

PH0662 631

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 10 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

**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 Weess, Frank J. House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 224-226 Morgan Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Keokuk VICINITY OF 1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Iowa COUNTY Lee CODE 811

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Thomas E. Seabold

STREET & NUMBER 226 Morgan Street

CITY, TOWN Keokuk VICINITY OF Iowa 52632

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN Keokuk 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 Weess House was built 1880-1881. It is a nicely preserved expression of Second Empire house architecture, two stories high with the slightly-belled mansard roof typical of the style. The walls are red brick, laid in 80 course common bond on a raised, dressed sandstone foundation. Brick quoining is painted white. All windows have segmental arches; those of the first and second stories are framed in stone hoods with keystones and narrow bracketted sills. Dormer windows have triangular pediments. The cornice is fairly plain, with a wide freize and paired brackets. There are three two-story bays, on south, east, and west sides.

Of particular interest is the front entrance on the north side. It is capped by an elaborate segmental pediment above the segmentally-arched fanlight, and framed by sidelights. In the angle formed by the junction of the library wing with the main block is a porch bearing a bracketted cornice, segmental arches with pendant keystones, and supported on slender wood columns. The roof balustrade exhibits jigsaw work.

Two additional porches toward the rear of the house have been removed, one replaced by a modern carport. Slate shingles which originally covered the roof have been replaced with black composition shingle laid in conventional pattern.

The interior of the house is basically a long rectangle running north-south, with a wing extending east which contains a library (first floor) and bedroom. The porch and carport flank this section, giving the first floor plan an almost square appearance. During the late 1940's, several interior walls were added when the house was converted to apartments. The basic arrangement is around a center hall, separating two parlors from the library wing. Toward the rear, the hall forms an L, separating the back parlor from the dining and kitchen areas.

Conversion to apartments apparently did not include extensive redecorating: thus a variety of interior decorative features are still extant. Stained glass is found in the front foyer doors and transom, and partially in the rear entry. The staircase is of burlled walnut. Woodwork has been painted several times, but is in good condition. Door hardware, in brass or enameled black, is very ornate. There are three wide arches between rooms, framed by pilasters. Some of the decorative ceiling and picture moldings are still visible. The cumulative effect, although somewhat blunted by modernization, is still enough to suggest the original character of the interior.

The house is located on a large corner lot in one of Keokuk's older residential areas. The lot is built up, about 4 feet above street level, and has a sandstone wall and plain iron fence around two sides.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weess house is an illustrative example of Second Empire house architecture. Its expression is rather restrained, but this restraint allows the eye to concentrate on noteworthy features, particularly the entranceway and front porch. The rambling character of the plan is very apparent.

The house, rather "old fashioned" given its relatively late date of construction, was built for Frank J. Weess, "a butcher by occupation"¹ whose extensive real estate holdings in Keokuk belied the rather prosaic nature of his principal employment. He was born in Holland in 1840, and came to the U.S. with his family in 1849. By 1860, Weess was established in the meat business, which was apparently quite profitable. In 1887, Weess' real estate holdings were prominently catalogued in a county "portrait and biographical album"; they included agricultural land, a number of town lots, and several commercial establishments. Weess' big house, built when he was only 40, was a typical Victorian expression of material wealth.

1. Portrait and Biographical Album, Lee County, Iowa. Chicago, Chapman Bros., 1887, p. 212.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Keokuk Daily Democrat, 1 August, 1887.
 Garrison, Ray. Early Keokuk Homes. Hamilton, Ill.: Hamilton Press, 1959, pp. 80-81.
 Portrait and Biographical Album of Lee County, Iowa. Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1887, pp. 212-213.
 Morrison and Fourmy (comp.) General Directory of the City of Keokuk, 1879-80. Keokuk: Gate City Book and Job Printing House, 1880, pp. 103, 167, 188.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	63,77,0,0	4,47,28,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Corner lot, 120 x 150, bounded on 2 sides by North 3rd Street and Morgan Street, Keokuk.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas E. Seabold

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

226 Morgan Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Keokuk

Iowa 52632

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

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 1-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Winters

DATE 5-22-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Dorlene Cole*

DATE 5-4-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER