa architect William Foster, who also designed the county courthouse on the other side of the city square. Built by Winfield Smouse as a private home and later occupied by the Blair family (1882-1898), Blair House has for a longer period of time served as a community building for social (Commercial Club, 1903-1926) and civic (City Hall, 1926-1972) affairs.

Architecturally, Blair House compliments the dominant nineteenth century character of Washington's city square area.

It was the center of the private social life of Washington in the late 19th century. Taken over by the Commercial Club in 1903, the Blair House remained the center of the community's social life for many years as all the social clubs met in the building. The addition of the hall on the south increased the use of the building by the community. Veterans organizations, rotary, etc., met here for years. Celebrations, dances, and parties are still being held in the south addition known as the Legion Hall.

The use of the house as City Hall since 1926 has also increased the building's importance to the city to the point that no other building in the city is so tied to the social and commercial life of the community.

Because few Victorian homes remain in this area, the Blair House stands as an architectural landmark. The home has been referred to as "little Terrace Hill" due to its similarity to the Terrace Hill Mansion in Des Moines, a National Register of Historic Places site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Numerous accounts of activities in the home were published in The Washington Press and the Washington Evening Journal, both local newspapers.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

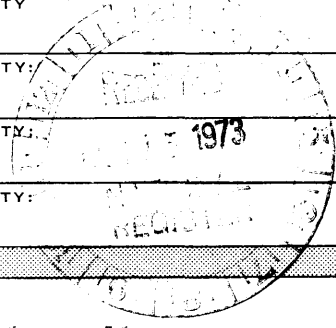
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	41	17	52
SE	°	'	"	91	41	23
SW	°	'	"			

UTM
15/609700
4572460

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less Than One Acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Stephen Viggers, President**

ORGANIZATION: **Washington County Historical Society** DATE: **April 17, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Route #3**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name John A. Anderson

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 2/12/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/4/73

ATTEST:
W. M. Woodford
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/31/73