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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Joseph Keck House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
504 W. Washington St.

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Washington

CODE
183

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John and Rosemary Elliott ✓

STREET & NUMBER
504 W. Washington

CITY, TOWN
Washington

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Iowa 52353

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Washington

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 Keck House is a mid-19th century dwelling built of brick laid in 8-course common bond on a stone foundation. The main block is two stories, 36' wide and 18' deep. Centered at the rear is a 2-story block, approximately 18' x 18', flanked by one-story rear wings of almost the same dimensions. The main roof is a mansard with concave profile, with a roof deck enclosed with wrought iron cresting. There are two chimneys at the rear of the main block. The roof of the center rear section is gabled, the wings having shallow hipped roofs. Windows in the rear sections have segmental heads.

The facades of the main block (the front facade 3 bays, side facades 1 bay) are divided into a rhythmical series of alternating raised and sunken panels. The front doorway, with a top light and segmentally-arched head, and the windows above it, are contained within a sunken panel. The round-arched head of the window extends above the cornice line, which curves around the window and is finished with a fanciful acrotarion and ball finial. The other windows (segmentally-arched on the first floor, round-arched on the second) are contained within raised panels. Here the second floor windows also break the cornice, and are crowned with triangular gablets enlivened with vergeboards featuring trefoil pendants.

The front of the house has a one-story porch across the entire length. Square, fluted posts, which divide the porch into alternating wide and narrow bays, support arches which are correspondingly depressed and round. On the top of the porch is a wrought iron balustrade, with wooden posts resembling Gothic pinnacles. Details of the side porches, which open into the rear wings, are identical.

In plan, the house features a center entrance hall, to either side of which are large front rooms connected to the hall through wide openings screened with attenuated columns of an indeterminate order set in antis (installed c. 1917). The entrance hall opens, through an arched screen with Corinthian columns, into a central stairhall the axis of which is set at right angles to that of the entrance hall. The rear of the house contains kitchen, family room, and a small room and half-bath in the center rear. There are three bedrooms across the front of the house on the second floor, and one at center rear. The staircase is a quarter-turn stair in an open well.

The house, located on a corner lot in a residential area on the west side of the community, is currently undergoing restoration and renovation.

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. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Keck house is an interesting, and very well preserved, example of French mansard residential architecture. If, as is believed (although not yet confirmed), the house was built in the mid-late 1850's, it is a significantly early manifestation of the style, particularly in Iowa. The division of the facades into panels is one of the best features of the house, and is indicative of a certain sophistication on the part of the builder or architect. The interior plan is rather unusual (particularly the T-shaped arrangement of the halls), and may be due to the fact that the center rear mass is believed to have been constructed as early as the 1840's, with the rest of the house added about a decade later. The variety of decorative elements is also interesting, as they derive from several architectural traditions. Chief among them are the Gothic balustrade and vergeboard cusps, the Greek Revival acrotarion and finial, the Italianate arcade of the porch. Of note, too, are the columned screens, which were constructed after 1917, and which give the interior a sense of spaciousness and drama somewhat out of keeping with its original character.

According to county records, this property was transferred to the heirs of John Jackson, Sr., in 1843. Among the heirs was Elizabeth Jackson, who married Joseph Keck in 1844. According to local accounts, there was a small house on the property, unfinished at the time of Jackson, Sr.'s death, in which Keck and his wife set up housekeeping. The property remained in the hands of Jackson's heirs until 1855, when the last of the heirs turned the property over to Keck. It is probable that the house, as it now exists, was constructed after 1855, once Keck obtained full title to the property. The house was featured in the 1875 Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa.

Joseph Keck was born in Pennsylvania in 1819, and came to Washington, Iowa as a journeyman carpenter and cabinetmaker in 1842. He opened a shop in this community, and in 1856 platted a western addition to the town (most likely on land deriving from the Jackson estate). By 1859 Keck was in the banking business, and from 1863 to 1901 was president of the reorganized (1863) Washington State Bank. He also organized the First National Bank in Sigourney, and was locally known as a "great financier".

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burrell, Howard A. History of Washington County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1909. Vol. 2, pp. 594-596.
 Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875, p. 150.
 Property Abstract of Title, Lots Number One and Two in the Western Addition to the town (now city) of Washington, Iowa. County Recorder's Office, Washington, IA.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Washington, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 115 609120 4572530
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot Number Fourteen, Keck's Subdivision; Lots Numbered One and Two in the Western Addition of the town, now city, of Washington, Iowa.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Elliott

ORGANIZATION

DATE July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

504 W. Washington St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

Iowa 52353

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 A. Johnson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 20 Sept. 78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams

DATE 11.2.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Brackson 11.27.78