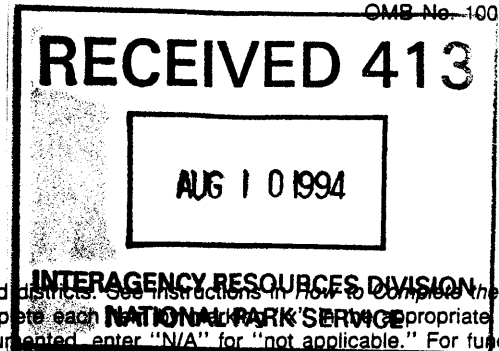


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House

other names/site number Frank and Harriet Q. Mercer House

2. Location

street & number 309 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Albia N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Monroe code 135 zip code 52531

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/27/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historical Society of Iowa
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper Entered in the Date of Action
Edson H. Beall National Register 9.8.94

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MIXED

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

Wood

roof Asphalt

other Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET, ATTACHED

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Circa 1855-1861

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arvine W. White

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	516200	4541960
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title WILLIAM C. PAGE, PUBLIC HISTORIAN

organization _____ date September 8, 1993

street & number 520 EAST SHERIDAN AVENUE telephone 515/243-5740 (voice)
515/243-7280 (fax)

city or town DES MOINES state IA zip code 50313

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name MARY THOMPSON

street & number 318 4th Avenue East telephone 515-932-5790 (H)
515-932-5187 (O)

city or town ALBIA state IA zip code 52531

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Page 1

RECEIVED 413

AUG 10 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The White House, currently vacant and not-in-use, comprises a two-story, brick block measuring 32'6" on the facade and 30' on each side. Attached to the rear is a 1-1/2 story wing, partially constructed of brick and partially constructed of wood. (This wing is discussed below.) A stone water table surrounds the brick block and protrudes slightly from the overlying brick masonry walls. These walls feature a common brick bonding. The main block is covered with a low-pitched hipped roof with deck. The facade, which faces east, consists of four bays. Although these bays are symmetrically arranged, the front door is situated at the south end of the facade with windows in each of the other bays. The facade also features stone window sills and lintels, as do the other elevations of the house. An exterior wall chimney, which is a later addition to the building, stands on the north elevation. The south elevation features a one-story bay window and a small round window where the stairwell is situated. Although this window dates from the Nineteenth Century, it was installed in the White House circa 1950.

Architectural details on this building are restrained. The house features a cornice under the eaves. The cornice consists of approximately eight courses of brick which protrude slightly from the face of the exterior walls. Although these courses are now painted white, this projection is actually the only characteristic that defines the cornice. It is otherwise unadorned with brackets as might be expected from a house of this period. The cornice under the roof of the one-story bay window on the south elevation features "s" curved brackets.

The rear wing measures 20' x 32'. It is built in three sections. The central section is constructed of brick and rests on a stone foundation with a basement similar to that of the main block. Flanking this central section are two frame sections, clad with wood clapboard. Stone footings support each of these sections. All three sections of the rear wing are covered by one gable end roof of moderate pitch. The rear wing features wooden cornices and cornice returns. An outside entrance to the basement stands at grade in the central section of the rear wing.

The lot on which this house stands is large. Measuring 148' x 214', this property rises on a gentle slope from North Main Street and provides the house with an impressive setting.

The house is the only resource now located on this site. A barn, which stood to the southwest, was razed sometime after the 1930s. Although the first known image of the building, contained in the 1875 *Andreas Historical Atlas of Iowa*, pictures a one-story dwelling to the northeast, this building stands on another lot. Other outbuildings associated with the Whites may have been constructed, none survives today.

FOUNDATION

This building rests on a very carefully designed and skillfully executed limestone foundation. Laid in irregular ashlar coursing, the stone employed in this foundation is likely native to Albia. The finish of this stone can be described as natural, rock, or quarry faced.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

The masonry walls of the foundation are vertical, rather than battered, in configuration. Stone elements used for the masonry walls nearer the interior excavation appear to be somewhat heavier in size than stones used for the overlying walls, thus providing additional stability to the base. The overlying masonry walls measure approximately 19 inches thick. There are several openings in the foundation, which provide light and access to the basement.

The depth and nature of the footings of this foundation are unknown. The foundation itself protrudes above grade at various heights, from five inches at the southwest corner to twenty inches at the northeast corner. Over the years, little settling of the building's foundation has become evident.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

The internal structural system of this building, as well as its floor framing, employs unusual construction techniques.

The internal structural system, which provides support for the upper-stories load-bearing wall, is most visible and accessible for documentation in the basement (see attached drawing on Continuation Sheet 7-7). This system employs a network of brick piers and wood beams, rather than a load-bearing wall. The significance of this technique is discussed in Section #8.

The floor framing of this building is also unusual. The first floor joists, for example, show an irregular design. Although most floor joists are laid in an east-west configuration, one portion of these joists is laid north to south. The attached drawing shows this anomaly. Its significance is also discussed in Section #8.

A variety of machine and hand tools were used to shape the building materials used in construction. The first floor joists, for example, show several different tool marks. Although some have been cut by powered saws, as is evinced by rotary kerf marks on the timbers, others show the irregular marks of having been fashioned by the adze. Other structural members, like the wooden supports and beams in the basement that support the floor joists, also show both machine and hand tool marks. These beams are notched to receive the floor joists. One concludes that the builder shaped his materials using a variety of tools employed in an ad hoc fashion as was convenient.

OTHER INTERIOR ELEMENTS

Much of the original woodwork remains intact. Woodwork on the first floor includes paneled door surrounds, paneled doors with transoms above them, stairwell balustrade and railings, and original floor boards. Woodwork on the second floor appears to have been of a lower quality than on the first floor. Subsequent alterations to the floor plan on the second floor make it difficult to evaluate the integrity of woodwork in this area. As noted on page 1 of this section, the fireplace on the first floor is a later addition to the building. Although the fireplace itself dates from a period contemporary with the house itself, it is a later installation. The same applies to the round window with colored glass, which is situated in the stairwell.

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CFN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

One alteration of the floorplan should be mentioned. Sometime after 1942, the living room on the first floor was enlarged by removal of a wall between this room and a parlor, which previously stood at the northeast corner of the first floor. This is visible because the woodwork molding of these two rooms does not match. An oral informant, Helen Mercer (wife of a former owner of the house), has also remembered the earlier two-room floorplan. The parlor was entered only from the living room. No passageway stood between the parlor and a small room to the north, according to Mercer.

INTEGRITY

Although some alterations have taken place, the integrity of this house is generally good. The fact that the rear wing, a fragile enough resource, survives almost intact is remarkable. Although the 1/1 double-hung window sash appear to be replacements, the original window configurations are not known. The front door is old, but not original to the building.

The primary integrity concerns about this building result from its present condition. A portion of the facade wall is bowed out and a crack appears in the brick from water table up to three-quarters of the way to the roof. On the south elevation, a wall crack has developed where the second-story stairwell landing is situated. This problem may be related to the later installation of the round window directly beneath it.

SURROUNDINGS

A one-story brick house stands directly north of the White House. It may be the building pictured in the *Andreas Historical Atlas of Iowa*. This building is commonly associated with Carl Sylvester. He may have worked for Frank Mercer because Sylvester was also a painter and paper hanger. His son, Delbert Sylvester, lives in this house now.

Railroad tracks stand adjacent to this property to the north. A railroad has used this corridor since its first arrival in Albia following the Civil War. These tracks are presently used by Amtrak.

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National Park Service

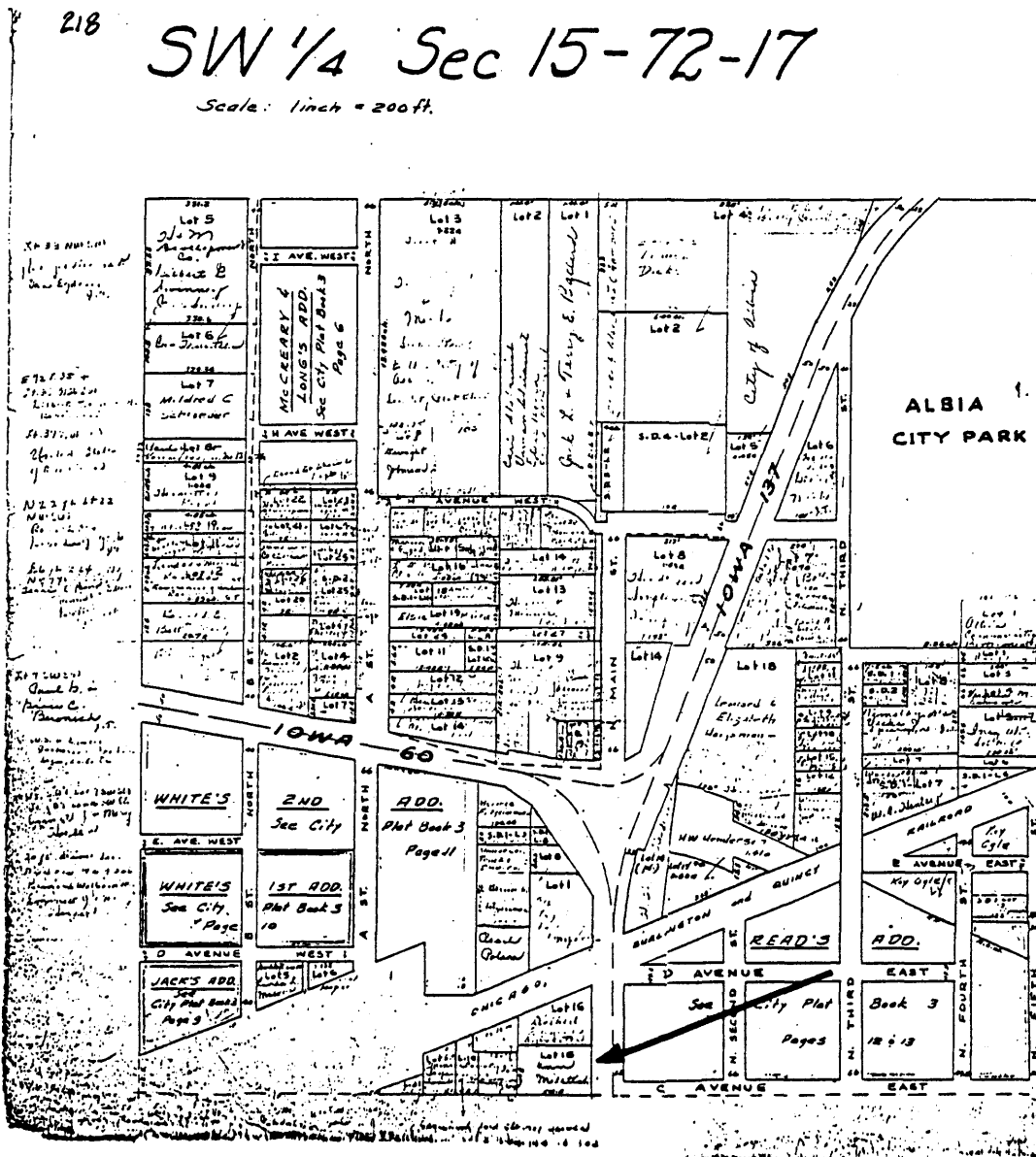
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

LOCATION OF WHITE HOUSE



Source: Abstract of Title, Property of Mary L. Thompson.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

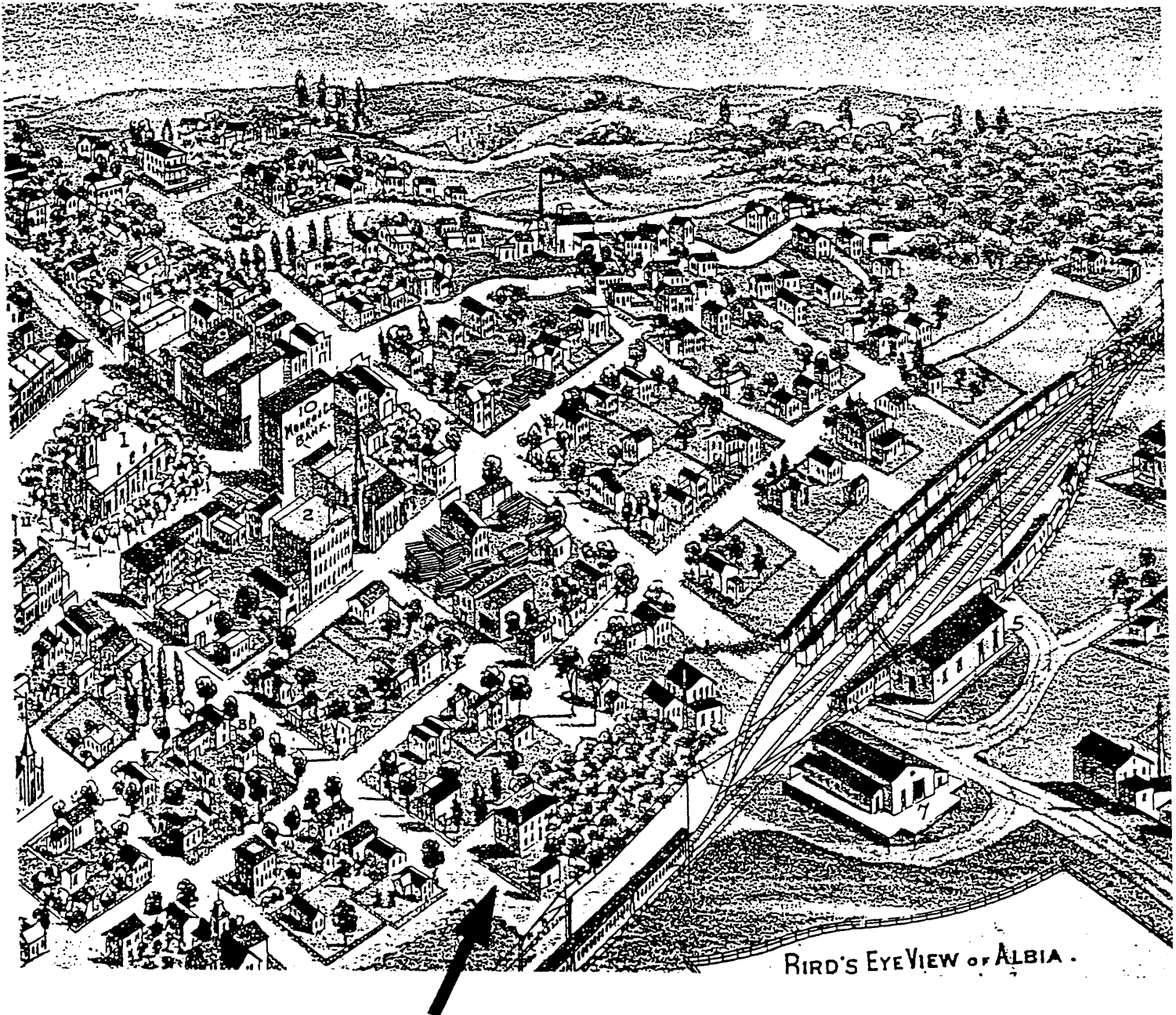
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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CFN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

ARROW LOCATES WHITE HOUSE



Source: 1875 Andreas Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, p. 243.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

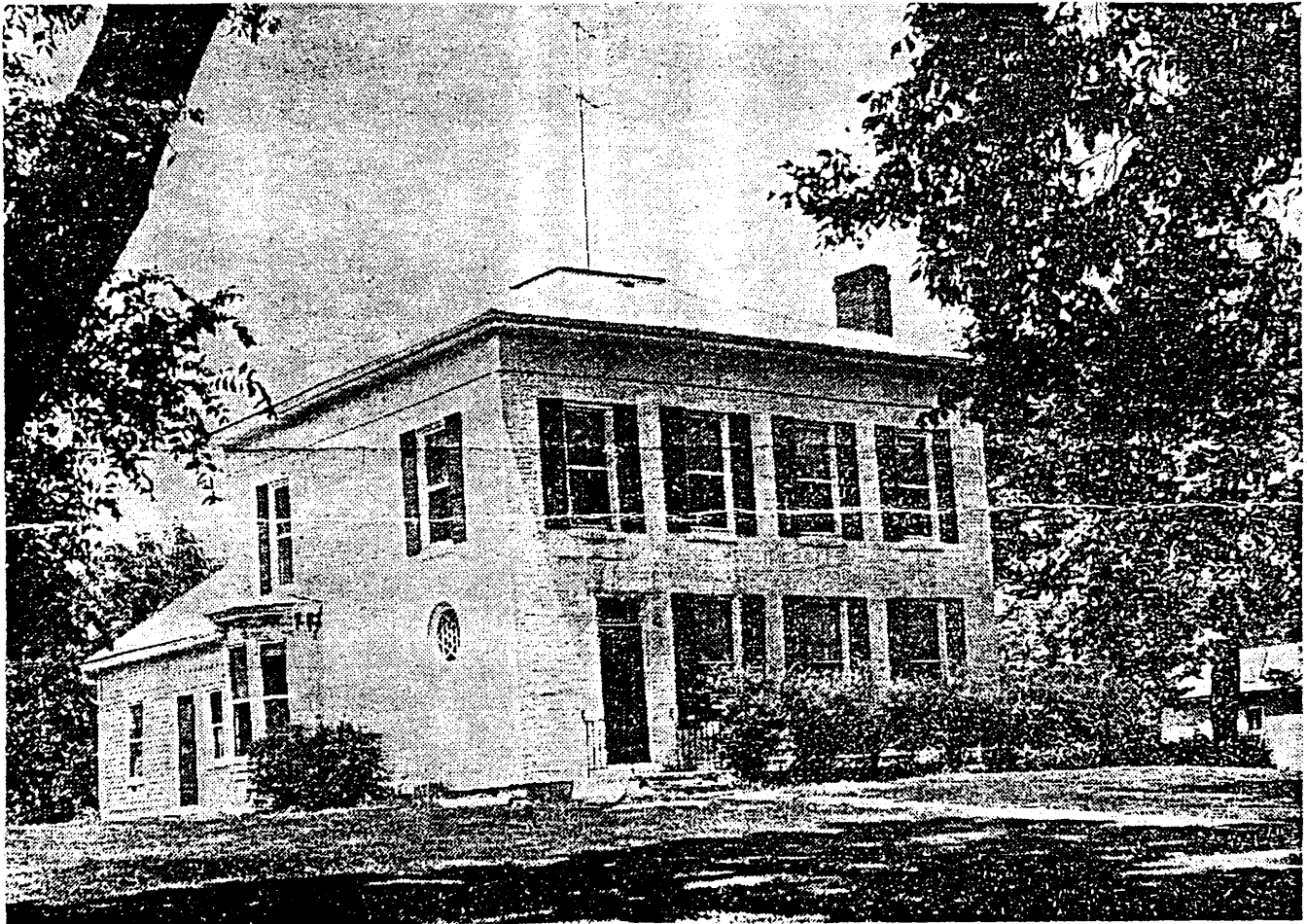
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Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

WHITE HOUSE AS IT APPEARED IN 1962



Source: *Des Moines Register*, July 4, 1962.

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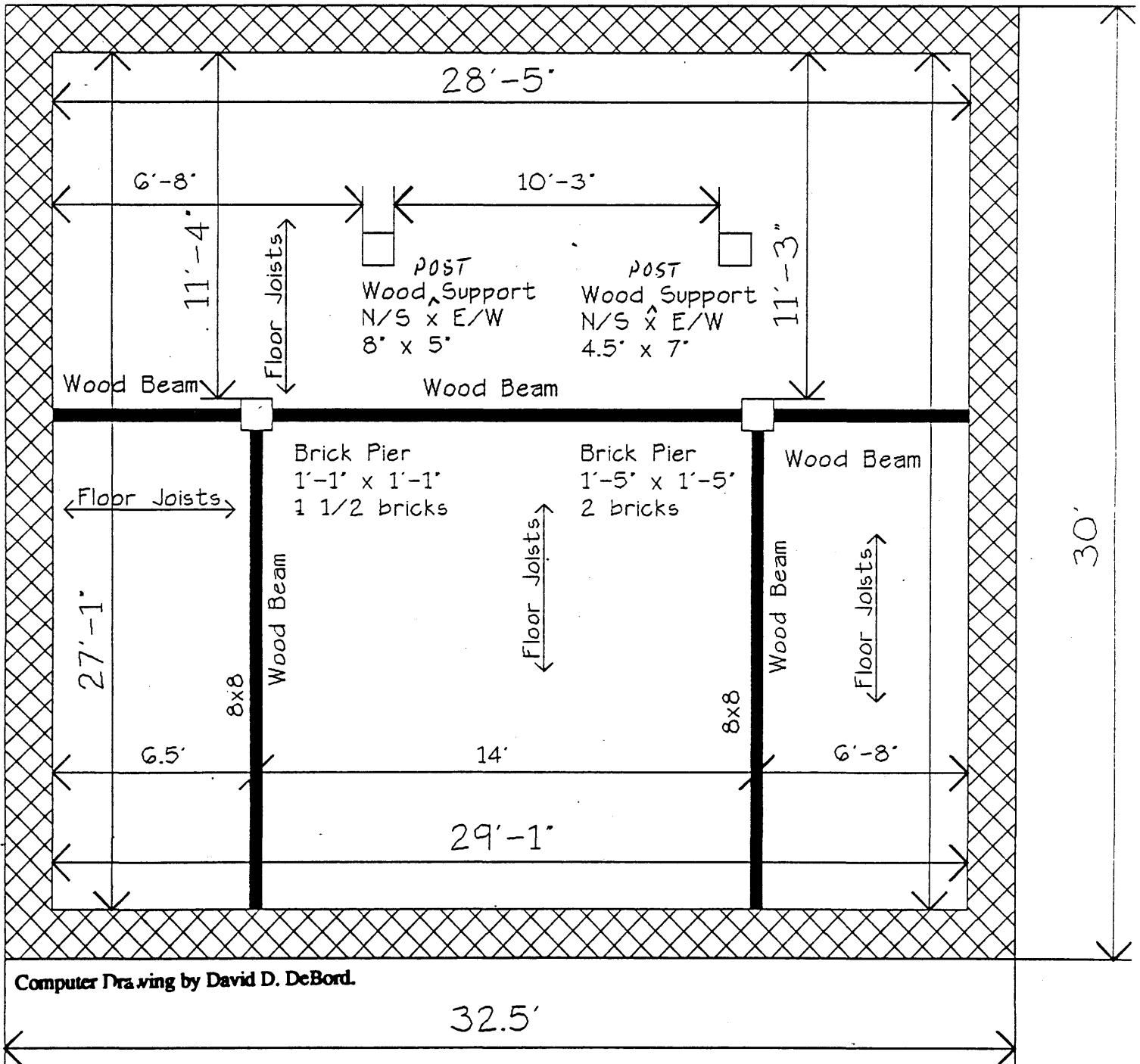
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CFN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

INTERNAL STRUCTURAL SYSTEM IN BASEMENT



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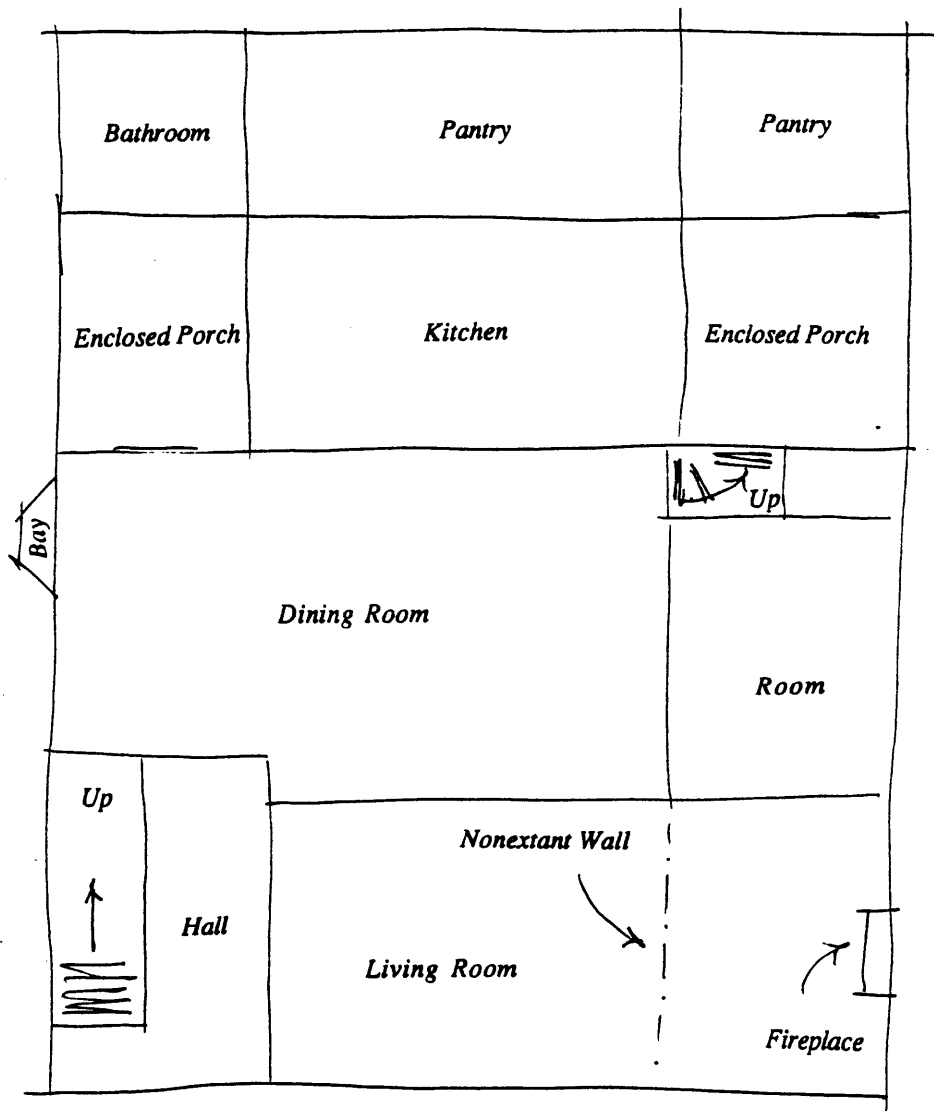
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Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

SKETCH PLAN FIRST FLOOR



Not to Scale



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CFN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

SUMMARY

Statement of Significance

Significant under National Register Criterion C, the Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House is an outstanding example of ante-bellum, vernacular architecture in Albia. It exhibits an eclectic mixture of architectural stylistic influences. Viewed frontally, this house has something of an Adamesque character and is reminiscent of house types popularized in New England by Charles Bulfinch and promoted still further by Asher Benjamin in publications like *The American Builder's Companion* as late as the 1840s. Since White came from Ohio, it is possible he might have known similar houses in the Western Reserve section of that state that had been settled by New Englanders, or he may very well have been from that area himself. This Adam influence is tempered somewhat by the asymmetrical arrangement of four bays on the facade. In this regard, the front entry is situated at one end, as is typical in residences of Greek Revival style. Finally, the brackets on the south bay window reflect Italianate tastes.

Located at a key approach into Albia, the White House remains the only brick house extant from the ante-bellum period in the city. As such, it pre-dates construction of The Four Sisters, showplace brick residences built in Albia during the latter part of the Nineteenth Century. It can be said that the Arvine and Elizabeth White House set the standard for these future showplace residences in Albia. The fact that each of the so-called Four Sisters surpassed the White House in opulence gives further credence to this statement. (The Four Sisters, a term coined by the author of this nomination in 1985 for the National Register nomination of the Elbert-Bates House, describes these showplace brick residences in Albia.)

The building is additionally significant under Criterion C because of building techniques used in its construction. The building's foundation, which consists of native limestone, is carefully planned and finely crafted. The building's internal support system is quite unusual. The builder constructed a system of hewn timbers in the basement as support members to carry the load-bearing wall of the first and second floor. This replaces the traditional building practice, wherein the load-bearing wall begins at grade in the basement.

The White House has additional architectural interest because it calls attention to Arvine W. White. Once a plasterer by occupation and the operator of a brick kiln in Albia, Arvine White, the home's first owner, likely constructed it. Little information is currently known about early builders in Albia. It is possible that Arvine White may have been an important builder, but more information is needed.

Period of Significance

Under Criteria C the period of significance is circa 1855-1861, the time when the house was constructed.

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CFN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

Level of Significance

This resource obtains a local level of significance under Criterion C.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The White House, constructed circa 1855-1861, is architecturally significant because of its stylistic influences, construction techniques, and builder.

Date of Construction

Documenting the date of this building's construction required on-going research and still cannot be stated definitively. The date of construction of this house is best expressed by a range. Although Sanborn fire insurance maps were consulted for this documentation, they provided no information. Neither this building nor the surrounding neighborhood has been mapped by Sanborns. Arvine White purchased the property in 1855 and many signs indicate that it was built prior to the American Civil War, which began in 1861.

Other facts and physical characteristics of the building corroborate this range. They include evidences on the rear wing. The gable end of this wing features wide eaves, cornice board, and gable returns on the west elevation. Indicative of Greek Revival influence, these architectural details are chiefly found in southern Iowa prior to the Civil War. These architectural details also support the belief that the rear wing is not a later addition to the main block and may possibly predate it. Other physical characteristics helping to date the building are the "s" scroll brackets on the bay window. Restrained in design and lacking the exuberance of many brackets milled during later years of the Italianate taste, this "s" scroll relates more directly to forms found on furniture during the 1840s and 1850s.

Finally, the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861 quickly halted construction of all kinds in Monroe County, as elsewhere in Iowa. The likelihood that the White House was constructed during the war is slight. Economic recovery following the war was rather slow, and construction projects did not flourish until the 1870s. By this time architectural styles and building materials had changed and reflect different characteristics than those found in the White House. Therefore, although no documentation exists to pinpoint the date of construction, evidence indicates that the house was built between 1855 and 1861.

Construction Techniques

The nomination of this resource to the National Register contributes to the history of Iowa's vernacular architecture because it calls attention to an unusual structural system constructed without benefit of a load-bearing wall in the basement. It consists of free-standing brick piers supporting wood beams without a load-bearing wall, the standard method for internal support for houses of this period. The Abner Martin House (NRHP) in the vicinity of Mount Zion, Van Buren County, and the Bernard

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Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

Henn Mansion (NRHP) in Fairfield, Jefferson County, illustrate such load-bearing walls. The White House employs a different system, which is illustrated in the attached drawing. Here, the brick piers and wood beams, already noted, replace the load-bearing wall. Floor joists are then tied into the wood beams with mortices and tenons. Although the origin of this building technique is not known, it may relate to practices learned by Arvine during his early years in Ohio.

The foundation of this building is constructed of carefully worked square-cut ashlar limestone and illustrates a carefully laid irregular coursing. The quality of this work calls attention to skilled training in masonry and is attributed to Arvine W. White.

Finally, concerning building techniques, the White House may illustrate evolutionary construction. Helen A. Mercer, wife of the building's one-time owner and visitor to the property in the 1930s, has suggested that the rear wing of the building may have provided temporary housing for the White family while the main block of the building was under construction. Mercer knows of numerous similar examples in the Dubuque area where she lives. In the eastern United States, it was common for houses to be constructed toward the rear of the property. Later, when the owner had become more affluent, a more pretentious block was built adjoining on the front. Such might have been the case with the White House.

Builder

Arvine W. White was a self-made, mid-Victorian capitalist in Albia, who established his fortune through the construction trade, real estate development, and other endeavors, all of which evidently collapsed in the Panic of 1873. The names of few builders from Albia's earliest history are known. The fact that White's career can be documented and an example of his work remains extant increases this significance.

Born in Ohio, the 1850 U. S. census reports that Arvine W. White (1818-1873) and Elizabeth W. White, his wife, lived in Fairfield, Iowa. The Whites were among the early settlers in Albia. According to Frank Hickenlooper (*An Illustrated History of Monroe County*, page 240), Arvine and Elizabeth W. White, his wife, joined the local Methodist Episcopal Church in Albia as charter members.

On March 3, 1855, Arvine White purchased 80 acres of land from Michael L. and Jerusha Lower. It was located in Section 15 of Troy Township in Monroe County. White paid \$800.00 for the land. Here he built his home, the subject of this nomination (where he lived until his death). Arvine and Elizabeth subsequently transferred other portions of the 80 acres to others. One parcel went to the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad (later Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company) which they used for depot purposes, and another to A. T. Phillips who had, by 1879, constructed a machine shop on it.

White worked at several specialized occupations. His career shows considerable skill at handicraft. In 1850 he worked as a plasterer in Fairfield, Iowa. In 1870, according to U. S. census returns, he was a gunsmith. As with most men during the period, White also farmed, which is attested by the 1860 U.

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Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

S. census. White also operated a brick kiln in Albia (Helen A. Mercer Personal Communication). In this regard, White constructed a series of brick cottages on his land and operated them as rental properties. These cottages remained in the White Family as rentals until 1942. Only one remains extant today. Another remained extant until at least 1928, because Dorothy Mercer lived in one. It was located across the alley and south of the White House. Although other examples of White's construction have not yet been identified, the White House is undoubtedly his finest extant residence.

White died intestate on September 20, 1873. He is buried in Lot 4 of Block 8 at Oak View Cemetery in Albia. At the time of Arvine's death, the total value of his estate--mostly real estate--was less than \$1,200, a radical decline from his previous worth. This worth in prior years is instructive. In 1860, for example, the U. S. census listed the value of his real estate at \$4,000. In 1870 the U. S. census listed the value of his real estate at \$18,000. It seems probably that White's assets suffered from the Panic of 1873, which began in September of 1873, paralyzed the national, as well as state, and local economies, and may have contributed to White's death. It certainly took a toll on his real estate investments. Probate for White's financially troubled estate required six years to complete. Elizabeth White, his widow survived him by 28 years.

FAMILY ASSOCIATION WITH THIS PROPERTY

The White House remained in one family from its construction prior to the Civil War until 1942, at which time it was lost through a tax sale. Although historical significance is not claimed for this building, the following biographical information is provided as background.

Elizabeth W. White (1820-1901)

Elizabeth W. White, Arvine's wife, was also known as Eliza. She too was born in Ohio. The couple had six children, Oscar E., Frank S., Samuel T., Ida J., Audas T., and Lillie L. White. Their daughter Ida married Mr. Vreeland; the first child, Oscar, was born in Ohio. Elizabeth kept house for the White family. Elizabeth died on September 29, 1901, in Albia, Iowa.

Elizabeth died in possession of three parcels of real estate in Albia. Her will instructed each of her five children to receive the assets of her estate in an arranged manner. This property was divided into tracts for appraisal purposes. Ultimately, Frank S. White (1851-1914) purchased in 1902 the White House and a portion of the surrounding land for \$1,710.00.

Later Members of the White Family

Hattie Q. White Mercer (died 1932) inherited the White House in 1914 on the death of her father, Frank S. White. Hattie was Frank's only child. Her mother had preceded Frank in death. Hattie married Frank Mercer. Their son, Kenneth E. Mercer, inherited the White House on the death of his mother in 1932. Kenneth (ubiquitously known by his nickname "Moko") continued to rent the brick cottages, which were part of this inheritance. When tenants were unable to pay their rent, he allowed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 14

CFN-259-1116

Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House, Monroe County, Iowa.

them to continue occupancy. Because he was unable to pay taxes on this property, title passed at a Monroe County Treasurer's tax sale in 1942 to Monroe County. In 1943, the property was purchased by Anna K. Miletich, who retained title until the 1980s, when she sold to the present owner.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

The White House was surveyed in the 1980s as part of a comprehensive cultural resources survey conducted by the Area XV Regional Planning Commission. At that time, the building was evaluated as not individually eligible for nomination to the National Register. This survey excluded the evaluation of interiors from its scope.

This survey also identified the following historic resources, already mentioned on page 1 in this section, which later became known as the Four Sisters:

Historic Name	Address	Date of Construction
Elbert-Bates House	106 Second Avenue	1873-75
T. B. Perry House	212 Benton Avenue West	1877-78
J. H. Drake House	200 Block Washington Ave. W.	c. 1878/nonextant
Dr. Gutch House	926 4th Avenue East	1870s or 1880s

PRESENT STATUS OF PROPERTY

The White House is currently unoccupied. The present owner, Mary Thompson, purchased the property with the intention of rehabilitating the building. This activity is pending National Register listing.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated. The *Andreas Atlas* "Bird's Eye View of Albia, Iowa," published in 1875 and two years after Arvine White's death, shows the White House without any outbuildings. Although historical archaeological investigations may uncover traces of construction built subsequently on the site, such structures will, more than likely, relate to Elizabeth White's occupancy or that of later owners. Notable in this regard is a barn, which remained extant as late as 1933. Located southwest of the house and near an alley, which runs east and west, archaeological investigations may uncover data from this site. A privy is also thought to have stood behind the rear wing of the house. This site may also provide archaeological information.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The early construction date of this building provided numerous research problems. Local newspapers unfortunately do not survive from this period of Albia's history. County histories provided only

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sketchy information about Arvine and Elizabeth White. Research was further hampered because White, who died at age 55, did not live into the latter part of the Nineteenth Century when Old Settler Associations flourished and oral histories were recorded on paper. The public record provided the bare bones information available for this study. This information included warranty deeds and other instruments of property transfer, wills, birth and death certificates, U. S. census records, and other legal documents. The late Ruth Fall Hollingshead, who had provided reliable information on many occasions to researchers of Albia history, was unable to flesh out the White family's history, when the author of this nomination questioned her in 1985. Ralph Ewers provided additional oral information. Helen A. Mercer's contributions to this project are indicated elsewhere and are acknowledged with gratitude here. The good offices of Ralph J. Christian provided the link between consultant and Mrs. Mercer.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary

Abstract of Title; Property Mary Thompson; Albia, Iowa.

Albia City Directory; 1902-1903. Lists Frank S. (as brick contractor and stone mason) and Mary M. Mercer residing at 228 First. Also Frank (as painter and paper hanger) and Hattie Mercer residing at 230 North Clinton.

Andreas, A. T.; *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*; Chicago; Andreas Atlas Company; 1875; p. 243. Contains "Bird's Eye View of Albia, Monroe County, Iowa," a drawing by delineator Augustus Koch.

Hickenlooper, Frank; *An Illustrated History of Monroe County, Iowa*; Albia; Privately printed; 1896; p. 240. Hickenlooper records that, in 1846, Arvine White and wife were charter members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Albia.

History of Monroe County, Iowa; Chicago; Western Historical Company; 1878. Neither Arvine W. nor Elizabeth W. White is mentioned in the Directory of Troy Township as published in this book.

Iowa Graves Registration Survey, WPA-GR31, Monroe County, Iowa; Typed manuscript prepared under auspices of Works Progress Administration; No date [circa 1935]; No pagination. Lists Arvine and Elizabeth White and their dates of death.

Prather's Albia City Directory; 1911-1912. Lists Frank (as brick mason) and Mary White, residing at 309 North Main. Also Frank L. (as contractor and painter) and Hattie Mercer residing at C Avenue West.

Standard Atlas of Monroe County, Iowa; George A. Ogle & Company; Chicago; 1919.

"80 Acres for \$800"; Photofeature; *Des Moines Register*; July 4, 1962.

Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company documents, 1886-1947, do not cover this neighborhood

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Naumann, Molly Myers; "Architectural Survey; Albia, Iowa"; Area XV Cultural Resources Survey; 1984; Bureau of Historic Preservation; State Historical Society of Iowa.

Page, William C.; "Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe and Wayne Counties, Iowa; An Historical Survey of Buildings"; Area XV Cultural Resources Survey; 1984; Bureau of Historic Preservation; State Historical Society of Iowa.

Page, William C.; "T. B. Perry House Nomination to National Register of Historic Places"; 1983; Bureau of Historic Preservation; State Historical Society of Iowa.

Page, William C.; "Elbert-Bates House Nomination to National Register of Historic Places"; 1985; Bureau of Historic Preservation; State Historical Society of Iowa.

Page, William C.; "Noble-Kendall House Nomination to National Register of Historic Places"; 1983; Bureau of Historic Preservation; State Historical Society of Iowa.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; Measurements of Basement of the Arvine W. and Elizabeth W. White House taken May 3, 1992.

Oral History

Mercer, E. Helen A., of Dubuque, Iowa. Interview with William C. Page; May 1993. Mercer's husband, Kenneth E. ("Moko") Mercer, inherited the White House from his mother, Hattie White Mercer, granddaughter of Arvine and Elizabeth White. Helen Mercer visited the property several times following her marriage in 1933.

Miletich, Anna K., of Albia, Iowa. Interview with William C. Page; December 17, 1984.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 15 of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section Fifteen (15) Township Seventy-two (72) North, Range Seventeen (17) West of the fifth Principal Meridian, Monore County, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although many acres of land originally associated with the property have been subsequently sold off, the National Register boundary contains all land currently attached to this historic resource.

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ARVINE W. AND ELIZABETH W. WHITE HOUSE LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 309 North Main Street
Albia, IA 52531
Looking NW
William C. Page, Photographer
December 19, 1993

2. 309 North Main Street
Albia, IA 52531
Looking SW
William C. Page, Photographer
December 19, 1993

3. 309 North Main Street
Albia, IA 52531
Looking SE
William C. Page, Photographer
December 19, 1993

4. 309 North Main Street
Albia, IA 52531
Looking NE
William C. Page, Photographer
December 19, 1993